

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 01, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

**56.01% polling recorded in all 40 assembly constituencies till 3 PM**

SRINAGAR, Oct 1 (Agencies): With polling for 3rd and final Phase of General Elections to J&K Legislative Assembly receiving huge momentum, all polling stations of 40 Assembly Constituencies across seven districts of Jammu & Kashmir have recorded an impressive 56.01 percent voter turnout till 3 pm communicated the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K.

**7 Children injured in explosion near garbage dump in Bihar's Bhagalpur**

BHAGALPUR, Oct 1 (Agencies): Seven children were injured, three of them seriously, in an explosion near a garbage dump in Bihar's Bhagalpur district on Tuesday, a senior police officer said. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Bhagalpur, Anand Kumar said that the blast took place in Khilafat Nagar locality, under the jurisdiction of Habibpur police station, of the town and the children appeared to have inadvertently fiddled with an explosive substance.

"Seven children, three of them seriously, were injured in the incident. All of them have been admitted to the nearest government hospital," he said. "The incident took place around noon and forensic experts as well dog squad have reached the spot to defuse any such explosives that may be lying at the garbage dump and also identify the nature of the explosion that took place. Investigators have collected crucial exhibits from the spot and will be sent for scientific examination," said the SSP.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted to further investigate the matter, he said adding, "Officials are trying to find out the nature of explosive material found from the spot..... was it a country-made bomb, or some fire-cracker...and whatever...Evidence is being collected from the spot. Senior officials are there at the site," the SSP said. **Turn to page 9**

## Four more bodies recovered after IAF plane crashed in Himachal 56 years ago

CHANDIGARH, Oct 1 (Agencies): The Indian army has recovered four more bodies from the accident site in Himachal Pradesh. The accident took place 56-years ago after an Indian Air Force (IAF) plane with 102 people on board crashed in the Rohtang Pass.

After taking off from Chandigarh on February 7, 1968, the AN-12 aircraft went missing. The aircraft crashed as



it faced severe weather near the Rohtang Pass and for decades, the wreckage and the

remains of the victims were lost in the icy terrain, India Today reported. **Turn to page 9**

## Situation stable but not normal: Army Chief on Eastern Ladakh Standoff

NEW DELHI, Oct 1 (Agencies): The situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh is stable but sensitive and not normal, Chief of Army Staff Gen Upendra Dwivedi said on Tuesday on the dragging military standoff between China and India in the region.

Though a "positive signalling" is coming out from the diplomatic talks between the two sides on resolution of the row, the execution of any plan depends on the



military commanders on the ground, Gen Dwivedi said.

He was speaking at a curtain raiser event on the Chanakya Defence Dialogue.

India and China held

two rounds of diplomatic talks in July and August with an aim to find early resolution of outstanding issues in their standoff on the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

"The positive signalling is coming from the diplomatic side, but what we need to understand (is that) the diplomatic side gives options and possibilities," he said.

"But when it comes to the execution on ground, when it relates to ground per se; it is dependent

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## JK Polls: Valmiki Community votes for first time in Assembly Polls



JAMMU, Oct 1 (Agencies): Long denied the right to vote, members of the Valmiki community exercised their franchise for the first time in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections on Tuesday and termed it as a "historic moment".

The Valmiks were originally brought to J-K in 1957 from Punjab's

Gurdaspur district for sanitation work by the state government.

"I am a first-time voter at the age of 45. In my lifetime. We are thrilled and filled with enthusiasm to participate in J-K's assembly elections for the first time. It is like a big festival for us," Gharu Bhati, who voted at a polling station

in Jammu, said.

Bhati, who has led efforts for over 15 years to secure citizenship rights for his community said, "This is a festival for the entire Valmiki community. We have voters as old as 80 and as young as 18. Two generations before us were denied this right, but justice prevailed when Article 370 was abrogated, granting us citizenship of J-K."

"For decades, our community, brought here for sanitation work, was denied basic rights, including the right to vote and citizenship of J-K. It is a historic moment for the entire Valmiki community," he said. **Turn to page 9**

## Rahul Gandhi, Kashmiri politicians condemn detention of Sonam Wangchuk, other activists in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Oct 1 (Agencies): On Monday evening, police detained Ladakh climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and his comrades near Delhi border, barring their entry into the national capital.

Around 120 people from Ladakh including Wangchuk — who had marched to the national capital demanding Sixth Schedule status for the Union Territory —



have been detained by the Delhi Police at the national capital's border, news agency reported. The government's

move to crush the dissent invited severe criticism from top politicians including, the leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha

Rahul Gandhi, Communist Party of India (M) leader from Kashmir Yousuf Tarigami, and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti.

Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday termed the detention of these protesting people as "unacceptable".

Gandhi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi would have to listen to Ladakh's voice. **Turn to page 9**

## Unexpected voter turnout, JK touching new heights: State BJP President Ravinder Raina

JAMMU, Oct 1 (Agencies): State BJP President and candidate from Nowshera Assembly seat Ravinder Raina said that a large number of people are voting in the last phase of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and voting percentage has been unexpected.

Ravinder Raina said, "A large number of people are voting in the last phase of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have participated whole-



heartedly in this festival of democracy. These elections have been conducted very well. Polling percentage has been unexpected. This shows J&K is touching new heights and giving its contribution in strengthening new India. **Turn to page 9**

I would like to congratulate the security forces and EC for conducting the polls successfully."

Former Deputy CM of J&K and BJP leader Kavinder Gupta was confident of BJP coming to power

"Elections are taking place in Jammu and Kashmir after 10 years and there is enthusiasm among the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Today, people have shown their gratitude towards democracy and have expressed their

## KDA, Apex Body call for Ladakh Bandh following activist Sonam Wangchuk's detention

LEH (Ladakh), Oct 1 (Agencies): The Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) and Apex Body, Leh have called for a bandh across Ladakh following the detention of renowned activist Sonam Wangchuk on Monday night.

Shops in Ladakh were observed closed as residents demanded Wangchuk's release and

advocate for the sixth schedule to safeguard the region's rights.

Hajan Fathima Bano, an 87-year-old Apex activist, voiced her concerns over the detention of activist Wangchuk along with the other people of Ladakh demanding for their rights.

"We've heard they have been apprehend-

ed. They didn't go to engage in conflict; they went to advocate for the sixth schedule on behalf of the people of Ladakh. We are willing to give our lives for them. They shouldn't be held captive," she stated.

The bandh aims to raise awareness about the ongoing struggle for Ladakhi autonomy and **Turn to page 9**

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## EDITORIAL

Democracy  
in India

India, the world's largest democracy, showcases a complex and vibrant political landscape. With a population exceeding 1.4 billion, the country has a parliamentary system that reflects its diverse cultural, linguistic, and religious tapestry. Established in 1950, the Constitution of India lays the foundation for democratic governance, enshrining fundamental rights and outlining the structure of government. The roots of democracy in India can be traced back to the freedom struggle against British colonial rule. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru envisioned a nation where power rested in the hands of the people. Upon gaining independence in 1947, India adopted a democratic framework, transitioning from colonial rule to a sovereign state. The Constituent Assembly, comprising eminent leaders, meticulously crafted the Constitution, emphasizing justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. India operates under a parliamentary system, characterized by a bicameral legislature comprising the Lok Sabha (House of the People) and the Rajya Sabha (Council of States). Members of the Lok Sabha are directly elected, while the Rajya Sabha is composed of representatives appointed by state legislatures and the President. The Prime Minister, elected by the majority party or coalition in the Lok Sabha, serves as the head of government, while the President acts as the ceremonial head of state. Elections in India are conducted by the Election Commission, an independent body responsible for ensuring free and fair polls. The country holds regular elections at multiple levels—central, state, and local. Voter turnout is a significant aspect of Indian democracy, often reflecting the electorate's engagement and the challenges in mobilizing diverse populations. Recent elections have seen technological advancements, including electronic voting machines and online voter registration, aimed at increasing transparency and accessibility. Despite its robust framework, Indian democracy faces several challenges. One significant issue is the influence of money and muscle power in politics, which can skew electoral outcomes. Political parties often rely on substantial funding, leading to questions about accountability and transparency. Moreover, communalism and regionalism can threaten social cohesion, with political narratives sometimes exploiting religious and ethnic divides. Corruption remains another pressing concern. Various initiatives, including the Right to Information Act, have been implemented to combat this issue, but systemic corruption persists, eroding public trust in institutions. Additionally, the rise of populist politics has raised alarms about the erosion of democratic norms, where leaders may bypass constitutional mechanisms for expediency. A vibrant civil society plays a crucial role in Indian democracy, with numerous non-governmental organizations advocating for social justice, human rights, and environmental issues. The media, both print and digital, serves as a watchdog, holding the government accountable and fostering public discourse. However, media freedom faces challenges, with instances of censorship and intimidation reported against journalists, particularly those critiquing the establishment. Indian democracy is a dynamic and evolving entity, embodying the aspirations and struggles of its people. While it celebrates remarkable achievements, such as conducting the largest elections globally and fostering a pluralistic society, it also grapples with significant challenges. The resilience of its institutions, the engagement of civil society, and the active participation of citizens are vital for addressing these issues and ensuring that democracy continues to thrive. As India progresses, the commitment to democratic values, inclusivity, and social justice will be paramount in navigating the complexities of governance. The ongoing dialogue between the state and its citizens remains essential for nurturing a democracy that not only exists but flourishes, reflecting the hopes and dreams of its diverse populace.

## The International Day of Older Persons (2024)

By: Virender Kumar Gupta

International days and weeks are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity. The existence of international days predates the establishment of the United Nations, but the UN has embraced them as a powerful advocacy tool. 34th 'International Day of Older Persons' is being celebrated today the world over. This day is fundamentally a special day for Senior Citizens. Additionally, this day provides an opportunity to acknowledge the contributions, wisdom, dignity and needs, besides drawing attention of Authorities at helm of affairs to fortify their efforts to guarantee welfare of Senior Citizens. The adherence is a focus of ageing organisations and the United Nations Program on Ageing. On 14 December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly designated October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons (Resolution 45/106), which was preceded by initiatives such as the 'Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing', and adopted by the 1982 World Assembly on Ageing and endorsed later that year by the UN General Assembly. The day was observed for the first time on October 1, 1991. Later on, the United Nations Principles for Older Persons were adopted by the UN General Assembly (Resolution 46/91) on 16 December 1991, whereby Governments were encouraged to incorporate them into their national programmes whenever possible. The Resolution comprises upon 18 principles, which are grouped under five themes: independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity. However, in view of space constraints, only two principles, acknowledged under the theme 'dignity' are duplicated hereunder:

"Dignity:

- Older persons should be able to live in dignity and security and be free of exploitation and physical or mental abuse.
- Older persons should be treated fairly regardless of age, gender, racial or ethnic background, disability or other status, and be valued independently of their economic contribution."

Likewise, in line with the principles set forth by the United Nations, the Government of India has also adopted 'National Policy for Senior Citizens 2011', which among other measures, inter-alia includes;

- That ten percent of housing schemes for urban and rural lower income segments will be earmarked for Senior Citizens. This will include the Indira Awas Yojana and other schemes of the Government.
- That age friendly, barrier-free access will be created in Buses and Bus Stations, Railways and Railway Stations, airports and bus transportation within the Airports, Banks, Hospitals, Parks, Places of wor-



ship, shopping malls and other public places that Senior Citizens and the disabled frequent.

- To develop housing complexes for single older men and women and for those with need for specialized care in cities, towns and rural areas.
- To promote age friendly facilities and standards of universal design by Bureau of Indian Standards.
- That since a multi-purpose centre is a necessity for social interaction of Senior Citizens; Housing Colonies would reserve sites for establishing such centres. Segregation of senior citizens in housing colonies would be discouraged and their integration into the community supported.
- That Senior Citizen will be given loans for purchase of houses as well as for major repairs, with easy repayment schedules.

Population ageing is an irreversible global trend. In 2021, 1 in 10 people worldwide were aged 65 or above. In 2050, this age group is projected to account for 1 in 6 people globally. Simultaneously, according to Macro Trends, the life expectancy in India in 2024 is projected to be 70.62 years, which is a 0.29% increase from 2023. Population ageing is poised to become one of the most noteworthy social revolutions of the twenty-first century, having repercussions on nearly all sectors of society, including labour and financial markets, the demand for goods and services, such as housing, transportation and social protection, as well as family structures and intergenerational ties. Swift growth in the number of persons attaining older ages underlines the importance of fostering health, preventing, and treating illnesses through the entire passage of life. In societies with aging populations, it becomes very imperative to attune with the increasing number of elderly individuals who have a diverse range of functional aptitudes. The ability to perform vital functions and participate in everyday happenings is dependent not merely upon an individual's inherent capability but also the social and somatic environment in which they live. Compassionate settings, obviously, play a central part in supporting older beings to uphold their pursuit levels and individuality as they move forward in age. Anyway, longer lives are one of humanity's greatest achievements. Nonetheless, no one just want to add years to his life; rather, everyone also wants to enjoy good health and well-being in later life. As of now, elderly people

having meagre resources, predominantly those belonging to rural areas are unquestionably quite vulnerable, with many of them experiencing poverty, prejudice, and health problems. They occasionally endure maltreatment as well, which is harmful to them. The foremost purpose of the day is to draw attention to how the world might better the lives of older people. The feelings expressed herein above are vindicated by an excerpt from a message of United Nations' Secretary General for the year 2023, as under; "Older persons are invaluable sources of knowledge and experience and have much to contribute towards peace, sustainable development, and protecting our planet.

We must ensure their active engagement, full participation, and essential contributions – including through social and workplace policies built around their specific needs.

We must promote lifelong learning, quality healthcare, and digital inclusion.

And we must foster intergenerational dialogue and unity.

Together, let us build more inclusive and age-friendly societies and a more resilient world for all."

Indeed, the measures underlined in various programs and schemes mentioned in earlier paragraphs are aimed at welfare of elderly segment of our society, but regrettably it needs a mention that on ground there has not been seen visible impact. Although, the National Policy on Older Persons, 1999, which is presently in force, envisages State support to ensure financial and food security, health care, shelter, protection and other needs of older persons to improve quality of their lives, but much is required to be done on ground, so as to ensure that the benefit reaches the targeted segment of population i.e., Senior Citizens in particular.

Loneliness is the biggest enemy of old people. Even the oldies living with their children also feel lonely if not attended to properly or ignored. The Government of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir has surely initiated certain steps towards establishing 'Old Age Homes'. But taking into account various constrictions and reservations among Senior Citizens in the existing setup of society, people are reluctant to avail this facility. It has been observed that none of the Old Age Homes situate in Jammu and elsewhere is fully occupied. Need of the hour is to establish more and more 'Day Care Centers' and 'Pay and Stay Homes'. Initiative and support from the UT Administration in this regard is not encouraging, and needs to be accelerated. At the same time, however, the Senior Citizens are advised to find ways to engage themselves and learn to utilise their time in fruitful manner. They can take up reading or writing, or help their working children by taking care of grandchildren. Senior Citizens living in colonies and apartments can form a club for enjoying get-togethers, singing

bhajans/songs and religious discourses, birthdays and marriage anniversary celebrations of the active members of the group and indoor games. These activities can be organized on daily, alternate days or weekly basis depending upon local situations. Here it would be in place to make a mention that 'The Association for Welfare of Senior Citizens Jammu' is striving hard towards achieving the desired goals in conducting weekly get-togethers on every Thursday; wherein a lot of entertaining activities including celebration of birthdays of members and/or spouses are organized, besides organising contributory lunch/dinner (along with spouses) at some nearby locations, at least once in every month. Additionally, the Association is helping the needy Senior Citizens in taking up their issues with appropriate authorities. Presently the Association is carrying on its activities in a private accommodation, which of late is being felt quite insufficient. Despite constant and determined efforts, there have been no fruitful results in getting some appropriate accommodation, aiming to serve the Senior Citizen brethren in a better way.

Anyhow, given the least amount of emphasis the authorities are putting in building infrastructure and facilities for old age care, as suggested herein above, it is anticipated that India, and in particular the UT of Jammu and Kashmir may face a state of crisis in coming future. Incidentally, however, it may be well placed to add here that the theme for the current year (2024) International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) is; "Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide".

In closing the writeup, a few sayings concerning older segment of the society are narrated as follows;

- "Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears." – John Lennon.
- "Growing old is a thing of beauty when you have caregivers who love and support you." -- Unknown.
- "You know you are getting old when you have more candles on your cake than friends at your party." – Unknown.
- "The glory of the elderly is their insight, their knowledge, and their wisdom," – Lailah Gifty Akita.
- "Getting old is like climbing a mountain; you get a little out of breath, but the view is much better!" -- Ingrid Bergman.

(Contributed by  
Virender Kumar Gupta  
-- retired JKAS officer,  
and President of the  
Association for Welfare  
of Senior  
Citizens-Regd.)

# Dimple voted for restoration of J&K State

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 1: Sunil Dimple, president of the Mission Statehood, expressed his relief following the completion of the third phase of elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking to the media, he emphasized the significance of the high voter turnout, which he believes reflects the public's rejection of the BJP's decisions made on August 5, 2019.

Dimple recounted the challenges faced in organizing these elections, stating that it was a long struggle that involved mobilizing political parties and taking the fight to the Supreme Court, all in pursuit of restoring statehood for Jammu and Kashmir. He claimed that the BJP



has been reluctant to hold elections, fearing defeat.

He attributed the election's success to the orders from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on December 11, 2023,

and declared that the people had triumphed in their demand for assembly elections and the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's status.

Addressing media

inquiries, Dimple reiterated his commitment to restoring the princely Dogra state and called for the return of Article 370, the Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC), and adherence to the conditions set in the Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh. He highlighted the need to address pressing issues such as unemployment and poverty.

Dimple vowed to continue fighting for these articles "until his last breath" and denounced the BJP's actions regarding the abrogation of Article 370 and the reorganization of the region into a Union Territory. He called for the unification of Ladakh, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan with Jammu and Kash-

mir, insisting that the historical terms of accession must be honored.

He warned the government of impending agitation if the traditional Darbar move was not resumed promptly, pledging that the Mission Statehood would persist in its efforts for the next hundred years.

Dimple also alleged that the BJP was preparing to form a coalition government with the National Conference following the assembly elections, based on reports suggesting a potential outcome of 62 to 65 seats for NC-Congress and 16 for BJP. He suggested that this coalition could lead to an NC Chief Minister, further complicating the political landscape in the region.

# Dance of death over Bunjwah road, Administration in deep slumber



Top News Report

BUNJWAH, Oct 1: A heart-wrenching tragedy struck in the Bunjwah area where the bride and her sister lost their precious life only a day after her marriage, and the groom, along with three others, was seriously injured and undergoing treatment at Associated Hospital Doda after First Aid treatment at Trauma Centre Thathri.

As the shocking news broke out, the whole Bunjwah and Udhayanpur areas including the whole Doda and Kishtwar district residents mourned over this incident and called it a drastic road accident that in a real sense killed precious lives due to the negligence of the Administration and representatives who only came forward at that time and rest of all

do nothing in improving the road connectivity and installation of barricades and crash barrier.

It's worthwhile to mention that the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh issued directions to install a crashed barrier over Chenab Valley road which is a distant dream for the Bunjwah area wherein more than 35000 people reside and every day more than 1000 to 1500 moves and commutes over this road by putting their precious lives in danger.

The Bunjwah road, which was earlier sanctioned two decades ago, is yet not completed and maintained. As such, we are awaiting such killings. From 2009, the widening work of Bunjwah road was assigned to JKPC, and then PMGSY, wherein

the JKPC withdrew 11 Crores without any execution of the works for 13 km despite that huge amount in bills withdrawn, creating a great loss for the government exchequer. The PMGSY also failed to take up the work properly as per the norms laid down by the government for the execution and maintenance of the road.

The installation of barricades and crash barriers can lead to reducing such tragedies, but unfortunately, no one is ready to take responsibility and fix accountability to avoid such tragedies in the future.

There is a need for the hour to initiate a judicial inquiry against the executing agencies and concerned authorities who are responsible for such incidents.



Voters standing in queue for casting their vote at various polling booths in Jammu on the third and final phase of Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections. Pic by Aman Sharma

# NCC Wing of GDC Kishtwar organizes interactive session with Col MK Sharma



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Oct 1: The NCC Wing of Government Degree College Kishtwar successfully organized an interactive session with the esteemed Commanding Officer, Colonel M. K. Sharma.

The event was held under the guidance of CTO Dr. Tabassum Saleem and ANO Prof. Prithvi Raj, with the strong support of the college Principal, Prof. Basharat Iqbal. The session saw enthusiastic participation from around 150 students, including NCC cadets.

The event commenced with a formal welcome address delivered by Dr. Tabassum Saleem, who highlighted the importance of leadership, discipline, and service to the nation, values deeply embedded in the NCC.

Following the welcome, several cadets delivered speeches, showcasing their pride in being part of the NCC and their dedication to the values the organization upholds.

Col M. K. Sharma, in his address, shared his experiences in the Indian Army, inspiring the cadets and students with tales of courage, leadership, and the importance of serving the nation.

After his speech, Colonel Sharma engaged in an interactive session, answering queries from the students. His words of wisdom and practical insights left a lasting impact on the attendees, motivating them to strive for excellence in all their endeavors.

The faculty members present at the event included Dr. Yasar Ahmed and Dr. Sehrish Gazal, who also encouraged the cadets to take full advantage of such interactions.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Prof. Prithvi Raj, expressing gratitude to Colonel Sharma, the college administration, faculty members, and the students for making the session a success.

This interactive session was yet another step by the NCC Wing of Govt. Degree College Kishtwar in fostering leadership and building a sense of responsibility among the youth, preparing them to contribute positively to society and the nation.

# GDC Darhal celebrates Gandhi Jayanti



Top News Report

DARHAL, Oct 1: The Government Degree College Darhal celebrated the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, also known as Gandhi Jayanti, with a special symposium organized by the college administration.

The event was chaired by the Principal, Professor Zamir Ahmed Mirza, while Dr. M. Saleem Wani, the coordinator of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and the convener of the Literary and Cultural

committee, organized and coordinated the proceedings.

Around 10 students from various semesters participated in the symposium and spoke on the relevance of Gandhi's teachings and philosophies in the present era. Dr. Taseem Ahmed and Dr. Anzaar Ahmed also delivered speeches on the occasion and extended their full cooperation in making the event a success.

In their addresses, Principal Professor Z.A. Mirza and Dr. M. Saleem

Wani enlightened the gathering with Gandhi's vision for a modern, progressive, and peaceful India. They emphasized the importance of upholding the values and principles espoused by the Father of the Nation in the contemporary context.

The event was a fitting tribute to the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and showcased the college's commitment to instilling the spirit of non-violence, harmony, and social justice among the student community.

## On International Coffee Day, television stars talk about their love for the brew

Coffee is more than just a beverage — it's a ritual, a comfort, and a source of inspiration for many. In the bustling world of entertainment industry, where creativity and energy are paramount, television stars reveal their unique relationships with this beloved drink. From the comforting filter coffee of South India to the energising embrace of black coffee, they talk about their personal choices and whom they would like to share a cup with.

Motivating drink: Jaid-eep Singh

Coffee is love but I'm not a caffeine addict, as I follow a strict diet plan. However, when I'm on the sets, I need my hot cup of coffee in the evening — it definitely motivates me. If I'm out with friends in the evening, I enjoy my regular cold coffee. Whenever my friend Priyanka, from Mangalore, invites us for a South Indian breakfast or lunch at her place, the filter coffee she makes after meals is something to die for. I would have loved to have coffee with Satyajit Ray if he was alive today! I admire



his work and how he thought far ahead of his times. More recently, I've been drawn to Satinder Sartaj, the Punjabi singer and actor — I love how he writes his songs, with meaning, heart, and a depth that surpasses the usual stuff we come across today.

Full of vitality: Mishal Khan

I'm a coffee-lover, but my preference is simple — black coffee, and just one cup a day. There's something about that pure, unadulterated fla-

avour that energises me, giving me the boost I need. Coffee, after all, is a great way to kickstart your day. Speaking of energy, it reminds me of Salman Khan. He's a powerhouse, always full of vitality. I can't help but wonder — what's the secret that keeps him going? Perhaps, it's something as simple as a strong cup of coffee.

Mood lifter: Rushad Rana

I am not a coffee addict, but I usually have coffee during shoots or

in meetings. Whenever I go out, it's usually for coffee. It depends on my mood whether I want to have a cold coffee, chocolate-based coffee or black coffee. I would love to have coffee with SRK, as I admire his career graph and work. He is an inspiring personality and such a well-read person.

Creative dose: Deekshha Sonalkar

A steaming cup of coffee helps me unwind and focus. My go-to choice is strong, black

coffee — the richer, the better! Black coffee is my staple, but I occasionally indulge in flavoured lattes or cold brews. Coffee not only perks up my mood, but also fuels my creativity. It's my trusted companion during long shoots. If I could share a cup with anyone, it would be the legendary actor Raj Kapoor. We'd discuss the evolution of Indian cinema, the intersection of art and culture, and the secrets behind his iconic storytelling.

Reduces stress: Shivangi Verma

I am a coffee-lover. I mostly prefer cold coffee over hot, as it refreshes me. I like to have coffee twice a day. In the morning, I have hot coffee and in the evening a cup of cold coffee. Yes, of course, I am a coffee addict, and feel it reduces stress. It refreshes my mind and soul. If I could have a cup of coffee with any actor, Shah Rukh Khan is the name that comes first to mind because he is one of my favourites. I guess the conversation would be about how he stays so fit and still looks so charming.

## Govinda suffers bullet injury at home after his gun goes off



Actor-politician Govinda suffered bullet injury on his leg on Tuesday after his revolver accidentally went off at his Mumbai residence, while he was about to leave for the airport, police said.

Govinda, 60, later issued a statement, informing his fans that doctors have removed the bullet and he was alright due to his fans'

affection and god's blessings.

The actor, who was hospitalised after the accident, is out of danger and recuperating at his home, a Mumbai police official said.

Govinda's manager Shashi Sinha said that as Govinda was about to leave his home at 4.45 am for the airport to catch a 6 am flight to Kolkata for a show, the

trigger of his licensed revolver was accidentally pushed as he was keeping it in the cupboard.

The gun misfired and a bullet hit his leg, police said.

The injured actor was admitted to the nearby Criti Care Hospital for treatment. No one has lodged any complaint in this matter, police said, adding they have begun an investigation into the matter.

Govind Arun Ahuja, better known by his stage name Govinda, is a popular actor, comedian, dancer and singer who has appeared in more than 165 Hindi-language films.

In March, a month before the Lok Sabha elections, Govinda joined the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena.

This marked Govinda's re-entry into the political landscape after nearly two decades. The actor won the 2004 poll battle from the Mumbai North Lok Sabha constituency on a Congress ticket before stepping away from politics in 2008.

## Dying to do a song and dance film, says Sayani Gupta

The perception that actor Sayani Gupta only wants to do indie films isn't true, says the actor who is keen to feature in a "song and dance" film.

Gupta has garnered wide acclaim for her work in films like "Parched", "Article 15", "Jolly LLLB 2", "Pagglait" and shows such as "Inside Edge" and "Four More Shots Please!".

"It is very interesting that there are a lot of bigger films that I say no to and my management is not happy about it because it brings more money.

But I need to be inspired because I love what I do, and I'll never not be truthful towards my craft. I've got a different approach and I do stuff that feels instinctively right for myself," Gupta said on the green carpet of the IIFA Awards 2024.

"Also, it's a perception thing but I'm dying to do a song and dance film. I want to do an out-and-out commercial film. I've done a rom-com, and



I've got a Punjabi film, which is a comedy. So, I want to do all kinds of films," she said.

When asked about the Emmy nomination for the OTT series, "The Night Manager", which is headlined by Anil Kapoor, Aditya Roy Kapur and Sobita Dhulipala, Gupta said

it's "incredibly amazing" that Indian shows are gaining recognition globally.

"Good luck (to the team of 'The Night Manager') and go win that and come. We also have had 'Delhi Crime' that won the Emmy Awards, which is incredible. It's amazing that so many shows from India that we are making... but it's a different kind of recognition which is amazing for all of us," the actor said.

## Angelina Jolie withdraws lawsuit over 2016 Brad Pitt plane altercation

Actress Angelina Jolie has officially withdrawn her lawsuit against the Department of Justice and the FBI concerning the 2016 plane incident involving her ex-husband, Brad Pitt.

The news confirmed by E! News, marks the end of a contentious legal chapter for the Oscar-winning star.

According to court documents obtained by E! News, the dismissal was finalised with prejudice, indicating that the case cannot be refiled. The agreement stipulates that each party will bear its own legal fees and costs.

The lawsuit was initially filed in April 2022 under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), with Jolie identified in court as the anonymous "Jane Doe." The filing sought the release of documents related to an alleged domestic violence incident that occurred aboard a private jet.

Jolie's claim detailed that during the flight, Pitt "allegedly physically and verbally assaulted" her and their children, leading to "lasting physical and mental trauma." The allegations mirror details from an FBI report that surfaced following the flight



from Europe to Los Angeles on September 14, 2016.

According to E! News, it was earlier reported that during this flight, Pitt was accused of attacking Jolie and one of their six children, Maddox.

Despite the serious nature of the allegations, federal authori-

ties ultimately decided not to pursue any charges against Pitt, who has consistently denied the accusations.

In her FOIA lawsuit, Jolie argued that access to the FBI documents was crucial for her children to receive necessary medical care and trauma coun-

selling.

According to E! News, she also sought to have the case sealed; however, that request was denied by a judge.

Following the plane incident, Jolie filed for divorce on September 19, 2016, citing the day after the incident as their date of separation.

Though the couple was declared legally single in 2019, they have continued to engage in protracted legal disputes over their former joint ownership of Chateau Miraval, a vineyard and winery in France.

Most recently, Pitt's legal team criticised Jolie for allegedly engaging in a "sensationalist fishing expedition" after she requested communications from Pitt concerning the 2016 incident.

In defence, Jolie's attorney emphasised her desire for a resolution, stating, "While Angelina again asks Mr. Pitt to end the fighting and finally put their family on a clear path toward healing, unless Mr. Pitt withdraws his lawsuit, Angelina has no choice but to obtain the evidence necessary to prove his allegations wrong."

## Ariana Grande feels backlash over her Wicked voice change was sexist

Pop icon Ariana Grande, who has given several hits and amazed her fans hits back at the critics of her Wicked voice, reported Variety. The Grammy winner stars in Wicked as Glinda and spent nearly two years filming the project.

"There is a part of the world that isn't familiar with what it takes to transform your voice, whether it's singing or taking on a different dialect for a role or doing a character voice for something," Grande said in response to the internet often trolling her airier Glinda speaking voice.

"When it's a male actor that does it, it's acclaimed," she added. "There are definitely jokes that are made as well, but it's always after being led with praise: 'Oh, wow, he was so lost in the role.' And that's just a part of the job, really. Tale as old as time being a woman in this industry. You are treated differently, and you are under a microscope in a way that some people aren't."

Earlier, she responded on TikTok at the time to confront the mockery by writing, "I intentionally change my vocal placement (high/



low) often depending on how much singing I'm doing," she wrote. "I've always done this BYE."

"It's something that I'm just really proud of," said Grande about her voice, adding,

"Part of why I did want to engage [on TikTok] is because I am really proud of my hard work and of the fact that I did give 100% of myself, including my physicality, to this role. I am proud of that, so I wanted to protect it," reported Variety.

"The makers have announced the new release date of Wicked: Part Two, which is an upcoming musical fantasy film directed by Jon M Chu and written by Winnie Holzman and Dana Fox. Wicked: Part Two is set for release by Universal Pictures on November 21, 2025, instead of November 26, 2025.

The sequel to Wicked is the second of a two-part film adaptation of the stage musical of the same name by Stephen Schwartz and Holzman, which in turn was based on the 1995 novel of the same name by Gregory Maguire and characters from L. Frank Baum's 1900 novel The Wonderful Wizard of Oz. It features Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande, with Michelle Yeoh, Jeff Goldblum, Jonathan Bailey, Ethan Slater, Marissa Bode, Bowen Yang, Bronwyn James, Keala Settle, and Peter Dinklage in supporting roles.

## Asha Bhosle alerts fans about fake TikTok account



Legendary singer Asha Bhosle asked fans to be wary about a fake

account impersonating her on the short-form video app TikTok.

The music icon, whose eight-decade career boasts of songs such as 'Piya Tu Ab Toh Aaja', 'Dil Cheez Kya Hai', 'Chhoti Si Kahani Se', and 'Le Gayi Le Gayi', cautioned fans in a note shared on her official Instagram page.

'Alert to all Asha Ji fans! Fake account spotted going live and playing games on tik tok. Let's report and protect the legend's name (sic) read the message on her Instagram story.'

It also contained screenshots of the fake TikTok ID posing as the singer using her name and photo as profile picture.

## India trusted partner in Jamaica's development journey: PM Modi

Modi made the remarks after holding wide-ranging talks with Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

NEW DELHI, Oct 1 (Agencies): India has been a "trusted partner" in Jamaica's development journey and it is ready to share expertise in a range of areas, including digital public infrastructure, biofuel, innovation and health with the Caribbean nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

Modi made the remarks after holding wide-ranging talks with Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

In his media statement, Modi said he and Holness also discussed regional and global issues and agreed that all tensions and disputes should be resolved through talks and that both sides will continue to work



towards ensuring global peace and security.

India and Jamaica are unanimous that reform of all global institutions, including the UN Security Council, is necessary, he said.

Modi said India has been a "trusted and committed" development partner in Jamaica's growth journey and it will remain so.

"We are ready to share our experience with Jamaica in

areas of digital public infrastructure, biofuel, innovation, health, education and agriculture," he said.

In the defence sphere, we will move forward on imparting training and capacity building of Jamaica's armed forces, Modi said.

The prime minister also identified organised crime, drug trafficking, terrorism as common challenges facing both nations.

India-Jamaica relations are based on shared history, democratic values and strong people-to-people ties, he added.

Holness arrived here on Monday. It is the first ever bilateral visit of a prime minister of Jamaica to India.

## Vice Admiral Arti Sarin is first woman to head Armed Forces Medical Services



NEW DELHI, Oct 1 (Agencies): Vice Admiral Arti Sarin was on Tuesday appointed as the next Director General of the Armed Forces Medical Services (DGFAMS). She has become the first woman officer ever to take over as the head of the Tri-service Armed Forces Medical Services and is also the highest ranking woman officer ever to have served in the Indian Armed Forces.

The DGFAMS is directly responsible to the Ministry of Defence for overall medical policy matters related to the Armed Forces.

Commissioned in 1985, Vice Admiral Sarin graduated from the Armed Forces

Medical College (AFMC), Pune. She has two postgraduate degrees in Radio-diagnosis and Radiation Oncology and is trained in gamma knife surgery.

She has held numerous key positions throughout her career. She has served as the Director General of Medical Services for both the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force. Vice Admiral Sarin has commanded two major units - INHS Asvini and AFMC, and has been the Command Medical Officer of the Southern Naval Command (SNC) and the Western Naval Command (WNC).

An advocate for promoting young women to join the Armed Forces, she was recently appointed as a member of the National Task Force by the Supreme Court to formulate safe working conditions and protocols for medical professionals.

She was honoured with the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) by President Droupadi Murmu for her exceptional service in July 2024.

## Ram Janmabhoomi Nyas chief recovering at home: VHP amid critical health reports

NEW DELHI, Oct 1 (Agencies): The Vishwa Hindu Parishad on Tuesday scotched reports about deterioration of the health of Mahant Nriya Gopal Das, chief of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra and head of Ayodhya's largest temple Mani Ram Chhavana.

After reports that Mahant Das was critical, VHP national spokesperson Vinod Bansal said it was unfortunate that social media was amplifying incorrect news about Mahant Nriya Gopal Das's health.

"The health of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirtha Kshetra Ayodhya's president and Mani Ram Das Chavni Mahant Puja Shri Nrit Gopal Das Ji Maharaj is improving. He has been staying at his residence Mani Ram Das Chavni Ayodhya for the last five days and is recovering. Today, on Tuesday, misleading news about his health is being spread through the propaganda machinery on social media and some other places, which is a matter of concern and regret," said Bansal.

VHP made an appeal to the devotees and disciples of Das to not pay heed to



misleading propaganda.

Mahant Nriya Gopal Das has long been associated with the Ram Janmabhoomi movement and was made chief of the Ram Janmabhoomi Nyas which VHP had founded in 1993 to construct the Ram Mandir.

In 2001 Das survived a bomb attack with minor injuries.

He was born in Mathura on June 11, 1938.

## Bengal junior doctors resume 'total cease-work', to hold march on October 2

KOLKATA, Oct 1 (Agencies): Agitating junior doctors in West Bengal resumed their indefinite 'total cease-work' on Tuesday to press for various demands, including ensuring their safety and security at all medical establishments.

The junior doctors had on September 21 rejoined their duties partially at government hospitals after a 42-day protest. They were on a 'cease-work' agitation to protest the rape and murder of an on-duty woman doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9.

"We do not see any positive approach from the state government to fulfil our demands for safety and security. Today is the 52nd day of the protest (since August 9) and we are still being attacked and there is no attempt to keep the other promises made during the meetings with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. In the given situation, we are left with no option other than opting for full cease work,



starting today," Aniket Mahato, one of the agitating junior doctors, told agency.

"Unless we see clear action from the state government on these demands, this complete cease work will continue," he added.

The junior medics have also called for a march from College Square to Dharmatala in central Kolkata on Wednesday, and invited people from all walks of life to join them.

"We are calling for a march

and assembly on October 2, on Mahalaya. It will be from College Square to Dharmatala where there will be an assembly. We urge people from all walks of the society to join us at the rally," the junior doctors said in the statement.

The junior doctors said that justice for the deceased woman medic continued to be on top of their demand and it should be answered immediately without any further delay in the form of a protracted judicial process.

Among other demands, the medics called for immediate removal of the health secretary from his position and the health department to take responsibility for administrative incompetence and corruption.

They also demanded the setting up of a centralised referral system at all hospitals and medical colleges in the state besides a digital bed vacancy monitoring system, constituting task forces to ensure necessary arrangements for CCTV, on-call rooms, and bathrooms.

They stressed increasing police protection in hospitals, recruiting permanent female police personnel and immediately filling up all vacant positions for doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers in hospitals.

"Let our protest continue for justice for Abhaya, for a healthy, people-oriented, fear-free healthcare system, and above all, to eliminate the politics of fear from society," the statement added.

## Nashik court summons Rahul Gandhi in defamation case over remarks on Savarkar

MUMBAI, Oct 1 (Agencies): A court in Maharashtra's Nashik district has summoned Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in a defamation case filed against him for his alleged objectionable remarks against Hindutva ideologue Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Nashik, Deepali Parimal Kaduskar, issued a process (summons/notice) to Gandhi on September 27, noting that the "statement made against a patriotic person prima-facie seems to be defamatory."

Gandhi will have to

appear either personally or through his legal representative on the next date of the case, which is yet to be decided.

The complainant, who is the director of an NGO, claimed he watched a press conference addressed by Gandhi in Hingoli and also a speech made by the Congress leader in November 2022.

He alleged that Gandhi, on the two occasions, by his words and visual representations knowingly harmed the reputation of Veer Savarkar and also tried to defame the latter's image in the society.

"The speech of the



complainant, Gandhi said "Savarkar is BJP and RSS jin" which was defamatory in nature. Gandhi further made the allegations that "with a folding hand Savarkar prayed for release and later on promised to work for the British government", the complain-

ant said.

The court, after considering all the submissions made before it, said, "Considering the record, it appears that the statements made by the accused against a patriotic person prima-facie seem to be defamatory."

There are sufficient grounds to proceed in the case, the magistrate added.

The court then issued the process against Gandhi for offences under Indian Penal Code sections 499 (defamation) and 504 (intentional insult).

## Brick thrown at car in Dushyant Chautala's convoy in Jind; case filed



JIND, Oct 1 (Agencies): A brick was allegedly thrown into the rear windshield of an SUV, a part of the cavalcade of Jannayak Janta Party leader Dushyant Chautala, when was campaigning in his constituency, Uchana Kalan, police said on Tuesday.

According to police, the vehicle was stationary as the cavalcade had taken a halt during a roadshow and there was no one inside it when the alleged incident took place Monday evening.

Former MP Ajay Singh Chautala-led JJP and Chandra Shekhar Azad-led Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) are joint-

ly fighting the October 5 Haryana polls. Both Dushyant and Azad were campaigning in Uchana.

Uchana Police Station SHO Pawan Kumar said there was a scratch mark on the vehicle and its rear windshield broken.

According to police, a 74-year-old Uchana resident and Dushyant had an argument on Monday during campaigning when the former asked him some questions.

Police have filed a case and are going to interrogate the senior citizen who has been named in the complaint, the SHO said.

## MUDA 'scam': CM Siddaramaiah questions ED slapping money-laundering case against him

BENGALURU, Oct 1 (Agencies): Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday questioned the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) slapping a Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) case against him, maintaining that the MUDA issue does not attract its provisions.

"I don't know on what grounds it's a money laundering case. Probably you too feel the same. According to me, it does not attract the

money laundering case because compensatory sites were given. So, how is it a money laundering case?" Siddaramaiah told reporters here.

On Monday, the ED registered an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR), equivalent to an FIR by police, against the Chief Minister over the alleged irregularities in allotment of 14 sites to his wife Parvathi B M by the MUDA (Mysuru Urban

Development Authority). The ED has invoked relevant Sections of the PMLA against the Chief Minister and others in the ECIR.

The Chief Minister also ruled out the possibility of his resignation over the MUDA case. "I work with conscience. So there is no need for me to resign," he said.

Siddaramaiah's wife on Monday wrote to MUDA conveying her decision to relinquish the own-



ership and possession of 14 plots stating that no site, home, asset and wealth is bigger for her than her husband's respect, dignity, honour and peace of mind.

On BJP's contention that the offer to surrender the sites by his wife amounts to accepting the wrongdoing in the case, the Chief Minister said: "How is it a crime or

even a confession when someone decides to discard something saying that they don't want the controversy? The opposition party leaders are 'Vishwaguru' in lies."

"Will the case be closed after I resign? They are unnecessarily demanding my resignation. Why should I resign when I have not committed any wrong?" Siddaramaiah said.

Earlier in the day, the state BJP chief B Y Vijayendra said Sid-

daramaiah seems to have forgotten what he had said in 2011, when allegations had surfaced against the then Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa. "I would like to remind him", he said as he played a video clip.

In the video, Siddaramaiah can be heard telling the media that, ".... he (Yediyurappa) has surrendered sites illegally given to his children.... what does it mean? If no wrong was committed, why were the sites

surrendered? as it was illegally done, sites were surrendered. He has accepted the wrong..." Responding to this, Siddaramaiah said his case was different from that of Yediyurappa.

"Yediyurappa's case is related to the denotification of land whereas in the MUDA case I am not involved. Are there my orders or even exchange of letters (with MUDA)? There is vast difference between that case (Yediyurappa's)," he said.

## School bus catches fire outside Bangkok and 25 on board are feared dead, government officials say



BANGKOK, Oct 1 (Agencies): A bus carrying young students with their teachers caught fire in suburban Bangkok on Tuesday with 25 of those on board feared dead, according to officials and rescuers.

The bus was carrying 44 passengers from central Uthai Thani province to Bangkok for a school trip when the fire started around noon in Pathum Thani province, a northern suburb of the capital, Transport Minister

Suriya Jungrungruangkit told reporters at the scene.

Interior Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said officials could not yet confirm the number of fatalities as they have not finished investigating the scene, but based on the number of survivors, he said 25 people are feared dead.

Videos posted on social media showed the entire bus being engulfed in fire with huge plumes of black smoke pouring out as

it was parked on the road.

The age and other details about the students were not yet known.

A rescuer at the scene told Suriya that the fire likely started after one of the tires exploded and the vehicle scraped against a road barrier.

Rescue group Hongsakul Khlong Luang 21 posted on its Facebook page that they found at least 10 bodies on the bus.

## Israeli launches 'localised' ground raids on Hezbollah targets in Lebanon

*In the early hours of Tuesday, massive Israeli strikes targeted the southern suburbs of Beirut following the initiation of "limited" and "localised" ground operations in the Lebanese capital, according to local media reports.*

BEIRUT/JERUSALEM, Oct 1 (Agencies): In the early hours of Tuesday, massive Israeli strikes targeted the southern suburbs of Beirut following the initiation of "limited" and "localised" ground operations in the Lebanese capital, according to local media reports.

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) confirmed the commencement of the ground operation in a post on X, stating, "In accordance with the decision of the political echelon, a few hours ago, the IDF began limited, localised, and targeted ground raids based on precise intelligence against Hezbollah terrorist targets and infrastructure in southern Lebanon."

The IDF elaborated that the operations focused on targets located in villages near the border,



which pose an "immediate threat" to northern Israeli communities.

Prior to the raids, Israeli forces issued evacuation warnings to Lebanese residents in Haret Hreik, Mreijeh, and Laylaki, urging them to leave the areas immediately.

Israeli stated that the operations are part

of a well-coordinated strategy planned by the General Staff and Northern Command, which IDF soldiers have been training and preparing for over the past few months. "The Israeli Air Force and IDF Artillery are supporting the ground forces with precise strikes on military targets in the area," the

post added.

The Israeli security forces emphasised that these operations were approved in accordance with political directives and that Operation 'Northern Arrows' would continue based on situational assessments in parallel with ongoing combat in Gaza and other theatres of conflict.

"The IDF is continuing to operate to achieve the goals of the war and is doing everything necessary to defend the citizens of Israel and return the citizens of northern Israel to their homes," the post concluded.

Since September 23, Israel has intensified airstrikes across Lebanon, culminating in a significant strike on Friday in the southern suburbs of Beirut that reportedly killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and many of his associates.

This escalation has intensified ongoing clashes between Israel and Hezbollah, which began on October 8, 2023, when Hezbollah launched rockets at Israel in solidarity with Hamas in Gaza, prompting retaliatory Israeli artillery fire and airstrikes in southeastern Lebanon.

## Thousands evacuated as Super Typhoon Krathon approaches Taiwan

TAIPEI, Oct 1 (Agencies): Taiwan closed schools and evacuated thousands of people in the south of the island Tuesday ahead of the arrival of Super Typhoon Krathon as the president warned it was likely cause "catastrophic damage".

Krathon, packing sustained winds of 198 kilometres per hour (123 miles per hour) - equivalent to a Category 3 hurricane -- and gusts of up to 245 kph was expected to make landfall Wednesday near the major port city of Kaohsiung.

Offices and schools were closed across southern and eastern Taiwan and the interior ministry said more than 7,700 people had been evacuated from vulnerable areas as a precaution.

President Lai Ching-te warned Krathon could "inevitably cause catastrophic damage".

"The path of Krathon is relatively rare, entering from the

south and exiting from the east. Therefore we must be particularly vigilant," he said at a government briefing.

Nearly 40,000 troops were on standby for relief missions, the defence ministry said.

Dozens of international and domestic flights have been cancelled.

In southern Kaohsiung where the typhoon was forecast to make landfall, residents filled sandbags and erected barriers around their homes for flood protection and taped windows.

Coast guard officers patrolling the nearby popular tourist beauty spot of Sizihwan Bay told people to stay away as powerful waves pounded the coast.

Retiree Ou Rui-yao, who was birdwatching in the area, said he had made preparations at home such as putting up flood barriers.

"We need to be very careful

as this typhoon must be very strong," said Ou, 82. "Since the tide is high, we have put up water barriers," he said.

"For the whole of Taiwan, we can't underestimate this typhoon."

Storm pounds remote islands The typhoon was around 230 kilometres south-southwest of Kaohsiung at 11:00 am (0300 GMT), the Central Weather Administration said.

The storm was approaching Taiwan after pounding a remote group of Philippine islands, where it cut power and communications and damaged "many" houses, according to the local mayor.

The Philippines' National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said Tuesday nearly 1,800 people had been evacuated, around half in the Batanes islands near southern Taiwan.

Taiwan's coast guard said a

Barbadian ship, "Blue Lagoon," at sea off the southeast city of Taitung was taking on water and tilting over due to the storm, with its 19 crew waiting to be airlifted to safety when conditions permitted.

Across Taiwan, 15 typhoon-related minor injuries were reported as of Tuesday, authorities said without providing details.

In Taitung, where the typhoon has brought heavy rains and waves of up to seven metres (23 feet), a man was sent to hospital after his truck was hit by a huge falling rock as he was driving along a mountainous route, local media said.

Typhoons are common around the region at this time of year.

However, a recent study showed that they are increasingly forming closer to coastlines, intensifying more rapidly and lasting longer over land due to climate change.

## A likely Russian artillery strike kills at least 7 at a Ukrainian market, officials say

KYIV, Oct 1 (Agencies): An apparent Russian artillery strike hit a market in the southern Ukraine city of Kherson on Tuesday, killing at least seven people and wounding three others, authorities said.

The strike happened as shoppers made their way between stalls at the city center market, regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin said.

He published a video showing the blurred corpses of people in civilian clothes lying near a stall with tomatoes and other vegetables.

Ukraine's General Prosecutor's Office said the strike was "most

likely" carried out by Russian artillery and hit close to a public transport stop.

The city has not recently been a hotspot in the war, now deep into its third year, as the fiercest battles have been taking place in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region where Russia's army is pushing hard to take ground ahead of the winter.

Ukrainian forces have struck back with an incursion into Russia's Kursk border region, but the government is waiting to hear what further Western military and financial support it can count on.

The Kherson region

was one of four, also including Donetsk, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia, that Moscow illegally annexed in September 2022 and is partly occupying. Russian President Vladimir Putin wants Ukraine to withdraw completely from those regions. Ukraine refuses.

Kherson fell into Russian hands after Moscow's full-scale invasion in February 2022. A Ukrainian counter-offensive recaptured western areas of the Kherson region, including the regional capital of the same name, nine months later.

## South Korea unveils its most powerful missile, which could reach North Korea's underground bunkers

SEOUL, Oct 1 (Agencies): South Korea unveiled its most powerful ballistic missile and other weapons targeting North Korea during a massive Armed Forces Day ceremony Tuesday, as the South's president warned the North's regime would collapse if it attempts to use nuclear weapons.

South Korea's weapons displays and warning against North Korea came after its northern rival recently rose regional animosities by disclosing its uranium-enrichment facility and tested missiles ahead of the U.S. presidential election in November.

"If North Korea attempts to use nuclear weapons, it will face the resolute and overwhelming response of our military and the (South Korea)-U.S. alliance," President Yoon Suk Yeol told thousands of troops gathered at a military airport near Seoul. "That day will be the end of the North Korean regime."

"The North Korean regime must abandon the delusion that nuclear weapons will protect them," Yoon said.

During the ceremony, the South Korean military displayed about 340 military equipment and weapons systems. Among them was its most powerful Hyunmoo-5 ballistic missile, which observers say is capable of carrying about 8 tons of a conventional warhead that can penetrate deep into the earth and destroy underground bunkers in North Korea. It was the first time for South Korea to disclose that missile.

The U.S. flew a long-range B-1B bomber during the ceremony in an apparent demonstration of its security commitment to its Asian ally. South

Korea also flew some of its most advanced fighter jets.

Since taking office in 2022, Yoon, a conservative, has put a stronger military alliance with the U.S. and an improved trilateral Seoul-Washington-Tokyo security cooperation at the center of his security policies to cope with North Korea's advancing nuclear program. In recent years, North Korea has performed a provocative of missile tests and threatened to use nuclear weapons preemptively in potential conflicts with South Korea and the United States.

Last month, concerns about North Korea's bomb program further grew after it published photos of a secretive facility to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons. It was North Korea's first unveiling of a uranium-enrichment facility since it showed one at the country's main Yongbyon nuclear complex to visiting American scholars in 2010.

South Korean officials say North Korea will likely try to further dial up tensions with provocative weapons tests ahead of the U.S. election to increase its leverage in future diplomacy with a new U.S. government. Experts say North Korea likely thinks an expanded nuclear arsenal would help it win bigger U.S. concessions like extensive sanctions relief.

Earlier Tuesday, North Korea's vice defense minister, Kim Kang Il, slammed the U.S. for its temporary deployments of powerful military assets to South Korea and vowed strong responses. He cited the recent visit of a U.S. nuclear-powered submarine and Tuesday's B-1B flyover.

## A drone boat loaded with explosives has struck a ship in the Red Sea in a suspected Houthi attack

DUBAI, Oct 1 (Agencies): A drone boat loaded with explosives crashed into a ship Tuesday in the Red Sea, the British military and private security officials said, the latest suspected attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels.

The drone attack and an earlier attempted attack Tuesday likely are the rebels' first assaults on commercial shipping in weeks as the Israel-Hamas war threatens to become a regional conflict.

The attacks come as Israeli ground forces entered Lebanon after days of Israeli airstrikes that killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and other top officials, and earlier explosions of sabotaged electronic devices used by the Shiite militia. The Houthis threatened "escalating military operations" targeting Israel on Monday after they apparently shot down a U.S. military drone flying over Yemen.

The first attack took place about 110 kilometers (70 miles) off the



port city of Hodeida. A captain on a ship saw four "splashes" near his vessel, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said in a warning. That likely would have been missiles or drones launched at the vessel.

The UKMTO later reported a second attack north of the first. The private intelligence firm Ambrey similarly reported two separate attacks.

The UKMTO later said the first ship it reported on was later damaged by a drone that punc-

tured one of its ballast tanks in another attack. Those tanks control a ship's buoyancy. Houthi strikes in the past have targeted ships at their waterline to disable the vessels.

Ambrey identified the drone as a drone boat, which have been increasingly used by the Houthis. The ship had been heading north to the Suez Canal with armed private security guards aboard, the firm said.

It was not immediately clear if all the attacks targeted the same vessel.

The Houthis did not immediately claim responsibility for the attacks. However, they sometimes take hours or days to acknowledge their assaults.

Instead, Houthi military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree said in a prerecorded video Tuesday that the rebels had launched drones targeting Israel — attacks unreported by Israel as it faces incoming fire from Hezbollah. The Houthis have exaggerated claims in the past.

The Red Sea has become a battlefield for shippers since the Houthis began their campaign targeting ships traveling through the waterway, which once saw \$1 trillion a year of cargo pass through it.

Houthis have targeted more than 80 merchant vessels with missiles and drones since the war in Gaza started last October. They have seized one vessel and sunk two in the campaign that has also killed four sailors. Other missiles and drones have

either been intercepted by a U.S.-led coalition in the Red Sea or failed to reach their targets, which have included Western military vessels.

The rebels maintain that they target ships linked to Israel, the U.S. or the United Kingdom to force an end to Israel's campaign against Hamas in Gaza. However, many of the ships attacked have little or no connection to the conflict, including some bound for Iran.

The last attack on a merchant ship by the Houthis was on Sept. 2.

The Houthis claimed responsibility for an attack targeting American warships last week. The rebels fired more than a half dozen ballistic missiles and anti-ship cruise missiles and two drones at three U.S. ships that were traveling through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, but all were intercepted by the Navy destroyers, a U.S. official said on Friday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details not yet publicly released.



# Army conducts summer school for children Gujjar & Bakarwals at Dhok Satharban

Top News Report

POONCH, Oct 1: As part of its ongoing community outreach and awareness programs, Indian Army organized a special Summer School for children of the Gujjar & Bakarwal communities at Dhok Satharban. This initiative was aimed at connecting with the local populace who migrate to higher reaches during summers and promoting the importance of compulsory education for their children. The Gujjars and Bakarwals, have been the weaker sections of the society for a very long time.



The Summer School was equipped with essential educational materials and conducted by the team of dedicated instructors. The children, as well as the local community members, expressed immense gratitude for the efforts of the Indian Army. The initiative has been widely appreciated by locals, who recognized the positive impact of education on their children's future and the long-term benefits for the community.

This initiative is part of the Indian Army's broader mission to foster peace, stability, and development in the region by supporting educational opportunities for all, especially those in remote and underserved areas. Living in the remote and isolated areas of Jammu and Kashmir, many children from these nomadic communities face significant challenges in accessing basic educational resources.

# Samsung launches Galaxy S24 FE in India

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 1: Samsung India's largest consumer electronics brand today announced the launch of Galaxy S24 FE, the latest addition to the Galaxy AI ecosystem that delivers premium mobile experiences to more users. Galaxy S24 FE, powered by the AI-based ProVisual Engine and Galaxy AI's Photo Assist features showcases an enhanced camera setup that empowers users to be more creative. It's the perfect device for gaming on the go with a 6.7-inch Dynamic AMOLED 2X display, a long-lasting 4,700mAh battery, and a powerful Exynos 2400 series chipset.

The Galaxy S24 FE offers premium Galaxy AI tools and ecosystem connectivity to enhance communication, productivity and creativity — all housed in an iconic design and protected by robust Samsung Knox security. Galaxy S24 FE's premium camera setup features a 50MP wide lens and 8MP telephoto lens with 3x optical zoom — both supported by optical image stabilization (OIS) — plus a 12MP ultra-wide lens and a 10MP selfie camera.

Making its debut in the FE series, ProVisual Engine features vastly improved technology that leverages advanced AI algorithms to deliver breathtaking detail and remarkably subtle textures: Nightography with AI image signal processing (ISP) to improve low light performance, enabling beautiful night portraits; Works with the wide camera's 50MP Adaptive Pixel Sensor to enable optical-quality performance at zoom levels from 2x in addition to the optical 3x zoom. AI zoom also provides the enhanced image quality at distances between digital zoom lengths; Object-Aware Engine to recognize scenes and optimize colors in Super High Dynamic Range (HDR), ensuring vibrant and lifelike photos and videos.

When it is time to edit, Photo Assist features breathe life into ideas. Since its introduction with the Galaxy S24 series devices, Galaxy AI has become invaluable for editing images and expressing creativity. The powerful Exynos 2400 series chipset enables an uncompromised gaming experience compatible with cutting-edge features such as Ray Tracing. In the world where every bit of speed and efficiency counts, the Galaxy S24 FE utilizes several key features to stay ahead of the competition.

# Shrimad Bhagwat Katha begins with "Kalash Yatra" at Kotranka

Top News Report

NOWSHERA, Oct 1: The "Kalash Yatra" commenced with great enthusiasm and religious fervor in Kotranka, Bakori, marking the beginning of the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha. Led by His Holiness Atal Pethadешwar Rajguru Acharya Mahaman-

dashwar Shri Shri 1008 Swami Vishwamanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj, the procession started from Shiv Mandir in Jagnaloo and included numerous devotees from across Jammu and Kashmir. As the yatra progressed, participants engaged in lively dances, accompanied by drum beats, and

chanted bhajans in praise of Lord Krishna. The procession covered key locations, including Jagnaloo Bridge, the Bus Stand, and Main Bazar, eventually concluding at the Irrigation Ground near Shiv Mandir. This site will host the Shrimad Bhagwat Tatva Gyan Yagya, which runs

from September 26 to October 2. At the inaugural function, Swami Vishwamanandji addressed the crowd, emphasizing the profound impact of Bhagwat Katha on individuals' lives. He explained that listening to the Katha can significantly transform one's way of life and lead

to self-realization. He stressed that while God is omnipresent, He also exists in unique ways, encouraging devotees to recognize the divine in their everyday lives. The event was vibrant with devotion, laughter, and tales of love and separation from the Almighty, encapsulat-

ing the essence of the Bhagwat Saptah through reading, interpretation, and singing of its verses. The temple committee welcomed Swamiji and the attendees with flower showers, and parshad was distributed to all devotees, enriching the spirit of community and devotion.

The Galaxy S24 FE incorporates the same advanced AI experience as the Galaxy S24 series. Designed to enhance work, simplify communication, and increase connectivity, Galaxy AI on the S24 FE offers tools that unlock new possibilities. Every Galaxy AI-enhanced experience becomes even more

# Four more bodies recovered after IAF plane crashed in Himachal 56 years ago

the years by the Indian army. Given the treacherous conditions and unforgiving terrain, only five bodies were recovered from the spot till 2019. Now, the Chandra Bhaga Mountain Expedition has recovered four additional bodies, taking the total number to nine. Out of the four recovered bodies, three have been identified. While Malkhan Singh (Pioneer), was identified by a voucher found in his pocket, Sepoy Narayan Singh (Army Medical Corps) was identified by his paybook found on his person. Similarly, Craftsman Thomas Charan from the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME) was also identified with further confirmation through his paybook.

While the fourth victim is yet to be identified, the army found details of the person's family and has informed them of the development. The search expedition is scheduled to continue till October 10, the Army said.

# Situation stable but not normal: Army Chief on Eastern Ladakh Standoff

on the military commanders on both sides to take those decisions," the Army Chief said, responding to a question. "The situation is stable, but it is not normal and it's sensitive. If that be the case what are we wanting? We are wanting that the situation that was there pre April 2020 should be restored," he added. The military standoff between the two sides began in early May of 2020. Full resolution of the border row has not yet been achieved though the two sides have disengaged from a number of friction points. "Till the time the situation is not restored, as far as we are concerned, the situation will remain sensitive, and we are fully operationally prepared to face any kind of a contingency," the Army Chief said. In the complete gamut, the trust has become the "biggest casualty," he added. Gen Dwivedi also briefly touched upon the Indian military's overall approach towards China. "As far as China is concerned, it has been intriguing our minds for quite some time. And I have been saying that with China, you have to compete, you have to cooperate, you have to coexist, you have to confront and contest," he said.

areas and respect for the LAC are essential for return of normalcy in bilateral ties. The ties between the two countries nose-dived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades. India has been maintaining that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas. The two sides have so far held 21 rounds of Corps Commander-level talks to resolve the standoff. India has been pressing the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to disengage from the Depsang and Demchok areas. The two sides held the last round of high-level military talks in February.

# JK Polls: Valmiki Community votes for first time in Assembly Polls

The Valmikis along with West Pakistan refugees and Gurkha communities comprise around 1.5 lakh people. They reside in various parts of Jammu, Samba, and Kathua districts, particularly in border areas. Approximately 12,000 members of the community residing in Gandhi Nagar and Dogra Hall areas were previously deprived voting rights, education, job opportunities, and land ownership due to absence of a state subject certificate.

"Two generations of our people have lived without these rights, but justice prevailed with the abrogation of Article 370. We were once a dark spot on Jammu and Kashmir's justice and constitutional framework. Today, as part of the largest democracy in the world, Valmiki Samaaj, West Pakistan refugees, and Gurkha communities have finally gained their constitutional rights after 75 years," Bhati said.

With the revocation of Article 370, both West Pakistan refugees and Valmikis can now buy land, apply for jobs, and participate in elections in J-K. The Valmiki community can explore alternative livelihoods as well.

"Today, we are voting. Tomorrow, we will represent our people. This marks the beginning of a new era in our lives. We will bring our issues to the assembly. Imagine, a member of our community, who once only saw scavenging as their fate, can now aspire to be an MLA or even a minister. That's the magnitude of change we're witnessing," Bhati said.

Standing in a long queue, 19-year-old Komal shared the same sentiment, saying, "I am fortunate to vote. My 74-year-old grandmother is also voting today. I'm happy that the era of injustice and discrimination has ended."

Another community member, 22-year old Aikta Mathoo along with his 53-year-old father, a sanitation worker, cast his vote at the Gandhi Nagar polling station.

"We both are voting for the first time. My father failed to vote in past elections. He could not get a better job here. Now I aspire to become a judge. The credit goes to the central government, who abrogated Article 370 and made us citizens in J-K," he said.

The primary demand of the Valmiki community is improvement in their living con-

ditions. With their newfound voting rights, they are optimistic about advocating for better housing, education, and employment opportunities for the community.

# Rahul Gandhi, Kashmiri oliticians condemn detention of Sonam Wangchuk, other activists in Delhi

"The detention of Sonam Wangchuk ji and hundreds of Ladakhis peacefully marching for environmental and constitutional rights is unacceptable," Gandhi said in a post on X. The former Congress chief also asked why elderly citizens were being detained at Delhi's border for standing up for Ladakh's future.

"Modi ji, like with the farmers, this 'Chakravayuh' will be broken, and so will your arrogance. You will have to listen to Ladakh's voice," Gandhi said.

In a post on Instagram shortly before being detained, Wangchuk shared visuals from the Delhi border, where their buses were stopped amid huge police presence. The climate activist can be seen in the video interacting with police officials.

In his post, Wangchuk said several vehicles of the Delhi Police and its Haryana counterpart were accompanying their buses. While they initially thought that they were being escorted as they approached the national capital, it was clear they were going to be detained.

"As we are approaching Delhi, it appears we are not being escorted, we are being detained," Wangchuk said. He said around 1,000 police personnel had been deployed at the Delhi border and they were informed that heavy deployment of security forces was made at the Ladakh Bhawan in Delhi, and in areas where students from the Union Territory resided.

"It appears they don't want to allow this padyatra to take place," he said.

The padyatra was organised by the Leh Apex Body which, along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance, is spearheading an agitation over the past four years to demand statehood for Ladakh, its inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, early recruitment process along with a public service commission for Ladakh, and separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil districts.

The Delhi Police on Monday banned gatherings by five or more persons, carrying banners, placards, and arms, and protests in the central part and bordering areas for the next six days, citing law and order issues, including calls for protests by several organisations.

Reacting to this, former J&K chief minister and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said, "Even the very fundamental right to protest has been snatched from us for raising our voice against the onslaught on our identity & resources. We stand in solidarity with the people of Ladakh," Mufti wrote on her official X-handle.

CPI (MP) leader and assembly contestant from south Kashmir's Kulgam Tarigami

said he condemns, "in no uncertain terms, the detention of prominent climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and his supporters at Singhu border.

"Scuttling the peaceful Delhi Chalo Padyatra of Wangchuk reflects the government's utter disregard for democratic freedom," Tarigami wrote on his official X-handle.

While the prominent activist and author, Prashant Bhusan termed the detention as "gross violation of Article-19 rights."

"Sonam Wangchuk, the inspiration of the movie 3 Idiots was on a peaceful climate march with a hundred others from Ladakh to Delhi. They have been detained at the Delhi border by police. They are not allowed to meet anyone, not even for a Vakalatnama! Gross violation of Art 19 rights," Bhusan wrote.

From Ladakh, the Member of Parliament, Haji Hanifa said that it was unfortunate that Wangchuk and his team were detained. "For the last three years, we have been raising our concerns in a very peaceful manner...several rounds of discussions were also held with the government...we hoped that the talks would continue after the formation of the new government but it did not happen...We set out on foot from Leh under the banner of Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) and Apex Body with the hope that we would present our views to the central government in the national capital and our concerns would be heard. But unfortunately, Sonam Wangchuk and his team were detained yesterday...We urge the government to provide us a place from where we can submit a memorandum to PM Modi or hold talks with the leadership to resolve this issue," Hanifa told news agency.

# Unexpected voter turnout, JK touching new heights": State BJP President Ravinder Raina

faith in it, so I am sure that the government that will be formed will be in favour of democracy and in favour of the Bharatiya Janata Party," he said. According to the latest data issued by Election Commission of India (ECI), Jammu and Kashmir recorded 11.60 per cent voting in the initial voter turnout trend till 9 am on Tuesday.

Of the seven districts, Udhampur district is leading in the voter turnout chart with 14.23 per cent voting, followed by Samba at 13.31 per cent, Kathua at 13.09 per cent, Bandipore 11.64 per cent, Jammu at 11.46 per cent, Kupwara at 11.27 per cent and Baramulla at 8.89 per cent till 9 am.

The polls began at 7 am on Tuesday and will conclude at 6 pm. Voting will take place in 24 constituencies in the Jammu division and 16 constituencies in Kashmir amid strong security to ensure smooth and peaceful polls.

The intensive campaign for the third and final phase of polling in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections concluded on Sunday evening. (ANI) This election is notable as the first in a decade and the first since the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019.

The three-phase election involves a

multi-party contest for the 90 seats across the former state. The National Conference (NC) and the Congress have formed an alliance for these elections, while the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are among the other major contenders.

The first phase of voting took place on September 18, and the second phase concluded on September 25.

According to the Election Commission of India, the first and second phases of polling recorded voter turnouts of 61 per cent and 57.31 per cent, respectively. The counting of the votes will be done on October 8.

# KDA, Apex Body call for Ladakh Bandh following activist Sonam Wangchuk's detention

the preservation of its unique cultural identity. Activists are urging the government to listen to their demands and prioritize the rights of the people of Ladakh. Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and his supporters were detained by Delhi Police at the Singhu border on Monday night. Section 163 of the BNS has been imposed at Delhi borders, said Delhi Police. Wangchuk also took to X to inform about his detention.

"I AM BEING DETAINED... along with 150 padyatris at Delhi Border, by a police force of hundreds, some say 1,000. Many elderly men & women in their 80s and a few dozen Army veterans... Our fate is unknown. We were on a most peaceful march to Bapu's Samadhi... in the largest democracy in the world, the mother of democracy... Hai Ram!" the climate activist posted on X.

Wangchuk and other volunteers were embarking on a foot march from Leh to New Delhi to urge the Centre to resume dialogue with Ladakh's leadership regarding their demands.

One of their key demands is for Ladakh to be included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, granting law-making powers to the local population to protect their land and cultural identity.

The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution outlines the governance of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram in northeast India. It creates autonomous councils with legislative, judicial, executive, and financial powers, allowing these regions to self-govern independently.

# 7 Children injured in explosion near garbage dump in Bihar's Bhagalpur

Talking to reporters, Pankaj Kumar, Station House Office of Habibpur police station said, "Injured children are giving two different versions...Some children told police that a bomb was planted there and it exploded when they were playing...other children told cops that a person came and threw a bomb-like object there, which exploded." All injured children are out of danger, the SHO added.



## Sachin Tendulkar set to return for inaugural International Masters League

NEW DELHI, Oct 1 (Agencies): Cricket fans across the world are in for a treat as some of the sport's biggest names are set to return to the field for the inaugural edition of the International Masters League (IML) this year. This much-anticipated six-nation T20 tournament is a joint venture led by two of the greatest cricketing icons — Mr. Sunil Gavaskar and Mr. Sachin Tendulkar — in collaboration with India's top sports management company, PMG Sports, and the global sports marketing firm, SPORTFIVE.

The International Masters League will feature cricketing legends from six major cricket-playing nations: India, Australia, South Africa, West Indies, England, and Sri Lanka. This annual T20 event promises to recreate old rivalries and provide fans with a chance to witness their favorite players in action once more. Sachin Tendulkar, who will serve as the marquee player



and league ambassador, is set to bring his famous flair back on the pitch, much to the excitement of his countless fans. Sunil Gavaskar, on the other hand, has been appointed as the League Commissioner.

The matches are scheduled to take place in Mumbai, Lucknow, and Raipur, and will be a grand spectacle of cricketing talent. PMG Sports and SPORTFIVE will manage various commercial and operational aspects, includ-

ing sourcing franchise partnerships, broadcast production, and on-ground execution.

Sachin Tendulkar, speaking about the league, stated: "Cricket continues to grow rapidly not just in India, but around the world. T20 cricket has brought in new fans and added to the excitement. This tournament is an opportunity for fans to relive classic battles. Sportspeople never retire at heart, and we look forward to bringing the

same passion and competitive spirit to the IML."

Sunil Gavaskar echoed these sentiments, saying: "The rise of T20 cricket gives us a chance to revive the magic of the sport and let fans see their heroes perform once more. The IML is more than just a tournament; it's a celebration of the game's legacy and a chance for fans to reconnect with their favorite players."

SPORTFIVE's Seamus O'Brien, President APAC, emphasized the importance of the league: "The IML is a strategic step in strengthening SPORTFIVE's presence in Asia, and partnering with such iconic players in the Indian market is a significant milestone."

With its unique format and the involvement of cricket's greatest stars, the International Masters League is set to be a one-of-a-kind spectacle that will create lasting memories for fans around the world.

## Champions Trophy: Govt will decide on India's travel to Pakistan, says BCCI

KANPUR, Oct 1 (Agencies): Reiterating a long-held position, BCCI vice president Rajeev Shukla said a decision on whether the national cricket team will travel to Pakistan for next year's ICC Champions Trophy will depend on government approval.

Pakistan are scheduled to host the prestigious ODI tournament from February 19 to March 9.

"No decision has been taken (yet). But our policy is that for international tours, we always seek the permission of the government. It's up to the government to decide whether our team should go to any country or our team should not go to any country," Shukla told

reporters here.

"In this case (also), whatever the government will decide, we will abide by that," he added.

Shukla was talking to the media on the sidelines of the ongoing second Test between India and Bangladesh here. India and Pakistan only play each other in ICC events. India has not travelled to Pakistan for bilateral cricket since 2008 following the Mumbai terror attacks in which over 150 people were killed.

Pakistan were in India for the ODI World Cup last year after a gap of seven years. It is being speculated that India will not travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy.

The BCCI may request the ICC to pull the tournament out of Pakistan

and organise it either in Sri Lanka or Dubai.

The latest edition of the Asia Cup was played as per a hybrid model allowing India to play all their matches in Sri Lanka. As a result, the island nation hosted nine games while Pakistan hosted the remaining four matches.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is averse to the idea of taking the tournament out of their country.

Recently, Pakistan all-rounder Hasal Ali had also said that if India do not travel to Pakistan, the tournament should go ahead without their Asian neighbours.

The ICC, on its part, has maintained that it would not force a member board to go against government policy.

## IOA prez Usha slams EC members for ignoring Olympics medallists

NEW DELHI, Oct 1 (Agencies): Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha has slammed the executive committee members for failing to agree to felicitate the Paris Olympics medallists.

In a statement, Usha said she was sad that the EC has not made an attempt to even discuss the subject. "No Indian athlete before this won two medals in a single edition of the Olympics, and I take pride I was able to help Manu (Bhaker) in this journey. It is a matter of pride for me we had medals from Neeraj Chopra, Sarabjot Singh, Swapnil Kushale and the men's hockey team as well but the EC does not want to celebrate their success, which makes me very sad," Usha said.

"These athletes have made the nation proud, and it is the responsibility of the IOA to celebrate their achievements with the respect they deserve. It is deeply concerning



that, even after returning home in mid-August, the EC has failed to discuss or take any steps towards organizing a formal felicitation ceremony," she added.

The IOA announced to hand Rs 1 crore to gold medallists, Rs 75 lakh to silver medal winners and Rs 50 lakh to bronze medal winners besides cash prizes ranging from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 25 lakh to their coaches.

Usha revealed that the rift within the IOA stalled a preparatory grant of Rs 2 lakh and Rs 1 lakh to the Paris athletes and coaches, respectively. "I strongly believe that this grant would have given our athletes and

their coaches the support they needed in the crucial period leading up to the Olympic Games. The refusal to disburse these funds reflects a lack of understanding of the needs of athletes and shows a complete disregard for their preparation and well-being," she said.

"As someone who has represented India on the world stage, I understand the importance of recognising the hard work, sacrifices, and victories of our athletes. It is disheartening to see that others in positions of power, especially those who have also worn the national colours, are failing to uphold this duty," she added.

## Irani Cup: Prithvi Shaw fails after Devdutt Padikkal's sensational catch at slips



LUCKNOW, Oct 1 (Agencies): Prithvi Shaw's poor run in first-class cricket continued as the Mumbai opener failed to trouble the scorers much on Day 1 of the Irani Cup match against Rest of India in Lucknow. On Tuesday, Prithvi Shaw managed just four runs from seven deliveries before he got out to pacer Mukesh Kumar.

Prithvi Shaw was undone by a delivery that pitched outside the off-stump and straightened. The Mumbai opener was unable to control his urge as he threw his bat at the delivery and found a thick outside edge. The ball flew to the right of Devdutt Padikkal, who was standing in the second slip. Padikkal flaunted his reflexes, diving to the right to hold on to it and complete a stunning catch. Devdutt was thrilled as the on-air commentators were awestruck by the fielding effort in the slip cordon.

Mumbai, the Ranji Trophy champions, were rattled in the first session of the Irani Cup match at the Shri Atal Vihari

Vajpayee Stadium as Mukesh Kumar ran riot with the new ball. Dropped from the Test team, it seemed as if Mukesh was making a statement, picking three wickets.

Mumbai suffered a double blow in the third over as wicketkeeper-batter Hardik Tamore was caught behind for 0. In the 12th over, Mumbai lost their third wicket as opener Ayush Mhatre's vigil ended. He was dismissed by Mukesh for 19 from 35 balls.

Mumbai recovered from the early setbacks as captain Ajinkya Rahane and senior batter Shreyas Iyer toughed it out in the middle, stitching a fifty-plus stand for the fourth wicket.

Prithvi Shaw's form has seen a slump in the recent past. In his County Cricket stint in August-September, Prithvi was in fine form in List A cricket. However, he managed just 71 runs in six innings for Northamptonshire in the County Championship.

His recent red-ball form is in stark contrast to his numbers from Ranji Trophy 2023-24 season. Prithvi was in good form, hitting 451 runs, including a hundred and a fifty, in six matches in Mumbai's victorious run. Shaw is not in the reckoning for Team India selection in red-ball cricket.

Shaw last played for India in December 2020. The Mumbai batter has played five Tests, scoring 339 runs, including a hundred for India.

## Inspired by India men's victory parade, Jemimah 'dreaming' before T20 World Cup

NEW DELHI, Oct 1 (Agencies): For the Indian men's team, the month of June was like a fairytale. Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma could not have expected for a more fitting farewell in T20Is as the Men in Blue bagged the T20 World Cup title after a long gap of 17 years. The stage is set again, this time for the other Indian team and their mainstay, Jemimah Rodrigues, has manifested similar heights in the Women's T20 World Cup.

Rohit's men had got a rousing reception in Mumbai with fans swarming the Marine Drive and roaring their lungs out for their heroes. The atmosphere was surreal, to say the least, as the cricketers waved at the massive crowd with joy in their hearts. Also, last year, Shafali Verma led the U19 team to glory in the T20 World Cup in South Africa, but the senior team is yet to get its hand on an ICC trophy.

Inspired by the girls and the men, 24-year-old Jemimah has dreamt of taking India past the finish line if and when India qualify for Finals Day on October 20 at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Jemimah, who has seen Indian women's cricket go through several ups and downs since she was a teenager, feels winning the trophy would be something special for India Women.

"100 percent. It's nice to keep dreaming about that, and we do dream about sitting on that bus at Marine Lines. I have played a lot of cricket there and getting crowds there. But more than anything, we want to lift the World Cup for India," Jemimah told India Today on the sidelines of a promotional event for apparel brand QUA in New Delhi.

"The U19 girls have done it, but it will be the first one for the women's team. I think it would be a crazy feeling just to do that. Yes, we have taken a lot of inspiration from the men's team and it was special watching them do what they did, and hopefully we can do that too," she said.



"Focusing on strengths" Playing in three editions of the mega event, Jemimah has seen India qualify for the semi-final every time. But India failed to go all the way even once. While they lost to England in the semis in 2018, Australia beat them in the final in 2020, followed by the semis in 2023. Harmanpreet Kaur's women failed both times, as Meg Lanning and Co. had the last laugh.

This time around, Australia don't have Lanning, who pulled the curtains down on her international career last year after captaining the national side to five ICC titles. But instead of scratching their heads over external factors, Jemimah said that India are focusing on building on their own strengths. For the youngster, no team in the World Cup should be undermined.

"Firstly, we are not going to think too much of the opponents we are going to play. We are going to stick to our strengths, work on our preparations and follow our process well which will help us get the desired results. Whichever team, be it Australia, England, Sri Lanka, or Bangladesh, should not be taken lightly," Jemimah said.

"Every team comes prepared and wants to win the World Cup. So does India, and we are not thinking about our opponents, rather focusing on our strengths. Once we stick to that, everything else will be taken care of," she added.

In the T20 World Cups, Jemimah has scored 339 runs from

15 matches at an average of 26.08, striking at 111.88. Having notched only two fifties, she got her top score of 59 against New Zealand back in 2018 at the Providence Stadium in Guyana.

The special knock Before taking the stage in the World Cup, Jemimah honed her skills for the Trinbago Knight Riders in the Women's Caribbean Premier League (WCPL). On tough batting wickets, she managed only 105 runs at a strike-rate of 108.24. But her knock of an unbeaten 59 against the Barbados Royals in a must-win clash guided TKR through to the finals.

Batting at No.3, Jemimah's knock helped the Knight Riders chase down 131 in 19.4 overs. With five runs needed off the last four balls, the right-hander hit Hayley Matthews for a four and then took a single to secure victory for her team. Quite naturally, Jemimah's confidence has grown since her heroic effort at the Brian Lara Stadium.

"Every knock was very important; it teaches you a lot more and obviously that knock. It wasn't a semi-final, but actually a semi-final for us. That knock really gave me a lot of confidence and boost. There's nothing like taking your team through and finishing a match and winning it, helping them reach the finals out of nowhere. So, that knock was very special," Jemimah said.

Role clarity and confidence The Women's T20 World Cup was earlier set to take place in Bangladesh, where Jemimah

and the Indians have played quite a bit of cricket. But the tournament was shifted out of the country after political tensions gripped the nation. Instead, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where the 2021 men's edition took place, will host the upcoming championship.

In 2020 itself, the Sharjah Cricket Stadium hosted the Women's T20 challenge. Jemimah doesn't have happy memories of playing in the UAE after she scored only 21 runs from three games, averaging a disastrous seven for the Supernovas.

Apart from that, she and the other Indian female cricketers do not have a whole lot of experience of playing in the UAE. However, Jemimah said that playing in the CPL has given her belief that she could adapt to the conditions in the gulf country.

"The conditions in the UAE will be very different to what they were in the CPL. The pitches in the CPL were challenging, but adapting well to the conditions gave me a lot of confidence. I know how to play on different surfaces and that will be something I will be taking into the World Cup. I'm very clear about my role in the Indian team, and I'm sticking to that," Jemimah mentioned.

Jemimah and India will begin their campaign in the Women's T20 World Cup when they face Sophie Devine's New Zealand on October 4 in Dubai.

Jemimah Rodrigues and her association with QUA

Jemimah recently signed a deal with QUA for their "Modern Heroine" campaign before the T20 World Cup. The campaign celebrates powerful, ambitious, and resilient women who have refined the concept of strength, both in sports and life. The modern heroine is someone who defies expectations, breaks barriers, and inspires the next generation. The shoot captures the Indian cricketer in a way that highlights her personality and determined outlook.

## India defeat Bangladesh by 7 wickets, make clean sweep of two-Test series



KANPUR, Oct 1 (Agencies): Yashasvi Jaiswal scored another half-century as India defeated Bangladesh by seven wickets in the weather-hit second Test to make

a clean sweep of the two-Test series here on Tuesday.

India, after dismissing Bangladesh for 146 runs in the second innings, thanks to three-wicket hauls by Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah, achieved the victory target of 95 runs in 17.2 overs, with Jaiswal and Kohli scoring 51 and unbeaten 29 runs, respectively.

Earlier, Ashwin (3/50), Jadeja (3/34) and Bumrah (3/17) broke the back of Bangladesh batting, allowing them an addition of just 120 runs to their overnight total of 26/2.

Overnight batter Shadman Islam was the highest scorer for Bangladesh in the second

innings, scoring 50 runs.

The lunch session was extended by nearly an hour to complete Bangladesh's innings.

Bangladesh were bundled out for 233 in their first innings before India scored a quick-fire 285/9 and declared their innings on Monday in a match in which two days were completely lost due to a wet outfield.

Brief scores: Bangladesh 233 all out and 146 all out in 47 overs (Shadman Islam 50; Ravichandran Ashwin 3/50, Ravindra Jadeja 3/34, Jasprit Bumrah 3/17) vs India 285/9 declared in 34.4 overs and 98 for 3 in 17.2 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 51, Virat Kohli 29 not out).

# BJP should stop lying, deceiving in name of Dogra & Jammu: Shiv Sena

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 1: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni has appealed to the voters to use their discretion and come out in large numbers to cast record votes, and teach a lesson to those who keep hollow chanting Jammu-Jammu, Dogra-Dogra and the Chief Minister's slogan.

Along with this, questions have been raised on the hooliganism of BJP leaders during the elections and the blatant flouting of the code of conduct and the Election Commission remaining a mute spectator.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that the BJP, which has sidelined the Dogra cultural identity, has started singing the song of Jammu, Dogras and the Chief Minister after clear indication of losing the elections. He said that despite the full support of the Jammu division in



## Shiv Sena demands to ban sale of non-veg during Navratras

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 1: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has demanded a ban on the sale of meat and serving of non-veg in restaurants during the auspicious Navratras of Maa Bhagwati starting on 3rd October.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, party chief J&K, Manish Sahni has appealed to meat sellers and restaurant owners to keep their shops closed and not serve non-veg during the auspicious Navratras keeping in mind the religious sentiments of Hindus.

Along with this, Sahni has demanded the Municipal Commissioners and District Officer to issue instructions on this matter keeping in mind the religious sentiments of Hindus. On this occasion president Mehila Wing Meenakshi Chhibber, Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi, President Kanghar wing Raj Singh were present.

who make hollow claims of protecting Dogra culture. What got terrorism,

crime, mining & liquor mafia, drugs, Rohingya. There is no glimpse of Dogra identity, Dogra cuisine anywhere in the entire country including Haat-INI and Kashmir House in Delhi, Where even the Dogra tea is not served. Jammu's trade was affected by stopping Darbar Move.

BJP, which had taken Jammu and Dogra as a guarantee, has started remembering Jammu-Dogra today as soon as it sees its defeat. Sahni also accused BJP leaders and workers of hooliganism, open dance of money power and flouting the code of conduct and the Election Commission of remaining a silent spectator. He said that posters and banners of our candidates are being torn, no action has been taken despite complaints. Not only this, election slips with "Vote for BJP" and promotional material are being distributed even after stopping the campaign & the Election Commission is watching as a silent spectator.

# NSS SMVDU donates 200 plant saplings to GMS Dheerti



Top News Report

KATRA, Oct 1: The National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers of SMVDU University organized a comprehensive awareness programme titled "Ek Ped Maa ke Naam" at Government Middle School (GMS), Dheerti, Zone Reasi.

NSS unit donated 200 plant saplings to the students of the school. Each student was given 2 saplings to be planted at their

home. The event aimed to educate students about the importance of trees and their role in keeping environment safe and healthy.

Furthermore, the volunteers conducted a session on personal hygiene, emphasizing the importance of maintaining cleanliness for overall health and well-being.

The programme concluded with NSS volunteers distributing saplings to the students, encour-

aging them to plant trees and nurture a greener environment. Plant saplings were also provided to the staff members of the school.

NSS Programme coordinator Dr. Rajiv Kumar was also present during the event and briefed the gathering about the campaign. School incharge Ram Gopal thanked the university for donating the saplings and conducting an awareness session.

# Rahul Sahai casts vote with family, urges citizens to participate in elections

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 1: In a significant moment for Jammu and Kashmir, Rahul Sahai, Chairman of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) Jammu, exercised his right to vote today along with his family. After a long-awaited election, this act serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of democratic participation.

Rahul Sahai, accompanied by his wife Rupika Sahai, emphasised the need for every eligible citizen to cast their vote, stating, "Voting is both a privilege and a responsibility. The future of our region depends on the choices we make today."

Sahai said, "I urge everyone to participate in this election and contribute to the development and progress of Jammu and Kashmir."

The Sahai family's presence at the polling booth reinforces the message of civic



duty, as the region steps into a new era of democratic engagement.

# NSS SMVDU donates sanitary napkins to 100 girls students of Panthal School

Top News Report

KATRA, Oct 1: National Service Scheme (NSS) unit volunteers of SMVDU Katra organized an awareness session on women hygiene for girl students of Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Panthal.

The event was organized in collaboration with an NGO 'Live for others-Being Helpful Foundation'.

It is pertinent to mention that the sanitary napkins were provided by the NGO. NSS volunteers Suhani Sharma and Kritika briefed girls students about menstrual hygiene Do's and don'ts during that period. NSS student coordinator Sadhvi Sharma dis-



cussed various points related to change in their routine lifestyle for personal development. Volunteer Mridul Salaria sang a beautiful song during the event related to the topic.

Afterwards, sanitary napkins were donated to the school girls. Each girl was given two pads and a total of 200 sanitary napkins were donated by the NSS volunteers.

The event was coordinated by student NSS coordinator, Sadhvi Sharma. NSS Programme coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar also attended the session. Principal, Smt. Renuka Sharma appreciated the efforts of NSS SMVDU unit for organizing the event.

## KNOW DENGUE FOR NO DENGUE Dengue can be Prevented

### DENGUE

- Dengue is a viral disease.
- It is transmitted by the bite of Aedes mosquito.
- Dengue Fever is a severe, flu-like illness.
- Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) & Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS) are more severe forms of disease, which may even cause death if left untreated.

### SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- High fever.
- Frontal headache.
- Pain behind the eyes which worsens with eye movement.
- Muscle and joint pains.
- Rashes on the body.
- Pain abdomen.
- Nausea and vomiting.
- Bleeding & low B.P in severe cases.

### PREVENTION

- Avoid water stagnation in & around the house.
- Empty water reservoirs regularly like storage utensils, air coolers, plant pots, drums, flower pots and bird baths etc.
- Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids.
- Use mosquito repellents/ Anti mosquito creams.
- Do not wear clothes that expose arms and legs.
- Use mosquito nets while sleeping.
- Use netted screens for doors & windows to prevent entry of mosquitoes



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