# TOP NEWS OF J&K

**NATIONAL** 



#### JAMMU, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 **Daily Evening Newspaper**

#### **ENTERTAINMENT**

The Dafli Maan: Gurdas **Maan launches new** album Sound of Soil

e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

# |6

Mayawati calls Congress' reservation policy for Dalits, backward classes 'duplicitous and deceptive'

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

|7

**INTERNATIONAL** 

**Suspected Trump gunman left** 

a note about his plan, offered

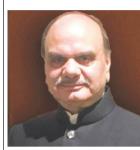
\$1,150,000 bounty to 'finish the job'

Vol.-15 Issue-264 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

8 |

## BRIEFLY

#### **Senior lawyer Ashok Bhan** addresses law students



NEW DELHI, Sep 24 (Agencies): Addressing the law students of various law schools currently in New Delhi to watch Supreme Court proceedings, Senior Advocate & Three time unopposed elected Senior Executive bar leader Ashok Bhan said

In his nearly four decades of active legal practise in the apex temple of Justice-the Supreme Court I have witnessed the majesty of the Supreme Court is so powerful even the most wealthy & politically mighty who is who of the Country are Chastened.

I have worked with galaxy of eminent Senior advocates like Ashoke Sen, Soli Sorabji, Ram Jaitmalani,K Parasaran and Fali Nariman and others who not only were intellectual giants but great articulate lawyers with excellent grip on facts and law. They by their legal scholarship have not only greatly contributed in evolution of modern jurisprudence of laws but also in raising the stature and strength of the robust independence of Judiciary in its real sense. Bhan said: You voung lawyers are entering the noblest professional life that calls for hard work,discipline,dedica tion, respect for fellow professionals, Judges and passion for being a crusader for justice to the common people The legal eagle Bhan Turn to page 9

# **Omar, Ravinder Raina, Tariq Karra among 239** candidates in fray in 2nd phase

SRINAGAR, Sep 24 (Agencies): Over 2.5 million voters will decide the fate of 239 candidates in the fray for 26 Jammu and Kashmir assembly seats in the second phase of the election to be held in the Union territory on Wednesday.

These assembly constituencies are spread over six districts - three in the Valley and as many in the Jammu division. "To facilitate smooth and hassle-free electoral participation, the Election Commission of India has established 3,502 polling stations in these segments. There are 1,056 urban polling stations and 2,446 rural polling stations," an official said.

All polling stations will have webcasting facilities as part



of the Election Commission's efforts to ensure transparency, according to officials. "To enhance voter participation, 157 special polling stations have been established for the second phase – 26 'pink polling

stations' managed by women. 26 polling stations manned by specially abled persons, 26 polling stations manned by youths, 31 border polling stations, 26 green polling stations and 22

unique polling stations," the

official said. Voting will take place from 7 am to 6 pm.

Key names in the fray for this phase are former chief minister Omar Abdullah, JKPCC president Tariq Hamid Karra and BJP J-K chief Ravinder Raina.

Abdullah is contesting from the Ganderbal and Budgam seats, while Karra is contesting from Central Shalteng. Raina will be trying to retain his Nowshera seat in Rajouri district which he won in the 2014 assembly polls.

The second phase will be watched keenly as jailed separatist leader Sarjan Ahmad Wagay alias Barkati is hoping to repeat Engineer Rashid's Lok Sabha Turn to page 9

## Pulwama attack accused dies after suffering cardiac arrest at GMC **Jammu: Officials**

JAMMU, Sep 24 (Agencies): A 32-yearold man chargesheeted in the deadly terror attack on a CRPF convoy in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district five years ago has died of a heart attack in the Government Medical College Hospital here, officials said.

Bilal Ahmad Kuchey of Kakapora's Hajibal village was among 19 people formally charged in the case.

Forty CRPF personnel were killed and eight more injured when a terrorist of the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad rammed his explosive-laden car into a convoy in Pulwama's Lethpora on February 14, 2019.

According to officials, Kuchey was hospitalised on September 17 after he fell sick at the Kishtwar district jail. He died of a heart attack on Monday night, they added.

Kuchey and 18 other accused in the case were chargesheeted by the National

Turn to page 9

## BJP has failed to honour Maharaja Hari Singh, says PDP's Mehboob Beg

SRINAGAR, Sep 24 (Agencies): Former Parliamentarian and PDP General Secretary (Organization), Dr. Mehboob Beg has castigated the BJP for what he said indulging in theatrics and having failed to honour Maharaja Hari Singh in the manner that they should have.

In a statement, Dr. Beg remarked that the BJP does not fall short of politicizing and mis-



declaring a holiday on Maharaja Hari Singh's birth anniversary is nothing but a farce," he remarked. "The BJP must tell

date from Budgam, Aga

Syed Muntazir Mehdi

savs that there have

been "rampant and ille-

gal distribution of money

while the people associ-

ated with my party are

threatened of the conse-

guences on the day of

These techniques,

the application said,

raise serious questions

regarding the impartiality

of the district administra-

tion and police, especial-

including Madhya

Pradesh, Rajasthan,

Assam, Tamil Nadu,

Uttar Pradesh and Hary-

ana, will start Aadhaar

Turn to page 9

ly CEO of Budgam. It

polling and later."

played around with the identity of the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh – which was so important to the Maharaja," he said, while asking the BJP to answer on these counts. "Let the BJP uphold

the ideals and the importance of identity of the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and honor the Maharaja in the way that they should. Declaring a holiday on

# Security tightened in J&K of second phase of polling

RAJOURI, Sep 24 (Agencies): As Jammu and Kashmir will undergo the second phase of assembly polls on September 25, the security has been tightened in the Rajouri district of the territory.

As safety measures, security personnel have been deployed in the several areas and vehicles are being checked. Elections in the second phase of assembly polls will be conducted on 26 assembly seats in six

districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The seats on which elections will be conducted are Kangan (ST), Ganderbal, Hazratbal, Khanyar, Habbakadal, Lal Chowk, Channapora, Zadibal, Eidgah, Central Shalteng, Budgam, Beerwah, Khansahib, Chrar-i-Sharief, Chadoora and Gulabgarh (ST)

It will also be conducted on Reasi, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi,

representing even those that they want us to believe to be their heroes. "The theatrics around

is why they diluted the State Subject Status that was so dear to the Maharaja. They must also tell us why they

his birth anniversary and murdering so many of the ideals that he held dear is not a tribute to the Maharaja," **Turn to page 9** 

#### PDP writes to ECI, alleges money being given to lure voters in ongoing J-K polls

SRINAGAR, Sep 24 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Tuesday alleged that their opposition and the region's oldest party, JKNC is trying to manipulate elections by misusing the power of its elected members to 'intimidate voters. This, the PDP said is a violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). The application, printed on the official letter pad of the party's candi**Two people** killed in road accident in Reasi

JAMMU, Sep 24 (Agencies): Two people including it's driver was killed after a vehicle fell into gorge in Nala at Tukson Jabara Mohre area of Reasi district on Tuesday.

Officials said that a election duty bound vehicle (Sumo) bearing registration number JK11A-3907 lost its control and fell into deep gorge resulting instant Turn to page 9

### Fake registration drive: GST officers detect 10,700 bogus firms, over Rs 10k Cr evasion

NEW DELHI, Sep 24 (Agencies): Tax officers have detected around 10,700 fake registrations under the GST, involving evasion of Rs 10,179 crore in the ongoing all-India drive against fake companies set up to defraud the exchequer, a senior official said on Tuesday. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) member Shashank Priya said Aadhaar authentication of GST registration is already in place



in 12 states and by October 4, another four states would join. Click Here To Join Daily Excelsior on WhatsApp And Get Latest News

authentication.

Speaking at an Assocham event, Shashank Priya also said that in future, the tax authorities may also put certain restrictions on new taxpayers based on their risk profile.

"How many invoices they can issue in a month, we may also put some restriction on that in the future... We feel very pained at the misuse of the system. We have to use all Turn to page 9



#### Other facilities:

AC Rooms at reasonable prices | Hi-speed internet facility Free pickup and drop service (within 5 kms for room customers only)

# **OBITUARIES**

Top News of J&K Jammu, Tuesday, September 24, 2024



Bhog/Langar 24-09-2024 from 1 PM onwards

TENTH DAY will be performed on 25-09-2024 (Wednesday) from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at our home.

Dr Avtar Singh (Chacha Ji)

Nagar, Jammu.

Mrs. Lalita Kotwal

Mr SP Kotwal

Mrs. Amita & Dinesh Kotwal - Sister and Brother in law

Veena Kotwal w/oLate S.K.Kotwal - Bhabhi & Brother

Rita Kotwal w/o Late Dr A.K Kotwal - Bhabhi & Brother

Mrs. Anu and Mr Manjeet Kotwal - Bhabhi & Brother

Kriya Karam on 27-9-2024 (Friday) at 10 AM. GRIEF STRICKEN : Arun Chowdhary Anil Chowdhary Late Sh Surinder Chowdhary (Son -in-law) Anu Chowdhary (Daughter) Daughters-in-law Isha Cowdhary Neeru Chowdhary Grand Sons Krishna, Yuvraj, Ayushman (Grand Sons) Dhruy Chowdhary, Anuj Chowdhary- Grand Child

Akhand Path 12 Noon to 1 PM.



Smt Shakuntla Rani (Banso)

13TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt. Kamla Sharma, who left for heavenly abode on 13-9-2024.

13th Day Kriya will be performed on Wednesday 25-9-2024 at our residence, Moh Sheesh Mahal W.No.13 Poonch.

**GRIEF STRICKEN** Sh.Maheshar Nath -Husband

Daughter and Son-in-law Neetu Sudan and Sanjeev Sharma Rashmi Sudan and Sanjeev Kumar Jagriti Sudan and Bharat Ranyal Sudan and Raina family Contact: 7051077895,7780881689

#### TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA He leaves a void that cannot be filled, yes. But he

also leaves a legacy of joy and laughter. With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father Sh Chaman Lal Sharma, resident of 236 Mast Garh Jammu who left for heavenly abode on (16-09-2024).

TENTH DAY shall be performed on 25-09-2024 (Wednesday) at Rani Park Mand ir Jammu at 10:00 am. KRIYA will be performed on 26-09-2024 (Thursday), at our residence at 1:00 PM.

UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI will be performed on 27th Sept, 2024 (Friday) at Brahmin Sabha Jammu from 4:00-5:00 PM. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Dr Nishant Shama-Son

Rohit Sharma- Son Daughter & Son-in-law Dr Shiveta Sharma and Dr Shailendra Sharma Dr Sharuti Sharma and Vishal Singh GRAND CHILDREN AND ALL FAMILY MEMBERS CONTACT NO: 9103824928, 7006742969



KRIYA will be performed on 26-09-2024 (Thursday) at our residence at 12:00 Noon.

Mr. Abhishek Singh

Kuldeep Singh Sdr Joginder Singh (SRTC) (Brother) Sdr Kushal Singh (Brother) Sister and Brother in law drn Ravinder Kour and Late S. Joga Singl

9419153495, 9419137530





Smt. Kamla Sharma

SH CHAMAN LAL

SHARMA

Dr. B.L.Bhardwaj (CMO Retd.) & Anju Bhardwaj - Brother & Sister-in-law Sh. G.L. Bhardwaj & Smt. Bidya Devi - Brother & Sister-in-law Er. B.L. Bhardwaj (CE Retd.) & Smt. Prem Lata Dogra (CHO)- Brother & Sister-in-law Dr. K.S. Bhardwaj & Smt. Sawarna Devi - Brother & Sister-in-law

Sh. Baldev Singh Bhardwaj & Smt. Sumitra Devi - Brother & Sister-in-law

DAY

- Sh. Surjit Singh Bhardwaj & Smt. Poli Bhardwaj Brother & Sister-in-law
- Er. Deep Bhardwaj (AEE) & Dr. Rinku Bhardwaj Brother & Sister-in-law Er. Ashok Bhardwaj (SDO BSNL) - Brother

Smt. Surista Bhardwaj & Sh. Rajinder Singh - Sister & Brother-in-law

## ENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we want to inform that Smt. Shyeme Punjabi Wie Lt. Mohan Lal Runjabi orginally Rio Chinkral Mehalla, Srinagar at present E-6, Kashmir Apartment, Rtampura, Delhi attained Moksha on 17 September,

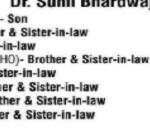
10th DAY KRIYA will be performed on 26 September, 2024 (Thursday) on the Banks of Canal, Sector-18, Rohini, Near telephone exchange, Gate no. 4, Badi Industrial Area, Dehi - 89 from 6:30 a.m. (Assemble at 8:30 a.m. to 9.00

a.m.) GRIEF STRICKEN

(Doughter-in-law & Son) imtSh. Rekha Punjabi & Ravinder Punjabi - 9419147191 Sh. Raja J. Runjabi (Son) - 9818367795 (Doughter-in-low & Son) SmtSh. Suneele Punjabi & Manoj Punjabi - 9313360888 GRAND SON'S AND DAUGHTER'S (Grand Daughter-in-law & Grandson) Smt/Sh. Priyanka Punjabi & Rohin Punjabi - 9622037555

(Grandson's and Daughter) Ashu Punjabi, Aarav Punjabi & Sharika Punjabi - 9987707457

SmtSh. Richma Garjoo & AniketGarjoo (Granddaughter & Grandson-in-law) - 8713052460 GREAT GRAND CHILDREN : Yashas Punjabi, Aahaan Punjabi, Arth Ganjoo



TENTH DAY KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of our



Smt. Shyama Punjabi

beloved Smt Shakuntala Koul (Dolly) W/o Sh. Ramesh Koul originally resident of Veer Nowbagh Anantnag A/p TRT Nagrota, Block G, Flat No 1 on 19-09-2024. TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performe on 28-09-2024 at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at SMT SHAKUNTALA KOUL (DOLLY) Kamlawati Koul -Mother in Law

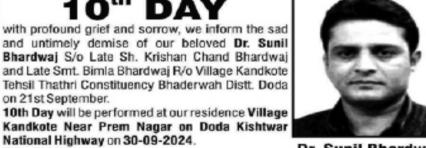
Phone:- 9419130193, 9596991111, 9419320532



MOBILE NO: 9419284196, 9868804896

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Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj

and Late Smt. Bimla Bhardwaj R/o Village Kandkote Tehsil Thathri Constituency Bhaderwah Distt. Doda on 21st September. 10th Day will be performed at our residence Village

Kandkote Near Prem Nagar on Doda Kishtwar National Highway on 30-09-2024. Mrs. Sheetal Bhardwaj - Wife Master Hanu Bhardwaj - Son

- Grief Stricken:

# LOCAL/ ADVT

# Sawhney prioritizes unemployment crisis in Campaign

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Sep 24: In the run-up to the upcoming elections, Congress-NC candidate from Jammu East assembly constituency Yogesh Sawhney, former Minister J&K and ex-MLA Jammu East has emphasized that tackling unemployment is one of their key priorities.

Sawhney expressed deep concern over the current state of employment in Jammu, stating that the issue has only worsened under the current regime.

"Unemployment is rampant and increasing month on month. Fixing this will be a major goal,' Sawhney said during a public address. He outlined a compre-

hensive three-pronged approach to address the problem, with a focus on both public and private sector job creation.

First pillar, Sawhney explained, is to fill the



large number of govgovernment vacancies, ernment vacancies that ensuring that qualihave remained unadfied youth find stable employment in the public sector," he said. "As stated in the Congress manifesto, we will This comes as Jammu prioritize filling 1 lakh faces a growing crisis,

with unemployment reaching an alarming rate of 23.9%, one of the highest in the country. The failure to fill existing vacancies is also a key contributor to the youth's employment woes.

In addition to government jobs, the former Minister highlighted the importance of equipping young people with the necessary skills to thrive in the private sector.

"Our plan includes skill development initiatives to widen the scope of employment in the private arena," he stated.

He stressed that the youth must be prepared for modern industries and emerging sectors, which would not only increase job opportunities but also make the workforce more competitive

The other steps will include filling vacancies at various levels to address shortages of teachers. Another key

step will be to simplify the verification process for all government jobs, passports and other purposes by making them timebound and simplified to check undue harassment. To further support

those searching for employment, Sawhney proposed intermediary solutions, such as unemployment allowances for qualified youth. "We will introduce an

unemployment allowance for young job seekers, ensuring they have financial support while they explore feasible employment opportunities," he explained. This allowance, coupled with an augmen-

tation of overall job creation efforts, aims to offer immediate relief while laying the groundwork for long-term solutions to the the huge employment crisis. The youth of Jammu needs better governance and efforts around the unemployment situation, he

said

## **BJP, Cong distribute money to** buy voters: Rajesh Gupta

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU. Sep 24: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) Contesting candidate Jammu East Constituency Rajesh Gupta while campaigning doorto-door at Residency Road, Shahidi Chowk, Talab Khatikan . While addressing on the occasion Rajesh Gupta said BJP congress distributed money to buy voters . He said BJP has made mockery of Jammu people on the name of Smart City.

Smart cities need a number of things to function, including Infrastructure Smart cities need adequate water, electricity, sanitation, and public transportation said Gupta. They also need affordable housing, especially for the poor.

The IoT is a key part of smart city applications, which generate a lot of data. For security Smart cities need to be constantly monitored and observed to keep citizens safe, Gupta added. Rajesh said while addressing gatherings that don't forget with the unscheduled power cuts in scorching heat of



summer how much BJP tortured you. Now the time has come to save the Jammu from the cruel clutches of BJP. Gupta appealed to the

people of Jammu East that you must know about your candidate then the party. A candidate must have some political background, social working and what is his contribution for his constituency must be

checked. He said it is the right time for change and you must vote for honest, spotless, bold and passionate candidate. Attacking BJP strongly condemned the betrayal of 25 MLAs to PDP for the crumbs of power. The innocent Dogras who heavily voted BJP to power in the erstwhile

State and the Centre

were shell shocked

when their aspirations

and wishes were bar-

If we say no, others will be upset or

think less of us; a fear or obligation!

tered away by the BJP. Gupta alleged that the BJP's "proxy" government has failed on all fronts in Jammu and Kashmir and claimed people are feeling betrayed by party. "The government in

J&K, run by the administration led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, has proved to be an utter failure on all fronts with common people were left to fend for themselves. The people crumbled due to multiple miseries under the proxy government's of BJP in J&K," Gupta said.

He said the BJP leaders avoided interacting with the people. With their efforts, Jammu is known for the authority's arrogant attitude.Gupta said that the underdevelopment has become a symbol across Jammu for BJP to identify their failures. "They have become unpopular among the people. The BJP leaders avoid interacting with the people. The BJP have delivered nothing on the developmental front in the last and are trying to befool people again in assembly polls," he added.

## **Dimple holds protest** against JMC for dengue crisis in Jammu

dressed

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Sep 24: Mission Statehood workers staged a protest today against the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) over the alarming rise in dengue fever cases in the region. With hundreds of new cases reported daily, protesters cited worsening sanitation conditions as a primary cause of the outbreak.

Sunil Dimple, president of Mission Statehood, condemned the JMC for its inaction, claiming that the municipal body has "gone into deep sleep." He highlighted the ineffective door-to-door waste collection, overflowing garbage, and the presence of stray dogs throughout the city, all contributing to the spread of dengue and increasing dog bite incidents. Dimple pointed out that sewage is overflowing onto roads and lanes, with broken sewerage manholes exacerbating the problem. He warned that this situation is not

only spreading dengue but also contaminating drinking water, leading to gastrointestinal diseases among the population.

"The most vulnerable-children, women, and the elderly-are becoming dengue victims," he stated, emphasizing the urgent need for action.

He criticized the JMC for prioritizing profit over public health, alleging that officials are more focused on financial gain from substandard food products rather than addressing the health crisis.

Dimple demanded immediate fogging and spray measures in all wards to combat the dengue outbreak. He warned that if the situation does not improve

## Maa Bawe Wali records releases Dogri Song "Sath Shodi Gaye"



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Sep 24: BJP JK UT Co-Convenor Sanskriti Art Culture Cell Sahil Mahajan along with Freedom fighter Cell Convenor Bharat Bhushan Sharma and BJP JK UT Convenor Sports Cell Sumit Sharma and Rajat Sharma Unique outsourcing MD released the Album.

The programme organized by Maa Bawe Wali Records (MD)Sahil Mahajan. The song "Sath Shodh Gaye" has been sung by singer Master Manish, and Lyrics & composed by Nirbhay Slathia. The video has been prepared by KK Malhotra that "Shod Shodi Gaye" under Music Director V is revered by one and all Kaith .The Album has in the whole region. He been released on Youpraised the whole pro-Tube Maa Bawe Wali duction team, especially the Singers and Sahil Records Present Chan-Mahajan for their efforts in making the release Sahil Mahajan appreciated the BJP Sanskriti of the album. Bharat Art & Culture Cell J&K Bhushan Sharma also for encouraging the said that new opportunities are being opened young talent. He said up everywhere today that we as a societal family must endeavour for the innovative mind to support and nurture setup. He said that 'Bharat Bhoomi' has a vast and rich cultural heritage and these devotees of fine arts ensure that the mind of our creative youth is directed towards nurturing their skills with a positive mind setup.

Amir Iqbal Khan BHADARWAH, Sep 24: "Mastering the art of saying no" is essential in a world where many of us feel the pressure to please everyone around us. Whether it's friends,

family, neighbourer or colleagues, there's often an internal struggle to prioritize others' needs over our own, driven by a fear of disappointing them. This constant need to say yes, even when it compromises our happiness or personal time, is a symptom of the "people-pleasing disease." In trying to satisfy everyone, we can lose sight of our own values and desires and in the process, we sacrifice our own peace of mind. It's important to recognize that putting everyone else first all the time leaves no room for personal growth or self-care. One of the key reasons people fall into this trap is the fear of rejection. We often think that if we say no, others will be upset or think less of us. This fear can become overwhelming, making us believe that our worth is tied to how much we can do for others. However, people who have strong personalities and healthy boundaries do not shy away from saying no. They understand that their time and energy are valuable and they prioritize their own well-being. By constantly saying yes,



we can become targets for manipulation with people exploiting our inability to refuse knowing that we will always be there to fulfill their requests

Saying no is not a rejection of people but way of setting boundaries. These boundaries create space for us to pursue our goals and maintain our mental and emotional health. Without them, we can find ourselves in situations where we're compromising our own values and beliefs to make others happy. This leads to an internal conflict where we feel inauthentic and others begin to view us as having a "fake personality." Over time, this erodes trust and respect as people may see us as someone who lacks

things go wrong, they may even blame us for not speaking up. This cycle of dishonesty can lead to the deterioration of friendships and relationships making it hard to build lasting connections based on trust and respect.

It's also essential to remember that saying yes to everything can leave us with no time for personal development. We risk losing the opportunity to pursue our dreams, study or improve ourselves because we're too busy fulfilling others' requests. In the long run, this makes it harder to achieve success in life. Creating a strong, independent personality requires learning when to say no and understanding that not everyone needs to be pleased. It's about recognizing that your time is limited and if you spend all of it on others, you'll have none left for vourself. Ultimately, mastering the art of saying no is about empowerment. It allows us to reclaim our lives, prioritize our goals and build stronger, more authentic relationships. Saying no doesn't make us bad people; it simply means we're placing value on our time and well-being. When we stop trying to please everyone, we free ourselves from the pressures of external validation and begin to live life on our own terms with confidence and purpose.

and fogging is not initiated promptly, the protests would intensify. Other leaders present at the protest included Sachin Soi, Sat Sharma, Arjun, Bunty, Rupesh Bhat, and many more supporters.

young talent which will bring laurels to the whole Jammu & Kashmir

nel " simultaneously.

Sumit lauded the young talent of Jammu & Kashmir in bringing out melodious devotional albums. He said

# NC a symbol of peace, prosperity, brotherhood, and sacrifices: Rattan Lal

## Congress guarantees restoration of Statehood and protection of jobs and lands: Tony

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Sep 24: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), reiterated that the NC has always been the pillar of peace, prosperity, brotherhood, and sacrifices in the J&K. He said that the party is committed to fight for the restoration of peace, prosperity and ensuring the welfare of the people of J&K, who have suffered tremendously due to the flawed policies of the BJP's double engine government.

Addressing a public meeting at Belicharana, organized by Jatinder Singh Lucky, former Vice Chairman of the Cantonment Board Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta highlighted the challenges J&K faces under the current administration. "The suffering of the people has multiplied, terrorism is on the rise, inflation is



to bring positive change

to the regionHe urged

the electorate to stand

united and back Tony

in his efforts to ensure

development and prog-

ress for Belicharan and

Addressing the meet-

ing Lal Ji Dessai and

Jinetash MLA from Guja-

rat said that the graph of

BJP popularity is going

down is day by day in

India because people

know that BJP betraying

Bahu constituencies.

are no policies for the youth. The BJP's hollow governance has left the people of Jammu and Kashmir disillusioned and struggling," he said. The Provincial President appealed to the people of Belicharan and Bahu constituency to extend their full support and votes to Taranjit Singh Tony. He emphasized that Tony is a deserving candidate who possesses the dedica-

the people in the name of development and anti people policies. Notably, today's meet-

ing was organised in support of Alliance Candidate for Bahu Constituency Taranjit Singh Tony for Assembly elections.

In his address, Taranjit Singh Tony emphasized that the BJP had committed a monumental blunder by stripping Jammu and Kashmir of its statehood, which deeply hurt the sentiments of its people. He strongly condemned this action and assured that the NC-Congress alliance would work tirelessly to undo this injustice.

Tony reiterated that the restoration of statehood and the safeguarding of the rights of the youth and all citizens of Jammu and Kashmir would be the top priority for the alliance. He expressed confidence that under their leadership, J&K would regain its dignity

and rightful status. Tony also announced that their government would provide 1 lakh jobs for the youth of J&K, extensive welfare measures including crop insurance, minimum support prices, financial aid for farmers, unemployment allowances for youth, and substantial health and financial support for women among others. He also vowed to protect the mining mafia and save Jammu from

the land mafia and liquor mafia

Tony urged the people of Bahu constituency to support and vote in favour of Congress so that the mission to restore the dignity and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir.

On this occasion Ramesh Lal from Narwal, a social activist along with his colleagues Joined National Conference.

the confidence to stand up for themselves. Moreover, constantly trying to please others can damage our relationships. When we always agree with someone, even when we know they're wrong, it can strain our bonds. If a friend or family member makes a mistake and we fail to provide honest feedback out of fear of offending them, we enable poor decisions. Later, when

#### NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM

Notice Inviting Applications for shortlisting of PAD items for use/sale Static Catering Establishments over Firozpur Division was published in various leading National Newspapers on dated 01.09.2024 as well as on the official website of Northern Railways. Further, following changes have been made in the said notice

SI. No.	Name of the Items & Quality Standard	Category	Turnover per annum from sale of F & B items	Turnover per annum from sale of specific brand
1	PACKAGED DRINKING WATER (1000ml, 500ml, 300ml and 250ml) Must confirm to IS 14543:2004 standards.	в	Rs. 2.5 Crore	Rs. 2.5 Crore
Paci	ordingly, last date for subr kaged Drinking Water (PD ead of 03.10.2024 upto 1 uctions regarding the same	W) is exter 5:00 hrs.	nded upto 15.10.20 Further, other term	24 upto 15:00 hrs

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

2941/2024

# OP-ED

# **EDITORIAL**

# Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions

**T**obacco use remains one of the leading causes of preventable diseases and deaths worldwide. In an effort to combat the tobacco epidemic, educational institutions play a crucial role in promoting health and wellness among students. Establishing tobacco-free environments in schools, colleges, and universities not only protects students from the harmful effects of tobacco but also fosters a culture of health and well-being.

Tobacco-free educational institutions are essential for several reasons. Exposure to secondhand smoke is particularly harmful to young people, leading to respiratory problems, increased risk of heart disease, and other health issues. By enforcing tobacco-free policies, institutions create a safe environment for students and staff, free from the dangers of secondhand smoke. Implementing a tobacco-free policy is an effective way to reduce the initiation of tobacco use among students. Research shows that when young people are in an environment that does not tolerate tobacco, they are less likely to start using it. Educational institutions can serve as a powerful deterrent against the normalization of smoking and other tobacco use.

Schools and universities are influential environments where students form habits and make choices that affect their health. By adopting tobacco-free policies, educational institutions send a strong message that tobacco use is not acceptable. This encourages students to adopt healthier lifestyles and serves as a model for behavior outside the classroom.

Tobacco use can negatively impact cognitive function, attention, and overall academic performance. Students who smoke or are exposed to tobacco are more likely to experience absenteeism and decreased academic achievement. By fostering a tobacco-free environment, institutions can help students focus better and achieve their full potential.

Creating a tobacco-free educational institution requires a strategic approach that includes the steps.

Institutions must establish clear policies that prohibit the use of all tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, e-cigarettes, and smokeless tobacco. These policies should be communicated effectively to students, staff, and parents, ensuring that everyone understands the rules and the rationale behind them.

Educational campaigns should be conducted to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco use and the benefits of living in a tobacco-free environment. Workshops, seminars, and informational materials can help students and staff understand the health risks associated with tobacco and encourage them to adopt healthier behaviors. It's crucial to provide support for those who wish to quit using tobacco. Educational institutions can offer resources such as counseling services, smoking cessation programs, and access to healthcare professionals who specialize in tobacco addiction. Creating a supportive environment can empower individuals to make positive changes. Involving students, faculty, and the community in the development and implementation of tobacco-free policies can foster a sense of ownership and commitment to the initiative. Studentled organizations can advocate for tobacco-free campuses and organize events that promote healthy lifestyles. To ensure compliance with tobacco-free policies, institutions need to establish monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. This may involve training staff to address violations and implementing consequences for non-compliance. Regular evaluations can help assess the effectiveness of the policies and identify areas for improvement. Tobacco-free educational institutions not only benefit students and staff but also contribute to the larger goal of public health. By reducing tobacco use among the youth, these initiatives can lead to lower rates of smoking-related diseases and healthcare costs in the long term. Furthermore, fostering a culture of health in educational settings can have ripple effects in the community, as students carry these values into their families and social circles. Creating tobacco-free educational institutions is a vital step toward promoting a healthier future for our youth. By protecting students from the dangers of tobacco, encouraging healthy behaviors, and fostering a supportive environment, educational institutions can play a transformative role in the fight against tobacco use. Together, we can build a generation that prioritizes health and well-being, free from the burden of tobacco-related harm.

## Why FATF is key to India's security: Govt must heed its advice over NGOs

#### **By: Aakar Patel**

ere are two headlines from this month: One Lwas "FATF's Thumbs-Up To India's Efforts To Tackle Terror Financing, Money Laundering: Why It Matters". Another was "FATF Flags Terror Financing Lacunae in Indian NGO Sector". Let us see what these mean when put together. If one were to follow the news conscientiously nowadays, they'd find Indian authorities outlawing at least one non-governmental organisation every month. And the closure of these organisations at least finds a mention in the newspapers. There are many others, in fact the majority, that shut down in the darkness with no news of their demise. This is because under this government data on the closure of NGOs has been pulled down from official websites where these things were previously made public. Outrage and protest against the relentless shrinking of civic space by the Indian government has also been criminalised. Deliberate attempts are made to force civil society into submission every day. Also Read - K.C. Singh | Non-military containment of China: Quad's game on Advertisement But that is exactly what we need to be questioning right now, clearly and loudly. What makes it an especially opportune moment is that the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has published India's mutual evaluation report (MER) after a gap of 14 years, calling out India for non-compliance with its standards in regulating the non-profit sector. Now one may ask: what is the Financial Action Task Force and why is it important? FATF is an intergovernmental body with 40 members mandated to tackle global money laundering, terrorist financing and countering the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It functions by setting international standards for countries and then regularly evaluating and ranking countries' anti-money laundering and countering of financing of terrorism regime against those standards. India is one of the FATF member states. Also Read - Indranil Banerjie | Nehru, Modi & India's US policies: Striking parallels FATF is important because in 2023, civil society groups in India documented that the Indian government consistently exploited FATF's recommendations to either enact or tighten the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) three laws that have become convenient tools of oppression at the hands of the Indian authorities against those who dare to speak up against the government. Also Read - Anita Anand | The cease-work by Kolkata's doctors: Are strikes ethical, are they justified? Specifically, FATF operates through a peer-review system to mutually assess the full and effective implementation of its 40 recommendations on money laundering and nine special recommendations on terrorist funding by member states. In line with the mutual evaluation process, a country's compliance is examined by other FATF member states, resulting in the production of an in-depth assessment report with targeted

recommendations to address shortcomings called a mutual evaluation report. The countries who fail to comply with the standards are put under increased monitoring and termed as "high risk jurisdiction", externally referred to as a "grey or blacklist". In the past, countries like Turkey and Pakistan have been put on these lists. Also Read -Manish Tewari | India must be ready for a prolonged LAC standoff After a series of delays, India's mutual evaluation process started in November 2023 and ended in June 2024. On the conclusion of the evaluation process, FATF published its summary findings. On one hand, FATF lauded India for its "high level of technical compliance" with FATF's other standards. This is what the first headline we began with refers to. On the other hand, and this is about the second headline, it called on the country to ensure that the measures it has put in place to prevent the non-profit sector from being abused for terrorist financing are implemented in line with a risk-based approach mentioned in FATF's Recommendation 8. So, what does this mean? FATF Recommendation 8 requires that laws and regulations to combat money laundering and terrorism financing target only those non-profit organisations (NPOs) that a country has identified – through a careful, targeted "riskbased" analysis – as vulnerable to terrorism financing abuse, and fall under the FATF definition of NPO. It also recommends that corrective measures must be focused and proportionate to avoid disrupting the legitimate activities of NPOs. However, in complete defiance of Recom-

mendation 8, the Indian authorities have not only passed laws that are severely overbroad in nature but continue to exploit them against civil society organisations and human rights defenders for carrying on their legitimate human rights work. With a mere 2.2 per cent cases registered under India's antiterror law resulting in conviction between 2016 and 2019 and at least 83 per cent of the cases pending before the court by the end of 2022, FATF also called on India to address the delays in concluding prosecutions under UAPA. It recommended the same for prosecutions under the PMLA, which has seen only 31 cases completing trial in the past nine years, indicating a clear lack of efficiency. These recommendations, however, did not find a mention in the press release issued by India's finance ministry that self-congratulated the country for an "outstanding outcome" in FATF's review. The convenient cherry-picking of recommendations by the Indian government is also evident from its continuous cancellation of the FCRA licences of NGOs even after the review and misuse of UAPA and PMLA to shut down critical voices. India will again be reviewed after three years. In this time, the government needs to ensure that it is reaching out to the non-profit sector and conducting an adequate risk assessment to put in place measures that are focused and proportionate and not overbroad and vague like FCRA. It also needs to put an end to politically motivated prosecutions under India's antiterror and money laundering laws. True governance doesn't lie in discrediting dissent.

# When will the fundamental reforms take place?

By: Vijay Garg

new concept emerges in India. Today,

the discussion of women's upliftment, it is important to understand that every society has its own ideological characteristics, culture and limitations. Whatever rules and laws have been made for women empowerment, they are all influenced by the West. In such a situation, what can be the ideology of an Indian Dalit woman? Only Indian women can conceptualize this. The new woman of India will be one who is aware of her rights and is well aware of the right to independent thoughts. Now the time has come to move forward with awareness on the issue of water conservation. our ancestors water supply Were not dependent on the Water Department or Water Ministries for this. Stepwells and wells, the age-old best method of drinking water storage adopted by our ancestors, still exist today. Even today there is no alternative to quality pure drinking water from these traditional water sources. Through these, the ancestors had set a unique example by developing water system in every village. Apart from humans, the thirst of animals and birds also came to quench their thirst by coming to these water resources. Traditional water sources, which have a deep connection with rural culture, can also help

in enriching the agricultural economy.Has played the lead role. Many religious rituals have also been organized on the banks of reservoirs. But the irony is that today the water of rivers and natural water sources has been contaminated due to the poisonous pollution caused by the mining mafia, industries and factories spewing fire. Government hand pumps and drinking water projects are dying. Therefore, the existence of these water sources with high level of water management practices, religious pride and spiritual importance has to be protected. We will also have to take responsibility for this. Governments take any initiative to save water So we need to participate in that. This is also our personal need. India, moving towards becoming a superpower, needs to think seriously and work on brain drain. This is a matter of great concern. There is a continuous migration of intellectual class from India towards western countries. in the development there He is making the country proud by being helpful, but if we want to move forward on the technical and economic front, we will have to think seriously. There is absolutely no fault of the people going into this. In order to advance our educated class Instead of being

helpful, they sabotage their hard work by creating various kinds of obstacles. In that situation, this class adopts the path of migration from the country and this trend continues continuously. This class is not getting any protection. Due to this, the eligibility criteria are left behind. Along with jobs, migration for higher education is also increasing in India. This is even more worrying. It is obvious that most of the children who will study abroad will also work there. Apart from this, there is political interference at every level in our country. There is a big reason. To achieve a big position in the country, you need political influence. Without this, it is not easy for you to progress much, whether it is in administration or higher education. In such a situation, talented youth are turning to western countries which are better than us in terms of work culture.

**L**women's awakening in India seems to be completely influenced by the feminism of the West, whereas there is a huge difference between the public opinion of India and the West. When we talk about the western model of women empowerment in India, there is a lack of fundamental reforms in it. The current women's discussion in India is limited to the urban middle class and elite class. The problem of domestic violence and exploitation of women is common in rural areas and low income groups. They are also vocal about these now They are not and continue to tolerate. Women are reporting such incidents in cities and upper class. It is not easy for women's leadership to suddenly become acceptable among the Indian public. After growing up under the protection of father, brother and husband, they have not been able to go beyond their rights, whereas the model of women empowerment of European countries reflects a different vision. Indian society has still not been able to give equal status to women. The larger class still considers women as weak and as a means of enjoyment., For

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Street Kaur Chand MHR Malout-152107)

# **LOCAL**

# **MIMC celebrates 73rd birth anniversary of Maha** Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun

**Top News Report** 

LEH, Sep 24: The Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC) announced a significant event marking the distribution of 73 small Buddha statues at the Mahabodhi Sambodhi Retreat Centre on Sept 23.

This ceremony, organized in collaboration with the Royal Thai Embassy and the Wat Thai Royal Temple, Bodhgaya, celebrates the 73rd birth anniversary of His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun, the 10th King of the Chakri Dynasty of Thailand.

The gathering was honored by the presence of numerous dignitaries, including Former Chief Secretary C. Phunsog; Former CEC, Rigzen Spalbar, LAHDC Leh; Dy. Chairman, LAHDC Leh Tsering Angchuk; Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh ,Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, Executive Councillor Stanzin Chosphel, Councillors Thinles Norboo, Kyungyam, Ishey Spalzang, Nominated Ven. Konchok Tsephel, Nominated Phunchok Norboo, along with the Presidents of the Ladakh Gonpa Association and the Ladakh Buddhist Association, as well as leaders from the LBA, LBA Youth Wing, and LBA Women Wing.

The delegation attending the ceremony, led by the Lord Abbot of Wat Thai Royal Temple, includes esteemed monks and representatives from the Royal Thai Embassy. Their presence embodies the spirit of friendship and cooperation that has flourished between our two nations. The distribution of the Buddha statues serves as a



tude to Most Ven. Phra Dham-

bodhivong for choosing Ladakh

for this significant ceremony,

emphasizing the profound and

enduring spiritual connection

between our Buddhist com-

munities. He expressed heart-

felt gratitude to the Buddhists

of Thailand for diligently pre-

serving the sacred teachings

of Lord Buddha in their land,

especially during a time when

these teachings had gradually

faded in their birthplace, India.

It was through the unwavering

dedication of Thai Buddhists

that these teachings were safe-

guarded and ultimately played

a crucial role in the revival

of Buddhism in India, restor-

ing its spiritual legacy to its

land of origin. Among the 73

dignitaries honored were the

Deputy Chairman ,LAHDC

Leh, Former Chief Secretary

C. Phunsog; Hon'ble Executive

Councillors and Councillors of

different constituencies and

other distinguished Ladakhi

leaders and experts who have

made significant contributions

In a poignant speech, Ven.

Sanghasena articulated the

in their respective fields.

heartfelt symbol of goodwill, mutual respect, and our shared commitment to the teachings of Buddhism.

The ceremony began with an invocation led by Most Ven. Phra Dhambodhivong, the Lord Abbot of Wat Thai Royal Temple Bodhgaya.

He arrived with a distinguished delegation of monks and representatives from the Royal Thai Embassy, highlighting the significance of this event in strengthening the bonds between the two nations. During the ceremony, the Buddha statues were distributed to esteemed dignitaries across Ladakh, promoting a message of peace, compassion, and mutual respect.

In particular, three statues sent by His Majesty the King of Thailand were presented to Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre, the Ladakh Gonpa Association, and the Ladakh Buddhist Association, with their respected Presidents receiving them in person.

Bhikkhu Sanghasena, Founder President & Spiritual Director, expressed heartfelt gratideep respect for Buddhism that exists in both India and Thailand, underscoring its essential role in fostering peace in a world increasingly beset by challenges such as climate change and social conflict. He highlighted how Buddhism's teachings provide a moral compass and a framework for dialogue, urging communities to come together in the pursuit of harmony.

Ven. Sanghasena expressed gratitude for the dedicated supporters who had traveled from various villages, noting their commitment to honoring a shared heritage and their efforts to restore the teachings of Buddhism in India. This collective effort, he asserted, is vital not only for cultural preservation but also for revitalizing the spiritual essence of Buddhism in its birthplace. Furthermore, he acknowledged the significant contributions of the Thai monarchy in this revival. He conveyed appreciation for their unwavering support and commitment to the promotion of Buddhist values, recognizing their role as pivotal in strengthening ties between the two nations.

MIMC has consistently dedicated itself to promoting peace building and cultural preservation. Through various interfaith dialogues and vibrant festivals, they celebrate the rich Buddhist and Himalayan heritage. This event not only highlights their commitment to these values but also deepens the cultural bonds between the Buddhist communities of India, particularly in Ladakh, and Thailand.

## **NSS units of GDC Udhampur organises** cleanliness drive under 'Swachchta He Sewa'



India, and appealed volunteers to sensitize public so as to make our country clean.

The volunteers were flagged off by Worthy Principal Prof. Sanjay Verma along with senior faculty members viz. Prof. B.L.Thakur, Prof. along with POs started the drive from college main gate by shouting slogans on "Make India Clean" throughout their way from college campus to their nearby destination. Few of our volunteers also visited near by

Every year, NSS day is observed on September 24 across the Nation. volunteers. The National Service Scheme was launched in 1969, the birth centenary of Mahatma Gandhi.

In the Day long activities a NSS Orientation and Awareness programme was organized in the college prem-

**GDC R S Pura celebrates NSS Foundation Day** 



#### **Top News Report**

of September 2024.

formally began with the JAMMU, Sep 24: To lamp lighting ceremony commemorate the NSS followed by a cultural Day, NSS unit of GDC programme. R. S Pura organized a A lecture on cleanliness derives and poems one day event on 24th

on NSS day various dance performances were delivered by NSS The whole event was conducted under the

ises. The programme

able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, Principal of the College. While speaking on the occasion, she congratulated the NSS volunteers and organizing committee for celebrating the day with full zeal, enthusiasm and fervor. She exhorted that NSS is a special program for the overall development and personality of the youth and the NSS Volunteers.

The whole event was co-ordinated by Dr. Chanchal Angral, NSS (PO).

Other faculty members who made the event successful were Dr. Shivani Manchanda, Dr. Akriti Parihar, Dr. Hari Singh and Dr. Savleen Kour.

Other faculty members present in the event were Dr. Rajinder Sharma, Prof. Shifali Abrol , Dr. Neeti Chibber, Prof. Jugal Kishore and Dr. Renu Sharma. At the end a formal votes of thanks was delivered by Dr. Chanchal Angral NSS, PO and refreshment was served among all the participants.

## **Richa Vij qualifies Ph.D**

**Top News Report** 

KATRA, Sep 24: Richa Vij, daughter of Naveen Vij and Bala Vij, has been declared qualified for the award of degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the School of Computer Science and Engineering by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra. The candidate has worked on the topic entitled "Hybrid Deep Transfer Learningbased Diagnostic Approaches for Retinal Manifestation of Systemic Diseases" under the supervision of Dr. Project Scientist at IIT Jammu, under a DRDOsponsored project.

The scholar expresses her gratitude to her parents, spouse and supervisor for their guidance, as well as the School of Computer Science and Engineering, SMVDU, for providing all necessary facilities and support during her research.

Prof (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, and other committee members congratulated Ms. Richa Vij and wished her a bright future.

## Ifrah Raoof qualifies Ph.D

Sakshi Arora, Assistant

Professor, School of

Computer Science and

Richa Vij has pub-

lished various papers

in SCI/SCIE-indexed

journals and presented

her research papers at

various international

At present, the can-

didate is working as a

conferences.

Engineering, SMVDU.



the School of Computer Science by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) Katra, J&K. The candidate has worked on the topic "Improved Approaches for Motor Imagery Based Classification" under the supervision of Dr. Manoj Kumar Gupta, Associate Professor, School of Computer Science and Engineering, SMVDU, Katra. Ifrah Raoof has published her research work in various SCI

journals and presented papers at international conferences. The can-

#### **Top News Report**

UDHAMPUR, Sep 24: The NSS Units of GDC Udhampur under the patronage of Principal Prof. Sanjay Verma organized a cleanliness drive under the Theme 'Swachchta he Sewa' outside the college campus i.e area of stairs just adjoining to the college.

The decision of choosing such area was purely of the volunteers who actually wants to ease the people living near those stairs from the garbage and the diseases spread by it frequently in the surrounding houses, moreover to make others realize the need of cleanliness in our surrounding. Prior to the drive Prin-

cipal briefed volunteers the need of cleanliness and how important it is to live in a clean environment, he also motivated volunteers to make our country clean and green. NSS POs Dr. Gurpreet Kour and Prof. Sanjeet Singh while addressing volunteers also emphasized on the importance of clean society and clean

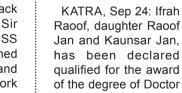
Suresh K. Dogra, Prof. S.K.Bhat, Prof. Shobana Sambyal and staff secretary Dr. Jagjeet Singh from the college main gate, the onlookers including staff and students of the college were surprised to see the enthusiasm and the innovative placards made by volunteers on the slogan "Swatchta he Sewa".

Almost 50 volunteers

houses of colony so as to sensitize them not to throw garbage on the roads.

event wherein the students also interacted with the citizens, on reaching campus back worthy Principal Sir congratulated the NSS Volunteers and wished them bright future and motivate them to work for prosperity of nation.

It was a successful **Top News Report** 



of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in didate thanked Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University for providing institutional fellowship. as well as the necessary support and facilities for carrying out the research work.

Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar (Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU) and othercommittee members congratulated Ifrah Raoof and wished her a bright future ahead.

## Workshop on Calico Printing to promote voter awareness at SPPND GDC

**Top News Report** 

SAMBA. Sep 24: Department of Home Science and Pravaad Electoral Literacy Club of Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Government Degree College Samba under the guidance of Principal, Prof (Dr.) Twinkle Suri organized a workshop on Calico Printing.

The workshop was aimed at promoting traditional art forms and providing hands-on experience to students in handloom and handicraft. Mrs. Sushma Devi, a state awardee in Calico Printing and Bhanu Pratap Atri, proprietor M/S Satkatu Decorative & Fine Art Works were the resource persons for the event. In addition to promoting traditional



textile techniques, the workshop also served as a platform for voter awareness, merging creativity with civic responsibility. The resource person guided participants through the intricate process of calico printing, using block methods. In a creative twist, participants were encouraged to print voter awareness slogans and symbols

on calico fabric, making the art not just aesthetically appealing but also socially impactful. The workshop was designed to use creative mediums like calico printing for effectively spreading messages of civic duty, such as the importance of voting, thereby engaging people in a meaningful and visually compelling

wav.

The workshop saw enthusiastic participation from students. They expressed their creativity by designing vibrant patterns and incorporating voter-related messages such as "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure" into their prints. This unique approach

helped to foster a sense of civic duty while promoting traditional art forms.

## **GDC Boys Kathua celebrates NSS Foundation Day**

**Top News Report** 

KATHUA, Sep 24: The National Service Scheme (NSS) units at Government Degree College Kathua came together in jubilant spirits to celebrate the 55th NSS Foundation Day on 24th September, 2024 in the College Smart Room, under the patronage of Worthy Principal, Prof. Seema Mir. The event was marked by a series of enlightening and entertaining activities.

The celebration commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the traditional lamp, graced by the Chief Guest Prof. Seema Mir and Special Guests Prof Sumnesh Jasrotia and Prof Anirudh Sharma.

The lighting of the lamp was followed by Ganesh Vandana and formal welcome address by NSS Programme Officer Prof. Arvind Kumar while Dr. Pinkey delivered an introductory speech on the occasion.

Senior-most volunteer Vishal Gupta presented a detailed report on the activities conducted during session September-2023



to August-2024, showcasing the dedication and commitment of NSS volunteers.

The cultural segment of the celebration was a colourful mosaic of diverse cultures, featuring fusion dances representing Dogri, Punjabi and Gujrati traditions. Suhaga, a traditional Dogri folk performance was also presented by NSS volunteers added an extra layer of charm in the function.

Chief Guest Prof. Seema Mir and Special Guests Prof Sumnesh Jasrotia and Prof. Anirudh Sharma also shared their views on the occasion and congratulate the NSS Team for celebrating NSS Foundation Day 2024.

Several NSS volunteers were honoured by the NSS units of the college for their unwavering dedication and their regular participation in various activities.

The whole event was conducted under the supervision of NSS Programme Officers Dr. Kulbir Singh, Prof. Arvind Kumar and Dr. Pinkey.

The program concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by NSS Programme Officer Dr. Kulbir Singh.

The event was a testament to the commitment and enthusiasm of the NSS volunteers at Govt. Degree College Kathua and their dedication to serving society and bringing honour to their institution.

# **ENTERTAINMENT**

Top News of J&K Jammu, Tuesday, September 24, 2024

# Kiran Rao delighted as Laapataa Ladies named India's official entry to Oscars

As her film Laapataa Ladies has been chosen as India's official entry to the Oscars 2025 in the Best Foreign Film Category by the Film Federation of India, filmmaker Kiran Rao expressed her gratitude and said that it was a great privilege to be selected from among such amazing Indian films this year.

6

"I am deeply honoured and beyond delighted that our film Laapataa Ladies has been chosen as India's official entry to the Academy Awards. This recognition is a testament to the tireless work of my entire team, whose dedication and passion brought this story to life," Kiran said in a statement.

Kiran added, "Cinema has always been a powerful medium to connect hearts, transcend boundaries, and ignite meaningful conversations. I hope that this film will resonate with audiences across the world, just as it has in India." She then expressed her 'heartfelt grati-



tude to the selection committee and to everyone who believed in this film'.

The film was contending alongside 29 movies, including Animal, Kill, Kalki 2898 AD, Srikanth, Chandu Champion, Joram, Maidaan, Sam Bahadur, Article 370; the Malayalam film Aattam, which was feted with the National Award for Best Feature Film this year and Payal Kapadia's All We Imagine



ion committee As Light, a Cannes winner. who believed "It is indeed a great privi

"It is indeed a great privilege to be selected from among such amazing Indian films this year who are equally worthy contenders for this honour," she said. She went on to thank Aamir Khan Productions and Jio Studios for their unwavering support and faith in this vision.

"It has been a privilege to work alongside such a passionate and talented team of professionals who shared my commitment to telling this story. I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire cast and crew, whose immense talent, dedication and hard work made this film possible. This journey has been one of incredible collaboration and growth," she added.

She added, "To the audience, your love and support mean the world to us, and it is your belief in this film that continues to inspire us as filmmakers to push creative boundaries. Thank you once again for this incredible honour. We look forward to taking this journey ahead with great enthusiasm." Laapataa Ladies premiered in March 2024 in India and told the story about the misadven-

the story about the misadventures of two young brides who become separated on the same train, but with different grooms. It is a blend of mistaken identities and laugh-out-loud escapades.

## The Dafli Maan: Gurdas Maan launches new album Sound of Soil

of legendary singer Lal

Chand Yamla Jatt's

songs. One day, as he

was singing his creation,

his chacha ji heard him.

"That evening at Ramlila

my chacha ji requested

the organisers to let me

present my song on

stage; they agreed and

I sang Jatta Teri Joon

Buri," he shared. The

next morning as he was

walking to school carry-

ing his bag, some girls

sang the same song to

him. "I became famous

from my first song itself,"

said Maan. He revealed

how his baba ji (grand-

father) would take him

along to the baraats that

they were invited to and

ask him to sing. "And I

would, then and there.

Dressed in a new kurta.

chadra and kantha, I

would love to perform."

Going over many

memories, Maan also

addressed the recent

Cananda incident where

during a live show some

people started shouting

slogans against him.

"I did not abuse. I kept

requesting them with

folded hands but when

they kept on calling me

names, I reacted. But

that was not a gaali.'

One of his videos lately

doing the rounds that



Lively and energetic, a heart full of love for his fans, gratitude for the elders, praise for the young artistes... Legendary Punjabi singer Gurdas Maan opened up on his upcoming album, Sound of Soil, and more. During an interaction at a tricity mall, Maan said, "The album has nine songs, like navratan — a mala that I have created with much love. It also has two qawwalis for I want the younger generation to be connected with this art form."

While its first song Main Hi Jhoothi has been released, Maan spoke of another, Panchhi Udd Gaye, "I wrote this song as a tribute to those who have left this world. This line first came to me when my father completed his worldly journey."

He mentioned how most of his songs came to him while on the move, "It's like a divine rhythm is always going on for me, and that's how I write and compose songs."

Going down memory lane, Maan talked about his first song. He was seven or eight and would has troubled his fans. "I had asked for forgiveness for the Canada incident the very next day. And I did this video after my promoters asked me to do so."

Sitting at leisure, Maan patiently answered all queries. He recalled the first time he fell in love with the dafli. It was in Patiala as he went with a friend to music shop and spotted one. "When I touched the dafli and tapped on it a bit, I heard the sound of Om. From that day till now, dafli has been a part of my all my performances."

Maan has got love of not only his listeners, but also singers who evoke him in their songs. "If a singer takes my name in his songs, it's the biggest honour. I am glad that I have made space in their hearts," he said. When asked if he was open to working with other directors, Maan looked at his wife Manieet Maan. who is also a director and filmmaker. and said a firm no. Manjeet added, "Maan saheb while listening about a role goes into another realm thinking of his music, so I have to be around to make sure he is following the script." And, yes they are open to another movie!

During the conversation the topic of Maan working in the Electricity Board also came along. He shared how he was given the task to ensure that letters reached the persons concerned, but when he could not keep up, a senior helped out. "He understood that I was not born to do that job. My song came soon after and he, along with others, was pretty proud of me."

The interaction ended as he joined youngsters in a Bhangra performance. As one wondered how he kept up with the energy, he humbly said it was a gift

# The GOAT actor Parvati Nair responds to allegations of abuse by domestic worker: 'The truth will be out soon'

Actor Parvati Nair found herself in legal trouble when the police registered a case in Chennai against her and five others for allegedly abusing a domestic worker. She has now reacted to the news, claiming it's a false narrative and stating that the truth will be revealed soon. Parvati Nair reacts to

After news broke After news broke that a case had been booked on Parvati, she responded to the allegations on X (formerly Twitter). Without clarifying much, she said that she has 'full faith in the judicial system', writing, "Some false narratives and baseless allegations are being circulated. I have full faith in the judicial system, and my legal team will take action against everyone responsible. The truth will be out soon. Thank you to all my fans, friends, and family for your unwavering support."

What happened According to agency, Parvati is under investigation for allegedly assaulting a domestic worker called Subhash Chandra Bose.

A case was registered on her and five others under sections 296(b), 115(2), and 351(2) BNS following a complaint. In the complaint, Subhash claimed that he worked as a helper at KJR Studios and was asked to do domestic work at Parvati's house in 2022. Back then, she filed a complaint against He alleges that Parvati slapped him at the studio and that others verbally abused him. About Parvati Nair

Parvati Venugopal Nair was born to a Malayali

family in Dubai. In 2012, she debuted with the Malayalam film Poppins, and in 2013, she debuted in Kannada with Story Kathe. She debuted in Tamil in 2015 with the Ajith-starrer Yennai Arindhaal. She later acted in films like Kamal Haasan's Uttama Villain and Udhayanidhi Stalin's Nimir. She also starred in Ranveer Singh's 83 in Hindi and will soon be seen in the Tamil film Aalambana. Most recently, she

played a key role in Venkat Prabhu's Vijay-



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him for suspected theft. starrer The GOAT.



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## Boman Irani feted with South Asian Film Association award for his directorial debut 'The Mehta Boys'

Actor Boman Irani, whose directorial debut 'The Mehta Boys' received standing ovation at the Chicago South Asian Film Festival (CSAFF) recently, has been feted with the prestigious South Asian Film Association award for his directorial debut.

The award recognises his exceptional talent and contribution to the world of cinema. In the presence of his family and co-actors, Boman Irani accepted the prestigious award with pure joy.

He took to social media to express his excitement, as he shared, 'Winning at the Chicago South Asian Film Festival for 'The Mehta Boys' feels like a dream come true"'

He further mentioned, 'Having my family and cast by my side made it all the more special. To everyone who poured their heart and soul into this film but couldn't be here tonight—this win is for you! Your dedication and passion made this possible, and I am deeply grateful. Here's



to the entire team.'

'The Mehta Boys', which has garnered widespread critical acclaim and audience appreciation since its premier at CSAFF, is a heartwarming family drama. It showcases Boman Irani's ability to not only act but also direct with finesse.

'The Mehta Boys' stars Boman Irani, Avinash Tiwary, Shreya Chaudhry and Puja Sarup in key roles. The film is written by Boman Irani along with Alexan-

team.' der Dinelaris Jr, who has nta Boys', garnered winning script for 'Birdd critical man'. It is based on a d audience father and son, who are n since its at odds with each other, CSAFE is and find themselves

its at odds with each other, is and find themselves compelled to spend 48 hours together. The film ity explores the complexities of a father-son relationship.

Boman Irani, who was last seen in 'Dunki', and Alexander Dinelaris Jr also conducted a masterclass on the writing process of the film recently at the film fest.

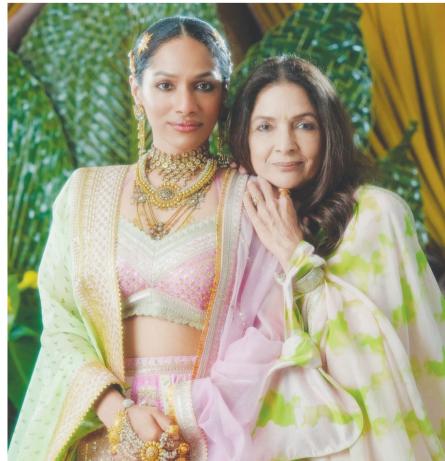
# Masaba reveals why mom Neena Gupta didn't allow her to become an actor

She also speaks about how nepotism is not just limited to film industry, and is there in every industry or profession

Leading fashion designer Masaba Gupta, who ventured into acting with her streaming show 'Masaba Masaba', has shared that her mom, the veteran actress Neena Gupta, dissuaded her from taking up the profession of acting early in her daughter's career.

She shared the reason behind her mom's thought process stating that the market forces would put her in a box as an actress as the industry used to function differently back in time.

In a podcast 'BiEauty Banter' hosted by Queenie Singh, Masaba said, "She didn't allow me to be an actor. Okay. Which is why, so I remember there's Anupam Kher's acting school in Mumbai. They share a wall with SNDT College. And I said, I want to go and study acting because I want to be an actor. And she said, don't



even think about it. You know, you have this look which is very artsy, international, and almost not Indian. You'll get put in a box. And the industry at the time was very different." The designer-actress further mentioned, "So she said, you'll be frustrated.

Do something that you have to apply your

brain to, that you can do for life. And she said, oh, there's SNDT right there. Do you want to go give it a shot? The admissions were open. I went there and I gave my, I put in my paper, filled a form. And my test grade marks were all they needed to take that form in. So, luckily they were good and they took it in. They said, yeah, come and do the entrance exam in a week."

Masaba also spoke about how nepotism is not just limited to the film industry, and is there in every industry or profession.

She said, "Nepotism exists in every industry. Lawyer's son becomes a lawyer. Doctor's son becomes a doctor. And their father recommends them. That is the way of the world. Not just in India, but everywhere. Yes, sometimes I think opportunities are misplaced because of nepotism in Bollywood".

"But it's the way of the world. It's just that it's such a public industry that you're able to see it. Nepotism happens everywhere", she added.

# **NATIONAL**

# SC junks Punjab's plea against HC verdict on NRI quota, says fraud must end

'This is nothing but a money spinning machine,' observed a bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra

NEW DELHI, Sep 24 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed the Punjab Government's appeal against a high court verdict quashing its decision to expand the definition of 'NRI quota' for admissions in undergraduate medical and dental courses in the state. "This fraud must come to an end now," the apex court said. On September 10, the Punjab and Haryana High Court trashed the AAP-led state government's August 20 move extending the ambit of the NRI quota to include distant relatives "such as uncles, aunts, grandparents, and cousins" of



NRIs for admissions under 15 percent quota for this group in admissions in medical colleges.

"This is nothing but a money

spinning machine," observed a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoi Misra. "We will dismiss all the peti-

tions. This NRI business is nothing but a fraud. We will put an end to all this .... now the so called precedents must give way to primacy of law," said the bench. Terming the high court verdict "absolutely right", the court said,

"Look at the deleterious consequences... the candidates who have three times higher marks will lose admission (in NEET-UG courses)."

The top court said distant relatives of a 'mama, tai, taya', who are settled abroad, will get admissions ahead of meritorious candidates and this cannot be allowed.

## 5 wagons of empty goods train derail in Bengal



KOLKATA, Sep 24 (Agencies): Five wagons of an empty goods train derailed at New Maynaguri railway station in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district diverted through other routes following the incident, the official added. The route connects the northeastern states with other parts of the country. Overhead electricity

Several trains were

cables and a few poles were damaged owing to the derailment, the official said.

Restoration work has been initiated and train movement through New Maynaguri is expected to restart by noon, the NFR official said.

Senior officials have rushed to the spot and will hold an inquiry to ascertain the cause of the derailment, he said.

## **Government opens talks** with farmers, MSP on table

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Chouhan begins meetings with farmer delegations; BKU apolitical representatives from UP, Haryana, Punjab meet Chouhan in first round today



NEW DELHI, Sep 24 (Agencies): The government on Tuesday opened a dialogue with farmers to discuss and resolve outstanding issues including anxieties around minimum support price.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan met farmers' delegations and leaders in the opening round of

round of talks, Chouhan said, adding that farmers raised issues pertaining to crop insurance scheme coverage and MSP.

"We have said service of the farmers is like worship of Gods for us," the minister said at a time when farmers at the Harvana and Puniab Shambhu border have agitated for statutory status to MSP for over 200 days. Bhartiya Kisan Union apolitical representatives from UP, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra attended the meeting. Speaking to The Tribune, Dharamvir Malik, national spokesperson BKU Arajnaitik said, "We had a long meeting where we flagged four issues -- weak MSP regime, decreas-

ing coverage under PM

**MUDA case: Karnataka HC dismisses CM** Siddaramaiah's plea challenging Guv's order

BENGALURU, Sep 24 (Agencies): In a setback to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the Karnataka High Court on Tuesday dismissed his petition challenging Governor's approval for investigation against him in a site allotment case.

The Chief Minister had challenged the approval given by the Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot for an investigation against him in the alleged irregularities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) in a prime locality.

After completing the hearings on the petition in six sittings from August 19, the single judge bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna on September 12 reserved its verdict. It had also extended its August 19 interim order directing the special court for people's representatives that was slated to hear complaints against



of any kind subsisting today shall stand dissolved." The Governor on

August 16 accorded sanction under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 for the commission of the alleged offences as mentioned in the petitions submitted to him by complainants Pradeep Kumar S P, T J Abraham and Snehamayi Krishna. On August 19, Sid-

daramaiah moved the High Court challenging

ernor's order contending that his decision is legally unsustainable, procedurally flawed, and motivated by extraneous

considerations. Reading out the summary of findings, Justice Nagaprasanna said, the complainants were justified in registering the complaint or seeking approval at the hands of the Governor.

Stating that the approval under the section 17 A of PC Act is mandatory in the fact situation, he said: "Section 17A nowhere requires a police officer to seek approval in a

"but (the Governor) can take independent decisions in exceptional circumstances, and in the present case projects one such exception." "No fault can be found

on Tuesday morning, a

Northeast Frontier Rail-

way (NFR) official said.

No injuries were

reported in the incident

that occurred at 6.20

am, he said.

with the Governor exercising the independent discretion to pass the impugned order; it would suffice if the reasons are recorded in the file of the decision making authority, particularly of the high office, and those reasons... form part of the impugned order. A caveat reasons must be in the file. Reasons for the first time cannot be brought before the constitutional court by way of objections," he added. The gubernatorial order nowhere suffers from want of application of mind, the Judge further said, "It is not a case of not even a semblance of application of mind by the Governor, but abundance of application of mind."

The grant of an opportunity of hearing prior to the approval under section 17A is not mandatory, he further said. "If the authority chooses to do so, it is open to it." "The decision of the Governor of the alleged hot haste has not vitiated the order. The order is read to be restrictive to an approval under section 17 A of the (PC) Act and not an order granting sanction under section 218 of the BNSS,"

the petition, senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi who appeared for Siddaramaiah, said, "the matter related to dates of 1990's, and the complaint if filed now ... ' as he requested the bench to consider "a two weeks' stay on this."

Responding to this, Justice Nagaprasanna said, "I can't stay my own order....The petition stands dismissed. Interim order of any kind subsisting today shall stand dissolved."

While noted lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Prof Ravivarma Kumar had appeared for Siddaramaiah, Solicitor-General of India Tushar Mehta represented the office of the Governor. Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty also made his submissions. Senior Advocates Maninder Singh, Prabhuling K Navadgi, Lakshmi lyengar, Ranganath Reddy, K G Raghavan, among others made submissions on behalf of the complain-

talks which he pledged to transform into a prolonged and credible discussion series until farmers' issues are addressed.

"Suggestions related to strengthening of the MSP regime have come. We will look into them," promised Chouhan who has now decided to meet farmer delegations from all over the country on every Tuesday.

Today was the first

the representatives of farmer unions sitting at Shambhu border were part of today's talks.

cerns."

"We appeal to both agitating farmer unions and the government to have a dialogue. That's the only way forward," BKU leader said adding that the union was hopeful of an early solution to the MSP issue. The meeting with

Kisan Samman Nidhi,

Fasal Bima Scheme and

financial loss to farmers

due to import of farm

products. The minister

assured resolution and

we have given a range

of suggestions including

asking him to hold sepa-

rate state level dialogue

on each of the four con-

Malik said none of

around 50 farmer leaders took place at ICAR's PUSA complex in Delhi.

him in the case, to defer its proceedings till the

disposal of the petition. "The facts narrated in the petition would undoubtedly require investigation, in the teeth of the fact that the beneficiary of all these acts is not anybody outside but the family of the petitioner. The petition stands dismissed," Justice Nagaprasanna ruled.

He said: "interim order

the legality of the Governor's order.

In the petition, the Chief Minister submitted that the sanction order was issued without due application of mind, in violation of statutory mandates, and contrary to Constitutional principles, including the advice of the Council of Ministers, which is binding under Article 163 of the Constitution of India. Siddaramaiah sought quashing of the Gov-

private complaint registered under section 200 or 223 of BNSS against a public servant for offences punishable under the provisions of the Act. It is the duty of the complainant to seek such approval."

The Governor in the normal circumstance has to act on the aid and advice of the council of Ministers as obtained under the Article 163 of the Constitution of India, the Judge said,

had sought the sanction for investigation against Siddaramaiah. In the MUDA site allotment case, it is alleged that compensatory sites were allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife B M Parvathi in an upmarket area in Mysuru, which had higher prop-

erty value as compared

to the location of her

land which had been

"acquired" by the MUDA.

ants (respondents) who

he added. As the judge dismissed

## **CID to investigate killing of Badlapur** sexual assault case accused

MUMBAI, Sep 24 (Agencies): Maharashtra's Crime Investigation Department (CID) will conduct a probe into the death of Badlapur sexual assault case accused Akshay Shinde, officials said on Tuesday.

A team of forensic science experts on Tuesday examined the police vehicle, in which Shinde was allegedly shot by a cop on Monday evening, they said.

Shinde, 24, was accused of sexually assaulting two minor girls at a school in Badlapur town of Thane district.

A contractual sweeper at the school in Badlapur, Shinde was arrested on August 17, five days after he allegedly

sexually abused the two girls in the school toilet. He was killed near Mumbra bypass in Thane on Monday evening when he allegedly snatched the gun of a policeman while he was being ferried in a police vehicle as part of a probe into a case registered against him on the complaint of his former wife, an official

earlier said. After he shot and injured an API, another officer from the police escort team fired at him, and he was declared dead by doctors at the Kalwa civic hospital, the official said.

As the incident is concerning death in police custody, it will be investigated by the Maharashtra CID, a senior official



said on Tuesday.

A team of CID officials will visit the spot at Mumbra bypass where the incident took place, he said, adding they will also record statements of police personnel who were in the vehicle at that time The CID officials will

also record statements of Akshay Shinde's parents, he said.

Akshay Shinde's body was taken from the Kalwa civic hospital in Thane to the state-run J J Hospital for postmortem on Tuesday morning.

The post-mortem will be conducted in-camera in the presence of expert doctors, the official said. Akshay Shinde's father Anna Shinde has demanded an inquiry into his son's killing.

His family members have challenged the police claim that he fired at a policeman first following which cops retaliated in self-defence, leading to his death.

## **Mayawati calls Congress' reservation** policy for Dalits, backward classes 'duplicitous and deceptive'

LUCKNOW. Sep 24 (Agencies): Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Tuesday dubbed the Congress "anti-reservation", accusing it of having a "duplicitous and deceptive" reservation policy for Dalits and backward classes

In a series of posts on social media platform 'X', the former UP chief minister launched a scathing attack on Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and his party Congress. In her posts, she said, "The SC/ST/OBC reservation policy of the

Congress and Rahul

Gandhi is not clear,



for increasing it beyond 50%, while abroad they talk about abolishing those reservations.

regarding OBC reservations. Furthermore, the amendment Bill brought to Parliament to effectively implement the reservation for SC/ ST in promotions, owing to BSP's struggle, was not allowed to pass by the Congress, and it remains pending.'

In her next post, she alleged, "In this matter, their (Congress) government did not advocate properly in the court."

She further said, "... Moreover, the Congress government at the Centre did not conduct a caste census, and now, being out of power, they are raising their voices. What else is this, if not hypocrisy?"

People should be alert to their double stan-

dards," she said. The BSP supremo added, "It is also true that their government at the Centre did not implement the Mandal Commission report

# **INTERNATIONAL**

# **US is sending more troops to Middle East as** violence rises between Israel, Hezbollah

ISREAEL, Sep 24 (Agencies): The US is sending additional troops to the Middle East in response to a sharp spike in violence between Israel and Hezbollah forces in Lebanon that has raised the risk of a greater regional war, the Pentagon said Monday

8

Pentagon press secretary Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder would provide no details on how many additional forces or what they would be tasked to do. The US currently has about 40,000 troops in the region.

In light of increased tension in the Middle East and out of an abundance of caution, we are sending a small number of additional US military personnel forward to augment our forces that are already in the region. But for opera-



duct further operations.

Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu on

Monday warned Leba-

tional security reasons, I'm not going to comment on or provide specifics. The new deployments

nese civilians in a videocome after significant taped message to evacstrikes by Israeli forces uate their homes ahead of further airstrikes. He against targets inside Lebanon that have killed spoke as Israeli warplanes continued to hundreds and as Israel strike alleged Hezbollah is preparing to coneastern Lebanon. The State Department is warning Americans to leave Lebanon as the risk of a regional war increases. Due to the unpredict-

targets in southern and

able nature of ongoing conflict between Hezbollah and Israel and recent

explosions throughout Lebanon, including Beirut, the US Embassy urges US citizens to depart Lebanon while commercial options still remain available, the State Department cautioned Saturday. Ryder would not say if those additional forces might support the evacuation of those citizens if needed. Defense Secretary

Lloyd Austin held backto-back calls with Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant over the weekend as he pressed for a cease-fire and a reduction of tensions in the region, Ryder said. Given the tensions, given the escalation, as I highlighted, there is the potential for a wider regional conflict. I don't think we're there yet, but it's a dangerous, situation Ryder said.

## Suspected Trump gunman left a note about his plan, offered \$1,150,000 bounty to 'finish the job'

FLORIDA, Sep 24 (Agencies): The suspected gunman arrested in connection with the assassination attempt of former US president Donald Trump had written a note months earlier to kill him.

"This was an assassination attempt on Donald Trump," the note said. "I tried my best and gave it all the gumption I could muster," read the note addressed 'To the world'. He had also offered a \$1,150,000 bounty on anyone to 'finish his failed job'

According to the court documents filed on Monday, the letter was dropped off at the home of a witness several months before the assassination bid in Florida on September 15. The box also contained ammunition, a metal pipe, and four phones. Ryan Routh, 58, is expected to appear at a



federal court on Monday. Routh has been charged with two federal gun crimes. The federal prosecutors levied charges of improperly possessing a gun, and possessing a gun with a "defaced serial number" Since his arrest on September 15, Routh has

been held in jail. Routh

fired several shots in an

attempt to assassinate the

Republican presidential

candidate Trump while he

was golfing on his course

in Florida.

scene, he was stopped by the sheriff's deputies in Martin County on Interstate 95 and took him to custody. An AK 47-style firearm, used for shooting, was recovered by FBI officials

Trump's life in two months

Though Routh attempt-

ed to flee away from the

Routh, who is originally from North Carolina, had been a Ukraine war sympathiser. In 2022, he went to Ukraine in a failed bit to recruit foreign soldiers for Ukraine's military following Russia's invasion.

This is the second bid on

## Lebanon says over 200 killed as Israel 'broadens' strikes on Hezbollah sites human shields to hide



ISRAEL, Sep 24 (Agencies): Israel's airstrike on Lebanon targeting Hezbollah camps had killed over 200 and injured more than 1,000.

According to the Israeli military, it is widening an aerial offensive against Hezbollah 'weapon sites' in southern and eastern Lebanon

The military said on Monday that it was expanding its airstrikes to include areas of the Bekaa Valley, along Lebanon's eastern border, after targeting more than 300 sites in southern

Lebanon. Rear Adm Daniel Hagari, Israeli military spokesman, urged the Bekaa Valley residents to immediately evacuate areas where Hezbollah is storing weapons.

Lebanon's health ministry claimed at least 282 people were killed and 1,127 were wounded, including women, chiltheir weaponry and carry out attacks against Israel from within that country. Israel could not be clearer to Lebanese civilians [that] if you live next to properties or homes in which Hezbollah is hiding its rocket launchers and weaponry you should evacuate immediately," said Mencer. Meanwhile, Hezbol-

lah in a statement said it targeted a military base in northern Israel with dozens of missiles

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday Israel faced "complicated days" as it stepped up strikes against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon and he called on Israelis to stay united as the campaign unfolded.

"I promised that we would change the security balance, the balance of power in the north - that is exactly what we are doing," he said in a message issued following a situational assessment at

#### BHUTAN, Sep 24 (Agencies): Electronic Voting Machines were first brought into Bhutan by Dasho Kunzang Wangdi, first chief election commissioner, whose trips to India and meetings with then Election Commission of India paved the way for introduction of the EVM system in the Himalayan kingdom. Bhutan has not looked back since and Wangdi credits his kings and the help of the India's EC for their smooth transi-

tion to democracy. "As the auditor general during my visit to Karnataka, I was not too keen to see EVMs because I thought simputers were more useful. Later, when I was appointed CEC and went for my first orientation to India, I visited BEL where a polling station was recreated and realised instantly how EVMs would be useful. That's when we decided to have EVMs," he said. He bought 130 EVMs for the first time for training. For the actual election.

ed to conduct the General Elections straightaway as the Primary Round was redundant to contest the first parliamentary elections. The fact that the Constitution provided that elections in Bhutan are not going to be influenced by money power and muscle power, and particularly the election campaign is going to be state-financed, the draft Election Act was supported with the Public Election Fund Act. Even today, parties and candidates are not allowed to gather funds from any source other than under headings and amount permitted under laws and spend it freely. Over the last 15 years, things have passed smoothly. So, I feel that we have done the right thing. Why was the king keen to create a democratic

system?

things are not too good.

But I think the king had a

with the monarchy. Fortunately, as an auditor general, I was first invited by the CAG in India in 2001 and they asked me what I wanted to see. Given the changing times in Bhutan, I wanted to see computers and electronics. They took me around and I attended an exhibition of Electronic Voting Machines but at that time I was not too keen to see EVMs because I thought computers were more useful. Later, when I was appointed CEC and went for my first orientation to India, I visited a polling station created to demonstrate EVMs and I saw how EVMs were useful. That's when we decided to have EVMs. We bought around 130 EVMs that time and first conducted a training I guess whenever you drive. The Indian governtalk of monarchy, you ment later reimbursed the think of it as dictatorcosts for us as a gift. I see ship or autocracy where the EVMs as an answer every now and then without partisan interventions The last time transparency concerns were raised, the SC upheld the EVM polling system so that helps maintain the sanctity. The Supreme Court judges have been very supportive of them. In Bhutan, too, we expect the Supreme Court to play a role as per the Constitution when the need arises. When I met former Indian CEC Navin Chawla, he told me that we have the loneliest and toughest jobs. I realised later because whenever there are any challenges. we can't go to the Attorney General or the Head of State or judiciary to consult them. Not even the Election Commissioners, as they were chairs of the lower committees whose decisions may be challenged. We have to apply our minds and do things in the stipulated time frame. It is a lonely job but it is an opportunity to do things in an efficient way.

How do you see Bhutan's political system

'My first vote was for Shashi Tharoor': Bhutan's first chief election commissioner will be elected, because things and handle issues many wanted to continue with the existing system since they were happy

dren and medics, in Israeli

non.'

"Hezbollah endangers the people of Lebanon. They use civilians as

concluded that he was

sane at the time of the

shooting. Despite his

claims of hearing voices,

including "killing voices"

right before the attack,

the psychologists said

Alissa did not experi-

ence delusions and

knew his actions were

wrong, as evidenced by

his fear of being jailed or

killed by the police. The

defence did not present

any experts to argue that

Alissa was legally insane.

Forensic psychologist

B. Thomas Gray testified

that while Alissa claimed

to hear voices, he failed

to provide specific details

during nearly six hours

of interviews. Gray and

his colleague Loandra

Torres admitted they

were not fully confident

in their finding of sanity,

largely because Alissa

did not offer more infor-

mation about his experi-

ences, which might have

supported his insanity

Under Colorado law,

insanity is defined as a

mental illness so severe

that the individual cannot

distinguish right from

wrong. Mental illness,

however, does not auto-

matically equate to legal

During the two-week

trial, family members

of the victims watched

graphic footage from

surveillance cameras

defence.

insanity.

strikes in southern Leba-

IDF claimed it had struck

Defending the strikes,

Israeli government

spokesperson David

Mencer said, "Israel's

patience is not inexhaust-

ible". He also highlighted

that Israel had taken mea-

sures "to get civilians out

of harm's way in Leba-

over 300 targets.

non

nilitary headquarters in Tel Aviv.

# **Gunman found guilty of murder in Colorado** supermarket massacre, faces life imprisonment

COLORADO, Serp 24 (Agencies): Ahmad Alissa, a man with schizophrenia who killed 10 people at a Colorado supermarket in 2021, has been found guilty of murder and now faces life imprisonment. Jurors delivered their verdict on Monday in the trial concerning the mass shooting at a King Soopers store in Boulder.

Alissa's legal team did not dispute that he fatally shot the victims, including a police officer, but argued that he was not guilty by reason of insanity. They contended that due to his mental illness. Alissa was unable to distinguish right from wrong during the attack.

The incident took place in March 2021 when Alissa began shooting immediately after exiting his vehicle in the supermarket parking lot. Most of the victims were killed within just over a minute before Alissa surrendered after being shot in the leg by a police officer. Prosecutors were required to demonstrate that Alissa was sane during the attack. They argued that his actions were deliberate and targeted, noting that he pursued individuals who were fleeing or attempting to hide.





passed by a 91-yearold man who continued shopping, unaware of the shooting. Prosecutors also highlighted Alissa's use of steel-piercing bullets and illegal highcapacity magazines, emphasising that these choices indicated he intended to cause maximum harm.

Several of Alissa's family members, who immigrated to the US from Syria, testified about his deteriorating mental health in the years leading up to the shooting. They described how he became withdrawn, paranoid, and exhibited signs of hearing voices.

His condition reportedly worsened after contracting Covid-19 in late 2020. Alissa was diagnosed with schizophrenia after the attack, with experts confirming that his behaviours were consistent with the onset of the disease

State forensic psychologists who evaluated Alissa, however,

and police body cameras. Survivors also testified, sharing harrowing accounts of their attempts to escape or help others to safety.

Prosecutors did not provide a motive for the attack. They revealed that Alissa initially searched for public locations in Boulder to target. including bars and restaurants, before focusing on large stores the day before the massacre. On the day of the shooting, he drove from his home in Arvada to the first supermarket he found in Boulder, where he shot three victims in the parking lot before entering the store.

One survivor, an emergency room doctor, described crawling onto a shelf and hiding among potato chips, while a pharmacist testified that she heard Alissa say "This is fun" multiple times as he fired his semi-automatic pistol, which resembled an AR-15 rifle, AP reported. Alissa's mother told the court she believed her son was "sick," while his father testified that he thought Alissa was possessed by a jinn, or evil spirit. However, the family did not seek medical treatment for Alissa due to concerns about shame

Bhutan (ECB) bought 4,000 EVMs, which was later reimbursed by the Indian government as a gift.

Election Commission of

Wangdi highlighted the role of the Supreme Court in the success of the election commissions, both in India and Bhutan, and he urged people not to ignore their responsibility to cast their vote to ensure peace and progress. "If you want to be critical of the workings of the government, you enjoy the right to do so if you have voted, otherwise you have accepted whatever they decide.'

Excerpts: You were instrumental in running the country's first democratic elections in 2008. What were the highlights? The vision of the king

and the provisions enshrined in the draft Constitution paved way for the first democratic parliamentary elections in 2008. After the king had decided to execute it, it was a very fast process. My first orientation visit to India gave us the opportunity to interact with the Election Commission of India and it was an eyeopener. Many lessons were learnt and it helped us in creating an election system that is purely Bhutanese in nature. The First Parliament of the Kingdom of Bhutan as a **Democratic Constitutional** Monarchy, with the First National Council election at end of 2007 and with the National Assembly elections held in Bhutan for the first time on March 24, 2008, and declared on the March 25, 2008, were historic milestones. Since we had only two registered political parties at that time, the Election Commission of Bhutan decidwere more democratic in nature and the well being of the people was his priority. I was the assistant protocol officer during the king's coronation in 1974 and I was listening to his coronation speech. He was talking of "people's participation" and "economic self-reliance". At that juncture, I was wondering what is people's participation? And he also said that, as a king, he is a single person and can't do anything by himself, so everybody has to be involved. He later on talked about decentralisation, bottom-up approach and grassroot planning and development, which means people will have to decide what they want and the government will help them do it. All our kings have been unique that way. The first king was also elected, in a way, the second king talked about modernisation and the third king saw the creation of the National Assembly, judiciary with the concept of separation of powers of government and people's representatives in various institutions. And even before 2008, the fourth king was handing over power and elections were held by early 2008. The fourth king was a strong believer in democracy and he proved it. How tough was it to

prepare voters to cast their vote and can you share how was your interaction with the **Election Commission** of India?

First, we took it as a historic opportunity and worked hard to prepare the people, who never thought about politics. It was unthinkable for many about a government which

lot of things to do which managing polling booths and dealing with concerns of rigging and tampering. I boldly told the Indian Election Commission later that you should not have put an "E" before it because people think it is a computer, when it is a reliable vote recording and counting gadget only. The losing party or a candidate often complain, if results don't go in their favour not for any fault of the machine.

to several years of chal-

lenges faced by India in

Do you see EVMs as the most credible way to cast the vote today? Yes, there is absolutely no way you can tamper with the EVM. If anyone wants to play mischief with it, it would require cooperation of everyone including the media because you can't do it in a quiet way. The EVMs go through a series of sealing and if you look at it, it looks like a completely bandaged machine with a lot of signatures and seals of many agencies present. The EVMs save a lot of resources as well. Imagine if we had to use paper ballots. Now we don't have to print voting papers. Counting has become easier. Transportation is easy. In fact, you can imagine with ballot papers, even when we got around 4,000 EVMs, once

#### they came in truckloads so much so that storage became a problem for us. How do you see the Indian democratic system today?

The Indian election system is fantastic and they are manned by dedicated and hard-working people. I think the good part is that the Election Commission of India has got the support of the Supreme Court. So, they have been able to do

#### evolving as competitive politics come in?

The Constitution has provided for it, so I see it as the duty of the opposition to play its role. It is necessary. We expect that they do not oppose the government on issues they feel are in people's interest and in national interest. The danger that political parties can get powerful and side-track real issues remains, but so far we have had four different governments and it is going fine. The voters want peace, prosperity, development, education, health and food on your plate. The present government has come out with an ambitious 13th Five Year Plan and the aim is to make significant progress as we are moving on from being a developing to a developed country. The king is impressing upon this fact and seeing that the decision making is on the right path.

You studied in St. Stephen's College in Delhi. What were the learning during your college years?

I say that the first time I became a voter was when Shashi Tharoor was contesting as a candidate for St. Stephen's students' union. The other candidates were Chandan Mitra and another guy from Manipur. I voted for Tharoor and many years later when I met him. I told him I had voted for him. It was an eye-opening experience being a student in Delhi at a time when Indira Gandhi was prime minister, the Jai Prakash movement started and we could see its progress. Then, during the Delhi University Students' Union elections, Arun Jait-

ley was elected president.

# LOCAL/CONTD....

## Mula Ram vows to tackle corruption and mafia in Marh

#### Mula Ram is "Iron Man of Marh": Pargat Singh

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Sep 24: In a passionate address to the residents of Marh, Mula Ram, a Congress candidate for the upcoming assembly elections, pledged to eradicate the corrupt and mafia systems plaguing the region.

Speaking at a series of meetings in Chanochak, Gurha Singhu, Flora Harmkund, Marh Bagh, Marh Panchayat, Gango Chak, and Thub, Mula Ram emphasized the urgent need for change in the local administration, which he criticized for its failure to address these pressing issues.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir have suffered long enough under a BJP government that prioritizes its comfort over their needs. While the administration enjoys its time in air-conditioned rooms and luxurious bungalows, the common man is left unheard and abandoned," Mula Ram stated, expressing his frustration over the current state of governance. Mula Ram highlighted the role of the BJP government at the center and the Lieutenant Governor's administration in exacerbating these problems. He urged the citizens not to fall

for empty promises and "jumlas"

offered by the BJP, reminding them that real change requires concrete action and accountability.

Supporting Mula Ram, a prominent figure in Indian sports and politics and All India Congress Committee (AICC) Observer for the assembly constituencies in the Jammu Lok Sabha constituency, Pargat Singh passionately endorsed Mula Ram as the "Iron Man of Marh," stating, "We need leaders who will stand up against corruption and fight for the rights of the people.

In a rally, Pargat Singh, a prominent leader, passionately urged voters to support Mula Ram in the upcoming elections. Singh highlighted Mula Ram's commitment to community development and his vision for a progressive Jammu.

Addressing a large crowd, Pargat Singh emphasized the importance of unity and collaboration for the region's growth.

"Mula Ram embodies the values we need in leadershipintegrity, dedication, and a deep understanding of local issues," Singh stated.

The rally saw enthusiastic participation, with supporters expressing their confidence in Mula Ram's ability to bring positive change.

With key issues like infrastruc-

ture, education, and employment at the forefront, Pargath Singh backing of Mula Ram could be a decisive factor in the election outcome.

The gathering saw a show of solidarity from various local leaders, including Madal Lal Bhagat, former BDC Phallian Mandal, Udhay Chib, President of the Indian Youth Congress, and Neha Bhagat, President of Women's Congress in Marh. Other notable figures present were Khajuria Sarpanch, Baru Sarpanch, Jeet Choudhary, Darshan Bhagat, Bal Krishan, Saudgher Saini, Colonel Som Nath Dogra, Sat Pal Saini, Dr. Virender Lakhotra, Balkar Singh, Rattan Sharma, and Bittu Rampal

During his address, Mula Ram urged the people to recognize the need for a transformative change in Marh's political landscape.

"If elected, I will ensure that corruption is not just challenged but decisively crushed. Together, we can restore integrity and transparency in our administration," he asserted.

The sentiments shared at the meetings resonated deeply with attendees, many of whom expressed their disillusionment with the current state of affairs.

The rally served as a reminder of the collective struggle against corruption and the need for a committed leader who prioritizes the welfare of the people over personal gain.

Pargat Singh's presence lent additional credibility to Mula Ram's campaign, as Singh's own journey from sports to politics has been marked by a commitment to public service.

"Mula Ram represents hope for a better future in Marh. It's time we empower leaders who are dedicated to uplifting our communities," Singh remarked, rallying the crowd. As the elections draw near, Mula Ram's campaign is gaining momentum, fueled by the support of both local leaders and the community. His promise to tackle the mafia and corrupt systems resonates with a populace eager for change and accountability. With the backing of influential figures like Pargat Singh and a unified community calling for reform, Mula Ram's vision for Marh presents a compelling alternative to the status quo.

ballots, the message is clear: the people of Marh are ready to fight for their rights and demand a government that truly serves them.



370 has been done

and dusted forever."

he said. He promised

all-round development

in his Bahu constitu-

ency. He said "better

education, health facili-

ties, and improving the

infrastructure were his

priorities for the public.

"My vision for this con-

stituency, which is my

home, is a progressive,

prosperous Bahu seat

where we can offer

better education and

Randhawa asserted

that this is the India of

today, one that will not

submit, will cooperate

with allies, and is will-

ing to go to any lengths

to ensure the security

of anything. Randhawa

also cited the PM Nar-

endra Modi-led govern-

ment's successful gov-

ernance, including its

initiatives on economic

development, national

security, and social

welfare, as key factors

that would propel it to

a sweeping win in J&K

Randhawa stated

that the last 10 years

have witnessed a

series of revolutionary

governance reforms

happening under the

guidance of PM Modi,

which were basically

inspired by the spirit of

"minimum government,

maximum governance'

assembly polls.

better health services,

he said.

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Sep 24: Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader MLA Candidate for Bahu Constituency Vikram Randhawa said that it is under his leadership that the foreign policy of India has given fame to the nation, which has resulted in the BJP-led government gaining popularity across the globe. While addressing the morning walkers in Channi himmat drops under Bahu Constituency, Vikram Randhawa said, "Under the leadership of PM Modi, India is going to play the role of Vishvaguru in the near future. He elaborated that PM Modi has done an excellent job in the last ten successful years of good governance, and he expressed that in foreign diplomacy, Modi Sarkar has done a splendid job.

Randhawa slammed the National Conference and Congress for being in cahoots with Pakistan. "In a despicable attempt to win elections, the National Conference is falsely claiming that Article 370 will be restored if they come to power. Let me assure you that Article centricity to bring ease of living for every citizen of the country. He also appealed to the people of Bahu constituency to vote for peace, progress, and development under the Modi government to power once again in assembly polls to increase the pace of development in the whole nation, especially Jammu & Kashmir, adding the Modi government has brought peace and prosperity to the J&K.

Randhawa enlightens as India is aiming to become a developed country by 2047. The BJP-led government wants the common man to know how the government functions and how they can be associated with and become a part of the development process.". He enlightened that in 2014, when Narendra Modi took the oath as PM, India's economy was in the 14th position in the world, and today it has jumped to the fifth place.

#### CORRECTION

Sudesh Kumar, S/o Babu Ram, R/o Kattli, Tehsil Samba declared that my name has wrongly been written as Sudesh Sumbria instead of correct name Sudesh Kumar in my driving license bearing NO JK0220030012856. Now I am applying for the correction of the same. Objection if any may be conveyed to RTO Samba within one

# Omar, Ravinder Raina, Tariq Karra among 239

provided logistics and harboured the JeM terrorists in their homes.

The charge sheet was filed under various sections of the Ranbir Penal Code, Arms Act, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Foreigners Act and the J&K Public Property (Prevention of Damages) Act.

While six terrorists, including three Pakistanis, involved in the terror attack were killed in separate encounters, six more, including JeM founder Masood Azhar are still at large. According to the NIA, the Pulwama attack was the result of a well-planned criminal conspiracy hatched by the Pakistan-based leadership of the terrorist organisation. JeM leaders have been sending their cadres to the camps of Al-Qaeda-Taliban-JeM and Haqqani-JeM in Afghanistan to be trained in explosives and other terror tactics, the NIA said.

### FROM PAGE 1

government. Addressing a rally in Poonch on Monday, Rahul Gandhi said, "You don't have a say in running your government. The orders are followed from Delhi. We wanted the statehood to return here before the elections, but we will definitely try that it does happen after the polls".

The first phase of voting was completed in Jammu and Kashmir on September 18, with a voter turnout of 61.13 percent registered across 24 constituencies in seven districts, as per the Election Commission. Voting for the second and third phases in J-K will be held on September 25 and October 1 respectively. Vote counting will be conducted on October 8 along with the counting of votes in Haryana.

The second all-India drive against fake registration began on August 16 and will

67,970 GSTINs. Of this, 59 per cent of the GSTINs or 39,965 have been verified as ence in taxable value in e-way bill issued and taxable value reported in GSTR-3B, and classification issues

"Out of the seven major areas of disputes, 6 relate to data discrepancies. So if we can address data mismatches by use of technology, then we will be able to solve a lot of disputes and pain points of the taxpayer," he said.

Out of the 1.12 lakh SCN, only 555 per-

**BJP will sweep J&K polls:** and increasing citizen

As voters prepare to cast their

Shakti Sharma, Harjeet, others garner public support for M.L.Kaith

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Sep 24: Senior Marh Block Leader Shakti Sharma, Sarpanch Harjeet Singh, Sarpanch Puja Devi and many other prominent persons have actively started their campaigning for the Independent Candidate SSP retired Mohan Lal Kaith through phone calls, word of mouth advertising, and opening offices in different parts of the Marh constituency.

While addressing gatherings in several villages, they said that Mohan Lal Kaith is



confident of getting vote and support from all communities including his own one to which he belongs, in the constituency, as he is most honest, well educated and a people friendly person.

They further mentioned to people that Kaith has been allotted 'Gas Cylinder' as an election symbol by the election office.

They started with the door-to-door campaign and maintained that it is high time the people should elect Mohan Lal Kaith saying he will work 24x7 hours only for the welfare and general amelioration of Marh constituency people and serve them in the best possible manner. They assured that all issues of the people will be resolved by him on priority.

#### The CBIC official also said that the government is taking targeted action to check fake GST registration and more physical verification is taking place.

continue till October 15. He said the tax authorities have identified

> tains to classification disputes. "So policy level disputes are much less," he said, adding that the CBIC is analysing these classification disputes to see if any policy guidelines to address them.

Barkati is contesting from the Beerwah and Ganderbal segments.

poll feat against the National Conference

eader

candidates in fray in

2nd phase

Popularly known as Rashid Engineer, Sheikh Abdul Rashid contested the parliamentary polls held earlier this year from Tihar jail and still managed to defeat Abdullah by a margin of more than two lakh votes from the Baramulla constituency.

Other key candidates in this second phase of assembly polls are Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari (Channapora), former ministers Ali Mohammad Sagar (Khanyar), Abdul Rahim Rather (Chrar-i-Sharief), and Choudhary Zulfikar Ali (Budhal) and Syed Mushtaq Bukhari (Surankote).

Choudhary Zulfikar Ali and Syed Mushtaq Bukhari are contesting on BJP tickets this time

An estimated 61.38 per cent of the electorate cast their ballots in the first phase of polling on September 18. The third phase will go to polls on October 1. The votes will be counted on October 8.

During this phase, 93 candidates are in the fray in Srinagar district, followed by 46 in Budgam district, 34 in Rajouri district, 25 in Poonch district, 21 in Ganderbal district and 20 in Reasi district.

The constituencies in Srinagar district are Hazratbal, Khanyar, Habbakadal, Lal Chowk, Channapora, Zadibal, Central Shalteng and Eidgah.

The segments in Budgam district are Budgam, Beerwah, Khansahib, Chrar-I-Sharief and Chadoora while there are two constituencies in Ganderbal district — Kangan (ST) and Ganderbal.

The seats going to polls in Jammu division are Gulabgarh (ST), Reasi, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (in Reasi district), Kalakote-Sunderbani, Nowshera, Rajouri (ST) (in Rajouri district), Budhal (ST), Thannamandi (ST), Surankote (ST), Poonch Haveli and Mendhar (ST) (Poonch district).

#### **Pulwama attack** accused dies after suffering cardiac arrest at GMC Jammu: Officials

Investigation Agency (NIA) on August 25, 2020. He was among the seven accused arrested in the case.

He and the other accused Shakir Bashir, Insha Jan and Peer Tarig Ahmad Shah had

## BJP has failed to honour Maharaja Hari Singh. says PDP's Mehboob

## Beg

#### concluded Beg. Security tightened in J&K of second phase of polling

Kalakote - Sunderbani, Nowshera, Rajouri (ST), Budhal (ST), Thannamandi (ST), Surankote (ST), Poonch Haveli and Mendhar (ST).

Notably, the second phase of elections will decide the fate of former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and NC leader Omar Abdullah, from both Budgam and Ganderbal seatS

Other prominent candidates in the fray include Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina from Nowshera assembly seat and Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hamid Karra from Central-Shalteng seat. National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Monday held an election rally in Ganderbal district amid ongoing assembly elections in the territory.

Earlier on Monday, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said that the BJP-led government has already promised to restore the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir, and Congress Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, is only repeating what the BJP had promised long back.

Attacking Rahul Gandhi, Singh said that the former is repeating the same thing in order to take credit by saying that it happened because he had put pressure on the

## **PDP writes to ECI.** alleges money being given to lure voters in ongoing J-K polls

questions the free and fair conduct of the elections, reads the application.

Mehdi further urged the ECI to take immediate action and "deploy substantial election personnel to investigate and prevent such illegal use of constitution position and measures that affect the peaceful conduct of the election process.

Posting the letter on its official X handle, PDP said that alarming reports of cash being distribute to influence voters in Budgam and Ganderbal. "We appeal ECI to instruct police and authorities to swiftly prevent such electoral violations.

"The blatant rigging of the 1987 elections plunged J&K into chaos and we cannot afford to allow history to repeat itself," PDP wrote

#### Two people killed in road accident in Reasi

#### death to Two persons.

They have been identified as constable Ajaz Khan of 19 BN and Javeed Ahmad (Driver) son of Bashir Ahmad resident of Khour.

Meanwhile, SDM Mohre Saved Mazahir Hussain also confirmed about the accident.

## Fake registration drive: **GST officers detect** 10,700 bogus firms, over **Rs 10k Cr evasion**

methods that are at our command to ensure that those are stopped," he said

#### of September 22.

Shashank Priya said, "27 per cent have been found to be non-existent. This percentage is almost similar compared to the last drive. We have detected evasion of Rs 10,179 crore. Blocked ITC of Rs 2,994 crore. Also, recovery of Rs 28 crore has been done (in the second drive till September 22).

In the first drive against fake registration between May 16, 2023 and July 15, 2023, a total of 21,791 entities having GST registration were discovered to be non-existent. An amount of Rs 24,010 crore of suspected tax evasion was detected during the first special drive last year.

In the GST regime, there is a problem of data mismatches which is leading to more than one lakh show cause notices being issued last fiscal by tax officers, he said.

"Going forward, we are proposing at some point in time, we have not decided when there will be a system to lock (GSTR-3B). But before that, we will make sure that all the areas, all the channels through which input tax comes they are reflected in the ledgers and returns so that they are populated to GSTR-3B and then it is locked. But that is for the future," Shashank Priya said. He said going forward once the GSTR-1A and the Invoice Management System (IMS) stabilise, there would be no need for

an edit facility of GSTR-3B. "Whatever figure goes in GSTR-3B that gets locked in. That would be an ideal situation for taxpayers and tax administration," he added.

GSTR-1A gives an option to taxpayers to amend outward supply or sales return form (GSTR-1), while GSTR-3B is used to pay taxes monthly

Separately, GSTN would start the IMS from October 1, which will facilitate taxpayers in matching their records/invoices vis-a-vis issued by their suppliers for availing the correct Input Tax Credit (ITC). IMS would enable taxpayers to efficiently address invoice corrections/ amendments with their suppliers through the portal.

During 2023-24, Shashank Priya said, 1,12,852 show cause notices were issued. The major areas of dispute are short payment of GST in GSTR-3B as compared to GSTR-1 liability, excess ITC availed in GSTR-3B, non-payment of GST under reverse charge mechanism, interest for late filing of GSTR-3B and GSTR-1, ITC availed beyond prescribed time limit, differ-

## Senior lawyer Ashok **Bhan addresses law** students

said : As an institution The Supreme Court is empowered with Judicial review powers and the duty to uphold the Constitution. The judiciary is idealised by common people as Guardian of the Constitution as it is considered as an expression of the new laws created by the legislature and representatives for the citizens.

The constituent assembly envisioned the judiciary as a bastion of rights and Justice. It is an impregnable fortress to sapping by any private interests. It is apolitical and out of politics with the strength of by the walls of fortress with constitutional provisions.

The Supreme Court replaced the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council as the highest court of appeal since 28 January 1950, two days after India was declared a republic.

With expansive authority to initiate actions and wield appellate jurisdiction over all courts and the ability to invalidate amendments to the constitution.

As the apex constitutional court, it takes up appeals primarily against verdicts of the High Courts of various states and tribunals. As an advisory court, it hears matters which are referred by the President of India. Under judicial review, the court invalidates both normal laws as well as constitutional amendments as per the Basic structure doctrinethat it developed in the 1960s and 1970s. It is required to safeguard the fundamental rights of citizens and settles legal disputes among the central government and various state governments. Its decisions are binding on other Indian courts as well as the union and state governments.

As per the Article 142 of the Constitution, the court has the inherent jurisdiction to pass any order deemed necessary in the interest of complete justice which becomes binding on the President to enforce.

The Apex Court of India is widely acknowledged as one of the most powerful supreme courts in the world.

# **LOCAL**

# NC-Cong presented wrong history, belittled Maharaja Hari Singh: BJP

We gave true respect & place Maharaja deserves: Sunil Sethi Cong deceived Jammu, its hand not with Dogras: Jasrotia

#### **Top News Report**

10

JAMMU, Sep 24: The J&K BJP Chief Spokesperson, Sunil Sethi, on Tuesday said that both NC and Cong presented wrong history before the people and belittled Maharaja Hari Singh portraying him in a negative way.

This was stated by Sunil Sethi, while addressing a press conference at BJP media center, here today. BJP Spokespersons, Abhijeet Jasrotia, Lt Gen (Retd) Rakesh Sharma. Dr Tahir Chowdhary and YV Sharma were also present in the press conference.

"NC and Cong maligned the image of Maharaja Hari Singh and presented him in a negative manner," Sethi said, while adding, "By belittling Maharja, NC-

Cong presented Sheikh Abdullah as hero and bigger leader". It is due to Maharaja Hari Singh that J&K is

an integral part of India today but NC and Cong always belittled his contribution and his work for social reforms, Sethi said.

NC-Cong sent Maharaja in exile and never allowed him to return to J&K till he lived, Sethi said. "NC-Cong announced holiday on the birthday of Sheikh Abdullah and Martyr's Day," Sethi said, adding, "People of Jammu agitated for years but NC-Cong did not announce holiday on the birthday of Maharaja Hari Singh". BJP announced holiday on 23rd of September the birthday of Maharaja Hari Singh, Sethi said and asked

Rahul Gandhi and NC to explain to the people that why Maharaja Hari Singh was insulted, sent in exile and not allowed to come back to J&K?.

"Cong first sent Sheikh Abdullah to jail labeling him as anti-national," Sethi said, while adding, "Sheikh was later made Chief Minister by Cong and holiday on his birthday was also announced".

Sethi said, "BJP gave right place in history to Maharaja Hari Singh which he deserves". He questioned NC and Cong that why did not celebrate the birthday of Maharaja Hari Singh?. "Except BJP no other political party including NC and Cong celebrated the birthday of Maharaja Hari Singh," he said. While speaking on the occasion, Abhijeet Jasrotia said that NC and Cong always discriminated with Jammu. "Both NC and Cong never cared for the interests of Dogras of Jammu," he said, while adding, "Kashmir has been given more seats of Lok Sabha and Assembly despite Jammu having more area and more population".

Jasrotia said that NC and Cong also snatched the Dogra certificate from the people of Jammu. "Only BJP can save the future and identity of Jammu," he said, while adding, "the Cong has always ditched the people of Jammu and its hand is not with Dogras".



Former Congress leaders Kulbhushan

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Sep 24: In Jammu and Kashmir, former Congress leader and ex-Sarpanch Kulbhushan Khajuria and former Panch Kalpana Devi, along with their supporters, have joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

A grand welcome was accorded to them at the party headquarters by Union Minister and BJP's Jammu and Kashmir election in-charge, G. Kishan Reddy, and Jammu and Kashmir BJP's acting president Sat Sharma.

The event also witnessed the presence of BJP leaders from the Marh Assembly constituency, as well as senior party leaders Ashish Sood and Kavinder Gupta.

On this occasion, G. Kishan Reddy stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's relentless efforts for Jammu and Kashmir have not only set the region on the path to peace but also sparked a revolution in the fields of construction and development.

He highlighted that every aware section of society is being influenced by this progress and joining the BJP.

Speaking at the event, the party's acting president, Sat Sharma, expressed that the inclusion of Kulbhushan Khajuria and Kalpana Devi in the party will play a significant role in strengthening the BJP in the Marh Assembly constituency.

He added that the massive participation of people in the BJP's public programs is a testament to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's selfless services for Jammu and Kashmir.

Today, the BJP is receiving overwhelming support from all sections of society in Jammu and Kashmir.

He expressed confidence that the BJP will secure a decisive majority in Jammu and Kashmir, forming the government on its own, and that the double-engine government will take Jammu and Kashmir to new heights of development and prosperity.

## **Sumit Sharma conducts Door-to-Door campaign to** gain support



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Sep 24: Sumit Sharma, the Sainik Samaj Party candidate for the Jammu West constituency, received

constructive and nationalist approach, advocating for candidates who are educated, competent, dynamic, and uncorrupted. "We must support visionary candi-

Voters were encouraged to actively participate in the electoral process, especially after a decade-long gap. Sumit Sharma appealed to the electorate to support the Sainik Samaj Party, highlighting its commitment to serving the Union Territory and its people from a genuine nationalist perspective. He urged voters to come forward in large numbers and exercise their right to vote.

## **DPS Rajbagh celebrates Grandparents Day**

#### **Top News Report**

KATHUA, Sep 24: In a beautiful blend of tradition and modernity, Delhi Public School (DPS) Rajbagh, Kathua, recently hosted an emotionally uplifting Grandparents Day celebration, dedicated to honoring the irreplaceable role that grandparents play in their grandchildren's lives. The event, held on school premises, saw a heartwarming gathering of grandparents, who were greeted with traditional Tilak and adorned with specially crafted badges as a token of the school's respect and love.

The day began with a warm welcome speech by Principal Vivek Arora,

dren are in safe hands here at DPS Rajbagh," he said.

Gauri Thakur, the esteemed Director of the school, presided over the event. Her gracious presence added further charm to the day's proceedings. She expressed her appreciation for the valuable role grandparents play in shaping the values and character of the younger

and admiration the school holds for its elder members.

The day was made even more special by the sincere efforts of staff members, including Lata Punia, Ranjana Punia, Diksha Jasrotia, and Rupa, who worked tirelessly to make the event a success.

Anchoring the program was Diksha Jasrotia, who maintained pation from the elderly attendees, who not only won prizes but also shared laughter and joy with the younger generation. The event concluded with an impromptu dance session, where grandparents grooved to their favorite tunes, further enlivening the day.

The atmosphere was filled with warmth, love, and togetherness. The event successfully created an unforgettable memory for everyone present, reaffirming the special bond that exists between generations. Grandparents left the venue with smiles, a sense of belonging, and deep appreciation for the thoughtful celebration organized by DPS Rajbagh. This heartwarming Grandparents Day celebration at DPS Rajbagh was a testament to the school's commitment to nurturing not only the academic excellence of its students but also their emotional and familial bonds, making it a cherished and memorable occasion for all.

a significant boost during his door-to-door campaign, supported by Anuradha Pathania, Managing Director of Annizone Meadows of Angels. The campaign focused on Ward 24 and its adjacent areas.

Pathania emphasized the need for a shift in politics towards a more

dates who prioritize the welfare and development of our nation," she stated.

During the campaign, key points from the party's manifesto were shared with residents, and the issues faced by the community were documented.

who expressed his gratitude to the grandparents for their enduring support and love. "We are deeply honored to have you here today. Your presence is a reminder of the timeless values of wisdom, love, and care that you pass on to future generations. Rest assured, your grandchil-

generation, calling the event a "tribute to their unconditional love and guidance. The Grandparents Day

event was thoughtfully conceptualized by Chief Coordinator Rimjhim Wazir and Coordinator Jyoti Katoch, who ensured every detail reflected the affection

a smooth flow of activities throughout the day. Her vibrant energy and compassionate demeanor kept the audience engaged and the program running effortlessly.

The students of DPS Rajbagh had prepared an array of performances to showcase their talaudience to tears. The event wasn't just about performances but also about interaction and bonding. A series of fun-filled games and activities were organized exclusively for the grandparents, adding a sense of joy and lightheartedness to the celebration. The games saw enthusiastic partici-

ents and express their

love for their grand-

parents. From tradi-

tional dances to moving

speeches, the children

poured their hearts

into each performance,

leaving the audience

captivated. A deeply

emotional play, which

poignantly illustrated the

bond between grandpar-

ents and their grandchil-

dren, moved many in the

# **JKAKA releases Domestic Calendar 2024-25**

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Sep 24: General Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir Amateur Kabaddi Association Kuldeep Kumar Gupta released Domestic Calendar 2024-25 under the guidance of the president of the Association Mr. Anil Gupta who is a friend, Philosopher and Guide has created new idea to allot these categories Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior U.T championship in Boys and Girls section to three districts instead of one district to conduct the championship with the collaboration of Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council in the presence of Surinder Mohan Technical Director Yuva Kabaddi Series (Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh), Anil Modi Treasurer and S.S Gill Technical Director of the association.

The Ganderbal district Kabaddi Association will host district Kabaddi championship from 4th to 5th Oct 2024, Srinagar district 6th to 7th Oct. 2024, Anantnag District 11th to 13th October 2024, Pulwama District 14th to 16th Oct 2024, Budgam District 17th to 19th October2024, Baramullah

District 10th to 12th October 2024, Jammu District 14th to 16th October 2024, Poonch District 23rd to 25th October 2024. Kathua District 26th to 27th Oct 2024, Rajouri District 28th to 30th October 2024, Udhampur District 29th to 31st October 2024 and Samba District 22nd to 24th October 2024 Kuldeep Kumar Gupta further said after the completion of all the district Kabaddi Championship, Srinagar District Kabaddi Association will host Sub Junior U. T. Kabaddi Championship (Boys and Girls) Section, Udhampur District Kabaddi Association will host Junior UT Kabaddi Championship (Boys and Girls) Section and Poonch district Kabbadi association will host Senior UT Kabaddi championship (Men and Women) section before the conduct of National Kabaddi Championships.

Moreover Kuldeep Kumar Gupta General Secretary in consultation with Anil Gupta President of the Association has appointed "Observers" in all the district as well as UT Kabaddi Championships in Jammu Province and Kashmir Province are Radha Bakshi Convener women commission



nominated for Jammu District, Krishan Singh President Samba District Kabaddi Association nominated for Kathua District, Sanjit Kumar Secretary Jammu District Kabaddi Association nominated for Udhampur District, Bashrat Khan Chairman Poonch District Kabaddi Association nominated for Rajouri District, Mohd. Yakoob Secretary Kathua District Kabaddi Association nominated for Samba District, Sushil Jamwal Chairman Rajouri District Kabaddi Association nominated for Poonch District, Nazir Ahmad Mir Secretary Budgam District Kabaddi Association nominated for Srinagar District, G. M. Ganai Chairman Pulwama District Kabaddi Association

nominated for Anantnag District, Mohd Shafi Chairman Gandharbal District Kabaddi Association nominated for Baramulla District, Gulzar Ahmad Secretary Srinagar District Kabaddi Association nominated for Budgam District, A. R. Padder Chairman Anantnag District Kabaddi Association nominated for Pulwama District, M.S.Baba President Baramulla District Kabaddi Association nominated for Gandharbal District. Further for UT Kabaddi Championships the members have been appointed as Observers, Sarwant Singh Gill Technical Director J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association nominated for Junior UT Kabaddi Championship at Udhampur,

Anil Modi Treasurer J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association nominated for Senior UT Kabaddi Championship at Poonch and Surinder Mohan Technical Director Yuva Kabaddi Series (YKS) J&K and Ladakh nominated for Sub-Junior UT Kabaddi Championship at Srinagar. Moreover, Gupta also said that all the district Secretaries/Presidents are advised to give vast publicity in Print/ Electronic Media and send a letter to Divisional Sports Officer Jammu and Divisional Sports Officer Kashmir of J&K Sports Council under proper receipt so that they can issue the directions to their Managers/Incharges of Stadium to make the necessary arrangements of providing the ground and other facilities to the organizer of the District Association. Further, Kuldeep Kumar Gupta advised to all the "Observers" of the Kabaddi Association to select the talented players in Boys and Girls Section for the National Coaching Camps to be held before the participation in the National Championships and also submit their report well in time to the undersigned before conduct of the National Coaching Camps.

## Shiv Sena urges voters to consider issues before casting vote

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Sep 24: The Shiv Sena (UBT) has launched a campaign urging voters in Jammu and Kashmir to think carefully before voting, citing a range of pressing issues afflicting the region. Manish Sahni, president of Shiv Sena (UBT) for the Jammu and Kashmir unit, criticized the BJP for failing to deliver on promises of relief from terrorism and development, stating that the party has instead led the region into a cycle of inflation, unemployment, crime, drug addiction, and corruption.

During a door-to-door campaign in Ward 25 and 26 of Jammu West, candidate Meenakshi Chhibber highlighted the growing dissatisfaction among voters.

She expressed that the people of Jammu feel betrayed by the BJP, citing rising unemployment, inflation, crime, and power cuts, as well as issues related to pension irregularities.

Sahni noted that the party's manifesto, which is rooted in the public's aspirations, is resonating well with the electorate. He expressed confidence that the support they are receiving indicates that the Shiv Sena (UBT) will have a strong presence in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly this election.

Later, Shiv Sena leaders participated in the 'Shrimad Bhagwat Katha' organized by the Divya Jyoti Jagrukta Sansthan, reinforcing their commitment to community engagement and devotion to Lord Shri Ram.

# **SPORTS**

# On This Day: India become inaugural T20 World Cup champions by beating Pakistan

On this day in 2007, India defeated arch-rivals Pakistan in a thrilling final to become the inaugural T20 World Cup champions at the Wanderers stadium in Johannesburg.

NEW DELHI, Sep 24 (Agencies): On this day in 2007, the Indian cricket team created history as they became the inaugural T20 World Cup Champions by defeating arch-rivals Pakistan at the Wanderers stadium in Johannesburg. While many considered them to be underdogs for the tournament, India, led by the calm and strategic MS Dhoni, embarked on a thrilling campaign, displaying their dominance in the shortest format with a mix of thrilling victories and nerve-wracking moments

India's triumph in the final, where they edged out rivals Pakistan by just 5 runs in a gripping contest, was the perfect conclusion to their stellar run in the tournament. The match, full of tension and drama, saw India hold their composure in the dying moments to secure a historic win.



How did the T20 World Cup 2007 final unfold?

The 2007 T20 World Cup final between India and Pakistan was an unforgettable, nail-biting affair. India won the toss and opted to bat first, with standout performances from Gautam Gambhir and Rohit Sharma helping the team post a total of 157/5. Gambhir led the charge with a brilliant 75 off 54 balls, hitting eight boundaries and two sixes in a high-pressure situation. Rohit contributed a crucial 30 off just 16 deliveries, which included two boundaries and a six.

In response, Pakistan's chase was anchored by Misbah-ul-Haq, but early breakthroughs by RP Singh stalled their momentum. Pakistan found themselves in trouble at 77/6 by the 12th over, as India tightened their grip on the game.

The final over was filled with drama as Pakistan needed 13 runs to win. Joginder Sharma was given the responsibility to bowl the decisive over, and at one point, Pakistan seemed poised to pull off a win, requiring just six runs off the last four balls. However, Misbah's attempt at a scoop shot led to his dismissal, sealing a thrilling five-run victory for India.

RP Singh and Irfan Pathan were instrumental in India's success, each taking three wickets, while Joginder Sharma claimed two vital dismissals.

Fast-forward to 2024, India clinched their second T20 World Cup title in Barbados. Led by Rohit Sharma, they defeated South Africa by seven runs in a closely contested final to bring home the trophy.

## New BCCI secretary appointment not on apex council agenda as Jay Shah prepares for ICC chair

#### Features update on Byju's matter among others

upcoming AGM, as he

is scheduled to assume

his new position only

But even a discussion

on the process of nomi-

nation is not part of the

eight items listed in the

apex council's agenda

which features, among

others, the update on

The BCCI has a pay-

ment settlement issue

with their former title

The embattled edtech

firm ended its sponsor-

ship deal with the BCCI

The Bengaluru-based

company, co-founded

by Byju Raveendran,

had initially signed a

jersev sponsorship deal

in March 2019 for three

years, which was later

extended by another

in March last year.

Byju's matter.

sponsor.

from December 1.

BHUBANESWAR, Sep 24 (Agencies): The BCCI apex council will meet on Wednesday to discuss a variety of issues related to the Board's functioning but the appointment of a new secretary to replace the outgoing Jay Shah is not on the agenda.

It will be the last apex council meet before the Board's 93rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Bengaluru in five days' time. The appointment of a new secretary has become necessary after Shah was unanimously elected as the next ICC Chairman.

However, he will not step down from his current role as BCCI Secretary during the year for a reported sum of USD 55 million.

Payments were made until September 2022, but the controversy revolves around unpaid dues from October 2022 to March 2023.

There will also be a discussion on the inauguration of the state-ofthe-art National Cricket Academy (NCA) on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

Currently, the NCA functions at the M Chinnaswamy stadium premises since its inception over two decades back. Approval for commencement of renovation work on the exteriors of the BCCI headquarters at Mumbai and the North East development project are also part of the agenda.

## All-female panel of match officials announced for Women's T20 World Cup 2024

DUBAI, Sep 24 (Agencies): The ICC has confirmed the panel of match officials for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024, set to take place from October 3 to 20 in the United Arab Emirates. Ten umpires and three match referees, all women, will oversee the ninth edition of the tournament. This move showcased the ICC's commitment to promote female representation in cricket officiating. The panel includes highly experienced officials, with Claire Polosak set to umpire her fifth Women's T20 World Cup. Kim Cotton and Jacqueline Williams, who officiated the final in Cape Town earlier this year, will both make their fourth World Cup The match referees' team will feature GS Lakshmi, who began her refereeing career in 2012 and officiated the 2023 final. She will be joined by Shandre Fritz and Michell Pereira, both officiating in their second Women's T20 World Cup.

An all-female line up of match officials Sean Easey, ICC Senior Manager for

Umpires and Referees, expressed the organisation's pride in appointing an all-female lineup. He noted that these officials were selected based on their excellent recent performances in bilateral and other international matches.

"The ICC is proud<br/>to be contributing to<br/>the advancement of<br/>women in our sport. To<br/>be announcing this all-<br/>female lineup of match<br/>officials for the ICC<br/>Women's T20 World<br/>Cup 2024 is wonderful,"<br/>Sean said.Panel o<br/>erees: S<br/>GS Lak<br/>Pereira.<br/>The E<br/>Elite Par<br/>Cotton, S<br/>nevana,<br/>Sue Re<br/>Sherida<br/>Williams.

form in bilateral and other cricket, are some of the very best from around the world.

"We are confident that they will do a great job at this event. I wish them the best of luck as they oversee the world's top women's cricketers in what will be an exciting tournament for all involved."

The ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 will feature 23 matches played across Dubai and Sharjah, with ten teams competing for the title.

Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Officials for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 The Emirates ICC Elite

Panel of Match Referees: Shandré Fritz, GS Lakshmi, Michell Pereira. The Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Umpires: Lauren Agenbag, Kim Cotton, Sarah Dambanevana, Anna Harris, Nimali Perera, Claire Polosak, Vrinda Rathi, Sue Redfern, Eloise Sheridan, Jacquiline

## India vs Bangladesh: Axar Patel vs Kuldeep Yadav on Kanpur pitch with black soil

The second Test is set to be played on a black-soil pitch at Green Park. India will be tempted to play three spinners. The home team opted for three pacers and two spinners in the first Test on a red-soil pitch in Chennai.

NEW DELHI, Sep 24 (Agencies): It is set to be a close contest between Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel, as India are likely to field three spinners in the second and final Test of the series against Bangladesh. All eyes are on the pitch in Kanpur, which will host the second Test, after India and Bangladesh battled on a sporting surface in the first Test in Chennai.

A red-soil pitch was used in Chennai for the series opener, which also marked the beginning of India's long Test season. The surface at the MA Chidambaram Stadium evoked memories of fast-bowler-friendly tracks from the past at this iconic venue. On an overcast morning on Day 1, Bangladesh's pacers, particularly Hasan Mahmud, made full use of the conditions. Throughout the Test, both pacers and spinners benefitted from the consistent bounce of the pitch, which Ashwin praised as one of the best in recent years. As it turns out, Kanpur's Green Park will use a black-soil pitch, which is expected to assist batters and slow down as the Test progresses, according to



ESPNCricinfo. The pitch for the second Test is unlikely to offer true bounce, which may prompt both teams to consider playing the second Test and it will be interesting to see who makes way for an extra spinner. It remains to be seen if India will Jadeja as they gear up towards the big Australian challenge.

Kuldeep has played only eight Tests at home since making his debut in 2017. Axar, who made his Test debut in 2021, has played 12 Tests in home conditions, often having been India's third spinner.

Earlier this year, Axar Patel played two Tests against England while Kuldeep Yadav, a more attacking option, played as many as four of the five-match series at home.

India have played 23 Tests in Kanpur and won seven of them while drawing 17. The last two Tests played in Kanpur went to the fifth day. New Zealand held India to a draw in 2021 and the BlackCaps were beaten on the fifth day in 2016 at Green Park. Bangladesh, on the other hand, have Taijul Islam and Naveem Hasan as the spinbowling options on the bench. The visitors too played three pacers and two spinners. Shakib Al Hasan, who struggled to make an impact in Chennai, is doubtful for the second Test due to a nagging finger injury.

appearances. Sue Redfern, the TV umpire for the 2023 final, is also returning for her fourth World Cup. New to the lineup is Zimbabwe's Sarah Dambanevana, who will be making her debut at the prestigious event. three spinners in their XI.

India went in with three seamers and only two spinners in the first Test in Chennai. Akash Deep joined Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj, while R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja led the spin-bowling attack. Ashwin India announced an unchanged 16-man squad for rest Bumrah, considering the long Test season in which India will travel to Australia for a five-Test Border-Gavaskar series. AXAR VS KULDEEP

If picked, Axar Patel will bolster the batting further. However, India might be tempted to give Kuldeep Yadav an opportunity to bowl alongside Ashwin and

# Heroes' Homecoming: Gukesh, Pragg, Vaishali, and Srinath's touchdown amid fanfare

piad for the first time.

we have only won a

bronze till now. And we

managed to win in both

sections so it's a very

special feeling and a

proud moment for us,"

Praggnanandhaa said.

"We were playing good

chess and it showed that

we were the best team.

The Olympiad is the only

tournament we play as a

team for the country," he

Vaishali, who laid the

foundation for the wom-

en's team's triumph,

said missing out on the

gold in the last edition in

"It's a dream moment.

Last time in the Chen-

nai Olympiad we won

bronze, we were so

close to winning gold

we missed it in the last

round and it was very

painful. I'm glad that

both teams have won

Chennai was painful.

added.

CHENNAI, Sep 24 (Agencies): Flashing radiant smiles after their history-making gold at the Olympiad, members of India's trailblazing chess teams returned to an enthusiastic welcome from fans, officials and their families here on Tuesday.

The quartet of D Gukesh, R Praggnanandhaa, R Vaishali, and men's team captain Srinath Narayanan landed here early this morning.

Both the Indian men's and women's teams scripted history on Sunday, winning their maiden gold medals in the Chess Olympiad in Hungary.

Their extraordinary victory reinforced India's position as a new chess powerhouse. And as was expected, there were loud cheers as the four walked out of the airport. Gukesh, who was instrumental in Indian

men's team dominance in the tournament with an unbeaten run, flashed his individual and team gold medals for the cameras. The 18-year-old is now gearing up for the world championship clash against China's Ding Liren in November after becoming the youngest ever challenger to the crown by winning the Candidates Tournament in April. "It's very special, since

both the teams won the gold," Gukesh told agency.

The brother-sister duo of Praggnanandhaa and Vaishali Narayanan reached in the before Gukesh. All of them were welcomed with garlands, bouquets and traditional stoles as fans scampered to click selfies with them. "I'm very happy that gold. It's a historical we have won the Olym- moment.

"We won six matches in a row and then lost to Poland, painful defeat but I'm happy that we came back. We drew against US next and last two matches we had to win to secure gold. Very happy that we delivered in the crucial moment," she added.

For men's captain Narayanan the gold is a culmination of years of hard work.

"...it feels great that I was the captain of one of the strongest teams that won the Olympiad in such a dominant fashion. When something spectacular like this happens it's usually a result of years of effort and that's what happened here as well," he said.

"We kept on trying and pushing, we had a number of successwe came close to the podium several times." The 30-year-old Grandmaster added that the new generation of players, including Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi, and Praggnanandhaa,

are world beaters. "We came fourth in 2016 but this crop of young players are world beaters. They have shown it not just here but in Candidates and other tournaments as well. They continued what they were doing." He said the next goal for India would be to have a world champion and everyone would be cheering Gukesh in his attempt to achieve that later this year. "We have the Olym-

"We have the Olympiad gold, now we also want the world champion in India, so we will be cheering for Gukesh," he added.

## India tighten grip on top spot in World Test Championship table

DUBAI, Sep 24 (Agencies): A dominant India tightened their grip on the top spot in the World Test Championship table with a 280-run victory over Bangladesh, while Sri Lanka saw off New Zealand in Galle to help their move towards a potential spot in the final at Lord's next year. The two results have led to shifts in the race for the two final spots, with Sri Lanka leapfrogging their current oppo-

nents into third spot. India's win in Chennai and the 12 WTC points reasserts their status at the top of the table, moving to a percentage of 71.67%, extending their lead on Australia in second (62.50%).

Bangladesh, who had jumped to the fourth position following an exceptional 2-0 win against Pakistan, drop to sixth place (point percentage of 39.29%) behind Sri Lanka and England after the defeat. Bangladesh started

the fourth day at 158/4 in pursuit of India's 515, with skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto and Shakib Al Hasan at the

crease. The duo resisted briefly, though India's spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja wiped claimed the remaining six wickets for just 40 runs.

Ashwin won the Player of the Match award for his brilliant hundred in the first innings and six-for in the second innings.

Moving to third on the WTC25 table after victory in Galle, Sri Lanka stand the best chance of challenging the 2023 World Test Championship finalists for a spot in the 2025 final. The 63-run victory over the Black Caps in Galle was their fourth in eight matches, moving them an even 50% of possible World Test Championship points, with a best possible percentage of 69.23% for Dhananjaya de Silva's men.

That figure would likely be enough for a chance of lifting the mace in next year's finale at Lord's, though the side would need to beat New Zealand once more, claim a clean sweep of South Africa, and beat Australia 2-0 at home in a series early next year.

The Indians still have nine Tests remaining in this WTC cycle to decide their fate and make it to their third consecutive final of the tournament. They had ended as the runnersup in the previous two editions -- to New Zealand (2021) and Australia (2023).

# LOCAL/ADVT

# **Rampaul campaigns for NC candidate in Jammu North, seeks public support**

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Sep 24: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) intensifies its election campaign, Babu Rampaul, President of JKNC Central Zone and Former Minister, laid out a comprehensive vision for improving healthcare infrastructure during an election meeting at Jammu North constituency. The meeting was organized by Dr. Vikas Sharma, Zonal Secretary and Coordinator Jammu District

Speaking in support of party candidate Former Minister and Additional General Secretary JKNC Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Rampaul highlighted key elements from the partv's manifesto aimed at transforming healthcare across the union territory. He asked the people of



operations. Additionally,

the party intends to for-

mulate a comprehensive

State Health Policy to

healthcare challenges.

Jammu North constituency to wholeheartedly support the NC candidate so as to strengthen the hands of party leadership to form government in J&K and realize their dreams

He elaborated that among the primary promises is the restoration of autonomy to the Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, ensuring better management and

also plans to establish a state-of-the-art cancer hospital in the region. Also speaking, Dr Vikas Sharma, Secretary Cen-

address long-standing tral Zone JKNC, said A major highlight of the that to improve access to health agenda is the creprimary healthcare, the ation of a Medical Trust, manifesto promises the which will offer free insurestablishment of Village ance coverage of □5 lakh & Mohalla Clinics, aimed per annum for terminal at providing essential diseases such as cancer healthcare and emerand heart and kidney gency services. Furthertransplants. The JKNC more, dialysis facilities

will be made available at all Sub-District Hospitals (SDH) across Jammu and Kashmir, he informed.

Further elaborating the manifesto, he said, "The party also pledged to enhance diagnostic and imaging services in all district hospitals, ensuring people have access to necessary medical investigations locally." With these ambitious

proposals, JKNC aims to prioritize the health and well-being of the people in the upcoming elections, positioning itself as a party committed to addressing the healthcare needs of the region. Others who spoke on the occasion were Adv. Rajinder Chanyal, Rajinder Kumar, Sham Lal Mehra, B.D Dalotra, SomTaroch, Charan Dass, Gulshan Kumar and others.

# Sahaj Sabharwal author calls upon LG Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Sep 24: Renowned author, motivational speaker, and multi-talented individual, Sahaj Sabharwal, had the opportunity to meet with Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha, at Raj Bhavan, Jammu. During the meeting, Sahaj briefed the LG on his remarkable achievements in both the literary and aeronautical fields, including his recent national records and the prestigious Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Award for excellence in Aeronautical Engineering.

In this meeting, Sahaj Sabharwal submitted a memorandum highlighting key areas for development in aeronautical engineering, promotion of literary culture within Jammu and Kashmir, and the advancement of youth-centric initiatives. His proposals



emphasized the need for increased job opportunities in the aeronautical sector, greater accessibility to public libraries for showcasing his published works, and potential collaborations with government programs aimed at inspiring the youth of the region. As a celebrated figure

from Jammu, Sahaj Sabharwal has self-published three books: Poems by Sahaj Sabharwal, Peda-

**Delegation of YWBF J&K Meets LG** 

Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan

gogical Thoughts Made Facts, and Anecdote - A Multi-Category Content Book-the latter being launched by Hon'ble LG Manoj Sinha. His literary contributions focus on significant social issues, including drug awareness, youth empowerment, and other societal challenges. Alongside his work as an author. Sahaj is a social media influencer and a dedicated Aeronautical Engineer.

## **RM Public School Organizes Exciting Picnic for Pre-Primary Classes**



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Sep 24: RM Public School transformed its premises into a lively picnic spot for pre-primary students from neighboring schools, offering a range of thrilling activities such as train rides.

# **Bharat Vikas Parishad J&K Prant holds Executive Body Meeting in Jammu**

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Sep 24: An executive body meeting of Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP) J&K Prant took place today at Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The meeting saw the participation of national, regional, and prant-level executive and council members. The

Prant President Sh. Bharat Bhushan Sharma delivered the welcome address, urging the members to prioritize national interests. Several key members of the organization participated, including Shiv Ram Sharma, General Secretary (JK Prant), Smt. Sunita, Prant Finance Secretary Arun Prant Mahila Pramukh Sh. Vijay Sharma, Prant Sewa Pramukh Sh. Gopal Gupta, Prant Sanskar Pramukh Sh. Jagdish Dogra, Convenor GVCA Sh. Sanjay Koushal, RSS Sh. Rohit Seth, Convenor (Medical) Smt. Bharati Sharma, Mahila Pramukh



Chief Guest and keynote speaker, Sh. Parshotam Dadichi Ji from RSS. addressed the attendees, discussing the current situation in Jammu & Kash-

Sharma, Natio al Member (NGSC), Sh. Ashok Gupta, National Member, Smt. Amita Sharma, Regional Mahila and Bal Vikas Sh. Rajesh Baru,

(Gandhi Nagar Branch) Sh. Mohit Seth, Organiser Sh. Rahul Kumar and Sh. Rachat Khosla The meeting focused

on aligning efforts with

JAMMU, Sep 24: A delegation from the Yuva World Brahman Federation (YWBF) (J&K unit), led by President Adv. Dakhseesh Sharma, met with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan, Jammu. The delegation praised the

**Top News Report** 

initiatives taken by the

UT administration and

the central government

for accelerating develop-

has fostered a sense of equitable development and unity across com-

munities The delegation also discussed the federation's activities and presented specific demands, such as the establishment of a Brahman Kalyan Board, similar to those in states like Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Punjab. They also requested extending the term of in Kashmir and Jammu. Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha assured the delegation that all possible measures would be taken to address their concerns. The delegation expressed their gratitude by gifting the Lt. Governor a statue of Shree Ram Parivaar. Other notable attendees included Acharva Sita Ram Shastri, Sarpanch Ajeet Raj, Brahman Dev Sharma (Ex-member of

swings, and playground fun. The children also enjoyed a refreshing pool party, lively DJ music, an enchanting puppet show, and a variety of toys and games. The main attendees of the event were from Stepping Stone School, led by their Coordinator, Ms. Kirti Jha.

The event was graced by the presence of RM Public School's Worthy Chairman, Mr. Rameshwar Mengi, who warmly welcomed the visiting tine. Incharge of Penguin Paradise, Ms. Mala Goel, and Incharge of Lakshya Building, Ms. Gurpreet Kaur, offered their support and encouragement, while Pre-Primary Coordinator Ms. Chandan motivated the tiny toddlers to explore and enjoy life's adventures. This inter-school excursion was a great

aged them to embrace

such outings. Director

Mr. Rakshan Mengi and

Vice Principal Dr. Harvin-

der Kaur also extended

their blessings, with

Mr. Singh, the Admin-

istrator, highlighting the

importance of excur-

sions to break the rou-

success, fostering fun, camaraderie, and lasting memories among the children.

JMC Comm seeks peoples' cooperation to prevent spread of dengue

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Sep 24: In a concerted effort to combat the rising cases of Dengue in Jammu, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has launched a special fogging drive in collaboration with the Anti Malaria Wing under the aegis of Commissioner, JMC Dr. Devansh Yadav.

ration. The Health & Sanitation and Transport Wings of JMC deployed sufficient manpower and machinery to carry out the fogging operations. The drives are now being conducted in double shifts, ensuring that fogging occurs twice in these critical areas to effectively eliminate mosquito breeding sites. Urging upon the public

The fogging team supervised by Health to cooperate with the Officer, Dr. Vinod Sharma JMC in maintaining targeted the hotspots cleanliness and avoid including Muthi, Janiwater accumulation in pur, Bantalab, Trikuta and around their dwelling Nagar, Shastri Nagar, units, the Commissioner and Channi areas falling said that it would go a under the jurisdiction of long way to prevent the Jammu Municipal Corpospread of Dengue.

mir and emphasizing the need to support nationalist forces in the nation's interest.

Regional Secretary Prof. Dr. B.B. Sharma, Regional Secretary Smt. Aarati Sharma,

national interests and supporting developmental initiatives across the state.

ment in Jammu & Kashmir. They highlighted how the administration under the Lt. Governor

EWS certificates to five years and called for the rehabilitation of demolished temples, especially the Kisan Board), and Sheetanshu Sharma (State Secretary of the organization).



♥ NAGROTA, JAMMU (J&K)

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