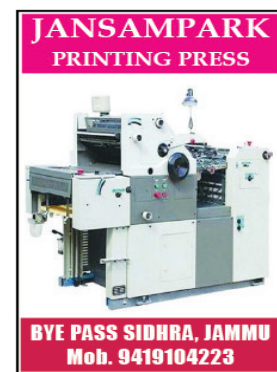




# JINDRAH IMAGES



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## LG attends public function at Mata Tetara Devi Sachidanand Girls Degree College in Ghazipur

JNEWS SERVICE  
GHAZIPUR, SEP 28

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday unveiled the statue of Tetara Devi at Mata Tetara Devi Sachidanand Girls Degree College in Ghazipur.

In his address, the Lt Governor appreciated the College for being in the forefront of setting high standards for Girls' education in the region and making immense contribution in transition and development in student's life.

The Lt Governor highlighted the rapid strides made by the country in many areas from education to economic growth in the last 9 years.



He said the progress in infrastructure, manufacturing, agriculture is truly unprecedented and development has become the core issue in politics today.

"Winds of change are blowing in the rural economy of the country. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the dream

of India as a global superpower has been realized and a new work culture and a new pro-growth mindset has taken root in the society," the Lt Governor said.

The transformational changes of the last 9 years are inspiring every citizen to contribute in

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Ahead of 2024 general elections, PM, HM, other BJP bigwigs to hold rallies in J&K after assembly polls in 4 states

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEP 28

To boost the morale of party workers and setting right tone for Lok Sabha elections due in April-May next year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah among top brass of Bharatiya Janata Party's stalwart (BJP) is all set to led party's campaign in Jammu and Kashmir by holding massive rallies after assembly polls in four states.

Party sources told news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that Modi, Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs

Ministers S Jaishankar, Road and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari among top leadership will be addressing rallies and launching various development projects from October-November onwards.

Sources said though the calendar of VVIP visit is not final yet but it's likely to commence after the assembly elections in four states including Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana.

Sources confirmed that Modi, Shah is expected to be in Jammu and Kashmir for minimum of two days and maximum three days depending upon his

schedule whenever it is finalized.

They said the Home Minister has given his consent to the tour programme while a formal nod from the Prime Minister is expected as the UT Government is also preparing a detailed list of projects and welfare schemes which he will launch and inaugurate.

Sources said that PM Modi is likely to inaugurate AIIMS OPD at Awantipora besides addressing a massive rally in Anantnag, where over 2 lakh people are expected to attend the gathering.

Jaishankar, Nitin Gadkari, Rajnath Singh also expected to hold

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## PM Gati Shakti | Six infra projects worth Rs 52,000 Cr recommended for approval

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEPT 28

As many as six infrastructure projects of roads and railways worth Rs 52,000 crore have been recommended for approval under the PM Gati Shakti initiative, an official statement said on Thursday.

This takes the total number of projects assessed by NPG to 112 with a total value of about Rs 11.53 lakh crore, since the launch of PM Gati Shakti, it said.

These six projects were assessed in the 56th Network Planning Group (NPG) meeting on September 27.

The "Group meeting under PM Gati Shakti six project proposals, including four projects of Minis-



try of Road Transport and Highways and two projects of Ministry of Railways with the total project cost of about Rs 52,000 crore were assessed," the commerce and industry ministry said.

The inter-ministerial NPG meets every fortnight and appraises infra projects to ensure multimodality, synchronisation of efforts, and

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## Designated Terrorist among four charge-sheeted by NIA in thane fake currency case

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEPT 28

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a supplementary charge sheet against four persons, including a designated terrorist, in the Thane fake currency case, an official said on Thursday.

The charge sheet was filed in a special court in Mumbai on Wednesday under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activi-

ties (Prevention) Act, the official said.

Besides the designated terrorist - Uncle alias "Javed Patel" alias "Javed Chikna" - those charge-sheeted have been identified as Riyaz Shikilkar, Mohammad Fayaz Shikilkar and Nasir Chaudhari, all residents of Mumbai, a spokesperson of the federal agency said.

Fayaz has also been charged under the Arms Act, the official said.

The Thane police had

in April last year charge-sheeted three accused in the case which was originally registered following the seizure of 149 high-quality counterfeit Indian currency notes of Rs 2,000 denomination from Riyaz Shikilkar.

Subsequently, the NIA took over the case. After investigations, it arrested Fayaz in May for possession of illegal arms, the official said.

"The investigations

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Centre Transfers Srinagar SSP Rakesh Balwal To Manipur

Jammu-based officer completes successful stint in UT

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEP 28

After successful tenure in home state- Jammu and Kashmir- with some remarkable achievements including completion of probe of infamous Pulwama terror attack 2019 and handling situation in Srinagar as police head, senior Indian Police Services Rakesh Balwal, has been "prematurely repatriated" by the Government of India to his parent Manipur cadre, where a fresh bout of violence has worsened the already tense situation.

Resident of Jammu's Udhampur, the 2012-batch IPS officer, was shifted to Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre in December 2021, after serving in Jammu and Kashmir as SP-National Investigation Agency (NIA) in 2018 for a four-year period.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for premature repatriation of Rakesh Balwal, IPS, from AGMUT cadre to Manipur cadre," reads an official order, a copy of which is available with



news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

He will be assigned a new posting in Manipur upon his joining in the state, which has been wit-

nessing clashes between the majority Meitei and the tribal Kuki communities since May this year.

Balwal, has served in the Manipur Police in various capacities, with the last being Senior Superintendent of Police, Chura-chandpur in 2017. He has served in the Thobal and Imphal areas as well.

Before joining as Senior Superintendent of Police, Srinagar, Balwal was part of the NIA team that presented the court with over 13,000-page charge sheet in the Pulwama attack.

Balwal was on deputation with the NIA for three-

and-half years as SP and was a member of the team that investigated the 2019 Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF personnel lost their lives. Balwal was awarded the Union Home Minister's medal for investigation, the Chief of Army Staff Commendation and a disc from the Director-General of CRPF.

He took over as SSP Srinagar at a time when the city was witnessing a lot of terror activities, including the killing of members of the minority and attacks on policemen. AS SSP, Balwal focused on

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## J&K people enjoying normal life, want peace: DGP

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, SEP 28

Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Thursday addressed 65 DySSP trainees at Sher-e-Kashmir Police Academy Udhampur and asked them to 'focus on your work, don't worry about people who would try to bring you down, you are now part of a force which has an unparalleled legacy of martyrdom'.

As per a statement issued to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a police spokesman said DGP was on a day-long tour to the SKPA Udhampur & Subsid-



itary Training Center (STC) Talwara Reasi where he interacted with trainee officers & jawans and also inaugurated new buildings in these training institutes.

He was accompanied by the IGP Hqrs/CIV Police Headquarters B S Tuti & AIG Training/Policy PHQJ

S Johar. He inaugurated a double storey Kot building at SKPA Udhampur and a Conference Hall at STC Talwara. Officers present in these occasions were

Director SKPAU Garib Dass, SSP Udhampur Dr Vinod Kumar, Deputy Directors of SKPAU

Rajinder Gupta, Sheikh Zulfikar Azad & Rajesh Kumar Bali, Principal STC Talwara Jameel Ahmad, SSP Reasi Amit Gupta, SSP R C Kotwal & other staff of SKPAU & STC Talwara.

Addressing the trainee officers at SKPAU, the DGP said that the atmosphere of training institutes rejuvenates personnel adding that training period is missed by all personnel throughout their life.

Revisiting his previous postings, the DGP said that all personnel consider training institutes wherever they train their second home. Advising to train hard & learn as

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Northern Army Commander visits forward areas along Siachen, Ladakh

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEP 28

The Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi visited forward areas and reviewed the operational preparedness of troops in the Siachen and Ladakh sectors of the union territory.

This is the second day of his visit to the Ladakh region to interact with troops on ground zero and review the security and operational preparedness of the troops.

"Lt Gen Upendra



Dwivedi, Army Commander Northern Command, visited forward areas of Ladakh to review operational preparedness and witnessed integrated training," the Northern

Command said on X. Lt Gen Dwivedi accompanied by GOC Fire Fury Corps and Commander Siachen Brigade visited the forward areas

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## 74 Goats, Sheep Killed in Kishtwar Fire

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 28

Seventy-four goats and sheep were killed in a fire at a cattle shed in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, officials said.

A fire broke out in the shed in the Dachan area of the district on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, they said.

The entire shed was gutted, resulting in the death of 74 sheep and goats, they said.

However, there was no loss of human life

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Indian Railways announces special trains from Varanasi to Vaishno Devi

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, SEPT 28

As the season of festivals kicks in, people have already begun booking their train tickets to their hometowns or their desired destinations. A lot of people also face inconvenience, as they can't find suitable trains to commute to different places. In a bid to provide a comfortable travelling experience, the Indian Railways has arranged for special trains from Uttar Pradesh. For the convenience of the passengers



looking to travel to Mata Vaishno Devi (Jammu and Kashmir) on Navratri, trains have been started. Special trains will start running for passengers

planning to visit Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra from next month. This train will make a total of six trips in both directions.

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## As Cricket World Cup fever grips India, bat manufacturers in Jammu & Kashmir struggle to meet demand

JNEWS SERVICE  
SANGAM, SEP 28

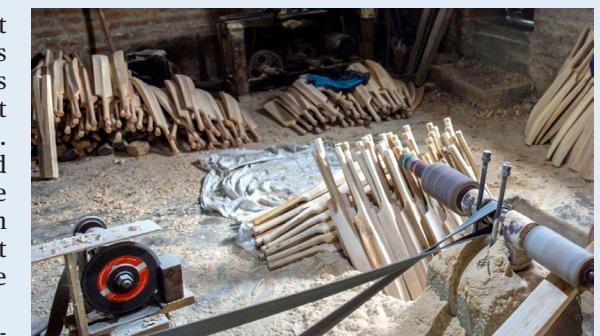
Sunil Kumar, an expert batmaker from Uttar Pradesh's Meerut, is among several master craftsmen lured to Sangam as manufacturers in this south Kashmir town have witnessed a surge in orders ahead of the Cricket World Cup that begins next week.

While sales of bats made from Kashmir willow witness an uptick ahead of every multilateral event organised by

the International Cricket Council (ICC), orders this year have been higher as India is hosting the event after a gap of 12 years. "With the Cricket World Cup approaching, the demand for bats has risen so much that we are not able to complete all the orders," Kumar said.

While more work translates into higher earnings, Kumar is happy that the bats he makes will reach international cricket.

"I am a batmaker with 20 years' experience. I have made bats for ace



cricketers such as Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Andre Russell and Dwayne Bravo," Kumar said.

Fawzul Kabir, the

spokesperson for the Cricket Bat Manufacturers' Association of Kashmir, said the demand for Kashmir willow bats has steadily increased over

the past two years after the ICC granted approval for these to be used in international tournaments.

"We have been manufacturing cricket bats for 102 years but didn't have any national or international recognition till 2021. After getting the ICC's approval, our bats appeared in different international tournaments and the demand has risen manifold," Kabir, who manufactures bats under the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4



## Development Is "Governance Mantra" Of Modi Govt: Vinay Gupta



■ JI NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, SEPT 28

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Senior leader and Seh Prabhari Jammu North Vinay Gupta along with Chairman Cantonment Board and Gandhi Nagar Mandal President Bharat Bhushan, kick-started the lane and drain work in Narwal Pain, ward no.1, Cantonment Board of Bahu Constituency.

Vinay toured many adjoining areas of Narwal Pain to take stock of problems being faced by the people and start Lane and drain work. Vinay Gupta was accompanied by Bharat Bhushan, Narinder Koki, Rachit Khosla, Ramesh Gupta, Ajay Sharma, Naresh Kumar, Gharu

Ram, and others who were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Vinay Gupta said that development is the "Modi Mantra" of good governance and the union government is committed to providing all basic amenities like adequate drinking water, power, education, healthcare facilities, and other civic facilities to the people of the union territory of J&K, especially the areas where there is lack of basic amenities to the public. He said, that continuously from the last nine years, Jammu has witnessed the development on the ground. He stated the BJP believes in delivering instead of false promises as is done by other political parties in the past during their rule in erst-

while J&K. Referring to the developmental works under execution in Gupta, underline that the construction of various developmental projects are apace and on completion of these schemes it will change the socioeconomic conditions of the people of the area.

Vinay Gupta and Bharat Bhushan, during the extensive tour in the area, met with the locals to listen to their problems and to address the same on the war foot. They interacted with the locals during his door-to-door visit to the place to take stock of the ground situation. Vinay Gupta added that the BJP is the party of principles and doing a lot in the interest of all segments of society under the dynamic leadership of PM Narendra Modi and leading the Central Government, all the public representatives and the public concern departments are duty-bound to address the aspirations of the public on a priority basis. He also emphasized, how, PM Modi is working tirelessly for "Swachh Bharat" with a focus on every single area of the Nation. Vinay asserted that the present dispensation holds a very clear view to leave no area with underdevelopment, although the whole process will take some time, in due course, every region and area of India is set to become a model world in itself.

## Shiv Sena (UBT) pays tributes to Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, Urges youth to eradicate social evils



■ JI NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, SEPT 28

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit today paid glorious tributes to the brave son of Mother India, Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, on his birth anniversary and urged the youth to come

forward to eradicate societal evils.

During the program organized at Party's Central Office in Jammu, State President Manish Sahni along with party leaders and workers paid their heartfelt tributes to the heroic martyr, Shaheed-e-Azam

Bhagat Singh. Shiv Sena leaders read out quotes such as "Our hearts long for revolution" and "Fortunate are those who sacrifice for the nation, for they become immortal even in death."

Sahni encouraged the youth to consider Shaheed-e-Azam

Bhagat Singh as a role model and emphasized the importance of patriotism and eradicating vices like addiction from society.

Later, several prominent personalities influenced by the party's policies and ideologies, joined the party fold and pledged their support on this occasion.

Sahni warmly welcomed them into the party fold and hoped that their joining will strengthen the party base.

Prominent figures like General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice President Balwant Singh, Vikas Dewan, President Kamghar Singh, Mangu Ram, Rajsem Lal, Bhair Singh were present on this occasion.

## Sawhney criticizes Canadian PM Justin Trudeau for anti-India propaganda

■ JI NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, SEPT 28

Tejwant Singh Sawhney, prominent leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Minority Morcha, has strongly condemned Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for what he calls "anti-India propaganda." In a recent statement, Sawhney emphasized that all Sikhs in India are true nationalists and do not support the demand for Khalistan, attributing such demands to a small group of individuals outside India.

Sawhney stated, "The Sikh community in India has consistently demonstrated its unwavering commitment to the nation's unity, integrity, and sovereignty. We have proudly given numerous lives for the cause of India and are prepared to make further sacrifices for its safety and security."



Sawhney further expressed his concern regarding individuals and groups outside

India who are advocating for Khalistan, alleging that they are "miscreants" seeking to sow discord and promote enmity. He criticized the Canadian government for providing shelter to such individuals and groups, asserting that it is crucial for the international community to recognize that these voices do not represent the sentiments of the vast majority of Sikhs residing in India.

"It is regrettable that the Canadian Prime Minister has lent support to those who seek to undermine the unity of India," Sawhney added. "The Sikh community in India remains steadfast in its allegiance to the Indian nation, and we

denounce any attempts to disrupt our harmonious coexistence."

Sawhney's remarks come in the wake of growing concerns within the Indian diaspora and the Indian government about the external promotion of Khalistan. He called upon the international community to differentiate between the aspirations of a few individuals and the collective allegiance of millions of Sikhs to India.

Tejwant Singh Sawhney's words echo the sentiment of millions of Sikhs in India, who continue to contribute to the nation's progress and development while upholding their proud Indian identity.

## BJP set to register massive victory in coming polls: Dr. Manyal

■ JI NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, SEPT 28

Jammu and Kashmir BJP General Secretary and former minister, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, has refuted the assertion of PDP president Mehbooba Mufti that BJP has sensed defeat which is the reason for delaying the Panchayat and Local Bodies polls in the UT. He termed this totally false, misleading and baseless.

"To keep targeting BJP on one pretext or the other, provides fuel to regional parties like PDP, to run their political shops", Manyal said and added that such parties have already been pushed to the wall for the kind of opportunist politics they indulge in.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal said that BJP has registered splendid victories in all the successive elections in the past and the morale of its activists is very high and there is no word like defeat in our dictionary. He said that the PDP chief should not



forget that BJP got massive mandates in earlier polls of Panchayats and Local Bodies, with all time high scoring in Kashmir valley as well.

The BJP General Secretary, at the same time, reminded Madam Mufti that conducting elections is not in the purview of a political party but it is the sole prerogative of the election authorities.

Dr. Manyal further said that it is the BJP only which has always raised concern for strengthening the democratic institutions in Jammu and

Kashmir. It was during the BJP rule at the centre that elections to the Panchayati Raj Institutions were held here, taking democracy at the grassroot level and ensured the participation of a common man in decision making bodies, which is the true spirit of a healthy democracy.

A glance in the past will itself prove that parties like Congress, NC and PDP, did not care to hold the elections for years together in Jammu Kashmir when in power in erstwhile state. Again it was the NC and PDP, which contested elections at one stage and declared to remain away from taking part in elections on other stage, this is the political duplicity of a party which is directionless, issueless and making failed attempts to regain the lost faith of the people, who have rejected the politics of appeasement on communal lines and endorsed 'sabka sath sabka vikas sabka vishwas' plank of BJP under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## Sham, Chander Mohan, Dilbahadur listen public grievances

■ JI NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, SEPT 28

BJP Vice-President and former minister, Sham Lal Sharma, alongwith BJP Vice-President & former Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta and BJP Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Incharge Dilbahadur Singh Jamwal, listened to the grievances of a large number of people, who had reached the party headquarter to narrate their problems and seek solutions.

Sham Lal Sharma and other leaders paid patient hearings to the problems of the people and took up the same with the senior officials of the concerned departments.

Sham Lal Sharma, while speaking on the occasion, said that people in large numbers rush to BJP office on daily basis to meet the party senior leaders at public darbar. The party's initiative of holding public darbar is proving very helpful to the people. Chander Mohan Gupta said that the massive public response in the public darbar stand testimony that the people



have found BJP as only best option to seek help.

Dilbahadur Singh Jamwal said that the people coming to public darbar daily have varied problems related to different departments and the party leaders do their best to serve the needy persons through every possible mean.

The people who visited the party office today were from Raipur-Bantalab, Greater Kailash, Piyan Akhnoor, Doda, Gandhi Nagar, Paloura, Khour,

Trikota Nagar, Jourian, Sainik Colony, Karwanda, Doda, Ranjan, Nagrota, Channi Himmat, Seri and other areas. Their problems were related to construction and repairing of lanes, drains, scarcity of drinking water, maintenance of public park, health centres, drainage, black topping of road, name correction in pension case, repair of water pipes, excessive electric billing, repair/replacement of street lights etc.

■ JI NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, SEPT 28

In a move poised to redefine the landscape of office printing technology in India, Minosha India Limited, a distinguished partner of Ricoh products in India, proudly unveils an exceptional range of next-generation laser printers. This groundbreaking product lineup encompasses two distinct segments: Mono and Colour, each meticulously crafted to revolutionize office printing, elevate productivity, and deliver outstanding quality. These innovative printers represent a significant leap in technology, embodying the spirit of excellence and advancement that both Minosha and Ricoh are renowned for. With a relentless focus on innovation, versatility, and security, Minosha India Ltd. is ushering in a new era of office printing solutions designed to meet and exceed the dynamic needs of businesses across India. All the printers are Wi-Fi-enabled and offer the best-in-industry onsite service which includes a smart device connector, remote device manager and a robust network of national service partners to its valued customers. The laser printer range is priced from Rs 30,000/- onwards in India.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Atul Thakker, Managing Director - Minosha India Ltd. said, "Quality, trust, and reach are the bedrock upon which Minosha India's enduring legacy stands. Over the course of nearly three decades, these principles have defined our identity and guided our unwavering commitment to excellence. As the intricate tapestry of market dynamics

continues to evolve, we remain resolute in upholding these core values, knowing that they are the compass that steers us forward." "Our partnership with Ricoh exemplifies our dedication to delivering nothing short of excellence to our valued customers. It is a symbiotic alliance that synergizes our strengths, magnifying our capacity to provide top-notch solutions. Together with Ricoh, we are on the cusp of introducing game-changing products that will not only meet but exceed the expectations of the Indian market," he added.

Steven Burger, Vice President / General Manager of Marketing & Technology Center, Ricoh Asia Pacific said, "In the fast-paced and ever-evolving landscape of India's market, staying at the vanguard of technology is not just a choice but a necessity. At Ricoh, we have embraced this necessity wholeheartedly. We are driven by an unyielding commitment to meet and exceed the shifting landscape of customer expectations. It's a commitment that goes beyond mere product innovation; it extends to a fundamental dedication to sustainability and responsible business practices.

He further added, "In this journey of continuous improvement, our partnership with Minosha has played an instrumental role. Together, we have harnessed our collective expertise to introduce cutting-edge laser printers that are poised to revolutionize the future of office printing in India. These aren't just printers; they are catalysts of productivity, efficiency, and environmental responsibility."

In a one-of-a-kind appreciation for its dealer partners, the

## Minosha India Ltd. unveils a smart range of Laser Printers for hybrid workplaces in India



company also announced on-the-spot bumper prizes for the highest booking garnered from dealerships at the launch event. As part of the contest, Mr. Bharat Bambhaniya from Vibrant Infotech, Pune and Mr. Suraj Seth from Vikash Techsec, Ranchi were handed over keys to a brand new Hyundai Exter car each from Minosha India Limited. It displayed the excitement among the company's partners for the launch of the new range of laser printers in India.

Founded in 1996, Minosha India has had a steadfast presence in the Indian market for over 27 years. With a robust pan-India network comprising eight offices and a vast network of over 300 trusted business partners, Minosha has consistently delivered contemporary digital imaging products (like digital copiers, multi-functional devices, laser printers, and cut-sheet PP products). In 2022, Minosha forged a strategic alliance with Ricoh, a move that has further strengthened its promise to provide top-notch products and services. This partnership leverages Ricoh's cutting-edge office equipment and digital services, reinforcing Minosha's commitment to staying at the forefront of technology and meeting evolving customer needs.

Mono segment: RICOH P 311 (Single Function Printer): This printer highlights a 4-line operation LCD display panel and impressive print speeds of up to 32 ppm. It offers enhanced security features, including the Locked Print function and network encryption for secure data transmission with a yield of 7000 pages in the initial cartridge and a print resolution of 1200 x 1200 dpi.

RICOH M 320F (Multiple Function Printer): With a 4.3" colour touch panel, this multi-function printer is designed for versatility and ease of use.

Its Automatic Reversing Document Feeder (ARDF) and multiple Scan-to capabilities enable efficient document sharing. This MFP comes with a yield of 7000 pages in the initial cartridge and a print resolution of 1200 x 1200 dpi.

Colour segment: RICOH P C311W (Single Function): This printer delivers vibrant colour at a speed of up to 25 ppm.

## Indian Army organises Tourism Awareness Drive

■ JI NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, SEPT 28

Indian Army, in a commendable effort to promote tourism awareness and community engagement organized comprehensive Tourism Awareness Drive at Village Chingam of Kishtwar District of Jammu and Kashmir.

This initiative reflects the Indian Army's commitment in fostering positive relationships with local communities and pro-

moting the rich cultural heritage and natural beauty of the region. In today's fast-paced world, travel and tourism have become an integral part of our lives.

However, with the increase in global tourism, there is an urgent need to raise awareness about the untapped tourism potential of the region.

The drive highlights in Promoting Sustainable Tourism, Cultural Sensitivity and Preservation of Natural Beauty, Interaction with inhabitant and

Safety and Security. 48 Youths and Students of village Chingam and nearby areas participated in the drive.

This Drive was not only about showcasing the beauty of region but also about empowering the residents by harnessing the potential of tourism.

The event received positive feedback from inhabitants for providing such unique platform for creating opportunities and requested to organize such drive frequently.



## Rahul Sahai, Chair of PHDCCI Jammu, met with Anshul Garg, CEO of SMVDSB

■ JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 28

Rahul Sahai Chair PHDCCI Jammu said that idea of this meeting is to prolong the stay of pilgrims in Jammu City and Division which in return can uplift the economy of Jammu.

Sahai said as Jammu is known as City of Temples and the most famous temple here is Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Temple which is attracting maximum religious tourist, So it is suggested to showcase Jammu's tourist destinations like Jamboo Zoo

Sri Venkateshwara Swamy temple which is famous as Tirupati Balaji Temple in Sidhra, Jammu Tawi Golf course, Beating Retreat at Suchetgarh, Gandola at Jammu, Raghunath Temple, Bawe Mata Temple, Bagh e Bahu Light & Sound Show, Kol Kandoli Temple, Patnitop, Sanasar, Bani, Basoli, Kishtwar, Bhaderwah tourist



destinations, International Yoga Centre at Mantalai, Shiv Khori Etc. in and around Katra.

Sahai highlighted that there are no hoardings on Nandani - Katra road for showcasing Jammu's Tourist destinations so that yatri's could see and plan to

Counters have all the data Eg: Mobile Number, Email, address etc. of the visiting Pilgrims, Detailed document regarding Jammu's attractions should be sent on pilgrims whatsapp, email, Physical Pamphlets should be distributed to yatri's with links of bookings defined in the message so that it could be easier to plan for yatri's to prolong their stay in Jammu.

Anshul Garg Ias, Ceo, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board gave the patient hearing to the subject and thanked Chair PHDCCI for these suggestions and assured that shortly we will get these works done, Garg also shared that Govt is of the same view that pilgrims should spend some more nights in Jammu and Katra and any suggestion in this regard is welcomed. He said Organizations like PHDCCI should plan programs to deliberate on the issue.

visit Jammu's tourist destinations. Sahai said there should be vibrant promotion through led screens of video's of Jammu's tourist destinations in Katra bazars, ban ganga to bhawan road, Railway station of Katra etc. Sahai said Yatra slip

## 10 Days Shri Ganesh Chaturthi Mahotsav concluded Murti immersed in River Chenab



■ JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 28

Shri Ganesh Chaturthi Parav, a religious function which is celebrated in the country every year in honour of Lord Shri Ganesh in a similar way as devotees worship Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji in north during Navaratri & Pongal in the South. Shri Ganesh Chaturthi Parav is most important religious function of all Hindus which is celebrated every year with great pomp and show.

Like previous years, this year

too on 19th of Sept Shri Ganesh Chaturthi Mahotsav celebrations organized by Shree Lakshmi Naryan Mandir Management Trust Gandhi Nagar Jammu under the chairmanship of Sh. Gulchain Singh Charak former minister and president of the Trust started by installing a beautiful Murti of Lord Ganesh with complete religious fervor by the learned Shastries by chanting religious mantras by the Pujaries at Shri Lakshmi Naryan Mandir Parisar. During the 10 days of Ganesh Mahotsav daily morning/ evening special

Poojas/ Arties were performed by the learned Shastries where in besides Trustees/ Special invitees large number of devotees participated in Maha Arti followed by distribution of Parsad/Bhandaras regularly Arranged by the devotees.

Today on 28th of Sept i.e last day of this year's celebrations, special Maha Arti was performed in Mandir where in, besides, Trust President, member Trustees/Special Invitees and a large number of devotees participated.

Thereafter, Murti of Lord Ganesh was taken in a very well decorated vehicle by the President himself along with learned Shastries, Trustees and other devotees chanting slogans "Ganpati Bappa Murya" for its Immersion at Jia Pota, Akhnoor into the sacred River Chenab with the prayers to Lord Ganesh to give darshan next year also.

Prominent amongst those who participated in the visarjan ceremony included S/Sh. K.B Magotra, Mrs Kiran Rajput, Prithvi Raj Sharma, V.K Abrol, Krishan. P. Gupta, C.P Gupta, Harish Malhotra, Kapil Slathia, Parshant Sharma, and a large number of other devotees. (Ladies and Gents).

## SRS expresses serious concerns over Motor Vehicle Department's laxity in issuing driving licenses

■ JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 28

Shri Ram Sena, a prominent socio-political organization, has raised grave concerns regarding the alarming apathy displayed by the Motor Vehicle Department in Jammu due to the unavailability of driving licenses. In a statement issued today, Rajiv Mahajan, President of Shri Ram Sena Jammu & Kashmir, highlighted a significant discrepancy in the department's performance.

Jammu and Kashmir have witnessed remarkable progress, transitioning from a conventional paper-based system to a seamless digital era. The administration's unwavering focus has been on delivering essential services to the public's doorstep. However, certain departments, including the Transport Department and its



Regional Transport Offices (RTOs), appear to be out of sync with the LG administration's vision.

The current issue revolves around the issuance of driving licenses, specifically concerning the non-availability of smart cards and colored films required for printing permanent licenses. Regrettably, over 10,000 individuals have endured official negligence for over six months.

Mahajan expressed his dismay, stating that it is disconcerting when

a department designed for licensing cannot procure the necessary smart cards and colored films in a timely manner, and there seems to be a lack of accountability. This has left the public to fend for themselves. The situation escalates when individuals are stopped by traffic police officials who demand hard copies of their licenses, imposing fines on the spot for non-compliance.

The issue becomes further aggravated when residents of Jammu and Kashmir travel outside the Union Territory. Drivers find themselves in precarious situations despite no fault of their own, as they face difficulties due to the unavailability of their licenses.

Driving without a valid license is a punishable offense, and any resulting FIR or court-imposed penalties could detrimentally impact

students' careers.

Mahajan emphasized that the relentless efforts of the administration to provide efficient online services within stipulated timeframes are being thwarted by the Transport Department's negligence. While the administration has successfully delivered more than 1,000 services online, the Transport Department has failed to address the issue of driving license printing and issuance for over half a year.

In light of these pressing concerns, Rajiv Mahajan earnestly appeals to LG Sinha to intervene and hold those responsible accountable for resolving this matter expeditiously. It is imperative that the Transport Department aligns its operations with the administration's commitment to providing seamless and efficient public services.

## Balwant Thakur inducts Eighteen new artists in Natrang



■ JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 28

In its major initiative to introduce new talents in the field of music, dance and drama, Natrang Director Padamshree Balwant Thakur today inducted 18 new young energetic artists in the talent pool of Natrang. Aimed at giving them immense opportunities of learning and performance at the National and International level, Natrang keep holding periodic auditions in the local collages and the schools. While welcoming them in Natrang Director Balwant Thakur dwelt in detail about the journey of Natrang and its

magnificent role it played in shaping and grooming the talents of this region. Majority of those who have made a huge name in the Films and Television are the products of Natrang. In Jammu Natrang since in inception in the year 1983 have been endeavouring to provide training programmes under the guidance of top professionals of the country. At occasions Natrang invited international experts to train the artists working in the organization. Unfortunately, the entire UT of Jammu & Kashmir has been failing in providing the professional courses in performing arts, particularly in dramatics. The

government also never paid any heed to this growing demand. This region is full of vibrant talents but in the absence of the organized professional learning platforms this entire pool of talent is sadly going waste. Through its earnest efforts, Natrang is trying to fill this huge gap. The training in Acting and Dance in Natrang is provided free of charges with a larger mission of attracting more and more talents towards the formal training in the field of performing arts. Natrang currently is running regular training programmes in Acting and Dance and the artists undergoing training in different

batches get immense opportunities in the series of programmes which the institute organises within and outside the UT of Jammu & Kashmir. Natrang is the only professionally organised performing arts institution in Jammu & Kashmir and all major prestigious cultural events are produced and presented by Natrang. Recently concluded G20 Srinagar cultural events were conceptualized, designed and presented by Natrang Jammu.

He hoped that the artists who have been inducted today will make a big name for the UT of Jammu & Kashmir and will also bring pride and honour for their proud parents.

The new inducted artists in Natrang included Tania Balgotra, Deepshikha Sharma, Radhika Khajuria, Anmolpreet Kour, Jaspreet Kour, Malik Madiha, Ritika, Kashish Misri, Himanshi Jain, Suhani Sharma, Prerna Sharma, Mehak Banzore, Bhumi Nagotra, Raghav Pandita, Shruti Sharma, Amit Rana, Anand Verma and Kashish Katoch. The fresh batches are being trained by Sunny Mujoo (Dance) and Neeraj Kant (Theatre).

## Kauvery Hospital's Heart and Lung Transplant Team Honored by TRANSTAN

■ JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 28

The Heart and Lung Transplant Team of Kauvery Hospital Chennai has been bestowed with a prestigious award by the Tamil Nadu State Transplant Authority (TRANSTAN). This distinguished recognition is a testament to the team's unparalleled dedication, expertise, and remarkable success in heart and lung transplantation, ultimately saving and improving the lives of countless recipients.

Over the years, the team has consistently achieved outstanding

outcomes in transplantation procedures, contributing to a higher quality of life for organ recipients. Their unwavering commitment to delivering the best possible results has made them a beacon of hope for patients in need of heart and lung transplants. Comprising expert surgeons, proficient anaesthetists, dedicated consultants, and transplant coordinators, Kauvery Hospital's Heart and Lung Transplant Team provides comprehensive and compassionate care to recipients undergoing transplant procedures. Their collaborative approach ensures

that every aspect of the transplantation journey is meticulously planned and executed, from the initial evaluation to the post-transplant follow-up.

One of the team's remarkable strengths lies in their exceptional ability to select the most suitable organs for recipients. Their expertise in matching donors with recipients is a critical factor in the consistently successful outcomes of heart and lung transplants performed at Kauvery Hospital. This expertise not only maximizes the chances of a successful transplant but also minimizes the risks associ-

ated with organ rejection.

Dr. Iyappan Ponnuswamy, Medical Director, Kauvery Hospital Chennai, expressed gratitude for the award, stating, "We are deeply honored to receive this recognition from TRANSTAN, which highlights our team's continuous commitment to excellence in heart and lung transplantation. Every member of our team is dedicated to the cause of saving lives through organ transplantation, and this award reaffirms our mission and inspires us to further elevate our standards of care."

## Zorawar releases Dogri romantic song 'Tera Roop Goriye'

■ JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 28

Chairman Team Jammu and BJP leader Zorawar Singh Jamwal released Dogri romantic song "Tera Roop Goriye" produced and released by Savita Sarathi production, during a function organized at Press Club here today.

First from J&K, Mrs India, Meenu Mahajan and Social Activist, Urja Singh were Guest of Honour on the occasion. The song has been sung by son of the soil Subodhh Sharma who also gave the music and is currently settled in Mumbai and performing well in Bollywood music industry.

The lyrics of the song 'Tera Roop Goriye' were written by late O P Sharma Sarathi, renowned writer and was composed by well-known music composer Prithvi Raj Sharma. Savita Sharma produced the song that was directed Aadiya Bhanu while makeup was made Sunidhi Badyal.

Leading Artists of J&K, Vinay Daggar and Nazuk Bhagat, played main leads of the song



that hit the stands. The cinematography and post production was done by young and dynamic Vikran Mehta under Trinetra Productions.

While speaking on the occasion, Team Jammu Chief Zorawar Singh appreciated the tireless working of young artists of Jammu, especially Savita Sarathi production, which is acting as a great boon in promoting Dogri language and culture not just in Jammu and Kashmir but in neighboring states like Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Harayana and New Delhi. He

informed the gathering that every volunteer of Team Jammu is under oath to promote mother tongue Dogri, Art, Culture and Folk. Zorawar Singh Jamwal also said that youth of Jammu region is full of talent and the only need is to channelize their positive energies in different fields. He hoped that the Dogri album would not just stand in J&K and but in the entire country.

Noted Singer, Suraj Singh, Jeevan Sharma, Rajnish Gupta, Anirudh Kapil, Tarun Sharma, Sandhya Sharma, Amit Kundal, Aranaya Gupta, Sanjana Sodhi.

## Modi schemes transformed lives of poor, marginalised ones: Munish Sharma

■ JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, SEPT 28

Jammu and Kashmir BJP's former general secretary, Munish Sharma, emphasized the need for party activists to step up their efforts in maintaining effective communication with the public in their respective areas. He stressed that it is crucial for people to be informed about the various welfare schemes that are available to benefit them.

Munish Sharma engaged with a significant number of residents from Ward No. 32 during his visit to different areas of Talab Tillo. He highlighted that over the past nine years, the Narendra Modi government has initiated a multitude of schemes aimed at improving the lives of people from all sections of society. These schemes have significantly enhanced the socio-economic status of millions of individuals throughout the country, including

Jammu and Kashmir, which has also benefited substantially.

Munish Sharma assured the local residents that BJP activists are readily available to serve them. He emphasized that anyone can seek information about welfare schemes and receive guidance and assistance in accessing the benefits they offer. Munish Sharma also commended the dedicated work being carried out by BJP councillor Sohan Lal Karluipia in Ward No. 32 and

pledged the party's ongoing support to the community whenever it is required.

Accompanying Munish Sharma were other BJP leaders such as Lovekesh Gondi, Geeta Sodhi, Baba Kumar, and several others. This collective effort reflects the party's commitment to reaching out to the public and ensuring that they are well-informed about government initiatives designed to improve their lives and well-being.



## Police arrests 03 drug peddlers in Kulgam & Awantipora; contraband substances recovered

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

AWANTIPORA, SEPT 28

Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested 03 drug peddlers in Kulgam & Awantipora and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

In Kulgam, a police party led by Incharge Police Post Mirbazar during naka checking near Petrol Pump at Nipora intercepted a motorcycle bearing registration No. PBO7AT-9499 ridden by two persons. During search, officers present were able to recover 4.5kgs of Poppy Straw concealed in a Nylon

bag was recovered from their possession. They have been identified as Mohd Saleem Ganie son of Gull Mohd Ganie resident of DK Pora Shopian and Balbir Singh son of Sheer Singh resident of Chenani Pullmanda, Udhampur. Both the persons were arrested and motorcycle used in commission of crime was also seized.

In Awantipora, a Police Party led by Incharge Police Post Reshipora arrested one drug peddler at Kawani Brabandina crossing. He has been identified as Abdul Salam Dar son of Munawa Dar resident of Kawani Awantipora. During search, 380 grams of Charas like sub-

stance was recovered from his possession. He has been shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and investigation has been taken up.

We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law.

## Police busts gang of burglars in Kulgam, 7 arrested

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

KULGAM, SEPT 28

Police in Kulgam busted a gang of burglars by arresting 7 accused persons involved in many burglary cases and recovered stolen property worth lacs from their possession.

On reception of several complaints regarding burglary in the areas of Police Station Kulgam, cases vide FIR Nos. 131/2023 & 165/2023 under relevant sections of law were registered and investigation was initiated.

A special team headed by SHO PS Kulgam under the supervision of SP Hqrs Kulgam Shri Ghulam Muhammad Bhat-JKPS was constituted to investigate the incidents of burglary. During the course of investigation, one suspected person namely Ayan Shameem son of Mohd Shameem Halwai resident

of Bijnoor UP A/P Rangrezpora, Kulgam was called for questioning. During questioning, he disclosed that he along with other 06 persons identified as Shahid Sheikh son of Mohd Jasim Sheikh resident of Delhi A/P Srinagar, Farman Ahmad son of Hanif Ansari resident of Bijnoor UP, Mohd Amir son of Mohd Yameen resident of UP, Bhar Alam son of Mani Ahmad resident of UP, Mudasar Habib son of Habibullah Mir resident of Shalipora Sopore and a juvenile have committed the crime. All the persons were brought to PS Kulgam where they confessed that they are involved in multiple burglaries and were subsequently arrested.

The investigating team was also able to recover stolen property worth lacs on their disclosure. Further investigation in the matter is in progress as more arrests and recoveries are expected.

## Police arrests drug peddler in Baramulla; Contraband substance recovered

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

BARAMULLA, SEPT 28

Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested drug peddler in Baramulla and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

A police party of Police Station Tangmarg headed by SHO PS Tangmarg under the supervision of SDPO Tangmarg at a checkpoint established at Hardu Ichloo intercepted one person identified as Gh Mohd Bhat son of Gh Mohi-ud-Din Bhat resident of Khaminderpora Tangmarg. During search, 55 grams of Charas was recovered from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Tangmarg and investigation has been initiated.

We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law.

## Illegal extraction & transportation of minerals, Police seizes 8 vehicles, arrests 8 persons in Budgam

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

BUDGAM, SEPT 28

Acting tough against the persons involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, police have seized 08 vehicles and arrested 8 persons in Budgam.

Police Post Humhama during naka/patrolling at Humhama near Salsabeel School Humhama seized 08 tippers bearing registration numbers JK19-0858, JK03B-3620, JK01K-2374, JK17-2118, JK02AC-7822, JK04C-1580, JK03B-0714 and JK01N-8098, involved in illegal transportation of minerals. The drivers of these vehicles identified as Aashiq Hussain Rather resident of Sofipora Budgam, Javaid Hussain Mir resident of Paller Budgam, Irshad Hussain Mir resident of Paller Budgam, Ishfaq Ahmad Paul resident of Sheikhpura Budgam, Ab Rahman Bhat resident of Sheikhpura Budgam, Irfan Ahmed Beigh resident of Kadipora Budgam, Aaqib Hussain Mir resident of Paller Budgam and Mohd Iqbal Teli resident of Palibagh Budgam were also arrested on the spot.

Accordingly, case vide FIR No. 274/2023 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Budgam and investigation taken up.

Persons found indulging in illegal extraction activities shall be dealt with as per law. Community members are requested to share information regarding the crimes in their neighbourhood with their concerned police units.

## Police organises Thana Diwas across PD Awantipora

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

AWANTIPORA, SEPT 28

As a part of public outreach programme and an initiative by Government of J&K, Police in Awantipora organized 'Thana Diwas' across the police district. The meetings were chaired by respective jurisdictional police officers and were attended by various associations and respectable citizens of concerned areas.

On the occasion, participants highlighted various issues of public importance and they were assured that their genuine grievances pertaining to Police will be resolved on priority and that of civil administration will be taken up with the concerned departments for their early redressal.

The chairing officers while speaking on the occasions said that Thana Diwas is an initiative started by the Government of J&K to bridge the gap between Police and public and also to hear and redress the grievances of common masses and further added that community policing is mandatory to boost public confidence which would help in fighting against crime and social evils.

The participants were stressed to co-operate with Police in maintaining law and order in the area and identifying anti national and anti-social elements who always try to disrupt the peaceful environment.

## Illegal extraction and transportation of minerals; Police seizes 4 vehicles, arrests 4 persons in Baramulla

**JI NEWS SERVICE**

BARAMULLA, SEPT 28

Acting tough against the persons involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, police have seized 4 vehicles and arrested 4 persons in Baramulla.

A police party under the supervision of SDPO Tangmarg assisted by SHO PS Tangmarg seized 04 vehicles (4 tractors) and arrested 4 drivers for their involvement in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals at Ferozpora Nallah Tangmarg. They accused drivers have been identified as Ishfaq Ahmad Khan son of Bashir Ahmad Khan resident of Khaminderpora, Javid Ahmad Mir son of Noor Din Mir resident of Ferozpora, Rouf Ahmad Kumar son of Ab Rahim Kumar resident of Hajibal Tangmarg & Mohd Shafi Ganie son of Mohd Akbar Ganie resident of Hardu Ichloo Tangmarg.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### LG attends public function...

realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat, he added. Prominent personalities and people from all walks of life were present on the occasion. KNO

### Ahead of 2024...

rallies before announcement of Lok Sabha polls. Confirming the development, BJP's J&K unit president Ravinder Raina said that though dates are yet to be finalised but PM Modi, Amit Shah and other top ministers are expected to address massive rallies. He said that they recently met Amit Shah in New Delhi, where they had requested the top brass to hold rallies in Jammu and Kashmir.

Apart from this, he said BJP leadership has also requested party president Jagat Prakash Nadda for a two to three days visit to Jammu and Kashmir at his convenience but his tour is yet to be finalized. However, as per the party leaders, Nadda will definitely visit the UT before the announcement of Parliamentary polls. KNO

### PM Gati Shakti | Six...

comprehensive development in and around the project location.

The initiative was launched to develop an integrated infrastructure to reduce logistics costs. All logistics and connectivity infrastructure projects, entailing investments of over Rs 500 crore are routed through the NPG.

The NPG's approval is required before clearance of the project by the Public Investment Board (PIB) or Department of Expenditure under the finance ministry.

The maximum number of projects recommended by the group are related to roads, railways and urban development.

The NMP has a number of layers of geospatial data showing all physical and social infrastructure of an area and land records in one place. It has been designed for faster planning and better design so that the impact of an investment is maximised.

The NPG has representations from various connectivity infrastructure ministries/ departments involving their heads of network planning division for unified planning and integration of the proposals.

All these departments approach the NPG first for approval before making a DPR (Detailed Project Report) at the planning stage. After the NPG's clearance, the project follows the normal procedure of approval by the finance ministry and the Cabinet.

Over 1,400 layers of data, including those related to land, ports, forests, and highways, are available on the portal.

Usage of the portal by different ministries, including social sector departments and states, is increasing and it is helping in the proper planning of projects, it said. (Agencies)

### Designated Terrorist among...

also revealed that Fayaaz was in contact with the designated terrorist 'Uncle' through WhatsApp and had conspired to carry out unlawful activities in India. He had also received funds sent by 'Uncle' through his associate 'Bhai'.

"Uncle, a wanted accused, had committed acts of terror through his associates by possessing and circulating high-quality fake Indian currency notes with the aim of damaging the monetary stability of India," the spokesperson said quoting the charge sheet. (Agencies)

### Centre Transfers Srinagar...

improving the law-and-order situation within the city, ensuring that the presence of terrorists was reduced to near zero and maintaining that no attacks were carried out either on minorities or security forces. He also focused on effective social policing and cracked many case of eve teasing, acid attacks while maintained effective deterrence on rash driving. As police head he launched an outreach program and tried to build bridges among the commoners. It was during his tenure that Muharram procession was allowed on the roads after three decades and public participation in the Independence Day functions was allowed this year. International events like hosting the G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting were conducted peacefully during his tenure as the city police chief. It was during his tenure that Miwaiz Umer Farooq was released from house detention recently and allowed to hold Friday prayers at the historical Jama Masjid after more than four years.

About Manipur Situation:

Manipur has continually witnessed violence since May. As per reports more than 180 people have been killed and several hundred injured since ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status. A fresh bout of violence, this time led by students, broke out in the state capital on

Tuesday after photos of the bodies of two youths who went missing in July went viral on social media.

Violent protests continued till the early hours of Thursday with a mob vandalising the deputy commissioner's office in Imphal West and torching two four-wheelers, officials said.

On Wednesday night, the protesters clashed with security personnel in Uripok, Yaikul, Sagolband and Tera areas, prompting the forces to fire several rounds of tear gas shells to control the situation, they said. KNO

### J&K people enjoying...

much as one can, the DGP said, "Focus on your work and don't bother about those people who would try to bring you down".

Paying tribute to the martyrs of J&K Police, the DGP said to trainees that 'you are now part of a force which has an unparalleled legacy of martyrdom.

Referring to the Kokernag encounter, the DGP said that "we have to work on how to respond better so that loss of security forces lives is avoided."

Sharing his past experiences, Singh said "as you will progress in life you will remember your previous stints. All you have to do is to work with passion, dedication & professionally adding that you have to have synergy, camaraderie with your jawans & colleagues besides with other forces."

Referring to the areas where there was no Police presence previously, the DGP said that "during the last few years we have tested ourselves to the optimum and have overcome obstacles resulting in the changed situation," adding that J&K Police along with other security forces are holding ground & have control over all the areas.

"We have ensured that rule of law is applied to stone pelters and instigators whoever they may be," he said. Urging trainees to ensure holding of the ground, the DGP said that "we have to deal with anti national and anti social elements strictly while taking care of the common people."

"In a region where terror used to prevail, JKP along with SFs ensured security and safety of common people whose support & cooperation is utmost important for the UT's peace," he said.

He emphasized upon trainees to develop compassion as an essential element for own personnel & for the people we serve, adding that Police officers should be confident about their efforts & intentions and taking decisions on ground in the interest of the administration.

Regarding the training of personnel, the DGP said that Police Headquarters is more focused providing specialized courses on cyber crime investigation & counter measures & tactical aspects.

Directing for organising modules on specialized crimes, the DGP said that more specialized training courses are the need of the hour for cracking the modern cyber crimes.

He advised for learning basic investigation skills for improving conviction rate of NDPS & UAPA cases. He exhorted lady officers to strive for studying cyber crime, crime against women and children. He emphasized upon officers to be tech savvy while exploring technologies in policing methods for solving problems.

At STC Talwara addressing the darbar of Border Battalion trainees, the DGP directed that while providing training to these trainees special focus has to be on the modern day challenges on borders viz narco-terrorism, infiltration, drone droppings etc. besides training them how to protect the people during any emergency on borders.

He said that these trainees should be exposed to the modern day tools used to monitor the situation and other activities on borders.

The DGP said that "with the day in and day out efforts of Jammu Kashmir Police and sacrifices of our fallen heroes, the people of Jammu and Kashmir are enjoying normal life, students are attending schools and other business activities are going on in full swing without any fear. The bandh call culture has ended completely."

He said that the gallant efforts of Jammu and Kashmir Police are being appreciated and acknowledged at every forum of the country, adding that he feels proud leading this brave force.

He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir want peace and they have understood the criminal folly of Pakistan, which is trying to instigate the youth against their own people.

While complimenting the officers & staff of these training institutes, the DGP directed for providing best training courses to the trainees and assured that all possible assistance will be provided by the PHQ.

Speaking to the media, the DGP said that Pakistan is the main source of militancy, adding that JKP & other security forces are committed to neutralise & uproot militancy from the UT.

He said that successful operations were conducted and will continue to eliminate the remnants of militancy.

He said that the presence of a number of active

militants have decreased, efforts are on to finish the remaining. He said that the security grid on the borders and within the hinterlands is alert and active to thwart nefarious designs of Pakistan backed anti national elements. KNO

### Northern Army Commander...

along LoC in Siachen to review the operational preparedness, the Northern Command said on X.

The Army commander appreciated the professionalism exhibited by the troops and complimented them for their relentless efforts in maintaining the highest standards of operational effectiveness under challenging conditions.

Lt Gen Dwivedi felicitated the troops deployed in remote frontline areas for their excellent standards of combat readiness despite inhospitable terrain and exhorted them to continue to strive for excellence.

On Tuesday, the Northern Army commander reviewed infrastructure development projects, which will enhance the operational capabilities of forces in Shyok Valley in Ladakh. (Agencies)

### 74 Goats, Sheep...

or injury to anyone in the incident. The cattle shed belongs to Lala Chopan, the officials said.

Police said they are looking into the reason behind the fire. (Agencies)

### Indian Railways announces...

Northern Railway has stepped in with the decision to start the particular train in view of the convenience of railway passengers and extra congestion. The special train will run between Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra.

Train number 01654 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi - Varanasi Special train will depart from Katra at 11:20 pm every Sunday and will reach Varanasi at 11:55 pm the next day. The train will run from October 22 to November 26, 2023. For the return schedule, the 01653 Varanasi - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Special train will depart Varanasi at 06:20 am every Tuesday and it will reach its destination at 11:20 am the next day.

The special train comprises air-conditioned, sleeper, and general-class coaches and it will stop at Ambala Cantt, Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt, Pathankot Cantt, Jammu Tawi, and Uthampur stations en route in both directions.

### As Cricket World Cup...

GR8 Sports brand, said.

Kabir claimed that Kashmir caters to 80 per cent of the global demand for cricket bats.

"With the World Cup around the corner and being hosted by India, the demand has risen manifold. We manufacture around three million bats annually but the demand for this month and the previous one was 15 times higher. We manufactured around three to four million bats in two months that we delivered," he said.

Kabir claimed that from "zero exports" till 2021, more than 1.85 lakh bats from Kashmir have been exported to various countries.

"We are giving the world a better alternative in the form of Kashmir willow, that too at a cheaper price. Quality-wise also, if you see our bat, the biggest six in the (T20) World Cup was hit by a player using our bat," he said, adding at least 17 players will be using his company's bats during this edition of the World Cup.

Mushtaq Ahmad Sheikh, a worker at a bat manufacturing unit, said the workforce here waits for the World Cup as their wages go up.

"We always wait for the World Cup because our work increases manifold and we get double the wages. We work day and night during these days as this is the source of our livelihood," he said.

Sheikh said the buyers increase their orders three to four times around the time of the World Cup.

"Those who usually order 1,000 bats ask for 3,000 to 4,000 bats now," he added.

Omer Alam, a former cricketer from Jammu and Kashmir who played in the Ranji Trophy, said the investment into improving the quality of Kashmir willow bats is now paying dividends.

"The investors are doing a fabulous job. Kashmiri manufacturers are providing bats to youngsters as well as international players," Alam said.

He feels that Kashmir willow bats are better than those made from English willow because of their durability.

"The Kashmir (willow) bats are much cheaper and they have a longer life. English willow bats are used for one season but Kashmir willow bats last for two to three seasons ... We have seen international players playing with these bats and it has got a good scope," he added. (Agencies)



## BJP betrayed people of J&K, robbed people and ruined everything: Sadhotra



■ JI NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, SEPT 28

Taking a dig at BJP, former Minister and Additional General Secretary JKNC, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra today said that party had betrayed the people of Jammu and Kashmir by making tall claims and promising them "Acchhe Din" under their rule but, they ruined everything and now people are feeling suffocated under the present regime.

Sadhotra said this while addressing a public meeting organized by JKNC Central Zone at Janipur. He was the chief guest on the occasion. The meeting was presided over by former minister and president, JKNC Central Zone, Babu Rampaul. The meeting was organized by Dr Vikas Sharma, Zonal Secretary and Coordinator Jammu District (Jammu) and Rajinder Kumar.

"BJP made several promises with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and gave them a dream of a golden era. They promised jobs, development, corruption free governance and many more

things. The innocent people trusted the words of BJP leadership and given huge mandate with a hope of turnaround in their life. But now their tall claims stand exposed," Sadhotra said.

Now, people have realized that it was nothing but a gimmick of BJP to grab power, he said and added that BJP was making policies and programmes only to help the rich and affluent people gain more and more wealth, and poor and downtrodden were being made resourceless.

He said, "BJP indulged in just 'Jumlebaazi' to befool the masses for political gains but in reality this party has nothing to do with the poor masses. Come elections and the BJP starts making 'Jumlebaazi' to divert the attention of nation from important issues related to the poor masses." BJP snatched the statehood of Jammu & Kashmir and promised its people a golden era but now everything stands exposed, he said.

Speaking on Women

Reservation Bill, he said, this too was a political gimmick to garner the votes of women. "If BJP was really serious on granting political reservation to women in it would have implemented the same with immediate effect but they imposed several conditions which makes it impossible for Reservation Women to become reality before 2029.

He reminded people of the National Conference era when Sher-e-Kashmir introduced historic Land Reforms Act and gave land to landless and made them owners of the land which they only used till. "The successive NC governments in J&K took several measures for the upliftment of masses and never made them feel alone but the present dispensation has let loose a reign of terror by imposing a series of taxes and other restrictions on people," he said.

Sadhotra urged the people to strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Jenab Omar Abdullah so that NC could once again form a popular government in J&K and mitigate the sufferings of poor masses.

Also speaking, Babu Rampaul severely criticized the present dispensation and said that BJP robbed everything from people of J&K. Post August 5, 2019, the rights and resources of people have been snatched and they have been left on the mercy of god.

BJP snatched statehood from people of J&K and deprived them of elected government and now we are being subjected to heavy taxation in different forms, he said and added that nobody listens to the people and they are made subservient to bureaucrats.

## Rajasthan's Law & Order worsened under Cong rule: Kavinder



■ JI NEWS SERVICE RAJASTHAN, SEPT 28

In a fierce attack on nearly five-year rule of the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government in Rajasthan, senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta pointed out that more than 10,000 criminal cases had been registered in the state in last nearly five years divulging that the Law and Order is in shambles affecting badly the

lives of people.

Addressing a series of meetings in Dausa areas of Rajasthan, Kavinder said that under Congress rule, there is complete anarchy, which has taken the toll of rule of law. He said that the law and order situation has deteriorated in Rajasthan since the Congress government came to power under the leadership of Ashok Gehlot. "There are umpteen such instances which can tell the sor-

did tale that to what extent the law and order situation has deteriorated," he said, adding that it has become a necessity to get rid of this 'useless' dispensation in the state and once again bring back rule of law, which is essential for the democracy to thrive and promise the due rights to people.

He said that under present abysmal circumstances in Rajasthan, it is only BJP which can bring back the state on track and provide good governance, which will not only be upto the mark but also prolific and people-friendly.

"The Law and Order has vanished from the State of Rajasthan, which now has the worst crime rate in the country", he said giving all credit for this disservice to the Congress Government which according to Kavinder Gupta failed on all fronts especially the implementation of Law of the land as free for all situation galore in Rajasthan with criminals ruling the roost.

## Amit Kapoor lead protest against Prepaid Meters and Property Tax in Jammu

■ JI NEWS SERVICE KATHUA, SEPT 28

A significant protest took place in front of Hari Singh Park, led by Amit Kapoor, President of the Dogra Welfare Organization. The demonstration focused on opposing the implementation of prepaid meters, property tax, and the return of power projects, while also calling for immediate release and simplification of the old age pension process. The protest garnered substantial participation, including women, who raised slogans against the Jammu & Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (JKPDCL) and the LG administration.

Addressing the protesters, Amit Kapoor highlighted the widespread concern regarding prepaid meters in Jammu and Kashmir and vowed to continue the agitation until these meters are removed. He pointed out that people are receiving exorbitant bills once these meters are installed, raising concerns about the



future implications of privatizing electricity. Kapoor further demanded the waiver of old electricity bills and the return of power projects to Jammu and Kashmir. He urged people to voice their concerns in their respective areas and hold leaders accountable in upcoming elections for their silence on these issues. Kapoor accused BJP leaders of misleading the public on the matter of smart meters. He also called for the immediate release of old age pen-

sion and simplification of the application process, citing the government's suspension of pension payments for investigation purposes, causing hardship for the elderly population.

Strongly criticizing the LG administration for employing police force to forcibly install smart meters, Kapoor questioned the legitimacy of these meters if they result in higher bills for consumers. He underscored that the electricity generated in Jammu and Kashmir

should be a right for its residents, advocating for free electricity and the return of all power projects to the state. Kapoor concluded by condemning the LG administration's stance on property tax and lambasting BJP leaders for their silence on the matter. He called upon the people to deliver a resounding message to the BJP in upcoming local body and other elections, accusing the party of exploiting the public's interests.

## DSS Khour celebrates Maharaja Hari Singh Ji's birth anniversary as 'Samajik Nayaya Divas'

■ JI NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, SEPT 28

Dogra Sadar Sabha Khour, a unit of DSS J&K organized a colourful function to celebrate the birth anniversary of Lt Maharaja Sh Hari Singh Ji as "Samajik Nayaya Divas" at Khour, Distt. Jammu wherein, besides, large number of prominent people of the whole border belt, various representatives of Central Working Committee of DSS J&K participated.

Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, President DSS, and Former Minister presided over the function and Lt. Gen R K Sharma (Retd.), President Ex-Services League participated as the special Guest.

Paying glowing tributes to the great Maharaja, Sh Charak highlighted his contributions and achievements and urged the public to carry forward his message of secularism, gender equation, women education, social reforms including removal of untouchability and above all justice for all.

DSS president also recalled Maharaja's famous words, "As a Ruler, I have no religion, All Religions are mine and my religion is Justice." He also admired the Maharaja's timely decision of accession of J&K state with India like other 563 princely states and appealed to the Hon'ble Lt. Governor Manoj



Sinha to celebrate the birth anniversary of the great Maharaja as "Nayaya Divas" by the govt. as state function respecting the sentiments of whole Dogra race that comprises people from all religious sects, trades and walks of life.

Offering floral tributes to the Maharaja Hari Singh Ji Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Rakesh Sharma recalled his speech at the Round Table Conference at London and described him as nationalist, democratic and secular ruler. Lt Gen Sharma also shed light on events taking place in 1947-48 when local tribal militia and irregular Pakistani forces attacked the Valley to capture Srinagar and how Brig. Rajinder Singh also known as Savior of Kashmir, with hardly 100 Dogra

Force jawans successfully repulsed Pakistani invader's attack.

In the function war veterans and Sr. citizens including Dr. B D Sharma, K P Singh, Isha Chib, Ragunath Singh, Sardar Singh, Fakir Singh, Hakikat Singh, Harnam Dass, Ex Sarpanch Raju Ram, Capt Karam Singh, Tej Ram, Suram Singh, Rattan Singh, Capt. Gian Singh, Monu Verma, Sansar Singh and a number media personnels were honoured. Prominent among those who Spoke and threw light on the life and times of the Great Maharaja included Sukhdev Singh, President DSS Khour Unit, Dr. B D Sharma, Lect. Suraj Singh, K P Singh, Harnam Dass, Isha Chib, Kuldeep Singh and Karan Singh.

## Maj Gen RK Sachdeva, ADG inspires Cadets at Thal Sena Camp, Delhi



■ JI NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, SEPT 28

BJP Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, has called upon the people to rally behind Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the endeavor to build a prosperous and developed India. During his address to several delegations, MP Gulam Ali emphasized the remarkable progress India has made in various domains over

the past nine years, including the global arena, economy, healthcare, education, infrastructure development, and, most notably, achieving a governance system largely free from corruption.

MP Gulam Ali particularly highlighted the pivotal role of India's youth in the nation's growth trajectory. He commended the young generation for their commitment to Prime Minister Modi's vision of "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India) and

their active involvement in entrepreneurial initiatives. Many of these endeavors, he noted, have evolved into success stories, contributing to India's overall development.

He stressed the importance of young people transitioning from job seekers to job creators, emphasizing their potential to drive economic growth by establishing new businesses and startups. This shift, he believes, will not only lead to self-sufficiency but also create employment opportunities for others.

During the course of his interactions, MP Gulam Ali received gratitude from a delegation representing the Saakashar Bharat Mission. The President of the mission, Mushtaq Qadri, expressed appreciation for MP Gulam Ali's unwavering support and guidance in addressing their concerns and issues.

Overall, MP Gulam Ali Khatana's message underscores the transformative journey that India has embarked upon under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with a particular focus on harnessing the potential of the nation's youth for a brighter and more prosperous future.

## Samvedna Society Organises Free Heart Check Up Camp

■ JI NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, SEPT 28

Samvedna Society Jammu in Collaboration With Medanta Hospital Gurgaon organises Free Heart check up camp at Sheela Resorts Talab Tillo. The camp was organised by Chairman Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra and was inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu Sandeep Seointra (JKAS) along With Former Minister Sat Sharma CA accompanied with Municipal Councillors Parmod Kapahi, Sanjay Baru, Jeet Angral, Neelam Nargotra, Dr Pardeep Mahotra and others.

A medical team of experts, including a Cardiologist & Physician examined the locals of Talab Tillo, PFT (Pulmonary Function Test), ECG, Blood Sugar,

Blood Pressure and other tests were also done free of cost.

The motive of the camp was to provide the best health care services to the people at their doorstep. More than 152 patients were examined by Cardiologist and about 110 by Physicians.

Speaking on the Occasion Adc Jammu Sandeep Seointra (JKAS) appreciated the efforts of Samvedna Society and said that organisations like Samvedna play an important role in providing help and care to people at doorstep.

Sandeep also highlighted the importance of routine health check-ups and praised the society's initiative to provide voluntary services to the People.

Speaking on the Occasion Sat Sharma lauds the efforts of Samvedna Society for providing

Best Medical Facilities to the people. He also urges the People to take care of their health, Sat stresses the need for creating awareness on Heart diseases.

Speaking on the Occasion Keshav Chopra said that Samvedna Society is committed to Provide Best Health care Facilities to common man and assured that he along with his team will continue conduct free medical camps for the common people in the future also.

Dr Arvind Sharma (Physician), Dr Ankur Kaushik ( Cardiologist), Sandeep Singh Jamwal (Assistant Manager Marketing), Manshu skolia, Fiza Mandi, Saniya Sharma, Priya Sharma, Hritick, Rinkal Manhas, Nazia kosar, Ishrat, Vikas Kumar, Akash Sharma, Sushil Gupta, Manoj, Divyansh and Others were also Present.

## Baig demands the swift restoration of democratic rights for the J&K people

■ JI NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, SEPT 28

Apni Party's Senior Leader and Chief Spokesperson Javid Hassan Baig, on Thursday, appealed to New Delhi not to deprive the J&K people of their constitutional right to choose their own representatives to place them at the helm.

He voiced his grave concern over the recent reports suggesting that the BJP government at the Centre is delaying the Urban Local Bodies

(ULB), panchayat, and assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, citing security reasons as an excuse for the delay, a press release issued here said.

In his statement, Javid Hassan Baig said, "The reports suggesting that the proposed ULB, panchayat, and assembly elections are being deferred by the centre in the name of security reasons. This would be an unfortunate decision by the centre as delaying elections further would

mean depriving people of their constitutional right to choose their representative through a democratic process."

He added, "On one hand, the centre government is claiming that the situation has improved in Jammu and Kashmir since August 2019, and, on the other hand, it expresses its inability to hold polls here, citing that the situation is not conducive to the electoral process."

He demanded New Delhi hold the due polls

in Jammu and Kashmir in order to let democracy and democratic institutions flourish in the region.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir have suffered greatly due to a protracted conflict and bloodshed over the decades. It is now imperative that the residents experience a respite, and only an elected government can usher in this relief. Thus, any further delay in conducting the polls should be averted," he said.



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"An eye for and eye will only make the whole world blind." - Mahatma Gandhi

JINDRAH IMAGES

Bold step to promote tourism

The Government of India has finally given its nod to the proposal of Ladakh tourism department for allowing the overnight stay of foreigners at Hanle and Martsemik and Sko valley in the arid region which is also known as the land of high passes. The bold decision holds great significance for tourism promotion in Ladakh as it would open up new tourism avenues for the region. Till now, Hanle was out of bound for the foreign tourists and only domestic visitors could hold a night stay there. Recently, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Brig (Dr) B D Mishra had taken up the matter for permitting the foreign tourists for night-stay at Hanle with the Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh and sought his intervention. The high-altitude Hanle village has already been notified as a Dark Sky Reserve by the Wildlife Department of the UT Administration of Ladakh. It has been observed in recent times that Dark Sky tourism has seen quite a growth in recent years and the opening Hanle to international tourists will definitely bring a lot of tourism in the region. A dark sky reserve is an area where light pollution is monitored. Basically, there are several restrictions around the reserve where humans are not allowed to have any loud source of light. If one looks at the tourism department's claims, Ladakh had sent a proposal for allowing night stay for foreign tourists at Hanle in view of the promotion of Hanle village as a major astro tourism destination. The UT administration has been persistently following the case with the MHA, Government of India and as a consequence the MHA, in a circular issued on September 14, has considered the proposal of the UT Administration and allowed night stay for foreign tourists at village Hanle in the UT of Ladakh. Hanle is a small village in the Changthang region, approximately 270 km south-east of Leh. Earlier, Hanle only had the Indian Astronomical Observatory. Now, a total area of 1,073 km around Hanle is a dark sky reserve. The UT administration had also sent a proposal for opening up Martsemik and Sko Valley for tourism and trekking in the UT of Ladakh. After persistent follow up, the MHA, in its communication on September 14, has approved the proposal of the UT administration of Ladakh and allowed opening of Martsemik and Sko Valley for tourism and trekking in the UT of Ladakh. There is no denial in fact that Ladakh has strong tourism potential and the economy of the region is solely dependent on tourist's inflow. Both the Central government and the UT administration are closely coordinating to promote tourism in the region for its inclusive development. Such steps will further strengthen the efforts being made in this direction.

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JAGDISH RATTANANI

Four years after the abrogation of Article 370, are winds of change blowing through the Valley, auguring a new era of peace? Recent developments, particularly since the holding of the G-20 Tourism Ministers' meeting in Srinagar in May 2023, seem to indicate the beginning of a new era of peace. One of the aims of the Government of India in holding the meeting in Kashmir was certainly to highlight that normalcy was returning to the Valley.

There has been a remarkable revival of the tourism industry in Kashmir with more than 18 million tourists visiting Jammu and Kashmir in 2022, compared to almost 13 million (including the tourists visiting Ladakh) in 2012. Spurt in tourism has brought in its wake rejuvenation of Jammu and Kashmir's economy, as income from tourism constituted nearly 15 per cent of the State's GDP (SGDP) before it was split into two Union Territories (UTs) Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Nearly 50 per cent of J&K's population is directly or indirectly involved in tourism-related activities.

In addition to agriculture, tourism is the most important sector for income generation and job creation. According to reports by recent visitors to Kashmir signs of economic recovery are visible, not only in Srinagar but also in other parts of the Valley, with the opening of malls in different cities, shops remaining open even after the sun sets, restaurants and hotels doing brisk business, and tourists thronging the Dal Lake area for shikara rides, and visiting picturesque spots away from Srinagar, Sonmarg and Gulmarg. According to the National Sample Survey Report, the unemployment rate dipped to 6.8 per cent in January-March 2023, compared to 8.2 per cent a year ago, while the overall economy, which is heavily agrarian, grew by 8 per cent during 2023.

These indicators seem to suggest that normalcy is returning to Kashmir as people, tired of years of militancy and its adverse effect on their lives, are

now turning to bread and butter issues. To give a further boost to this image of normalcy returning to Kashmir, the first All India Women Cricket Championship was organised in the militancy-hit Doda district in May 2023, in which teams from UP and Hyderabad also participated. These indeed are hopeful signs; but there is no room for hubris. Peace in Srinagar and in other places in the Valley is maintained by the overwhelming presence of security forces.

It may not be out of place to mention here my own experience when I visited Manipur in October, 2017. Everybody warned me against the proposed trip, as Manipur was still under the AFSPA, indicating that matters were far from normal.

But when I landed in Imphal on a sunny day, I was pleasantly surprised to find that the city was bristling with activities. We visited a number of places within the city, and also places far away from the city, including the INA Museum and the Lok Tak Lake, and everywhere people were extremely courteous and cooperative.

Manipuri women claimed that they did not like the idea of being dependent on their men folk, and that they were competent enough to take decisions on their own, even in economic and business matters, which was amply demonstrated by the functioning of the

all-women market in Imphal. What other proof was needed to show that Manipur was

in peace? But the overwhelming presence of security personnel - the Army, the Assam Rifles, the CRPF, and the local police forces - in the city and other places made me realise that things were far from normal.

The hotel where we stayed was right in the middle of the city; nevertheless we were advised not to go out in the evening, as Imphal was not safe for visitors (and even for locals) in the evening, because 'rebels' often kidnapped people for huge ransoms. Who were these 'rebels'? After some cajoling came the reply: the tribals living in the hilly areas, apparently referring to the Kukis and

the Nagas. Any perceptive observer visiting Manipur could discern that there were latent conflicts in Manipur between the Kukis and the Nagas, between the Kukis and the Meiteis, the dominant ethnic group who live in the Valley, and between the Nagas and the Meiteis, and occasionally these latent conflicts erupted into violence.

These conflicts were being 'managed' by maintaining a delicate balance between and among the different stakeholders to sustain peace in the State. But this was a fragile peace as has been proved by the sudden out-break of violence in May 2023, which is still continuing.

Violence was triggered by an order issued by a Bench of the Manipur High Court, headed by the Acting Chief Justice, in April, 2023, in response to a petition submitted by some members of the Meitei Tribe Union (MTU). The High Court directed the Manipur government to consider the case of the petitioners for inclusion of the Meitei community in the ST list under Article 342 of the Indian

Constitution favourably, and write to the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, within a month to recommend such inclusion. The Kukis responded to this order violently which was matched by an equally violent response from the Meiteis. If one goes by the example of Manipur, one may argue that the current peace in the Kashmir Valley may also turn out to be a fragile one and a single misstep by the government at the Centre as J&K is being directly ruled by New Delhi since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 for gaining political dividend, may change the scenario. Take, for example, the three Bills introduced in the Lok Sabha 26 July 2023 relating to Jammu and Kashmir.

The first of these - the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill 2023 introduced by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs - seeks to ensure reservation for Paharis in government jobs and has triggered protests by the Gujar community.

When the Union government had started the process of

adding the 'Pahari Ethnic Group' to J&K's ST list, existing STs, particularly members of the Gujar and the Bakarwal communities, opposed it on the ground that it would allow economically advanced groups to take advantage of reservations, and that opposition has not ceased. The Gujjars have now come out on the streets protesting against the move and plan to intensify their struggle, unless the Centre relents. They call it a move by the BJP as a part of its electoral politics, to win support of the Pahari community, while the latter has welcomed the move.

It is important to note that Rajouri and Baramulla, along the LoC, are dominated by the Gujjars and Pahari speaking people, who play a significant role in the Assembly and Parliamentary elections in J&K. In the past, both these communities supported the National Conference (NC) and the PDP; the BJP's move to court the favour of these communities was certainly influenced by considerations of electoral gains.

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) chief and the former Chief Minister of Punjab, S S Badal, has now come out with the demand that two assembly seats be reserved for Sikhs in Jammu and Kashmir. Another Bill has also been introduced in the Lok Sabha the J&K Reorganisation Amendment (2023) Bill - that seeks to provide reservation of seats for Kashmiri Pandits and

migrants from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK). It has been opposed by the non-BJP political parties. Home Minister Amit Shah while touring crisis-hit Manipur toward the end of May, had said that the Manipur High Court's order on ST status for the Meiteis was 'given in a hurry'. Has the Centre also not acted in a hurry while introducing the J&K Reorganisation Amendment (2023) Bill in Parliament at a time when the Apex Court is considering a bunch of petitions filed by the CPI (M) and several others challenging the validity of the J&K Reorganisation Act of 2019?

Within a few months of winning the parliamentary elec-

tions in May 2019, the BJP-led central government abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution that gave a semi-autonomous status to the State of J&K, along with Article 35A that gave the State Constituent Assembly the power to decide who would be considered the 'permanent residents' of J&K, as they would enjoy certain rights in the matter of owning land, getting government jobs, gaining admission to government educational institutions and educational scholarships etc., denied to those from other states of India who might be residing in J&K. Article 35A was included in the Constitution to enable the 'permanent residents' of J&K to maintain their separate identity - while being a part of the Indian state. (Incidentally, similar provisions have also been included for the States in India's north-east under Article 371.) Article 370 was abrogated by using a questionable legal process; since the State Assembly was dissolved earlier, there was no mechanism available for ascertaining the will of the people. To suppress opposition, thousands of arrests were made, including arrests of political leaders, most of whom were released by 2021-22; internet services were banned and J&K became virtually a 'police state'.

The government worked overtime to prove that peace had been restored in Kashmir; but the reality was different as nearly 78,000 paramilitary forces were deployed in J&K, in addition to the local police. Contrary to the government's claim that there had been no incidence of violence in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 on 5 August 2019, India Today TV reported on 10 October that in encounters with militants after 5 August, at least 10 militants had been killed, and in stone-pelting incidents some 100 paramilitary jawans had been injured. This information was sourced from a document that was prepared for internal use by the paramilitary forces. (The writer is Professor (Retd.) of International Relations, and a former Dean, Faculty of Arts, Jadavpur University)

Queen of crime's little grey cells

ANWESHA SANTRA

October is just a stone's throw away, and with the spooky season looming around the corner, there's one surefire way to usher in spooking vibes a good old-fashioned murder mystery. So, when it comes to the maestro of the genre, none other than Agatha Christie reigns supreme. Kenneth Branagh is once again gracing the silver screen resuming his role as the mustachioed Belgian sleuth in A Haunting in Venice, which has already hit the theatres. This cinematic venture has drawn inspiration from Christie's literary masterpiece, Halloween Party. However, for those of us who have diligently followed the queen of crime, it's a tad disheartening that the film merely tips its hat to Halloween Party, rather than fully immersing us in Christie's intricate storyline.

Ah, that memorable moment when I first dipped my literary toes into the tantalising waters of Halloween Party! I was a mere 14-year-old, my mind still abuzz from the whirlwind of Murder on the Orient Express, a Christie masterpiece I had devoured just a week prior. As I voraciously searched for another hit of that enchanting Christie sorcery, little did I know that Halloween Party would be the rabbit hole that would plunge me headlong into a world of perplexing puzzles, devious culprits and tea cups filled with suspense.

To tell the story during a Halloween party, Joyce, a

rather pugnacious 13-year-old, boldly claims to have been a witness to a murder. However, her unsettling revelation is met with scepticism, and she departs the party in a huff. Astonishingly, within a matter of hours, her lifeless body is discovered within the same house, submerged in an apple-bobbing tub. As the night descends, Hercule Poirot is summoned to unearth the enigmatic "evil presence" lurking in the shadows. But, before he can tread further, he must ascertain whether he's in pursuit of a lone murderer or the elusive spectre of a double homicide. The game of mystery, my dear readers, is afoot.

Oh, the sweet addiction of Christie's convoluted plots, each page turned, a step deeper into her enthralling and ever-murky universe!

Agatha Christie was born in the coastal town of Torquay, nestled in the heart of Devon, England, in 1890. Christie's youth was a splendid cocktail of adventure and independence. She accompanied her mother on journeys that spanned continents, embarking on explorations of exotic locales, most notably Egypt, where her fascination with archaeology and ancient civilisations took root. Little did anyone know that these sands of intrigue would become the rich threads woven into the intricate tapestry of her novels, creating such masterpieces as Death on the Nile and Murder in Mesopotamia.

What might surprise many is that her very first novel, The

Mysterious Affair at Styles, did not grace the shelves until 1920, when she had gracefully stepped into her thirties. This groundbreaking work introduced readers to the razor-sharp Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot. Christie's narrative style was a departure from the prevailing trends of her time. Eschewing the graphic violence and explicit sensuality prevalent in contemporaneous crime fiction, she excelled in crafting deft plot twists, ensuring that readers remained enthralled until the final page.

Famed for her artful persuasion and skilful deceit, Christie employed clever stratagems to beguile and manoeuvre her characters. Despite her astuteness, misleading hints and a calculated absence of sentiment, Agatha Christie brought into play the notion of deception and a distinctive literary approach to captivate her readers, skilfully engaging their minds. Christie's oeuvre boasts a diverse cast of detectives, each with their own unique quirks and investigative methods. Whether it be the fastidious Poirot, the brilliant Miss Marple, the shrewd duo of Tommy and Tuppence or the "heart specialist" Parker Pyne, Christie's creations are a testament to her ability to breathe life into her characters, making them as integral to the stories as the mysteries themselves.

Christie's novels are veritable playgrounds for the exploration of human psychology. The psychological aspects of people are thoroughly explored in her

books. With an acute understanding of the complexities and subtleties of the human mind, Christie adeptly weaves psychological themes into her stories, stitching an embroidery of motivations, behaviours and emotions that give her characters and plots depth and authenticity.

Christie's vivid depiction of the human psyche under duress is one of her finest contributions to the genre. Her characters, often thrust into highstakes situations, battle with dread, suspicion and paranoia, offering an intriguing window into the varied

ways people react under stress. Furthermore, Christie masterfully explores the concept of unreliable narration, a technique that hinges on the idea that characters' perceptions and memories can be fallible or manipulated. This injects an element of doubt and complexity into her narratives, leaving readers questioning the reliability of the information presented. It's a brilliant device that not only challenges the reader's own deductive skills but also mirrors the uncertainties that exist within the human mind. Christie also delves into the realms of motive and behaviour, often scrutinising the darker aspects of human nature. Her characters, whether driven by greed, jealousy or vengeance, serve as microcosms of the broader spectrum of human motivations. By dissecting these impulses, Christie sheds light on the sinuous interplay of

desires and fears that shape human actions.

Furthermore, Christie's portrayal of characters unveils the nuances of their traits and idiosyncrasies, offering a glimpse into how specific psychological profiles shape their interactions and judgements. The unique methodologies employed by each detective in unravelling mysteries, ranging from Hercule Poirot's methodical techniques to Miss

Marple's keen observation, serve as a testament to Christie's profound comprehension of human behaviour.

Deceit is a cornerstone of Christie's narrative arsenal, wielded with a masterful touch to create layers of complexity within her mysteries. One of her signature techniques involves the artful deployment of red herrings. These misleading clues and false leads are strategically scattered throughout the narrative landscape, diverting attention away from the true culprit. Christie's characters themselves are often skilled practitioners of deceit. Motives are shrouded in secrecy, alibis are carefully constructed and identities are concealed. This dance of subterfuge and revelation adds depth to the psychological interplay between characters, reflecting the complex web of human relationships.

In the realm of crime literature, Agatha Christie stands as a luminary, her legacy woven with the threads of ingenious plotting, Daedalian psychology and masterful deception.



# Taiwan launches its first domestically made submarine for testing

Kaohsiung (Taiwan), Sep 28

The leader of Spain's conservatives failed Wednesday in his long-shot first bid to become the country's next prime minister when he fell short of the votes he needed in the Spanish parliament to form a government.

Taiwan's president launched the island's first domestically made submarine for testing Thursday at a port in Kaohsiung.

The submarine, if successful in its tests, will be a major breakthrough for Taiwan in shipbuilding and design.

"In the past, a domestic-made submarine was considered impossible, but today a submarine designed and built by our countrymen is in front of you," President Tsai Ing-wen said at the launch ceremony.

"Building a submarine is the concrete realization of our resolution to protect our country. Submarines are an important piece of equipment for the Taiwan navy to develop asymmetric combat power in terms of strategy and tactics," she said.

The US has been pushing Taiwan to develop asymmetric warfare strategies by investing in

smaller and lighter weapons such as the reduced-size submarine.

The process was "torturous," said Cheng Wen-lon, head of Taiwan's CSBC Corp, which led the construction of the submarine.

"Although we have worked quietly during the past several years, it doesn't mean the process was very smooth," he said at the ceremony held in CSBC's shipyard.

After seven years of design and construction, the prototype will begin tests in the harbour before heading to the ocean.

The submarine is named Hai Kun after a fish in Chinese mythology called kun with legendary proportions.

It will only be handed over to the military after passing both its harbour and ocean-faring tests. Taiwan plans to build another submarine if successful, with both to be deployed by 2027, according to the semi-official Central News Agency.

Taiwan began the expensive and time-consuming task of building its own submarines after Beijing prevented it from purchasing such craft from abroad through the use of economic and diplomatic threats.

In recent years, China has stepped up its military exercises aimed at the island, sending fighter jets and navy vessels to patrol and hold drills in the waters and skies near Taiwan.

China's Defense Ministry said on Thursday that the submarine's construction was Taiwan "heading down the path of its own destruction".

"No matter how many weapons the Democratic Progressive Party buys, it will not obstruct the greater trend of reunification with the motherland," said Col Wu Qian, a spokesperson in China's Ministry of National Defence.

He described the Chinese military's recent live-fire exercises near Taiwan as routine drills that are part of its annual plan. They tested troop effectiveness and joint-operation capabilities with different weapons and among different branches, Wu said at a monthly news conference.

In attendance at the ceremony were the heads of the US de facto embassy, Sandra Oudkirk, and the Japanese and South Korean trade delegations based in Taiwan.

# Ramaswamy calls for ending birthright citizenship in 2nd Republican debate

WASHINGTON, SEPT 28

At the second Republican presidential debate, Indian-American aspirant Vivek Ramaswamy said that he favours stripping birthright citizenship for the children of illegal immigrants.

Seven Republican candidates clashed at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in California on Wednesday night where Ramaswamy was asked "what legal premise" he would use to expel undocumented immigrants and their US-born children from the country. "I favour ending birthright citizenship for the kids of illegal immigrants in this country," the biotech entrepreneur told Univision host Ilija Calderon.

Born to immigrant parents from India, the 38-year-old said that the children of undocumented immigrants born in the country are not entitled to



US citizenship as their parents "broke the law" to be in the country. Asserting that he has "read" the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, Ramaswamy said stating from it that "all persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the laws and jurisdiction thereof are citizens".

Ramaswamy's views corresponded with fellow Republican candidate and former President Donald Trump who vowed to end

birthright citizenship for children of unauthorised immigrants if he wins the 2024 election.

"My policy will choke off a major incentive for continued illegal immigration, deter more migrants from coming and encourage many of the aliens Joe Biden has unlawfully let into our country to go back to their home countries. They must go back," Trump had said in a video message in May this year. He had also brought up the issue while he was in

office. In 2018, Trump said he planned to issue an executive order that would end the automatic grant of citizenship to those born in this country to non-citizens.

Besides the US, Canada and Mexico also offer birthright citizenship. During the debate, Ramaswamy also termed transgender as a "mental health disorder" while responding to a question about parental notification about their children's gender identities.

Hosted by the Fox Business Network and Univision, the debate was skipped by Trump and saw participation from Ramaswamy, former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

South Carolina Senator Tim Scott, former Vice President Mike Pence, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum.

# Pakistan's anti-graft body all set to reopen 4 graft cases Nawaz Sharif ahead of his return to country

LAHORE, SEP 28

Pakistan's anti-graft body is reopening at least four corruption cases against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif as he is scheduled to return to the country next month, ending four years of self-exile in the United Kingdom, an official said Thursday.

The 73-year-old Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo is scheduled to return to Pakistan from London on October 21 to lead the party's election campaign. Nawaz left the country in November 2019 on medical grounds after the Lahore High Court granted him bail for four weeks.

He was serving a seven-year imprisonment in the Al-Azizia Mills corruption case at Kot Lakhpat Jail Lahore.

On arrival in Lahore, his party says he will address a rally at Minar-i-Pakistan where he will give a road map to steer the country out of the economic crisis, governance problems and other issues the country is facing today.

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in the light of a Supreme Court ruling which struck down amendments made to the accountability laws by the previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government led by Nawaz's younger brother Shehbaz Sharif, is reopening the four

pending probes against Nawaz.

The cases are related to illegal plots and land allotment, dubious transfer of shares of his sugar mills and Toshakhana (national treasury gifts).

"Nawaz Sharif being chief minister of Punjab province in 1986 had allotted plots in Lahore to several people by misusing his authority.

He is accused of illegal construction of several kilometres of road to his house in Jati Umra Raiwind, Lahore, in 1998 when he was prime minister in violation of rules.

"The third case is related to the transfer of shares in 'illegal' manners in the Chaudhry Sugar Mills case which is owned by Nawaz Sharif and his family members.

In this case, his daughter Maryam Nawaz is also accused of being a major beneficiary," an official privy to the development told PTI on Thursday.

The fourth is related to the Toshakhana case in which he is accused of taking luxurious vehicles from the national treasury in violation of rules, he said.

Besides these cases, Nawaz will have to face the case related to his conviction.

Meanwhile, Nawaz's close aide and senior PML-N leader Mian Javed Latif said the party has stopped "demanding accountability of former army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and former ISI head Gen Faiz

Hameed" for conspiring against Nawaz to topple his government in 2017.

"The PML-N doesn't want accountability of Gen Bajwa and Gen Hameed but only those characters and facilitators involved in May 9 events and mutiny against the head (Army Chief Gen Asim Munir) of the institution," he said.

Latif was referring to attacks on military installations following the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan in May.

On September 18, Nawaz demanded "strict accountability" of Gen Bajwa, Gen Hameed and chief justices — Asif Khosa and Saqib Nisar — while addressing the party's ticket holders in Lahore via video link from London.

He had hinted at trying them under treason charges if his party returned to power in the upcoming elections, scheduled early next year.

Nawaz's demand for strict accountability left many in the party in a precarious position as the leaders became wary of a possible backlash from the military establishment if he continued with such statements.

Sources told PTI that Nawaz backtracked from demanding accountability of army generals after a "strong message" was conveyed to him through his younger brother Shehbaz Sharif.

WASHINGTON, SEPT 28

At the second Republican presidential debate, Indian-origin candidates Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy did not mince words when it came to attacking each other, with the former South Carolina Governor telling the tech entrepreneur that "every time I hear you, I feel a little bit dumber".

The debate on Wednesday night took place at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, and was hosted by the Fox Business Network and Univision.

Besides Haley and Ramaswamy, the other participating candidates were Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, South Carolina Senator Tim Scott, former Vice President Mike Pence, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum.

While former President Donald Trump skipped the debate this time as well, former Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, who



appeared in the first Republican presidential primary debate on August 23, did not meet the heightened polling and fundraising standards for Wednesday's event. The 38-year-old Ramaswamy irked Haley, 51, by defending his collaboration on Chinese short-video-making app TikTok with influencer Jake Paul, reports The New York Post.

"There's exactly one person in the Republican Party which talks a big game about reaching young people, and that's me," the 38-year-old Indian-origin boasted.

When it was her turn, Haley fired back and said: "TikTok is one of the most dangerous social media assets that we could have... Honestly, every time I hear you I feel a little bit dumber."

She also touched on the national security concerns surrounding TikTok and referenced its historical ties to the Chinese Communist Party.

In his reply, Ramaswamy said: "We will be better served as a Republican Party if we're not sitting here hurling personal insults and actually have a legitimate debate about policy."

Even during the first Republican presidential primary debate on August 23, Haley had criticised Ramaswamy taking aim at his foreign policy views.

Meanwhile, some of the other participating candidates also took aim at the tech entrepreneur, who is the youngest among them all, reports The New York Post.

Senator Scott said: "Vivek just said we were all good people, and I appreciate that. Because last debate, he said we were all bought and paid for. I thought about that for a little while.

"I can't imagine how you could say that, knowing that you are just in business with the Chinese Communist Party and the same people that funded Hunter Biden millions of dollars was a partner of yours as well." Former Vice President Pence also slammed Ramaswamy's resistance to military aid to war-torn Ukraine.

Ramaswamy is currently polling in fourth place in the latest RealClearPolitics aggregate of the 2024 Republican pack.

# Israel's High Court hears challenge to law that makes it harder to remove Netanyahu from office

Jerusalem, Sep 28

Israel's Supreme Court on Thursday was hearing a challenge to a law that makes it harder to remove a sitting prime minister, which critics say is designed to protect Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who has been working to reshape the justice system while he is on trial for alleged corruption.

The hearing is part of several pivotal court challenges against a proposed package of legislation and government steps meant to alter the country's justice system. It comes after months of turmoil in Israel over the plan and deepens a rift between Netanyahu's government and the judiciary, which it wants to weaken despite unprecedented opposition.

Thursday's hearing on the law, the second by the High Court, took place in front of an expanded 11-judge panel, underscoring the importance of the deliberations.

Netanyahu's governing coalition - Israel's most religious and nationalist ever - passed an amendment known as the "incapacitation law" in March which allows a prime minister to be deemed unfit to rule only for medical or mental health reasons. Under the amendment, only the prime minister or the government has the power to determine a leader's unfitness.

The previous version of the law was vague about both the circumstances in which a prime minister could be deemed unfit,

as well as who had the authority to declare it. But experts say the amendment expressly strips the attorney general, who historically wields the power to declare a prime minister unfit for office, of the ability to do so.

Critics say the law protects Netanyahu from being deemed unfit for office over claims that he violated a conflict of interest agreement by dealing with the legal overhaul while on trial for corruption charges. They also say the law is tailor-made for Netanyahu and encourages corruption.

Based on those criticisms, Thursday's hearing is focusing on whether the law should come into effect after the next national elections and not immediately, so that it isn't interpreted as a personalised law. A ruling is expected by January.

"We are trying to repeal the undemocratic and unconstitutional statute which allowed an unfit and improper prime minister to remain in his position. Actually, they built him a kind of a golden cage (so) that he will be protected from justice," said Eliad Shraga, chairman of the Movement for Quality Government in Israel, one of the groups that is challenging the amendment.

Ahead of the hearing, dozens of protesters gathered outside Netanyahu's private residence in Jerusalem, chanting "democracy", while his allies defended the law. Simcha Rothman, a main driver of the overhaul, told Israeli Army Radio that the court's decision to hear the case was harmful to Israeli democracy and challenging the law was akin to throwing out the results of a legitimate election.

"The moment the court determines the laws, then it is also the legislative branch, the judiciary and the executive branch," he said. "This is an undemocratic reality."

The government wants to weaken the Supreme Court and limit judicial oversight on its decisions, saying it wants to return power to elected lawmakers and away from what it sees as a liberal-leaning, interventionist justice system. The first major piece of the overhaul was passed in July and an unprecedented 15-judge panel began hearing arguments against it earlier this month.

The drive to reshape Israel's justice system comes as Netanyahu's trial for alleged corruption is ongoing. He is charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in three separate cases involving influential media moguls and wealthy associates. He denies wrongdoing, seeing the charges as part of a "witch-hunt" against him orchestrated by a hostile media and a biased justice system. Experts and legal officials say a conflict of interest arrangement struck after Netanyahu was indicted is meant to limit his involvement in judicial changes. After the incapacitation law was passed, Netanyahu said his hands were no longer tied and that he was taking a more active role in the legal changes underway.

# Who is Commander? President Biden's dog linked to 11th biting incident

WASHINGTON, SEPT 28

President Joe Biden's 2-year-old German Shepherd, Commander, was involved in another biting incident at the White House on Monday evening. This marks the 11th known biting episode linked to the young purebred German Shepherd. The victim in this instance was a female officer from the Uniformed Division, who received medical treatment from the White House medical office. Commander's history of biting incidents includes occurrences both at the White House and in Delaware. The recent incident highlights an ongoing issue. The conservative

group Judicial Watch revealed in July that Commander had an involvement in nearly a dozen biting incidents. These records come through a Freedom of Information lawsuit.

One email from the disclosed records detailed an incident in November 2022 where a Secret Service officer had to seek medical attention after Commander reportedly bit the officer's arm and thighs. In another incident from October 2022, Commander charged at a Secret Service staffer, and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden reportedly struggled to regain control of the dog. Commander joined the Biden family

at the White House in December 2021, following the passing of their previous German Shepherd, Champ, in June 2021. Commander is the third dog to reside at the White House during President Biden's term, alongside Major. In addition to their dogs, the Bidens also have a cat named Willow. Elizabeth Alexander, the communications director for First Lady Jill Biden, acknowledged that the White House environment can be stressful for family pets. She expressed the Bidens' gratitude to the Secret Service and executive residence staff for their efforts in maintaining safety for the first family and the nation.

# US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's Musical Performance Wows Netizens

WASHINGTON, SEPT 28

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's recent social media post pleasantly surprised netizens by revealing his hidden musical talent.

During the launch of the Global Music Diplomacy Initiative on September 27, Blinken showcased his musical side by singing and playing the guitar, performing the iconic 1954 song 'Hoochie Coochie Man.' He shared this video on the X platform, which has since gained widespread attention and admiration.

In a unique move, Blinken turned to the music of American blues legend Muddy Waters to kickstart a worldwide initiative that seeks to harness the power of music as a diplomatic tool for advancing peace and democracy. The heartfelt rendition of 'Hoochie Coochie Man' at the State Department captured the



essence of this initiative.

The Global Music Diplomacy Initiative, as outlined in a fact sheet by the US Department of State, aligns with broader US foreign policy objectives. It aims to foster an ecosystem where music not only thrives but also contributes to economic equity, bolsters the creative economy, promotes societal inclu-

sivity and opportunity, and enhances access to education.

Expressing his enthusiasm for the initiative, Blinken took to X (formerly Twitter) to share his sentiments, saying, "I couldn't pass up tonight's opportunity to combine music and diplomacy. Was a pleasure to launch @StateDept's new Global Music Diplomacy Initiative." He accompanied his message with the video of his musical performance, allowing the public to witness his artistic side.

The video of Antony Blinken's impromptu musical performance has since gone viral on social media, earning the admiration and warm-hearted comments of netizens.

His unexpected musical talent and the unique approach to diplomacy have endeared him to many, marking an innovative step in the realm of international relations.



## We'll be the ones to beat at Asian Games India compound archery coach Sergio Pagni



New Delhi, Sep 28

Boasting three reigning world champions, India's compound archery team will undoubtedly start as favourites and the opponents will be gunning to "beat" the side at the ongoing Asian Games here, said the country's head coach Sergio Pagni.

For the first time, 10 medals will be at stake in archery at the Asian Games with the addition of mixed events in recurve and compound sections.

And going by their dominance at the world level this year, not only will they be firm favourites to finish on the podium in all five events in the compound section.

"Everyone knows what we have achieved this year, not only at the World Championships but throughout the season," Pagni told PTI from SAI Sonapat before the team left for Hangzhou in the early hours of Thursday.

"...We are the ones to beat, and perhaps the only issue is that some teams will be putting extra effort against us.

"However, we know how to handle this kind of pressure and the World Cup in Paris demonstrated that quite well," added the two-time World Cup Final winner.

India had a windfall of medals in the compound section this year which was headlined by 17-year-old Aditi Swami's feat of becoming the youngest-ever senior world champion.

Ojas Deotale also annexed the men's world crown, while the

women's compound team scripted Indian archery's watershed moment with aplomb in Berlin.

The Indian women's team of seasoned Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi and Parneet Kaur dropped just five points between them to beat Mexico in the final.

From the four stages of the World Cup this year, the compound archers have bagged seven gold and four bronze medals.

India have also won one silver (Prathamesh Jawkar) in the World Cup Final and one bronze in the World Games, taking their overall medals tally in the world events to seven gold, one silver and five bronze.

"I don't want to make predictions, it's not my style. This year we brought home about 50 per cent of the gold medals from the World Cups and the World Championships. I leave the predictions to other teams," said Pagni.

The coach feels that recurve heavyweights Korea, who are making a rapid improvement in compound section, will be a formidable force while Malaysia are also competitive.

"China is not considered very strong, but Korea has had excellent results in recent years. This year we have outperformed them in all competitions, but they remain formidable opponents, our real opponent on the field," Pagni said.

"Malaysia have also produced excellent results this year, but certainly our results at the world

stage make us the one to beat," the Italian reiterated.

The team had a month-long camp at SAI Sonapat and Pagni is happy with the way things have panned out.

"The preparation has gone exactly as I had planned, we have had no injuries and that's a great thing," he said.

"From a physical and technical perspective, the athletes have worked very hard and have stood out in their commitments on and off the field. No changes need to be made, the team is in a great condition."

The only setback came in the World Cup Final in Hermosillo, Mexico earlier this month, India had four competitors in the compound section but returned with only a silver.

Blaming it on jet lag, Pagni said it was not a setback and the performance there would not affect them much at the Asian Games.

"I don't think this will influence our athletes very much. The competition in Mexico was a particularly unusual Final with very hot weather and a late-night schedule under artificial lights," he said.

"The athletes had some difficulties due to jet lag, which was challenging to recover from in just two days but they still achieved good results. The entire team is focused on moving forward and is not dwelling on competitions that didn't go well."

The 44-year-old took charge of the Indian team in December and his contract is up for renewal after the Asian Games.

Thanking the Archery Association of India (AAI), Pagni said he's "available" for a short-term contract.

"The support the federation has given me during this project has been great, a competent staff, excellent equipment and facilities, and a great pool of athletes.

"For the next year, I have individual projects and have already expressed my availability to the federation, but for shorter periods," he said.

"This year, I must especially thank my family, who made big effort to support me during so many weeks away from home."



Gold medal winning Indian team shooters Sarabjot Singh, Arjun Singh Cheema and Shiva Narwal pose for pictures during presentation ceremony of the men's 10m air pistol event at the 19th Asian Games, in Hangzhou, China.

## I didn't think I would last this long says Virdhawal Khade



Hangzhou, Sep 28

He could not stand on the podium in his fourth Asian Games appearance but former bronze medallist Virdhawal Khade never thought his swimming journey "would last this long".

The 32-year-old Khade competed in 50m freestyle and 50m butterfly events at the Hangzhou Asian Games, finishing 5th and 7th respectively in his heats. He had won a rare Asian Games bronze medal in 2010 in 50m butterfly while missing out on a podium finish by narrow margin in the men's 50m freestyle final in 2018.

"This is my fourth Asian Games. My first was in 2006 Doha where I was a teen.

In 2010 Guangzhou, I won a bronze. And in 2018 Jakarta, I just missed out on a medal," Khade said.

"I started as a junior in the team, now I am the senior most. This is something I am really proud of. In 2006, I would not have thought I would last this long and go on to become an icon

in Indian swimming."

There was a break in his career after 2012. He took up a Maharashtra government job and missed the 2014 Asian Games as he was involved in election-related official work.

"After 2012, I started working with the state government, finding time to train was really difficult. From 2012 to 2018, I must have only two years of good training and that was six years back.

"In a sport like swimming, that makes a big difference. I had to cut out on my events, to focus only on 50m. There were a lot of hurdles in my way. Despite all that, I could train hard and come back to that level.

"A medal would have been great but I was very proud of myself that I could make it happen. 2018 was the fastest year of my life, I got my best time in 50m freestyle and butterfly. I was pretty fast in the 100m freestyle as well. But not having a medal made me a better and tougher person."

Khade, who had thought about quitting the sport during

the COVID-19 lockdown, opted to train without a coach earlier this year but he found it tough.

"I coach myself. It is very different. Earlier this year, when I started doing it, trying to do practice myself, it was very difficult because it so happens that you can't push yourself.

"Every time I wrote down a workout it turned out to be the easiest work-out which can be very easily achieved. A couple of months later I said it is not going to work out."

then asked a friend in Mumbai to prepare his workouts.

"So my best friend who is coaching me right now is Manikumar in Mumbai. I sat with him and I said these are my plans and you need to help me achieve these.

"For him also, it was a big task because coaching a very senior swimmer, not too many coaches in India have that experience and especially at this level. So I told him this is what my body needs. He was the one who was writing the work outs for me.

Khade felt Indian swimming "is going fast enough" and improving.

"Swimming is where good things take a lot of time to happen. Looking back to 2005, it just seemed like different days. At that time, 53 seconds was the national record in 100m. Now we have at least 20 people faster than that. That definitely to me is a big improvement.

"The female swimmers need to catch up a bit, we need to do more. Luckily, we have a few girls who made it to the team of the Asian Games which is the first time since 2006. So girls need more help."

## Shakib Al Hasan hints at retirement after 2025 ICC Champions Trophy

DHAKA, SEP 28

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan wants to call time on his illustrious international career after the 2025 Champions Trophy in Pakistan.

He has also asserted that while he plans to retire from Tests following the forthcoming ICC Cricket World Cup in India starting next month, he is also likely to quit T20Is after the ICC T20 World Cup next year in West Indies and the United States of America.

Talking to T-Sports, as reported by ESPNcricinfo, Shakib said, "The 2025 Champions Trophy for ODIs and the 2024 T20 World Cup for T20Is. Tests may be sooner. Maybe (after the World Cup)."

"I will retire all at once, but I will stop playing each format one by one. I will announce my retirement after the 2025 Champions Trophy." Shakib will be leading Bangladesh during the World Cup, having also captained the side during the Asia Cup earlier this month in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

It was his second stint as the unit's leader. Under him, the



Tigers did make it to the Super 4 of the Asia Cup, but failed to make it to the final.

In the meantime, Shakib has confirmed that his outing in the upcoming World Cup will be his last as the skipper and will be quitting captaincy as a whole.

"Given the current reality, I am captain only till the World Cup. Not a day more."

"I resigned from the captaincy on the 17th [of September]. The reasons were the same when I didn't want to captain ahead of the Asia

Cup." "I don't think my captaincy is adding value at this stage of my career. I wanted to just bowl my 10 overs, give my best in fielding, and do my batting."

"The easiest thing to do for me would have been not to take the captaincy. At this age, I didn't want to take this pressure. I want to smile, enjoy my game, perform for Bangladesh," he added.

Bangladesh take on Afghanistan in its opening fixture of the World Cup on October 7 in Dharamsala.

## Indian men's 10m air pistol team strikes gold at Asian Games Sarabjot fumbles in finals

HANGZHOU, SEP 28

The men's 10m air pistol team extended India's impressive show at the Asian Games by shooting another gold but individual success eluded Sarabjot Singh and Arjun Singh Cheema, who fizzled out in the final here Thursday.

The team of Sarabjot, Cheema and Shiva Narwal narrowly beat the Chinese team to take the top podium, earning India's fourth gold medal from the shooting ranges. With Thursday's success, Indian shooters have so far won four gold, four silver and five bronze medals.

The Indian trio's aggregate score of 1734 was just one better than the Chinese team, which settled for the silver medal, while Vietnam, with a score of 1730, bagged the bronze. Sarabjot and Arjun also made it

to the eight-shooter individual finals but finished fourth and eighth respectively.

Vietnam's Pham Quang Huy won gold with a score of 240.5, while South Korea's Lee Wonho (239.4) and Uzbekistan's Vladimir Svechnikov (219.9) took the silver and bronze, respectively.

Sarabjot, 21, scored 199, while Arjun ended up eighth and last, exiting on the second elimination shot.

It was another fruitful day for Indian shooters, with Sarabjot, who will be celebrating his 22nd birthday on Saturday, giving himself an early birthday gift as he led the air pistol trio to team gold, scoring 580 in the qualification round, while Cheema shot 578 and Narwal amassed 576 to aggregate 1734.

In the qualification round, whose aggregate score decides the team

medallists, Sarabjot shot cards of 95, 95, 97, 98, 97 and 98 to aggregate 580 and entered the finals at fifth place.

Team-mate Cheema shot series of 97, 96, 97, 97, 96 and 95 for his 578 to also make the eight-shooter finals, placed eighth.

Shiva Narwal, the younger brother of 2020 Tokyo Paralympic gold medallist in mixed 50m pistol Manish and the third member of the gold-winning team here, could not make it to the individual finals, finishing 14th.

Narwal shot a series of 92, 96, 97, 99, 97 and 95 for his 576.

This was the third team gold at the shooting ranges here after the 10m air rifle top-podium finish and women's 25-metre pistol gold.

A jubilant Cheema said the team medal was the result of extensive training together.

## Six feet nine inches tall net bowler Nishanth Saranu stands out in Pakistan training session



Hyderabad, Sep 28

Hyderabad U-19 pacer Nishanth Saranu, who stands at six feet nine inches, attracted a lot of attention in Pakistan's opening net session ahead of the World Cup here on Thursday.

Nishanth, who is in his second year of U-19 cricket, was among the host of net bowlers at Pakistan's team disposal after it turned up for training 12 hours after a high-profile arrival in the city.

Pakistan will face New Zealand in a World Cup warm-

up fixture here on Friday.

After Haris Rauf and Shaheen Afridi were done with their spells, Pakistan support staff including bowling coach Morne Morkel chose Nishanth from a clutch of net bowlers who were anxiously waiting for their turn.

Bowling in the range of 140-150 kmph comes naturally to Pakistani bowlers including Rauf and Shaheen, therefore the young Hyderabad pacer was asked to ramp up his pace significantly.

In fact, that was the feedback they gave to all the pacers pres-

ent in the nets.

Nishanth bowled to tail-enders barring opener Fakhar Zaman who thought the kid could go places if he increased his pace to complement the bounce he generates, courtesy his tall frame. "I currently can bowl up to 125-130 kmph. Morkel (Morkel) sir asked me to increase my pace. He also inquired if I would be available to bowl at the nets of IPL franchise Lucknow Super Giants," said Nishanth, who idolises the Australian pace duo of Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins.

Morkel is also part of the support staff at LSG.

Nishanth is not new to bowling to international batters. Ahead of the India-New Zealand ODI here, Nishanth was called for duty and later posted a picture with batter Glenn Phillips.

With Pakistan to stay in the city for almost two weeks, Nishanth will get multiple opportunities to bowl and he is hoping for a brighter future.

"My aim is to have a career in both white and red ball cricket. So, the immediate goal is to represent Hyderabad at the first-class level," he added.

## SA skipper Bavuma returns home due to personal reasons ahead of warm-up games

Thiruvananthapuram, Sep 28

South Africa suffered a setback on Thursday with their ODI skipper Temba Bavuma returning home from India due to personal reasons ahead of the side's two warm-up games of the ICC

Cricket World Cup.

The Proteas are scheduled to take on Afghanistan and New Zealand in their first and second warm-up games on here September 29 and October 2 respectively. As per an update on South Africa cricket's social

media handles, Bavuma has returned to South Africa due to personal reasons. T20I captain Aiden Markram will be leading the side in the two warm-up clashes in absence of Bavuma, who is likely to rejoin the team ahead of their opening game.



## Major Pune mandals like Dagadusheth Halwai others complete idol immersion by late evening



PUNE, SEP 28

The renowned Shrimant Dagadusheth Halwai Ganapati Mandal in Pune on Thursday broke its tradition of joining the immersion procession in Maharashtra's second largest city post midnight by starting the process in the afternoon and immersing the idol by 9pm.

Incidentally, this year, the Pune police had asked all organisers to complete the procession and immersions quickly.

The Shrimant Dagadusheth Halwai Ganesh Mandal, Bhau

Rangari Ganesh Mandal, Akhil Mandai Ganesh Mandal and other key mandals traditionally join the procession post midnight and their idols get immersed in the early hours of the day after Anant Chaturdashi.

Mahesh Suryawanshi, a trustee of the Shrimant Dagadusheth Halwai Ganapati Temple Trust, said they joined the procession at 4pm and the idol was immersed by 8:50pm.

Idols of the 'five manache Ganapati mandals' of the city were immersed through the

evening amid huge crowds, beating of drums and traditional fervour that steady rains could not dampen.

Earlier in the day, processions of the city's five most prominent mandals - Kasba Ganpati, Tambadi Jogeswari, Gurji Talim, Tulshi Baug and Kesariwada - started with much fanfare as devotees played drums and chanted 'Ganapati Bappa Morya, Pudhya Varshi Lavkar Ya', (Hail Lord Ganesh, come back soon next year).

A number of celebrities from Marathi cinema were also seen trying their hands on dhol-tasha, the traditional percussion instruments, during a procession on Laxmi Road, the main route of the immersion processions.

More than 7,000 police personnel, officers, and home guards were deployed to ensure the procession and immersions went off without any untoward incident.

Bomb Detection and Disposal Squads (BDDS), Quick Response Teams (QRTs) and dog squads were stationed at various spots en route, as per police.

There are 3,865 Ganesh mandals in Pune, while 6,14,257 idols of Lord Ganesh were installed in homes in Pune.

## Mamata says past injuries continue to dog her but she doesn't let pain affect work

Kolkata, Sep 28

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said the various injuries she has received during her long political career of protests often surface, but she never allows "the pain to come in the way of work".

Banerjee, who was addressing the 'TV9 Bangla Nakshatra Samman' virtually here on Wednesday, said the recipients of the award have made the state proud with their achievements.

"I withstood many physical injuries in 34 years of political life during which I was attacked many a time. These wounds often create problems as the pain revives. But I never let the pain come in the way of my work," she said in a telephonic interview to the news channel.

The chief minister has been advised to take rest for 10 days by doctors after various old injuries caused her problems during her recent two-nation official tour.

Eminent personalities, including painter Jogen Choudhury, writer Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay, poet Joy Goswami, classical vocalist Ajay



Chakraborty, elocutionists Jagannath Basu and Urmimala Basu, magician PC Sorcar Junior and NASA scientist Amitava Ghosh, were bestowed with the 'Nakshatra Samman' for their contribution in respective fields.

The celebrated 70-year-old poet, Goswami, revealed that he still hunts for the right words and expressions every time he writes despite having started as early as 11.

Scientist Ghosh said the recent Chandrayaan 3 success has enhanced the country's standing, and most members of the global scientific community were happy with the work done by their Indian colleagues as this would help India move towards more missions to different planets, including the Venus.

The world is now on the cusp of an EV revolution, and in 10 years, electric vehicles will be everywhere, he said.



Indian Youth Congress (IYC) President Srinivas BV with IYC workers garlands a statue of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh on his birth anniversary at Shaheedi Park, in New Delhi.

## Vegan leather made from agro-waste introduced as alternative to synthetic leather at CSIR exhibition NIIST

New Delhi, Sep 28

Vegan leather made from agricultural waste like mango peel, banana stem and corn husk has been developed to provide an industry-ready alternative to animal and synthetic leather, the NIIST said.

The innovative technology for making vegan leather was displayed at the foundation day of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) at Pragati Maidan here.

"The National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) displayed an innovative technology for making vegan leather from agro-residues, providing an industry-ready alternative to animal and synthetic leather in an eco-friendly and cost-effective manner," the NIIST said in a statement.

Thiruvananthapuram-based

NIIST, which developed this technology as part of the year-long 'One Week One Lab' (OWOL) programme, demonstrated it during the two-day CSIR foundation day celebrations which began here on Tuesday.

NIIST, which is the only interdisciplinary lab of CSIR, said it has made synthetic and animal leather alternatives with a huge industrial application from various agricultural residues such as mango peel, banana stem, pineapple waste, cactus, water hyacinth, corn husk, and rice-related waste.

"It has the potential to replace around 30-50 per cent of synthetic chemicals from the existing leather available in the market.

Also, the developed leather sheet costs 50 per cent less than synthetic and animal leather and has a smaller carbon footprint," the statement said. NIIST

Director Dr C Anandharamkrishnan said this developed process will find a good place in the market owing to the urge from the people to find alternatives to animal and synthetic leather.

"Vegan leather has a shelf life of more than three years. It has also shown strong tensile strength, sleek finish, good water retention properties, temperature resistance, and stability compared to other existing synthetic and animal leather," he noted. Though synthetic leather had a booming market valued at over USD 30 billion in 2020 and is likely to hit USD 40 billion in the next six years, there is also a huge environmental hazard associated with leather products and synthetic leather. Also, the production of leather involves toxic chemicals while the processing of leather is highly energy- and water-consuming.

## NCP MLA Rohit Pawar says he got MPCB notice asking him to shut down one unit of Baramati Agro firm

Mumbai, Sep 28

The Sharad Pawar-led NCP on Thursday said the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has issued a notice to party MLA Rohit Pawar, asking him to close down a part of his firm Baramati Agro Ltd.

Rohit Pawar, who is the grand-nephew of Sharad Pawar, is the CEO of Baramati Agro Ltd.

Baramati Agro works in the fields of animal and poultry feed manufacturing, sugar and ethanol manufacturing, co-generation of power, trading of agricultural commodities, fruits and vegetables and dairy products. It has a registered office in Baramati, the hometown of Pawar family.

Taking to 'X', Rohit Pawar said that in the "post-midnight action" carried out at the behest of "two influential leaders" from the state out of "hatred", he received an MPCB notice at 2 am in which he was directed to shut down a unit of his firm.

The 37-year-old MLA representing Karjat-Jamkhed constituency in Ahmednagar district, who celebrates his birthday on Thursday, alleged that the

MPCB's action was politically-motivated because he speaks out and takes a stand on different issues.

"When difficulties come, struggle doesn't stop. I will fight this battle. The uniqueness of Marathi people is that they don't change their stand and loyalty. I want to tell those on whose instance action is being taken against me that I was in business first and then entered politics," he said.

"There are many who joined politics and then became financially very wealthy. You will not get anything out of such actions. The youth doesn't like the politics of hatred and revenge," the legislator added.

Truth was on his side, he said.

"My family and employees of my company need not worry. I thank the government for this birthday gift to me. The youth of the state will surely give a return gift to the government," Pawar said, adding that he will also fight a legal battle against the action.

Meanwhile, Mahesh Tapase, chief spokesperson of the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress

Party (NCP), alleged that the Eknath Shinde government is afraid of Rohit Pawar as he fervently champions the progressive and secular ideals of national leader Sharad Pawar.

"In the dynamic landscape of Maharashtra politics, Rohit Pawar has garnered a substantial following among the youth. Nevertheless, CM Shinde's administration faces serious allegations of wielding administrative machinery for political purposes, obstructing Rohit Pawar's endeavors," he said.

Both NCP MP Supriya Sule and MLA Rohit Pawar have taken a determined stance against aligning with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Even though (NCP leader) Ajit Pawar chose to align with the Shinde government, the BJP appears disheartened by the unwavering strength of the NCP's base still rallying behind Sharad Pawar in Maharashtra, Tapase said.

The recent actions taken against Rohit Pawar's business interests are indicative of the BJP's growing concern over the declining popularity of its government, he said.

## 6 tables to be marked for 'vegetarian food only' in IITB hostel canteen after row over food 'discrimination'



Mumbai, Sep 28

Two months after students raised the issue of alleged food discrimination at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B), its Mess Council has said six tables in a common canteen of three hostels will be designated for "vegetarian food only".

Compliance is crucial, it said, noting that any violation identified by mess team (Council) will attract proper action and imposition of appropriate penalties.

"Such violations will also be considered in disciplinary action, as they disrupt the harmony, we aim to maintain in our dining facilities," said an email sent on Wednesday by the Mess Council to the students of hostels 12, 13 and 14.

Calls and messages to the IIT Bombay administration did not elicit any response.

The email said "some people can't resist the view and smell of non-veg food during their dining" and this may create health

issues as well. "Our primary goal is to ensure that every resident enjoys a very comfortable and pleasant dining experience.

To address this and create a more inclusive environment, it has been decided to designate only six tables exclusively for vegetarian food," the email said.

These tables will be marked clearly with the signage stating, "This place is designated for vegetarian food ONLY," it said.

In July this year, posters stating "vegetarians only are allowed to sit here" were put up on the walls of the canteen of hostel 12 at the prestigious institution, and a photograph of the same went viral on social media.

A section of students had protested against it.

The Ambedkar Phule Periyar Study Circle, a Left-leaning students' body, in a post on X on Wednesday said that first there were "vegetarian only" posters, that the IITB admin had awkwardly termed as "unauthorised", after protest by students.

Then there was an unending delay in removing those.

And now the admin has officially declared some tables in the mess as "for vegetarian food ONLY!", it added.

## When hashtag 'Trevor Noah cancelled his show' became synonymous with peakbengaluru traffic woes



Bengaluru, Sept 28

Although Trevor Noah cancelled his show in Bengaluru reportedly due to sound system glitches, Bengalureans grabbed the moment to add another hashtag to their #peakbengaluru angst stories. From funny memes about the pot-holed roads to while-we-wait-for-cars-to-inch-forward anecdotes, Bengalurians's interesting takes on social media, tagging #Noah, have gone viral.

Incidentally, the unprecedented traffic jam on September 27 on the Outer Ring Road stretch, the lifeline for the tech community living there, resulted in a ripple effect all over the city, causing even the stand-up comedian and former talk show host to be late for his own show.

With only an hour to go, many who were heading for Noah's show and were stuck in the traffic were seen trying to sell tickets that cost them Rs 6,500 for Rs 5,000. The show, however, was cancelled because of some technical glitches in the sound system. But having an international stand-up comedian in the city was too good an opportunity to let pass for Bengalureans, who

never hesitate to 'roast' the IT hub known for its traffic bottlenecks and civic infrastructure issues. So, while Bengaluru waited endlessly for the jam to clear up, social media kept buzzing with pictures and updates late into the night, providing an insight into the chaos.

Not surprisingly, even BookMyShow, the organiser of the Noah show, which has come under a lot of flak, and Noah himself, took to social media platform X to put out an apology. "Bengaluru, we are extremely sorry for the inconvenience caused at Trevor Noah's Off The Record show at Manpho Convention Centre on September 27. The Bengaluru leg of the India Tour for both September 27 & 28 stands cancelled. All Customers who purchased tickets for both shows will get a complete refund within 8-10 working days," BookMyShow sent out a message on X, at 1.55am on September 28.

Many, like Anurag Mathur, a senior employee of Amazon, kept themselves busy throughout by live tweeting. Mathur's posts were punctuated with dark humour, as he crawled through

the traffic for almost five hours to reach his destination. Here's one for sample: "With a sudden gust of energy, our cab driver changed to 2nd gear for the first time in 3 hours and sped past another car reaching an undogly speed of 10/km hour on ORR today. Map still reads 1.5 hours to home." For what it's worth, tech city's 'star infrastructure' - food and beverage - stood by its "service at all cost" promise. When a techie working for Flipkart, also an X user, @Rishivaths, called Dominos, they actually delivered a pizza to his stuck-in-traffic car.

He promptly made a video of the delivery boys on a two-wheeler, snaking their way through the waiting cars, and posted it on X. "They were kind enough to track our live location (a few metres away from our random location added in the traffic) and deliver to us in the traffic jam," he had tweeted.

Of course, this triggered another avalanche of memes and sarcastic comments from other users. Like X user Vibin Babuurajan, who said, "Next time I'm booking a massage from Urban Company."

Another X user, Ritwik Z, listed out places to go from Bengaluru, when one has 4.5-5 hours to spare. "Mysore-Bengaluru-Mysore, Coorg-Bengaluru, Chikkamagaluru-Bengaluru," read his post.

Politics came into play too. P C Mohan, BJP LS MP of Bengaluru Central, put in his two pennies worth by blaming the present government. His X post, "The Baiyappanahalli-KR Pura metro link could have eased this, but the state government's inaction, despite CMRS approval, prolongs the suffering," triggered a political debate on who did what.

Although according to



# China, India race for 1,000-qubit quantum computers

China and India, the world's two largest populations, are competing against each other by developing their own 1,000-qubit quantum computers, a goal that will be achieved by the United States's IBM this year.

In terms of making quantum computers, India is a latecomer when compared with China.

The Indian government in April this year approved a US\$730 million funding package for the country's National Quantum Mission (NQM), which aims to deliver intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50-1,000 physical qubits by 2031.

In June, the US and India established a joint Indo-US Quantum Coordination Mechanism to facilitate collaboration among industry, academia and government entities, and also the two countries' work toward a comprehensive Quantum Information Science and Technology agreement.

But right now, the Defense Research and Development Organization, the Tata

Institute of Fundamental Research and Tata Consultancy Services are still developing a 7-qubit quantum computer in India.

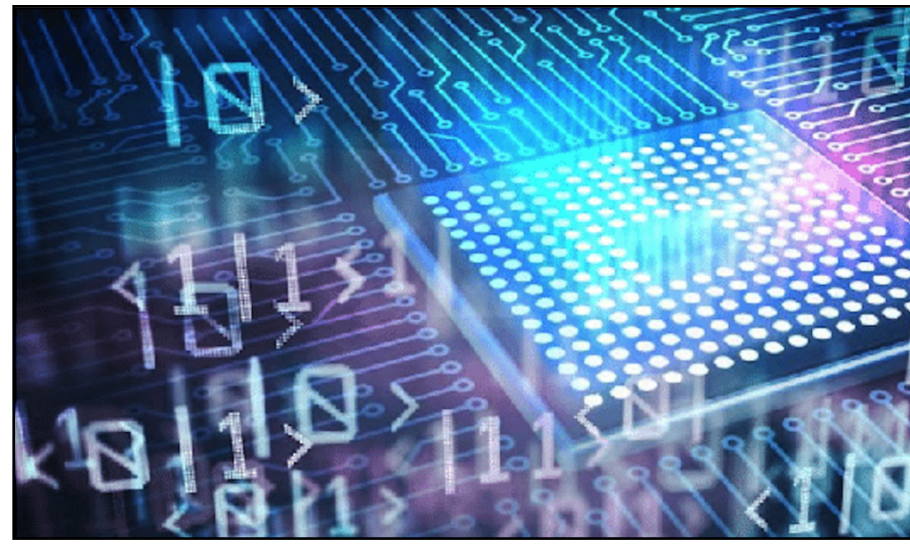
Back in May 2021, Chinese scientist Pan Jianwei and his team at the University of Science and Technology of China in Hefei launched the 66-qubit Zuchongzhi 2, which has remained the fastest quantum computer in China.

In September of the same year, Origin Quantum, a Hefei-based quantum computer maker, vowed to pass the 1,000-qubit mark by 2025. However, it has been struggling to launch its 72-qubit quantum computer Wukong, named after Chinese mythology's Monkey King, so far this year. Its last product, Benyuan Wuyuan 2, launched in 2021, has a speed of 24 qubits only.

Origin Quantum Computing Technology Co launched a 24-qubit quantum computer called Benyuan Wuyuan, in 2021. "The research and production of Wukong remains smooth for the moment. It will be officially

launched by the end of this year," Zhang Hui, general manager of Origin Quantum, told the Hefei Daily in a recent interview. "After that, we will continue to develop quantum computers with speeds above 72 qubits."

Zhang said Origin Quantum was established in 2017 as it wanted to transform the achievement of China's scientific research into products that have practical applications. He said the company had spent three years trying to self-supply all the parts in its prod-



ucts. He did not elaborate on the difficulties the company has faced during the development of Wukong.

In September last year, Zhang said the company would launch Wukong by the end of 2022. In June this year, he said the launch would be in July. But the company missed both schedules.

US sanctions

Last October, the Biden government banned exports of high-end semiconductors, chip-making equipment, quantum com-

puters and supercomputers to China in order to prevent these products from being used by the Chinese military, particularly in making hypersonic missiles and artificial-intelligence navigation systems. In August this year, US President Joe Biden signed an executive order that will forbid US firms and funds from investing in China's semiconductor, AI and quantum computing sectors from 2024. It's unlikely that Origin Quantum will be hit by the US investment curbs as it has not

received any foreign funds. Besides, the company outsourced its superconducting chip production to Nexchip Semiconductor Corp, which is 52.99% owned by the Hefei government and 27.44% owned by Taiwan's Powerchip Technology. The production should be unaffected by the US export controls and sanctions.

Chinese commentators want Origin Quantum to launch Wukong as early as possible. "Quantum chips have much stronger computing power than traditional semiconductors," a Shanxi-based writer says in an article. "Once the technology of quantum chips is matured, we can reduce our reliance on high-end lithography and self-supply our high-end chips." He says this development will have a strategic meaning for the global supply chain of the chip sector. He says the successful launch of Huawei's Mate60 Pro has already proved that China is not afraid of foreign countries' containment and technological blockade. Meanwhile, Origin

Quantum is also developing applications for its quantum computers. Dou Meng, vice president of Origin Quantum, told the media on Tuesday that the company will explore the use of its quantum computers in the analysis of medical data. "Quantum computing has an advantage in handling graphics," Dou said. "To explore the applications in medical data analysis, we used our self-developed algorithm to handle cancer patients' images provided by Anhui's Bengbu Medical College and successfully reduced the consumption of traditional computing power." India is catching up

Last November, IBM launched the 433-qubit Osprey, the world's fastest quantum computer to date. The technology giant planned to debut the 1,121-qubit Condor this year. Some technology experts say that once a quantum computer has more than 1,000 physical qubits, it can have more than 50 logical or usable qubits, which are enough to perform dif-

ferent calculations and create commercial value.

On June 22, the US said it welcomes India's participation in the Quantum Entanglement Exchange and in the Quantum Economic Development Consortium to facilitate expert and commercial exchanges with leading, like-minded quantum nations.

In a meeting on September 8, Biden and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the two countries will boost scientific collaboration, including space exploration, biotechnology and quantum computing. A Gansu-based columnist says the US\$730 million funding may not be enough for India's NQM, which covers not only quantum computing but also quantum communication, quantum sensing and quantum materials and devices.

He says India is far behind China in the terms of its research in quantum communication, which will use up a large portion of the funding.

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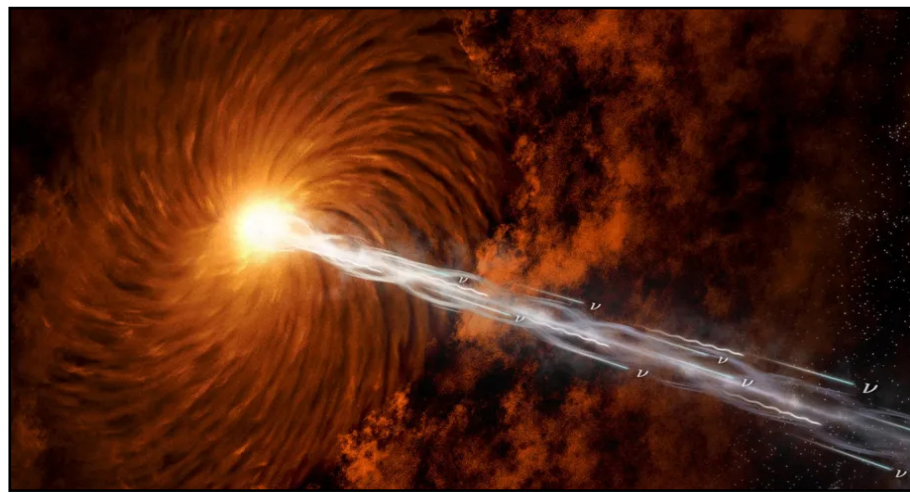
## Neutrino Factories in Deep Outer Space: Elementary Particles From the Depths of Our Universe

For the first time, researchers reveal the origin of neutrinos, elementary particles that reach our planet from the depths of the Universe.

Highly energetic and difficult to detect, neutrinos travel billions of light years before reaching Earth. Although it is known that these elementary particles come from the depths of our Universe, their precise origin is still a mystery. An international research team, led by the University of Würzburg and the University of Geneva (UNIGE), is shedding light on one aspect of this enigma: neutrinos are thought to be born in blazars, galactic nuclei fed by supermassive black holes. These results were published on July 14 in the journal *Astrophysical Journal Letters*.

Our planet's atmosphere is continuously bombarded by cosmic rays. These consist of electrically charged particles of extremely high energies — up to 1020 electron volts. For reference, that is a million times more than the energy achieved in the world's most powerful particle accelerator, CERN's Large Hadron Collider near Geneva. The incredibly energetic particles come from deep outer space and have traveled billions of light years. Where do they originate, what shoots them through the Universe with such tremendous force? These questions have remained among the greatest challenges of astrophysics for over a century.

Cosmic rays' birthplaces produce neutrinos. These neutral particles are very difficult to detect. They have almost no mass and barely interact with matter. They race through the Universe and can travel right through galaxies, planets, and the human body almost without a trace. "Astrophysical neutrinos are produced exclusively in processes involving cosmic ray acceleration," explains astrophysics Professor Sara Buson from



Julius-Maximilians-Universität (JMU) Würzburg in Bavaria, Germany. This is precisely what makes these neutrinos unique messengers paving the way to pinpoint cosmic ray sources.

A step forward in a controversial debate

Despite the vast amount of data that astrophysicists have collected, the association of high-energy neutrinos with the astrophysical sources that originate them has remained an unsolved problem for years. Sara Buson has always considered it a major challenge. It was in 2017 that the researcher and collaborators first brought a blazar (TXS 0506+056) into the discussion as a potential neutrino source in the journal *Science*. Blazars are active galactic nuclei powered by supermassive black holes that emit much more radiation than their entire galaxy. A scientific debate was sparked by the publication about whether there truly is a connection between blazars and high-energy neutrinos.

Following this first encouraging step, in June 2021 Prof. Buson's group began an ambitious multi-messenger research project with the support of the European Research Council. This involves analyzing various signals ("messengers," e.g. neutrinos) from the Universe. The main goal is to shed light on the origin of astrophysical neutrinos and possibly establish blazars as the first source of extragalactic high-energy neutrinos

with high certainty.

The project is now showing its first success: In the journal *Astrophysical Journal Letters*, Sara Buson, along with her group, the former postdoctoral researcher Ranieri de Menezes (JMU) and Andrea Tramacere from the University of Geneva, reports that blazars can be confidently associated with astrophysical neutrinos at an unprecedented degree of certainty.

Revealing the role of blazars

Andrea Tramacere is one of the experts in numerical modeling of acceleration processes and radiation mechanisms acting in relativistic jets — outflows of accelerated matter, approaching the speed of light — in particular blazar jets. "The accretion process and the rotation of the black hole lead to the formation of relativistic jets, where particles are accelerated and emit radiation up to energies of a thousand billion of that of visible light! The discovery of the connection between these objects and the cosmic rays may be the 'Rosetta stone' of high-energy astrophysics!" To arrive at these results, the research team utilized neutrino data from the IceCube Neutrino Observatory in Antarctica — the most sensitive neutrino detector currently in operation — and BZCat, one of the most accurate catalogues of blazars. "With this data, we had to prove that the blazars whose directional positions coincided with those of the neutrinos were not there by chance." To do

this, the UNIGE researcher developed software capable of estimating how much the distributions of these objects in the sky look the same. "After rolling the dice several times, we discovered that the random association can only exceed that of the real data once in a million trials! This is strong evidence that our associations are correct."

Despite this success, the research team believes that this first sample of objects is only the 'tip of the iceberg'. This work has enabled them to gather "new observational evidence", which is the most important ingredient for building more realistic models of astrophysical accelerators. "What we need to do now is to understand what the main difference is between objects that emit neutrinos and those that do not. This will help us to understand the extent to which the environment and the accelerator 'talk' to each other. We will then be able to rule out some models, improve the predictive power of others and, finally, add more pieces to the eternal puzzle of cosmic ray acceleration!"

Reference: "Beginning a Journey Across the Universe: The Discovery of Extragalactic Neutrino Factories" by Sara Buson, Andrea Tramacere, Leonard Pfeiffer, Len Oswald, Ranieri de Menezes, Alessandra Azzollini and Marco Ajello, 14 July 2022, *Astrophysical Journal Letters*.

### JALSHAKTIDPARTMENT, JAMMU OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI(PHE)CITYDIVISION NO-1, JAMMU

0191-2543654(Fax)

E-Mail:-xenphecit1@gmail.com

#### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-NITNo.JS/PHECD-I/ 97 of 2023-24

Fresh of E-NITNo.JS/PHECD-I/ 90 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, of J&K Union Territory, E-Tender (Item Rate Based) is invited by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) City Division No-1, Jammu, from approved and eligible contractor of appropriate class registered with UT of Jammu and Kashmir/ other UT's or State Govt./CPWD/MES registered firms/contractors under two cover system, Cover 1 comprising of technical bid and cover 2 comprising of financial bid for the following work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Cost Tender(In Rs)	Cost of Tender document Fees (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion
1	Development works (Beautification) in and around the Guest House at Filtration Plant Sitlee under M and R.	Rs.32.43 lacs	Rs.3000	Rs.64860/-	A to B	60 days

Position of funds : Partially Available

Position of Ts: Accorded

Position of AAA: Accorded

- Date of publishing:-27-09-2023 (1800Hrs)
- Bid documents can be seen and downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 27-09-2023 (1800Hrs) onwards.
- The bids shall be uploaded on the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 27-09-2023 (1800Hrs) to 05-10-2023 upto (1200Hrs).
- The complete bidding process shall be online.
- The technical bids received shall be opened online on 05-10-2023 after (1200Hrs). or anyother convenient later date in the office of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) CityDivisionNo-1,Jammu.
- Furnishingofhardcopiesofbidsimmediatelyaftersubmissionofe-tendershasbeendisposed with as per Govt. order no. OM No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dated 07-06-2018. The same shall be obtained only from the bidder, who is declared as L1 after opening of financial bids.
- A copy of CDR/FDR duly pledged to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti(PHE) City Division No-1 Jammu, against the earnest money deposit, should be uploaded by the bidders, However before allotting the work, the original CDR shall be obtained from the bidder declared as lowest bidder and shall be kept in record till the allotment process is finalized. The earnest money shall be released on receipt of the performance security or CDR/FDR against the EMD can be retained after accepting the balance amount in the shape of CDR/FDR to meet the requirement of the amount of the Performance security. **The CDR / FDR used for one tender shall not be entertained for other tender; which are under the process of tendering and the validity of such CDR / FDR shall remain till the outcome of such tender only. The CDR /FDR used for one tender shall have to be released from the Divisional Office before using for another tender.**
- The Lowest Bidder shall be intimated through e-mail on his registered e-mail ID to deposit the performance Security equivalent to the 5% of the allotted amount.
- Cost of bidding/tender fees receipt in the shape of e-challan/ single window challan of JMC shall have to be paid online, through the JMC link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html> and no cash shall be entertained at any cost. Further, bidders are requested to mention name of the work upon the particular Challan/e-receipt. Under unavoidable circumstances if the work is retendered, The contractor need not to deposit the Tender document Cost for rebidding for the same work.
- Any such Challan deposited on back dates or any irrelevant date shall not be accepted.
- The Successful bidder shall be liable to deposit the performance security as envisioned in the GFR 2017.
- The financial bids of the qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) City Division No-1, Jammu on same date of opening of technical bid or any other convenient date.
- The bid for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The opening authority reserves with him the right to accept/reject/cancel, any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.
- The successful bidder shall be responsible for providing all safety measures at site during execution of work.
- The quoted rates should be inclusive of all taxes. The department will deduct income tax/labour Cess/GST or any other tax as applicable during payment at prevalent rates.
- The Contractor shall approach the Department for getting the "Nishandehi" of the work within seven days from the date of allotment
- If the contractor fails to start the work within 07 days of its allotment, work shall be treated as cancelled without serving any notice to the contractor/firm and the work shall be offered to 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest bidder at the rate offered by 1<sup>st</sup> lowest bidder.
- The delay in completion of the works shall attract penalty aggregating to 10% of the cost of such works and shall be reckoned per month, with recommended percentage of Engineer-in-Charge. If the work remains un-attended in the completion period, the contractor shall be recommended for his blacklisting.
- In case the billed amount increases the allotted amount due to increase in the advertised quantity or addition of non-advertised items during execution, the same shall be paid on the allotted rates after revising the cost of the work/Scheme and getting revised AAA accorded and technically sanctioned from the competent authority.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Jal Shakti (PHE) City Division No-1  
Jammu

DIP No:DIP/J-8876/2



## Vivek Agnihotri says Prabhas fans trolled him online for box office clash with Salaar: 'Bhaag koi aur gaya'



Vivek Agnihotri is gearing up for the release of his upcoming film *The Vaccine War*. In an interview with *The New Indian Express*, the filmmaker revealed how he was abused by the fans of Prabhas online, when his film *The Vaccine War* was pitted against *Salaar*.

Speaking to *The New Indian Express*, Vivek Agnihotri shared how every film should get a chance and no film should be targeted beforehand. Referring to the clash with Prabhas's next *Salaar*, Vivek said, "The *Vaccine War* is a small film with no stars, made at ₹12.5 crore budget. Another film, *Salaar*, was coming. A huge ₹300 crore film. Their fans were abusing, trolling me, isko bhaagao, nahi aana chahiye... Bhaag koi aur gaya (Get him away from here, he should not come here. Why is he here).. But it was someone else who ran away." He seemed to be referring to the postponed release of *Salaar*.

Vivek also revealed that there are fans online who have been trolling and abusing him online.

About *The Vaccine War* Touted to be India's first-ever Bio-

science film, *The Vaccine War* stars Nana Patekar as the head of scientists, as they proceed on the journey to create India's first vaccine against Covid-19. Anupam Kher, Raima Sen, Sapthami Gowda and Pallavi Joshi also play pivotal roles in the film. Earlier, the film was supposed to clash with Prabhas-starrer *Salaar*. But as per new reports, the release date of *Salaar* has now been pushed back to December. The film is now set to clash with Shah Rukh Khan-starrer *Dunki*, which is directed by Rajkumar Hirani.

Earlier in a chat with *Hindustan Times*, Vivek had said that he is not concerned with the box office as much as the audience reaction. He said, "For me, if even one girl gets inspired by my film to become a virologist, I'll consider my film successful. We've shown it to 5,000 people in the US so far. They've cried, laughed, felt proud, they came out and hugged us and thanked us for making this film. Now, how people react to it in India will be a litmus test. I care about reactions of people, I don't care about box office." *The Vaccine War* is set to release in theatres on September 28.

## Katrina Kaif is the new Uniqlo brand ambassador



Actor Katrina Kaif has become the latest face of Japanese apparel brand Uniqlo. The actor took to Instagram to share the update and a few promotional pictures and videos. Earlier, Kareena Kapoor and her sister Karisma Kapoor did an ad for Uniqlo.

She also posted the ad video on her WhatsApp channel and wrote, "So Excited to be joining UNIQLO, one of my favourite clothing brands. Love the brand for its style, simplicity, and elegance."

We're now on WhatsApp. Click to join.

About her association with the brand, she said, "I am very excited about my partnership with Uniqlo. Personally, I have always been fascinated with Japanese culture and their design aesthetics. Uniqlo has been my go-to brand for my daily essentials and over the years I have admired how functional and innovative their products are. Their simple, high-quality clothing is also very versatile, and perfect to build one's everyday wardrobe with."

Alongside her role as Uniqlo's ambassador, Katrina also serves as the brand ambassador for Etihad Airways. She made that announcement via an IG post on September 12. "I am excited to be part of a team that aims to create thoughtful connections. I look forward to representing Etihad and being a part of their journey," Kaif had said.

Katrina was last seen in *Phone Bhoot* with Ishaan Khatter and Siddhant Chaturvedi. It did not perform too well. Her upcoming films include Sriram Raghavan's *Merry Christmas*, which also stars Vijay Sethupathi. She also has *Tiger 3* with Salman Khan and *Jee Le Zaraa* with Alia Bhatt and Priyanka Chopra.

*Jee Le Zaraa* is suffering some delays in beginning the shoot due to scheduling issues with Priyanka's dates amid the actors, and screenwriters' strike in Hollywood. The film promises to be another tale of friendship following the lineage of *Dil Chahta Hai* and *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara*.

## Viral video shows woman yelling as Beyonce tries to create iconic 'mute' moment while performing in Texas

A viral video shows a woman yelling during Beyonce's iconic moment while she performed her song *Energy* at a concert. The singer has been on her Renaissance Tour since May this year. The recent incident took place during a performance in Houston, Texas.

Beyonce's fans are usually aware of what lyrics they should remember to be able to sing along. However, this one fan seemed to ruin the moment Beyonce performed the song, *Energy*, singing at one point, "Look around, everybody on mute." Fans generally know that they must keep quiet during this part of the song, but the woman in the audience seemed not to care.

What did social



media users say?

The video, shared to TikTok, garnered mixed

reactions from social media users, with some users defending the

concertgoer. "people taking this a little too seriously," one user

wrote, while another said, "why is it a big deal." One user said, "why do they care so much over nothing." "People mad at someone enjoying a concert," wrote one user. "I don't get why people care that much. Like your ment to be loud at concert," one user said, while another wrote, "i would've screamed too". "Really that is why they are mad at her??? She paid for her ticket and Beyoncé don't even look upset about it!!!" one user wrote. Some users slammed the concertgoer, with one of them saying, "MUTE MEANS MUTE," one user said, while another said, "I would be mad". "No cuz shes being a a\*\*\*ole on purpose so she deserves all the hate," one user said.

## DAISY SHAH ON HER EXPERIENCE WORKING IN TV: THERE IS A HIGHER POWER CONTROLLING EVERYTHING AND IT'S ANNOYING AT TIMES



Actor Daisy Shah recently made a move towards Indian TV with the reality show *Khatron Ke Khiladi* and it seems like the experience was not as great as everyone talks about. The actor shares with us how it was a new experience for her, and something she was not prepared for.

"Film industry does not have an environment where

everybody wants to boss around. Nobody is trying to impose their decisions on you. Every time there is a misunderstanding or a disagreement, two people sit together and come on a common ground. However, it's very different in TV," she shares and goes on to provide details.

"May be it was the concept of the show or TV in general,

but what I have seen is they do not take actor's consent on what they are liking and what they are not.

There is a higher power controlling everything and unhone agar kuch bola toh woh waisa hi hoga. It's annoying at times. They fail to understand that I may have a different view of it. But it's their way of working and who

am I to say things. It's just that I have come from a different field and it was very different for me there," she adds.

Ask her what kind of consent is she talking about and Shah explains: "After a project is completed, actors are also actively part of the process where they share their inputs as to what is looking good and what's not. But unhone (makers) apne hisaab se kardia and the actor is dumbfounded. Usko pata hi nahi hai ki kya horaha hai."

It did not sit well with Jai Ho actor as she believes one needs to voice out their opinion. "God gave you brain for a reason. If someone is wanting them to fit in your box, that's not right. And after the show, I have become even more vocal and opinionated. I realised that if you do not speak out for yourself, people will step on you," she says.

While not many film actors choose to opt for TV because of the tag that comes with it, it annoys Shah. "No actor would want to do only TV or only OTT or only films. I think it's the audience putting tags because I have never heard an actor saying they do not want to be part of a certain platform. Even with TV, they might not opt for daily soaps but I think reality shows are something that interests most people. So I don't understand how these tags always come up," she ends.

## Waheeda Rehman From 'CID' to 'Skater Girl' Indian cinema's enduring star

She wanted to be a doctor but ended up on the silver screen instead, an actor who began with Telugu cinema and went on to rule the Hindi film industry, slipping in and out of arthouse and mainstream cinema and staying relevant as movies evolved from black-and-white to colour.

Waheeda Rehman, who was on Tuesday named recipient of the 2021 Dadasaheb Phalke award, the government's highest honour in cinema, acted in over 90 films over almost seven decades. In a career arc made for celluloid history, Rehman made her debut in Hindi films as a character artiste in the 1956 film "CID", moved on to lead roles and returned to cameos in her later years.

What has stood out over the years has been the apparent ease and the grace with which she did it all. She comfortably straddled the twin worlds of the brooding "Kaagaz ke Phool" and the entertaining "Ram aur Shyam". Rehman, now 85, was last seen just two years ago in the sports drama "Skater Girl".

Born in Chennai to a Deccani Muslim family, Rehman never aspired to be an actor but knew she wanted to make people "laugh and cry".

"I wanted to become a doctor, because in those days for Muslim families medicine was the only respectable profession," the actor recalled in a *Tweek India* interview two years ago.

Art, culture and dance interested her since she was a child. And with the support of her



father, an IAS officer, she was able to pursue her dream of learning Bharatanatyam and then making a career in the movies.

"I used to make faces looking in the mirror. When my father asked why do I do this, I said 'I want to make people laugh and cry,'" she said in the interview.

She was first seen in the movies in the 1955 Telugu films "Rojulu Maraayi" and "Jayasimha".

A chance meeting with Guru Dutt in Hyderabad that same year changed the course of her career - and her life.

She moved to Mumbai, then Bombay, and was launched in Dutt's film "CID", alongside Dev Anand in 1956. Rehman played the role of the antagonist, a dancer.

It was the beginning of a mem-

orable creative partnership with Dutt, their collaboration resulting in some of Indian cinema's finest films -- "Pyaasa", "Kaagaz Ke Phool", "Chaudhvin Ka Chand" and "Saheb Bibi Aur Ghulam".

The Dev Anand and Rehman collaboration was also special. Their most successful film was perhaps "Guide", remembered today for its forward looking portrayal of the protagonist Rosie, her modern-day relationship with the guide Raju and the songs by S D Burman.

"I'm very happy and doubly happy because it is Dev Anand's birthday. I think, 'taufa unko milna tha, mujhe mil gaya,'" Rehman told PTI after getting news of the Dadasaheb Phalke award.

"It is very wonderful that his celebration is going on and I get

this honour. I'm really happy and grateful to the government that they chose me for this honour. So it is a combination and celebration of this and Dev sahab's 100th birth anniversary," she said.

Rehman also ventured into Bengali cinema with Satyajit Ray's "Abhijan" and became one of the highest paid women actors in the 1950s and 1960s, starring in diverse roles in films such as "Kohraa", "Bees Saal Baad", "Khamoshi", and "Guide", all of which have stood the test of time.

"I never compromised with costumes. I need to feel comfortable when I'm performing. In my first Hindi movie 'CID' I had mentioned in the contract that if I don't like the costume I will not wear it," she told *Tweek India*.

"CID" director Raj Khosla had also suggested that the actor change her name as it was "too long", but she refused outright.

In the 1970s, she shifted gears and took up more character roles. For 1971's "Reshma Aur Shera", she received a National Film Award for best actress.

At the peak of her career, she married her "Son of India" co-star Shashi Relkhi.

Nobody saw this coming, not even perhaps Rehman.

"We had a common friend Yash Johar. He (Shashi) used to stay at their place and I was very close friends with Yash. So we used to meet often. One day, we were having coffee and suddenly out of the blue he said, 'I want to marry you. Will you marry me?'"



## Collaborative efforts from all stakeholders need of hour to combat impact of Rabies in society: Advisor Bhatnagar

Addresses day-long Technical Conference on Rabies at SKICC

■ JI NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, SEPT 28

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today remarked that collaborative efforts from all stakeholders, including government agencies, healthcare providers, veterinarians and public are the need of the hour to combat the impact of Rabies in the society.

The Advisor made these remarks while addressing the day long technical conference on Rabies, organised on the backdrop of 'World Rabies Day 2023- All for 1, One Health for All' at Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) here.

Secretary in Agriculture Production Department (APD), Shabnam Kamili; Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Shubra Sharma; Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir, Purnima Mittal, Joint Directors, veterinarians from across the districts and other stakeholders were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Advisor Bhatnagar said that this conference is a unique platform to raise awareness about the devastating impact of rabies and the importance of pre-



vention and control measures. He emphasized on the need for collaborative efforts from all stakeholders, including government agencies, healthcare providers, veterinarians, and the public to combat the impact of this dreadful disease.

He stressed upon the all stakeholders to work in cohesion and convergence so that Rabies can be completely eradicated. He highlighted that educational institutions and other publicly important places should be utilised to create maximum awareness among the people about the prevention from Rabies.

The Advisor exhorted upon the participants to aware people about latest advancements in rabies prevention, organise vaccination campaigns and awareness programs, to combat this deadly disease.

Advisor Bhatnagar fur-

ther called upon the participants to study the feasibility of including certain aspects of veterinary science in school curriculum so that the children are made aware about animal health and hygiene from a very young age.

Speaking on different achievements of J&K Administration, Advisor Bhatnagar said that Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing remarkable changes from last four years. He highlighted that J&K is number one in providing digital services to the citizens across the country. He added that J&K State Health Agency was ranked number one health agency across the country recently.

Commending the organisers for organising this conference, Advisor Bhatnagar said that this conference will provide a platform for stakeholders from different sectors to come together, share

knowledge, and collaborate on efforts to combat rabies and protect human and animal health.

Addressing the gathering, Shabnam Kamili said that this conference will establish an enabling environment for veterinarians to discuss and deliberate on techniques and methods of tackling Rabies in the region. She urged upon all participants to work together towards a future where rabies is no longer a threat to human and animal populations.

During the conference, several technical sessions and informative sessions were held by veterinarians and experts from various fields related to rabies prevention and control.

The participants also had the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions, share best practices, and explore new strategies to accelerate progress towards a rabies-free society.

## Rashtriya Rifles, Jammu Tourism organise trekking expedition

■ JI NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, SEPT 28

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 28: Rashtriya Rifles of the Indian Army, in partnership with Tourism Department, initiated a three-day trekking expedition from Pogal in the district today.

The trek was officially launched by BDC Chairman Ukhral, Karleep Singh and witnessed by local dignitaries and media personnel. Sixteen trekkers from various backgrounds, including athletes, bloggers, photographers, state government



representatives and local residents, gathered for this event. This group comprised two women and 14 men, featuring a

diverse mix of local and out-of-town participants. The trek commenced from the scenic Pogal Valley and will explore unchart-

ed meadows, lakes, waterfalls and rugged peaks in the majestic Pir Panjal Ranges. The participants will engage with local youth to promote patriotism, women's empowerment and self-employment. They will also get a close look at the local way of life, including savoring local cuisine.

The primary goal of this event is to boost tourism, which has gained momentum due to the return of normalcy in the region and various development initiatives, facilitated by the state machinery, especially the JKTDCC.

## Srinagar Food Safety Teams inspect City Markets on the eve of Eid-e-Milad un Nabi (saw)

Special checking done to ensure quality of Ready to Eat Food sold near Shrines

■ JI NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, SEPT 28

On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, the team of Food Safety Department Srinagar on the eve of Eid-e-Milad un Nabi(saw) conducted special drives in various markets of Srinagar City to check the hygiene practices adopted and quality of food items by the Food Business Establish-



ments. The market checking drive was conducted under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Food Safety(Designated Officer under FSSA Srinagar), Yameen ul Nabi in various city markets to check the quality of ready to eat food especially Kashmiri Snacks being sold in and around the Shrines of Hazrat Makdoom Sahab (RA) and

Dastageer Sahib(RA) at Khanyar, besides other areas including Rainawari, Nowhata, Shiraz Chowk etc. During the drive Mobile Food Testing Van was put in place by the inspection team to check the quality of Ready to Eat Food being sold in these areas during which about 45 surveillance samples were tested in the Mobile Food Testing Van in-addi-

tion general awareness about food safety was imparted to Street Food Vendors regarding Food Safety Rules and Regulations. Meanwhile, the Food Safety Team also carried out a surprise inspection of a students hostel at Rajbagh and checked the quality of food being served to students staying in the hostel.

Speaking in this regard, the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar has asked the Food Safety Department and other Market Checking teams to continue the drive in City markets to ensure that all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates as per the Food Safety Standards and Quality.

## Gandhi Jayanti Celebration: District Admin Bandipora kick starts Project - WASH

■ JI NEWS SERVICE BANDIPORA, SEPT 28

As a tribute to the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, District Administration Bandipora in collaboration with JKSWM has launched a significant project "WASH (WOMEN AND SANITARY HYGIENE)" aimed at empowering women and fostering impeccable sanitary hygiene practices throughout the district.

It was given out that, the initiative is a commemoration of Gandhi Ji's steadfast commitment to women's empowerment and his profound respect for "Nari Shakti" (women power). It was further given out that that in a first of its kind and unique initiative to promote Women And Sanitary Hygiene (WASH) in Bandipora, District Administration Bandipora and Jammu & Kashmir Students Welfare Mission (JKSWM), a non-profit organization, has embarked on a transformative journey.

The initiative, supported by the 'We Are Human



Foundation (WAHF), New Delhi, seeks to empower women and promote sanitation. The WASH programme was kickstarted under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed, IAS, coordinated by District Programme Officer, POSHAN, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, and under noble supervision of District Social Welfare Officer Bandipora, Hidayatullah Mir to mark a significant impact on women's health and hygiene. The programme, supported by the We Are Human Foundation (WAHF) of New Delhi, has simultaneously conducted various Sanitary Kit Distribution cum Hygiene Awareness Camps at

prominent locations in the district, including New District Hospital Bandipora, Gynecology Department, DH Bandipora and Girls Higher Secondary School Bandipora. Additionally, it has reached out to various women self-help groups, ICDS centres in Arin, Aloosa, Bagh, Chewa, Vijpara Hajin, Kudara, Chuntimullah, Mukdarmyari Hajin, Goshbugh, Sumbal and more areas of the District.

Collaboration with key stakeholders, including the District Administration Bandipora, Department of Social Welfare Bandipora, ICDS Bandipora, SAKHI One Stop Centre Bandipora, and the District Hub for Empowerment of

Women (DHEW), Bandipora, has been instrumental in the programme's success. The programme was facilitated on ground by a leading women driven centre - SAKHI - One Stop Centre, Bandipora under the aegis of J K Students Welfare Mission. Speakers stated that Gandhi Ji recognized the power of women in shaping the society. The WASH program is not just about sanitation; it's about empowering our women and recognizing their essential role in nation-building.

District Administration Bandipora on the occasion distributed 10000 sanitary kits among needy women and adolescent girls.

It was given out that the ambitious goal of Project WASH is to distribute more WASH Kits by the end of the year.

Project Incharge WASH, Afshana Haasan while speaking on the occasion said that this noble initiative wouldn't have been possible without the collaborative efforts of District Administration Bandipora.

## World Rabies Day observed across Doda

■ JI NEWS SERVICE DODA, SEPT 28



World Rabies Day was commemorated in the district today, by Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Hamid Zargar.

The primary objective of the day was to foster awareness about Rabies within the district. To achieve this goal, a series of awareness programs were organised throughout the district, encompassing all healthcare facilities. These programs were instrumental in disseminating crucial information about Rabies to the public.

## DC Poonch reviews SAHAYTA scheme

■ JI NEWS SERVICE POONCH, SEPT 28

Deputy Commissioner, Yasin M. Choudhary, chaired a meeting to discuss the implementation of the SAHAYTA scheme in the district today.

The DDC received a comprehensive briefing on the scheme. It was explained that the scheme extends to "youth in distress," defined as individuals aged 18 to 40 years who have lost a next of kin or family member due to insurgency-related actions, cross-border shelling, or mine blast incidents in Jammu and Kashmir.

This category also includes those who have suffered permanent incapacitation in such incidents. "Permanent inca-



pacitation" signifies a disability of 50% or more, which is of a permanent nature with no chances of variation in the degree of disability. Such injuries or disabilities make the victim eligible for assistance under this scheme.

Additionally, according to the guidelines, the total self-employment assistance provided under this scheme is capped at ₹2.0 lakh or the actual cost of the self-employment unit, whichever is lower.

During the meeting, the DC instructed the identification of beneficiaries who have been affected by cross-border shelling, mine blasts, or insurgency.

He further delved into the roles and responsibilities of the relevant departments and outlined actionable points for identifying and verifying eligible beneficiaries, as well as the registration process.

On this occasion, the

DC urged the officers from the concerned departments to adopt a pragmatic approach to ensure the successful implementation of the scheme, with the ultimate goal of benefiting the target group.

The meeting was participated by General Manager DIC, PO ICDS, Deputy Director Employment, District Social Welfare Officer, Superintendent ITI and others involved in the scheme's execution.

## DC Poonch discusses modalities for implementation of PM Vishwakarma Scheme

■ JI NEWS SERVICE POONCH, SEPT 28

Deputy Commissioner, Yasin M. Choudhary, chaired a meeting to discuss the modalities for implementing the recently launched PM Vishwakarma Scheme in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner discussed various aspects related to the implementation of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, including the implementation framework, coverage of trades, the process flow for availing benefits, financial provisions to enhance the quality and reach of products and services for the Artisans (Vishwakarmas). These artisans constitute the informal or unorganised sector of the economy and are self-employed traditional craftspeople.

During the meeting, the roles and responsibilities of all line depart-

ments were deliberated in detail, including the identification and verification of beneficiaries and the registration process.

Furthermore, GM DIC, AD Handloom and Handicrafts, District Officer KVIB and Program Manager NRLM, were directed to jointly plan the schedule for awareness campaigns to identify and benefit all eligible cases under this scheme.

The DC also instructed that Common Service Centers (CSCs) should ensure the smooth enrollment of beneficiaries under the scheme. Further verification of beneficiaries will be carried out by the Rural Development Department and Municipal Council Poonch.

He also directed the installation of hoardings in every tehsil to raise awareness about the scheme among the target group.

Notably, the PM Vishwakarma scheme offers a range of benefits,

including a toolkit incentive of Rs 15,000, artisan training with a daily stipend of Rs 500, collateral-free credit support up to Rs 1 lakh (first tranche) and Rs 2 lakh (second tranche) at a concessional interest rate of 5% and incentives for digital transactions and marketing support. It was also informed that the government initially recognised more than 18 trades under PM Vishwakarma, including Carpenter, Boat Maker, Armorer, Blacksmith, Hammer and Tool Kit Maker, Locksmith, Goldsmith, Potter, Cobbler, Masons, Basket/Mat/Broom Maker/Coir Weaver, Doll & Toy Maker, Barber, Garland Maker, Washerman, Tailor and Fishing Net Maker. The meeting was attended by General Manager DIC Poonch, Assistant Director Handloom, Superintendent ITI Poonch, LDM J&K Bank, District Manager CSC Poonch and others.

## Provincial Inter-District Cricket Tournament U-19 Girls concludes in Kulgam

■ JI NEWS SERVICE KULGAM, SEPT 28

The provincial level U-19 cricket tournament for girls organized by the Joint Director Youth Service and Sports

Kashmir at Kulgam concluded successfully today.

In the race to clutch the trophy, Kupwara emerged as the winner defeating the opponent team from Budgam in the final.

The match was witnessed by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Viqar Ahmed Giri as chief guest while Tehsildar Hq Ali Mohammad and employees of Department of

Youth Service and Sports Kulgam were also present on this occasion.

Later, a prize distribution ceremony was held during which the winning team & other participants were felicitated.