



## Your Actions Should Win the Hearts of Common Masses : Rajnath Singh to BRO

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, SEP 12:** Dedicated the 90 Border Road Organisation (BRO) infrastructure projects to the nation built at a cost of over Rs 2,900 crore, across 11 States and Union Territories, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday asked them to connect the hearts of people with their actions.

"Involve local bodies and the people by understanding their needs and taking inputs for the projects in border areas," Singh said after he dedicated to the nation 90 infrastructure projects of BRO at an event at Devak Bridge on Bishnah-Kaulpur-Phulpur Road, which was inaugurated by him.

"Your job is not only to connect one place with another. It is also to connect the hearts of the people with your actions. The constructions should represent the spirit of 'for the people, of the people and by the people,'" he said.

The projects dedicated included Nechiphu Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh; two airfields in West Bengal; two helipads; 22 roads and



63 bridges.  
Of these 90 projects, 36 are in Arunachal Pradesh; 26 in Ladakh; 11 in Jammu and

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## Rajnath bats for more invest in Research and Development for India to move with world's pace

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, SEP 12:** Urging the industry partners to focus on creating a culture that encourages Research and Development, based on skilled human resources, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday has called upon the domestic defence manufacturers to invest more in this field for India to keep up pace with the continuously-evolving world.

Addressing the North Tech Symposium, jointly organised by the Northern Command of the Indian Army, Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and IIT, Jammu here, Singh was of the view that although R&D is a risky venture as it requires out-of-the-box thinking and sometimes does not give desired results, it still remains one of the basic elements for the development of any country.

Hence, capital investment in R&D

becomes a necessity, he emphasised.

"India is passing through a transitional phase. There is nothing wrong in acquiring a technology through imitation or transfer, but we cannot become a developed nation on these grounds alone. We need to file our own patents, for which a lot of investment in R&D is needed. Capital investment in R&D may reduce today's profits, but it will prove to be beneficial to the industry and the country in the long term," said Singh.

He suggested linking the work of institutes such as IITs, IIMs and IISCs with the defence sector in order to create an R&D ecosystem in the field. He added that efforts should be made to connect with the Indian R&D sector, the engineers and scientists who work in top universities, companies, space agencies & scientific research organisations abroad and wish to be a part of India's growth story.

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### NEWS BRIEF

#### Short film screened to counter drug menace in Kashmir

**SRINAGAR, SEP 12:** By the Directors Anil Singh & Ozge Uyar (Film Maker from Turkey) has come what can be described as brilliance in the form of a short film Aatish -e- Tilism is a 16-minute-41 second documentary which has been screened in English language at Tagore Auditorium Rohtak, in presence of thousands of people.

Despite the beauty prevalent in Srinagar - there is some darkness which has prevailed off late. Darkness that is affecting the Youth of Srinagar- Drug Trafficking and Addiction to drugs, which affect different people in different way. We have shown how a rehabilitation centre is helping the

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#### Delhi resident supplying banned drugs to Srinagar arrested: Police

**SRINAGAR, SEP 12:** Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested a Delhi resident who was supplying banned drugs to the drug peddlers in Srinagar.

"The main accused identified as Mohammad Asim a resident of Darya Ganj Chawri Bazar Delhi who was supplying drugs to drug peddlers in Srinagar was arrested", Srinagar police said on X.

The accused was wanted in a case registered by Police Station M R Gunj under Narcotic Drugs and

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#### Drinking Water Shortage Hits Langate

**LANGATE, SEP 12:** Residents of various villages of Langate in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Tuesday complained they were without drinking water from last couple of Days and the concerned department is watching mute spectator.

According to KNS Correspondent dozens villages in Langate constituency of Kupwara district are facing acute water scarcity with many people drinking unhygienic water of river Mawer which poses them serious threat to get infected with water borne diseases.

Reports said People from Mawer Qalamabad Audoora, Chekl Audoora, Umerabad, Warpora, Drungsoo,

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## Surge in Tourism Brings Joy to Kashmir's Border Areas

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, SEP 12:** Northern Kashmir's border regions have experienced an unprecedented influx of tourists since the reaffirmation of the 2003 ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan.

With guns falling silent along the Line of Control (LoC) in February 2021, opportunities for tourists to explore once-inaccessible areas have opened up. Keran, Machil, Bangus, Tangdhar, Gurez, and Uri - areas that were previously known as infiltration corridors for terrorists - have now transformed into popular tourist destinations.

The Indian Army and the J&K tourism department have collaborated to organize events that showcase these areas, drawing more tourists. This collaboration has led to a significant increase in the number of visitors to these border tourist destinations, with at least 80,000 tourists recorded so far this year.

Local residents are overjoyed by the transformation of these previously neglected border areas and are hopeful for a brighter future. They attribute the newfound appeal of these regions to their unique

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## Wait For Some Time, PoJK Will Automatically Merge With India: V K Singh

■ HT News Network

**JAIPUR, SEP 12:** Minister of State of Road Transport and Highways retired general V.K Singh on Monday said that Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) will automatically merge with India after some time.

"Wait for some time, the PoJK will automatically merge with India," Singh in Dausa, Rajasthan responded after he was asked about the demands of PoJK Shia Muslims to open the roads to India.



On the success of the G20, the

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## Unprecedented heatwave batters Kashmir, shatters all records

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, SEP 12:** Kashmir experienced an unprecedented-

ed heatwave that shattered long-standing temperature records on Tuesday.

Data shared by Kashmir weather, an independent weather forecaster states, Srinagar, the capital of the region, sizzled under the scorching sun, recording a maximum temperature of 34.2°C. This reading was a staggering 6.0°C above the usual September norm.

The significance of this heatwave becomes evident when we consider that this is the second-highest maximum temperature ever recorded in September since 1891, when the

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## CS Calls for Regular Review of G2C Cases



■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, SEP 12:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today while reviewing the functioning of the IT Department impressed upon its offi-

cers to work for adoption of Common Application Form (CAF) for all the citizen centric online services offered by different Departments of the UT.

The meeting was attended by

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## Budgam court acquits man in minor girl's rape case

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, SEP 12:** Principal District judge Budgam has acquitted a man for alleged sexual assault of a minor girl in Nowgam area of Summer capital Srinagar. The accused was represented by Ahra

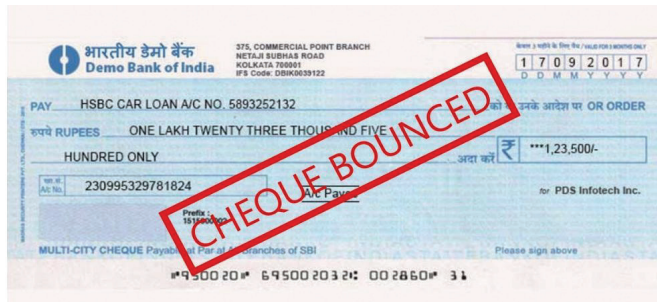
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## 2 years imprisonment in cheque bounce case, defaulter to pay Rs 16L to the complainant

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, SEP 12:** A Court in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district has sentenced a man to undergo two years' imprisonment in a cheque bounce case and directed the convict to pay Rs 16 lakh compensation to the complainant.

The compensation amount is double the accused had borrowed in 2015 from Abdul Lateef Khan



of Boniyaar Baramulla. The court said the complain-

ant during the course of

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## JK artists/exhibitors to display their products in GI Mohatsav

CS urges inclusion of public interest themes to increase footfall to the venue

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, SEP 12:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today reviewed the preparations for the 'GI Mohatsav' proposed to be held here at Kashmir Haat in the first week of October this year.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production; Principal Secretary, Education; Commissioner Secretary, RDD; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Secretary, Hospitality & Protocol; Director, Information; Director, Industries, Kashmir; and Repre-



sentatives from Kashmir University and SKUAST, Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary reviewed all the arrangements for making the programme

a successful event. He advised the concerned Departments to explore the possibility of including some other themes related to art

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**ELECTRIC HAMAM**

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## Mega Book Exhibition held at GDC Pampore DC Pulwama presides over as chief guest

### HT News Network

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 12: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today presided over a Mega Book Exhibition held at GDC Pampore as chief guest.

During the exhibition, the DC took an extensive tour of various stalls examining the various books and expressed his pleasure on such a vast array and collection of books.

Addressing the students and other participants, Dr Basharat emphasised that reading books not only nurtures the brain of an individual but widens his perspectives. This type of exhibition shall serve as a platform for students to know not only what is relevant to their course study but also to know what is happening in and around the world, he added.

Quoting Mark Twain, "A person who



does not read good books has no advantage over a person who cannot read", the DC stressed on the need of reading good books and how reading books help in transforming an individual. And as we are in Digital era wherein we have hundreds and thousands of books at our fingertips we

should take advantage of the same and indulge in reading more books, he added. The DC appreciated the management of Govt Degree College Pampore for organising such a wonderful exhibition as such interventions will result in the overall enhancement of the society.

## DC Ganderbal reviews progress of several schemes of RDD

### HT News Network

GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 12: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today convened a meeting here to review the progress of several ongoing schemes being executed by the Rural Development Department (RDD) in the district.

During the meeting, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Dr. Bashir Ahmad briefed the DC about the status of various programs like Solid Waste Management, PMAY, Amrit Sarovar and Meri Maati Mera Desh through a powerpoint presentation.

ACD informed the DC that EOIs had been floated and stand allotted to three agencies in three clusters for 7 blocks at district level for the successful implementation of the SWM project.

It was also informed that vehicles including Vans and e-Carts are also allotted to clusters for door-to-door col-



lection of waste.

The DC asked the ACD to devise a format for daily collection waste which should be given to all agencies and shall be monitored regularly.

The DC also reviewed the status of Community Compost Pits and Community Soakage Pits proposed block wise and it was informed that 142 Community Compost Pits are proposed in all blocks out of which 76 are completed besides 124 are under progress.

Similarly, 200 Soakage Pits are proposed out of

which 144 are completed and rest are under progress.

The DC impressed upon the concerned officers to redouble the efforts and complete all the works on time.

He also reviewed the status of SBM machinery procured under 14th FC saving like bailing machines, shredders, garbage Hoppers and other machinery.

While reviewing the status of PMAY (SECC) 2016-17 and Non-SECC 2021 onwards, ACD informed that 279 targets were fixed under PMAY (SECC) 2016-17 and 100 percent target was

achieved. Similarly, under PMAY Non-SECC 2021 onwards 5390 Households were identified out of which 2858 are found eligible.

Regarding Amrit Sarovar 2022-23, the ACD informed that 83 works were proposed under MGNREGA and other departments and all works stand completed. Besides, under UT CAPEX 8 works are proposed at the cost of Rs 8.19 lakh out of which 2 are completed.

Similarly, under Amrit Sarovar 2023-24, 94 works are proposed and 18 are completed and under UT CAPEX 6 beautification works are proposed at the cost of Rs 51 lakh and 1 work stand completed.

Interacting with the officers, the DC stressed to work in coordination and synergy to ensure smooth and speedy execution of works in all blocks.

Among others the meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, ACR Ganderbal, Tehsildars, BDOs and other concerned.

## Education Deptt Kulgam Organises Community Mobilization Programme

### Sensitization of SMCs, VECs & PRIs priority of programme

### Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 12: A community mobilization cum sensitization programme for School Management Committees (SMCs), Village Education Committees (VECs) and PRI members was today organised by the Zonal Education Office Kulgam under the aegis of SAMAGRA Shiksha at DIET Kulgam. Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, Mohammad Afzal Parry; Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohiudin



Bhat; ADDC Kulgam, Showkat Ahmad Rather along with many officers of

the Education Department graced the occasion.

VEC members, SMCs, PRIs, senior citizens, teachers, students, retired Govt. Employees, youth and many Govt employees from other departments were participated in the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman DDC said that the programme aims to improve, streamline and strengthen the Education sector. He applauded the teachers and showered praise on them for their exemplary work.

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION OMPORA BUDGAM. Fresh e-NIT.No. 350F 09/2023

For and on behalf of the LT. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors Registered with Union Territory of J&K Govt.

S. No	Name of work	Estt. Cost of work amount in lacs	Earnest Money @ 2%	Time of completion	Class of contract	Cost of tender document	Head of account
1.	Upgradation/Improvements and supply of various furnishing items to IB hut Yousmarg (Fresh to e-NIT 25 of 08/2023 for SL.No 3)	8.00	16000/=	15 days	CEE/DEE	800/=	4701-UT Capex
2	Improvements. to Surasayar canal (RD 700m to 1900m), Shumnag canal (RD 900m), Namken Dara Minor of Ranger canal and Chattergam canal (RD 4190m) by way of const. of cement concrete covered channel, cement concrete channel, lining wall and installation of control gates on Shumnag canal. Advertised Cost of work Rs. 18.00 lacs. (Fresh of e-nit no.34 of 08-2023. SL.No 02).	18.00	36000/-	30 days	BEE/CEE	1800	4702-UT Capex
3.	Construction of lined channel on BahwatKhul Minor of Syed Ali Allaikhul at RD 211m in village Pakherpora. Fresh of e-NIT No. 34 of 08-2023)	1.95	3900/-	05-days	DEE	200	4701-UT Capex
4.	Upgradation/Improvements of Sub Divisional Office Chadoora/Budgam. (Fresh of e-nit 32 of 08/2023 sl.No.5)	5.00	10000/-	10 days	DEE	500	4701-UT Capex

No of works Advertised:-04(Four).  
Position of Funds (Budgetary provision).  
Position of Technical Sanction Accorded.  
Position of Administrative Approval accorded.

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria specifications, Bill of quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract and

1	Publishing date	12-09-2023 (4 PM)
2	Download date start	12-09-2023 (4 PM)
3	Bid submission date starts	
4	Bid submission date ends	12-09-2023 (4 PM) 18-09-2023 upto (4 PM)
5	Bid Opening date	19-09-2023 at (11 AM)

other details can be seen /downloaded from departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).

General terms and conditions:-

1. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 12-09-2023 to 18-09-2023 up to 16.00 hrs. The Bids will be opened on 19-09-2023 at 11:00 AM. Online documents can be seen and downloaded from the website.

i) The complete bidding process will be online.

ii) Technical bids of bidder shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Ompora Budgam.

2. Bid document contains qualifying criteria for bidder, specification, conditions and other details.

3. Any item / items not included in the rate list but found necessary during the execution of work shall be paid as per the rates of J&K SSR 2022.

4. Any omission / Typographic error shall be read as per the J&K SSR 2022, and as per the corrigendum / errata issued to J&K SSR 2022 in vogue.

5. The rates should be strictly quoted as per the unit advertised in the rate list.

6. The contractors shall inspect & examine the site, and shall satisfy himself about the location of the site, its approaches and nature of the ground and sub soil before uploading the bids / submission of tender.

7. If the contractor fails to complete the work within the stipulated time period, the penalty of RS.0.01% of the allotted cost of work shall be imposed upon the Contractor recurring on daily basis. In addition to penalty prescribed in agreement form 25/26 double.

8. During the execution of work, department reserves the right to vary the quantity provided in the contract.

9. Tender drawings furnished with the tender document shall not be deemed as working drawings. These may vary from the actual working drawing.

10. The contractors shall carry out the various mandatory tests as per specification (e.g the crushing strength of concrete i.e. cube tests, gradation test for aggregate, slump test etc) as directed by Engineer In-charge. all testing charges / expenses etc shall be borne by the contractor.

11. The concrete mix shall be designed as per revised BIS (IS: 10262 of 2009) and concreting shall be strictly done as per the mix design by the contractor.

1. Earnest Money shall be refunded / released to the successful bidder (LI) on receipt of 5% performance security. The Earnest Money of other participants shall be released on receipt of Treasury Challan / Treasury receipt.

Bidders must ensure to upload their bids in Single cover:

The intending tenderers must ensure to upload the following necessary documents / certificates with the online tender otherwise on line tender will not be accepted / opened.

i) copy of valid registration card, PAN, & latest GST return and Declaration Certificate with seal and signature with the bid.

ii) The cost of tender document fee should be deposited in treasuries under MH-0702 in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Ompora and the necessary treasury Challan must be uploaded online. (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / receipt).

iii) The tenderer whose tender is declared 1st lowest after opening of the price bid, the hard copy, of all uploaded online shall have to be produced in original in the divisional office within seven days. In case of non-submission of the hard copy of requisite documents as mentioned, in the NIT the tender shall be rejected and the offered rates of the 2nd lowest tenderer shall be considered at the risk and cost of the lowest tenderer.

2. a) The tenderer should quote his rate in such a way that the total amount of work amounts without any fractional amount.

b) Other terms and conditions shall be same as laid down in detailed tender document of the work and form of contract

DIPK-8680/23

Date: Sep 12 2023

Executive Engineer

Irrigation Division

Ompora Budgam

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR, NEAR J&K BANK ZALDAGAR Telefax No. 0194-2952696, e.mail Id: [xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com](mailto:xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com) (Tech, MID, Sgr)

Sub: - Extension in bidding time for this office e- NIT No. 23 of 2023-24, dated: 06.09.2023

for below mentioned work: -

""Renovation and minor repairs of Divisional Stores at Gogjibagh".

Ref: - JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No.: 2023\_IFC\_228924\_1

## EXTENSION NOTICE 1

Due to **poor response** to this office above referred e-NIT for the subject work, the critical dates are extended as under: -

Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	19/09/2023 at 1400 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	20/09/2023 at 1230 hrs

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.

DIPK-8695/23

Sd/-

No. MIDS/Ts/1404-1409

Dated: - 12-09-2023

Executive Engineer,  
Mechanical Irrigation Division  
Srinagar

## Public Outreach: DC Shopian visits Imam Sahib tehsil

### HT News Network



SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 12: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb today visited Imam Sahib tehsil of the district to take spot assessment of the issues concerning public, besides taking stock of ongoing developmental works in the area.

The DC interacted with the locals of the area and enquired about the status of various developmental and welfare services.

DDC Members, Ajaz Ahmed Mir and Jan Mohammad also met DC and interacted on various public interest issues.

The DC, while reviewing the status of road infrastructure in Imam Sahib, resolved a dispute on spot which was impeding the road construction work.

Several other concerns flagged-off by people and public representatives were addressed by the DC on the spot while some were referred to concerned executing agencies and authorities for redressal. Directions were issued to officers of R&B and Revenue for redressal of public issues at the earliest to ease the life of the general masses.

Tehsildar, Imam Sahib, AEE, R&B and other concerned were present on the occasion.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed that my name is wrongly mentioned as Bilal Ahmad Sheikh on passport instead of Bilal Ahmad and par- entage wrongly spelled as Bashir Ahmad Sheikh instead of Bashir Ah Sheikh. I have now applied for name change from Bilal Ah- mad Sheikh to Bilal Ahmad and my par- entage as Bashir Ahmad Sheikh to Bashir Ah Sheikh. Any- one having any objection in this regard should contact the con- cerned authorities within 7 seven days following which no objec- tion shall be entertained.

Name Bilal Ahmad  
S/o Bashir Ah Sheikh  
R/o Malooru Shaltang, Srinagar Cell No 7889303071



# DC reviews Aadhaar enrollment status in Rajouri District

## HT News Network

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, chaired a meeting today to evaluate the progress of Aadhaar enrollment initiatives throughout the district. The meeting emphasized the crucial need for efficient execution and widespread participation in the Aadhaar enrollment process. Vikas Kundal reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the District administration to ensure equitable access to various government schemes.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer (DSEO) Rajouri, Sandeep Kumar Sharma, and P.O. ICDS, Showket Malik. Additionally,

ADC Nowshera, ADC Sunderbani, ADC Kalakote, ADC Koteranka, and SDM Thannamandi participated in the meeting through virtual mode.

At the outset of the meeting, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer Rajouri reported that 100% of the eligible adult population in District Rajouri has been covered under Aadhaar. However, the coverage for children aged 0-5 years is approximately 65%.

DC Rajouri Vikas Kundal emphasized the need for coordinated efforts to fully implement the Aadhaar-linked birth registration (ALBR) System at all delivery points in the district. This ensures that Aadhaar numbers are automatically included on birth certificates issued through the CRS portal.

The PO ICDS was directed to conduct a fresh survey to identify the remain-



ing 0-5 years age population within a week and submit a final report by

September 20th. In this regard, Additional Deputy Commissioners Rajouri,

Sunderbani, Nowshera, Kalakote, Koteranka & SDM Thannamandi were instructed to hold regular meetings with CDPOs & ZEOs to identify the left-over 0-5 years age population and enroll them through operators of ICDS, SSA & CSCs. The process should be completed as swiftly as possible.

The DC Rajouri stressed the importance of daily reporting formats and instructed all ADCs/SDM Thannamandi to provide status updates on a daily basis.

Recognizing the crucial role of accuracy, efficiency, and comprehensive coverage in the enrollment process, Vikas Kundal issued directives for vigilant supervision and continuous monitoring by all relevant officers. This hands-on approach ensures that citizens receive accurate Aadhaar documentation, enabling them to

seamlessly access benefits offered through various government initiatives.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri reiterated the unwavering dedication of the district administration to achieving universal Aadhaar enrollment. The meeting served as a platform for reviewing past achievements and strategizing for future phases of implementation.

During the meeting, officers engaged in discussions regarding potential challenges in the Aadhaar enrollment process. They highlighted the previous organization of special camps across the district, targeting both government and private schools. The officers pledged to continue organizing camps to ensure comprehensive coverage for any remaining beneficiaries.

## Director Sheep Husbandry Jammu reviews performance of Department in Districts

### HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12: Dr Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, Director Sheep Husbandry, Jammu today reviewed the performance of the department in the districts here at a meeting held in the Directorate office.

The meeting was attended by District Sheep Husbandry Officers and Farm Officers wherein threadbare discussion was held regarding implementation of different schemes of the department during the year 2023-24.

The Director exhorted the field as well as farm officers to achieve the assigned targets under the schemes like HADP, ISDS, TSP etc within the prescribed time.

Discussion was also held on various issues being faced by the farm as well as field officers in the implementation of the schemes of the department so that these issues are resolved at an earliest for achieving the desired results.

The Director Sheep stressed upon all the Officers to work with zeal and dedication for the benefit of the farming community.

## Fortnightly activities under Gandhi Jayanti commence at GCW Udhampur

### HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 12: The fortnightly activities under Gandhi Jayanti celebrations commenced today at Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur.

On the Day one, NSS unit, in collaboration with the Department of Music under the guidance of Prof. Anjali Mahajan, Principal of the college organised Nukkad Natak on the themes Nasha Mukht Bharat and Bhrashtachar Mukht JK.

The objective of organizing this Nukkad Natak was to spread awareness among the students about hazards of drug abuse, misuse, drug addiction, corruption etc. The Natak also aimed at encouraging the students to contribute their bit in the eradication of the menace of drug addiction and corruption from our society.

About 60 students witnessed the Nukkad Natak with great enthusiasm. Volunteers who presented the Nukkad Natak on the said theme received a lot of applause from the audience.

The Nukkad Nattak was organised by, Sumita Rao, NSS PO, and Yash Kumar, Department of Music while the technical assistance was provided by Dr. Kewal Kumar, Department of Botany.

The others among teaching faculty Ms. Tania Akhter, Tania Mahajan, Yash Paul and Sanjeev Upadhyay were present during the Nukkad Natak.

## Group of 100 men & women farmers flagged off for one day Interstate Exposure Visit by DC Kathua

### HT News Network

KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rakesh Minhas today flagged off a batch of 100 famers for One day Interstate Exposure visit to Regional Research Station, Gurdaspur, Punjab under "Promotion of Oil Seeds" programme being implemented by Agriculture Production and Farmers' Welfare department.

Chief Agriculture Officer, Sanjeev Rai and other officers and officials of Agriculture Department were also present.

At the Flagging off ceremony, the DC Kathua said such exposure visit helps farmers to acquaint themselves with new farming techniques besides providing them an opportunity to

get in depth knowhow of latest agricultural practices. He said the idea of sending farmers to Punjab Agriculture University was to keep them abreast with the latest technological upgrading in the field of Agriculture. He urged farmers to take full benefit of such visits by adopting learned techniques in their respective areas. He appreciated the Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Kathua for their handholding efforts by organizing such exposure visits.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Agriculture Officer said the agriculture department is making relentless efforts for raising farm productivity, reach out to the farming community by organizing different programs and events.

## ADDC Poonch Inspects progress of Developmental Projects in Mandi

### HT News Network

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 12: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Poonch, Sandesh Kumar Sharma, undertook a visit to Mandi today to inspect progress of ongoing developmental projects in the region.

During the tour, the ADDC meticulously examined the works carried out by the Rural Engineering Wing Poonch. He inspected the repair and renovation of Panchayat Ghar Azamabad taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 3.30 Lakh and the segregation shed at Bedar and Gagrian Chool under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) taken up at estimated costs of Rs 4.055 Lakh and allotted



costs of Rs 3.20 Lakh and Rs 3.72 Lakh respectively. The pace of work on a retaining wall near Barari Part 1 and Part 2 in Panchayat Gagrian Chool were also inspected. The twin works have been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 3.30 Lakh and Rs 3.00 Lakh, and allotted cost of Rs 2.80 Lakh and Rs 3.00 Lakh, respectively. The segregation shed at Gali in Pan-

chayat Gagrian B, with an estimated cost of Rs 4.055 Lacs and an allotted cost of Rs 3.54 Lacs, was also inspected. Apart from these works, the ADDC also inspected a range of other projects, including the Indoor Sports Stadium in Mandi, the Azamabad at Saroi Road, the Government Degree College campus site at Mandi and the JJM Scheme in Azamabad.

Discussions were held with the local community of Mandi regarding issues of public importance. The Officer also inspected Government Middle School at Karran, Government High School at Bedar, the Bedar-Phawari Road, the Khet to Paralkote Road, the Tourist Hut at Gagardian, and the languishing project of STD at Sawjian were also assessed during the inspection. After the inspection of the ongoing developmental works, the Additional District Development Commissioner, Sandesh Kumar Sharma directed the concerned executive engineers and officers to work with utmost dedication and exert full efforts to ensure that the projects are completed within the designated time frame.

## District Election Authority hosts Training for Nodal Officers at Kishtwar

### HT News Network

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 12: In anticipation of the forthcoming Municipal Elections, the District Election Authority Kishtwar, under the guidance and supervision of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav who is also the District Election Officer (DEO), organized a one-day comprehensive training program for Nodal Officers here today in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

This intensive training program encompassed a diverse range of critical topics, including security protocols, Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) preparation, strict adherence to the Model code of conduct, execution of SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) initiatives, rigorous expenditure monitoring, effective media communication strategies, adept material management, seamless manpower coordination, SMS monitoring, computerization/randomization procedures, and meticulous transpor-



tation planning. During the training programme, emphasis was laid on the pivotal role of Nodal Officers in harmonious collaboration and efficient coordination to uphold the values of a free, fair, and transparent Urban Local Bodies election.

State Level Master Trainer (SLMT) Riaz Ahmed Butt provided a comprehensive overview of the roles and responsibilities assigned to each designated Nodal Officer.

Speaking on the occasion, ACR Kishtwar Varunjeet Singh Charak encouraged all attendees to actively engage in the training programs and adhere rigorously to the guidelines established by the Election Commission of India (ECI), in order to facilitate a seamless election process.

## JD Employment Jammu inaugurates Three-Month Skill Development Training Program in Udhampur

### HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 12: Dr. Khalid Hussain Malik, Joint Director of Employment Jammu Division, inaugurated a three-month Skill Development Training Program (Associate Electrician) in collaboration with the Government Industrial Training Institute in Udhampur, today.

In his address to the attendees, Dr. Malik emphasized the critical importance of Skill Development Courses, highlighting how they empower unemployed youth by enhancing their skills. He also stressed that the private sector offers lucrative career opportunities beyond government employment. Priyanka Gupta, Assistant Director



Employment Udhampur, encouraged young participants to wholeheartedly commit to the program, recognizing its potential to significantly improve their job prospects in the current market. The "Associate Electrician" training program aims to provide participants with the essential skills and knowledge required in the rapidly growing Electrical Sector. The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Pri-

yanka Gupta, Assistant Director of Employment, who expressed gratitude to all attendees, trainers, and especially Engineer Ravinder Singh Bhatti, Superintendent of ITI Udhampur, for their unwavering support in bringing this Skill Development initiative to fruition. Additionally, as part of the "MUMKIN" Scheme, two vehicles were handed over to unemployed youth in Udhampur District to support.

## Vice Chairperson DDC Udhampur hails contribution of women scientists in Chandrayaan-3 Mission

## Exhorts people to make Meri Maati Mera Desh a public movement

### HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 12: Vice Chairperson, District Development Council Udhampur, Juhi Manhas Pathania, called upon people to make the Meri Maati Mera Desh programme a public movement. We need to participate in it religiously, she added.

She visited different hamlets and paid homage to brave martyrs at 'Falaks' (plaques) installed in all Pan-

chayats. She also visited Amrit Sarovars in her constituency, under the 'Meri Matti Mera Desh' programme and collected a pinch of soil and rice granules from households, which will be taken to Kartavya Path in New Delhi for planting an Amrit Vatika.

Speaking on the occasion, she paid tributes to revolutionaries, martyrs and soldiers guarding the borders. She appealed to the people to join 'Meri Matti Mera Desh' Programme so



that each house in every village of the country would associate with 'Panch Pran'. She said the Azadi Ka

Amrit Mahotsav campaign by the PM has showcased the vision of New India. She also administered the

oath of 'Panch Pran' to the people who pledged to make India a self-reliant and developed nation by 2047.

Ms Pathania also took this programme as a viable opportunity to interact with women and aged who often find it challenging to attend public darbars and put forth their issues. She emphasized the importance of women's empowerment and encouraged them to come forward and participate in decision-making processes. She was appreciative of women sci-

entists in the success story of Chandrayaan-3, monumental achievement of our scientists. This is not just a victory for our space agency, but it is a bright symbol of India's progress and ascent on the global stage.

The analytical prowess, combined with a fervent commitment to inquiry and exploration, of women scientists has constantly propelled the nation into the forefront of global scientific achievements.

## Two-week students induction programme begins at GCET Jammu

### HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12: Two-week students induction programme for first year B.E students batch-2023 began today at Government College of Engineering & Technology (GCET) Jammu.

The program was organized under the patronage of the College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Sameru Sharma.

Speaking on the occasion, she said that the focus of the induction program will be to assist new students to adjust and feel comfortable in the new environment. It will also aid them to boost their confidence, creativity, inventiveness, motivation to work for excellence, regulate time management, development of interpersonal relationships and leadership skills. She encouraged the students to fully participate in this programme, highlighting its significance in instilling the ethos and culture of the institution, building bonds with other students & faculty members and exposing them to a sense of larger purpose.







# G20 AND INDIA'S ROLE IN GLOBAL CLIMATE AGENDA

■ Amrita Singh

India is at the sweet cusp of concluding the BRICS Summit 2023 and starting the G20 meet under its Presidency in New Delhi in September 2023. This is a golden opportunity for India to reinforce its commitment to a just energy transition while shaping international collaborations towards a sustainable future. The XV BRICS Summit Johannesburg II Declaration dated 23 August 2023 has already made a positive attempt in addressing issues of climate change. The Declaration has agreed to address "challenges posed by climate change while also ensuring a just, affordable and sustainable transition to a low carbon and low emission economy in line with the principles of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), in light of different national circumstances."

The BRICS Summit also declared that the member nations share a common view, taking into consideration national priorities and circumstances, on the efficient use of all energy sources, which are crucial for a just transition towards more flexible, resilient and sustainable energy systems. Since India is an integral party to this declaration, it lays down a clear road map for India to harness the 'just transition' commitment in the upcoming G20 Presidency meet in India.

The G20 meet under India's presidency assumes greater importance as she positions herself as a frontrunner in the global climate agenda. Living up to its commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), at the Glasgow Summit, India has set an ambitious target of achieving net-zero emissions by the year 2070 and meeting 50 per cent of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2030. This goal is not only essential for combating climate change but also for addressing the three conflicting challenges of energy security, energy equity and environmental sustainability i.e.

The Energy Trilemma. The commitments align seamlessly with the principles of a just transition, which emphasizes the need to balance economic development with environmental stewardship and social equity. Therefore, in India's energy transition journey, a vital facet that cannot be overlooked is the intersection of justice with these transformative efforts.

India's presidency at the G20 Summit



in 2023 comes at a critical time, offering a platform to showcase that its commitments are action oriented and it can smoothly lead a mission for sustainable and equitable transition as it efficiently discharged its presidency commitments under G20. India can also leverage this opportunity by presenting its successful models, best practices of achieving net zero emissions and progress in expanding renewable energy capacity. This could be more challenging than it sounds but even if India can present reasonable initiatives made in this direction, it can serve two purposes. First, it could be a moral win

over G20 member states and second, it may offer India a head start on the negotiation table to bet for technology share, capacity building, and sustainable investments in renewable energy projects.

This can be in line with India's voluntary action plan for doubling the pace of energy efficiency by the year 2030 which it also proposed in the 4th and last Energy Transitions Working Group Meeting, held under its G20 presidency in Goa in July 2023. The working group also acknowledged and took note of India's proposal for establishing Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre and the Global Biofuel Alliance in

India.

India's energy landscape has undergone a paradigm shift over the past decade, marked by a growing commitment to reduce its carbon footprint and increase the share of renewable energy in its power mix. However, the transition to cleaner energy sources presents both opportunities and challenges in terms of social and environmental justice and India has the chance to create a legacy that transcends borders and ushers in a brighter and more inclusive world.

In conclusion, India's G20 presidency has the potential to be a game-changer

in steering the nation towards a just energy transition. The convergence of India's pledge to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, its commitment to renewable energy, and its leadership role in the G20 presents an unprecedented opportunity for India to lead by example for other developing countries' transition to clean energy. The G20 presidency signifies not just a responsibility, but an opportunity for India to shape a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

The writer is Consultant, NITI Aayog, Government of India

## Prigozhin's life and death exposed the rot in the Russian state

The political system in Russia, compromised by Putin, led to the Wagner Group's mutiny and will continue to pose a risk to his grip on power.

■ Gulnaz Sharafutdinova

On June 23, the power vertical President Vladimir Putin had carefully constructed over more than two decades shook violently. Yevgeny Prigozhin, the head of the Wagner mercenary group, closely tied to the Russian president, staged a mutiny, exposing the deep fractures in the Russian elite.

The confrontation ostentatiously ended in a deal that saw the Wagner Group's forces move to Belarus while Prigozhin was allowed to travel back to Russia, access his assets and property, and continue his involvement in Africa. But it appears now, this was a short-lived truce.

On August 23, a private jet carrying Prigozhin and his right-hand man in Wagner, Dmitry Utkin, crashed in the Tver region near Moscow. A few days later, the Russian authorities confirmed their deaths after DNA tests were carried out.

Various interpretations and conspiracy theories have emerged in the aftermath of the crash, but the most parsimonious explanation is that Prigozhin was assassinated in a delayed response to his insurrection.

Whether it was a planned act of revenge by the Kremlin to "save face" and "reassert control" or a more selfish move orchestrated by actors who wanted to take over Wagner's lucrative operations in Africa and

elsewhere is not clear. But what is apparent is that Prigozhin's life and death revealed the nature of the Russian state.

Under Putin, the political system in Russia has been further infiltrated by patronage networks that have increasingly undermined state institutions and taken over their functions. It is on the basis of this informal power system, which rewards people favoured by the Kremlin, that Prigozhin accumulated his vast wealth and managed to create a business empire spanning catering companies, media organisations (including a much-publicised troll farm), and Wagner, his private military company (PMC).

His role in Russian domestic and foreign operations was denied until the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The demands and pressures of the war created an opening for informal actors like him to come to the fore and publicly pursue their ambitions.

In 2022, Prigozhin finally admitted to establishing Wagner and opened its formal headquarters in a glitzy building in St Petersburg. He started speaking up regularly on social media, bragged about interfering in the 2016 US elections and even signalled he might be preparing to lead a conservative movement and perhaps establish a new party – presumably to fill the big void left behind by the death of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, head of the populist, right-wing Liberal



Democratic Party of Russia.

Meanwhile, the humiliating defeats the Russian army suffered in Ukraine gave more space for the Wagner Group and other irregular forces, such as the troops loyal to Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov, to gain ground on the battlefield. The battle for the eastern Ukrainian city of Bakhmut, led by Wagner mercenaries, allowed the group to present itself as the only military force that could deliver military victories.

The effectiveness of his PMC enabled Prigozhin to gain even more influence in the war and challenge the very institution responsible for waging it: the Ministry of Defence. This confrontation was made very

public by Prigozhin's regular video addresses, in which he castigated the Russian military leaders, including Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu and Chief of Staff Valery Gerasimov.

The defence ministry responded by trying to bring Wagner under its control, which ultimately led to the mutiny launched in June.

Prigozhin's death put an end to this specific incident of intra-elite conflict that developed over the previous year and is undoubtedly being celebrated at the defence ministry. However, it will not resolve the broader problems of the Russian state and its institutions – generated by the informal patronage networks – which the war is only exacerbating.

Prigozhin's death removed one influential actor who spoke "truth to power". While publicising the uncomfortable truths about how the war was progressing undermined the military and the state authorities that were criticised for corruption and ineffectiveness, it also revealed problems that Putin (and the public) may not have been made aware of otherwise.

Furthermore, Prigozhin's verbal escapades also served as a "pressure valve", giving voice to war hardliners' frustrations with the Russian military and the perceived incompetence of the officials in charge.

Now with the arrest of Igor Girkin, a former intelligence officer turned influential war hawk, and the removal of General Sergey Surovikin, who was dismissed for his critical stance within the army leadership, the Kremlin has clearly demonstrated that it has little tolerance for influential critics and it wishes to control the war narrative.

But the complete silencing of war hardliners and Prigozhin's sympathisers might not be possible, and signs of simmering tensions are likely to re-emerge. One group to watch are the growing number of volunteers who are helping the war efforts by raising funds and sending supplies to Russian soldiers at the front. These groups engaged in the war effort at home might channel growing dissent in a society that until now has tried to

disengage from the realities of war.

Prigozhin leaves behind a vast business empire, which will be broken down and likely taken over by state and private actors. But those who inherit his ventures are unlikely to have his skill or inspirational leadership to manage his operations, especially in Africa. Whatever developments are to take place in this realm will likely remain out of the public eye, just as they used to be before Prigozhin ventured out into the open.

For now, Putin appears to have maintained his grip on power. The mutiny is sure to make him more wary of future "black swan" events triggered by the war in Ukraine. But in the long run, the precariousness of Russia's political system, reflected in – among other things – Prigozhin's challenge to power, will persist.

Gulnaz Sharafutdinova is Professor of Russian Politics and Director of Russia Institute at King's College London. She is an author of the award-winning *The Red Mirror: Putin's Leadership and Russia's Insecure Identity* (Oxford University Press, 2020), an earlier book, *Political Consequences of Crony Capitalism Inside Russia* (Notre Dame University Press, 2010), and numerous articles. Source: Al Jazeera



# Validity of sedition law: SC refers pleas to 5-judge larger Constitution bench

■ HT News Network

New Delhi, Sep 12 (UNI) Supreme Court, in its order on Tuesday, referred to at least a five-judge Constitution bench in the batch of petitions challenging the sedition law 124-A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court, led by CJI Dr Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud, referred the batch of pleas to at least a five-judge larger bench for a detailed hearing and to effectively deal with the constitutional validity of 124-A of the sedition law.

The Apex Court also took into record the submissions and arguments by the AG and SG that, at this stage, it was appropriate to defer reference to the five-judge bench having regard to the fact that parliament is in the process of reenacting the law. The court, however, in its order, said that we are not inclined to defer the consideration.

The Attorney General (AG) of India, R Venkataramani, the top law officer representing the Union of India, argued that the new law is there and has been sent to a parliamentary standing committee. "The parliamentary standing committee is looking into it," Venkataramani said.



Senior lawyer Kapil Sibal, for one of the petitioners, opposed it and told the Top Indian Court that the new law is much worse and the prosecutions will go on.

He said in 1973, this section 124-A was made a cognisable offence. Prior to that, it wasn't cognisable. Therefore, they started arresting people invoking

this section.

Sibal, while narrating Section 124-A, said, "disaffection towards the government". As far as 19(1)(a) [Right to freedom of speech and expression], is concerned, it refers to "state", not government.

"What is fundamentally wrong is disaffection towards the government is not disaffection towards the state; the state is not the government, and the government is not the state," Sibal said.

We have to decide on this law as it stands today. We can't wait for the parliament to decide on this, Sibal

said.

To this, the Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta argued that, at the highest level, it was being seriously considered. And it is done now. But the government stated that let all parties be referred to in this context; let us wait for the government. It is at the highest level of being reconsidered; it has now been reconsidered.

In May last year, the court, in an interim order, suspended the use of Section 124-A, staying pending criminal trials and court proceedings under Section 124A across the country.

The Editors Guild of India (EGI), Major General (Retd) S.G. Vombatkere, former Union minister Arun Shourie, and the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCI), along with others, have filed a batch of petitions against the penal provision in the Supreme Court.

The petitions contended that the law causes a "chilling effect" on free speech and is an unreasonable restriction on free expression, a fundamental right.

# Defence Minister inaugurates Nechipu Tunnel in Arunachal

■ HT News Network

Itanagar, Sep 12 (UNI) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday virtually inaugurated 36 infrastructure projects in Arunachal Pradesh, including the 500-meter-long Nechipu Tunnel on Balipara-Charduar-Tawang Road in West Kameng district, from Samba district of Jammu & Kashmir.

These were among the 90 key infrastructure projects dedicated to the Nation by the Defence Minister. The projects spread across 11 States and Union Territories were developed by Border Roads Organization (BRO) at a cost of Rs 2,941 crore.

Of the 90 projects, 36 are in Arunachal Pradesh, 26 in Ladakh, 11 in Jammu & Kashmir, five in Mizoram, three in Himachal Pradesh, two each in Sikkim, Uttarakhand and West Bengal, and one each in Nagaland, Rajasthan and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The strategic Nechipu Tunnel connecting the Balipara-Charduar-Tawang (BCT) Road will be a significant step towards strengthening border connectivity by promoting safe all-weather travel and cutting down distance by 5 km.



Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, who witnessed the inauguration of the BRO projects from Sessa in West Kameng district, said that these projects will greatly enhance troop deployment, equipment movement, and strengthen our border regions.

The Nechipu Tunnel, along with the under-construction Sela Tunnel, will provide all-weather connectivity to the strategic Tawang Region. It will be beneficial to the Armed Forces deployed in the region and the tourists visiting Tawang.

Rajnath Singh had laid the foundation stone of the Nechipu tunnel in October 2020.

The BRO has completed the construction of these strategically-important projects in record time; most of them in a single working season using state-of-the-art technology.

In his address, the Defence Minister described the BRO as 'bro' (brother) of the Armed Forces, asserting that, through its infrastructure projects, BRO is not only securing India's borders, but also playing a key role in the socio-economic development of the far-flung areas.

He credited the timely completion of these projects to the hard work and dedication of BRO Karmayogis as well as the firm commitment of the Union Government.

ects to the hard work and dedication of BRO Karmayogis as well as the firm commitment of the Union Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Together with BRO, we are ensuring that the nation is secure and border areas are developed. Timely completion of infrastructure projects in far-flung areas has now become the new normal of New India," Rajnath Singh said. The BRO has completed the construction of these strategically-important projects in record time; most of them in a single working season using state-of-the-art technology. In his address, the Defence Minister described the BRO as 'bro' (brother) of the Armed Forces, asserting that, through its infrastructure projects, BRO is not only securing India's borders, but also playing a key role in the socio-economic development of the far-flung areas.

He credited the timely completion of these projects to the hard work and dedication of BRO Karmayogis as well as the firm commitment of the Union Government.

## Former Minister D Srinivas hospitalised with respiratory problems

■ HT News Network

Hyderabad, Sep 12 (UNI) Former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President and former Minister Dharmapuri Srinivas (75) was admitted to the hospital on Monday due to respiratory issues.

He is currently receiving treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). The hospitalisation was announced by his younger son, Dharmapuri Arvind, via social media.

Dharmapuri Srinivas has had a long and distinguished political career, having served as a minister in united Andhra Pradesh and as a member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) after the formation of the separate state of Telangana.

The family and well-wishers of Srinivas are hopeful for his swift recovery and are closely monitoring his condition. Further updates on his health are awaited.

## Telangana: 90 school students hospitalised due to food poisoning

■ HT News Network

Nizamabad (Telangana), Sep 12 (UNI) Approximately 90 students from Kasturba School in Bheemgal, located in this district, were hospitalised on Tuesday due to food poisoning.

According to the police, the students reported experiencing stomach pain and vomiting during the midnight hours of Monday, shortly after consuming their dinner.

The matter was brought to the attention of the in-charge special officer, Sobha, who subsequently arranged for their immediate transfer to a government hospital in the area.

Roads and Buildings Minister Vemula Prasath swiftly responded to the situation by directing District Collector Rajeev Gandhi Hanumanthu to conduct an on-site investigation and gather information about the incident.

Additionally, he engaged in a conversation with Prthima Raj, the superintendent of Nizamabad Government Hospital, urging her to ensure that the affected students receive the best possible medical care.

## 103 Dengue cases reported in Himachal's Sirmour district

■ HT News Network

Shimla, Sep 12 (UNI) As many as 103 Dengue cases were reported from Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh as water-borne disease have started spreading across the state with information pouring in of patients being hospitalised daily with Scrub Typhus disease, officials said on Tuesday. ADM Nahan LR Verma informed that so far 103 cases of dengue have been found in the Sirmour district. He said that many cases of Dengue are coming from the Paonta area, as also from Nahan city.

A meeting of the District Task Force Committee for the prevention of dengue was held in Nahan on Monday under Verma's chairmanship. The Additional District Magistrate directed the Health Department to take necessary steps for the prevention of dengue. He said that children should be given information about dengue prevention in the morning prayer meetings in schools. Similarly, through Panchayat also.

## Mamata leaves for Dubai on way to Spain to seek foreign investments for WB

■ HT News Network

Kolkata, Sep 12 (UNI) Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday left for Dubai on her way to Spain to seek possible investments from NRIs as well as foreign investors in trade, commerce, and businesses linking in West Bengal, the gateways of eastern and northeastern states of India, as well as three neighbouring nations Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan.

Kolkata will host the 7th edition of the Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) on November 21-22, 2023.

"After the Dubai halt, I will fly for Madrid and then to Barcelona on a train, where I will meet the investors to invite them for investment in West Bengal," Banerjee told the reporters this morning at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose international airport (DUM DUM) before boarding the flight for Dubai.

She said five years ago she got an invitation from a Spanish delegation in Kolkata to visit their country.

The delegation from Spain came to take part in the Kolkata International Book Fair.

She also said a business conference would be held in Dubai, where she would take



part in seeking investments from the United Arab Emirates and the West Asian nations.

In a letter to Banerjee on Monday, Governor C V Ananda Bose wished her good luck on her trip to Spain.

West Bengal has been rapidly transforming itself into an economic powerhouse. With a combination of strategic geographical advantages, proactive government policies, skilled human resources, and a vibrant business environment, West Bengal has emerged as a key player in India's economic growth story.

It is among the country's leading exporters, with 12 percent of the country's leather and 10 percent of its iron and steel exports.

## India-Mid East-Europe Corridor Shouldn't Become Geopolitical Tool: China

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: China said on Monday that it welcomes the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor announced on the sidelines of the G20 summit so long it doesn't become a "geo-political tool", even as it downplayed Italy's plan to pull out of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

China welcomes all initiatives that truly help developing countries build infrastructure and sincere efforts to promote connectivity and common development, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said.

"At the same time, we advocate that various connectivity initiatives should be open, inclusive, and form synergy, and should not become geopolitical tools," the ministry said in a written response to news agency PTI to a question on China's reaction to the new corridor.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced plans to launch



the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor which includes India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, France, Italy, Germany and the US.

"Today we all have reached an important and historic partnership. In the coming times, it will be a major medium of economic integration between India, West Asia and Europe," PM Modi said.

The corridor will give a new direction to connectivity and sustainable development of the entire world, he said.

"This is a big deal. This is a real big deal," US President Joe Biden said while announcing the pact, aimed at promoting clean energy

and better communities.

"As we work to address infrastructure gaps across low- and middle-income countries, we need to maximise the impacts of our investments," he said.

Analysts say the new corridor is the first global connectivity project to rival China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which drew criticism for its debt sustainability, especially from smaller countries.

The ambitious multi-billion-dollar BRI launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013 envisions connecting China with Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes

rebuilding the old Silk Road trade route.

But with the decade-old BRI running into billions of dollars of investment, China faces a major challenge as Italy has announced its plans to quit the initiative, which according to the Italian Foreign Minister, Antonio Tajani, "did not bring the results we expected" and many Italian parties were against Italy's participation.

Italy's decision comes at a time when China announced plans to hold the third conference of BRI in Beijing next month.

If Italy pulls out, it will be regarded as an embarrassment for President Xi's pet project.

BRI reportedly figured in the talks between Chinese Premier Li Qiang and his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni on the sidelines of the G20 summit in New Delhi on Saturday.

Asked whether the BRI issue figured in the Li-Meloni talks, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing,

■ HT News Network

Lucknow, Sep 12 (UNI) The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday decided to set up a new industrial town in the state's Bundelkhand region on the lines of the successful model of New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (Noida).

A proposal in this regard was passed during the cabinet meeting which was chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and held at Lok Bhawan. The decision not only paves the way for the integration of Bundelkhand's districts into the broader development framework, but also promises to generate an abundance of employment opportunities through infrastructural enhancements.

It may be noted that the decision to establish the industrial city Noida in UP was taken in 1976 and now after 47 years the decision has been taken to set up a new city. Giving details of the proposal approved by the cabinet Finance and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna said, "Under the Chief Minister Industrial Area Expansion and New Industrial Area Promotion Scheme, the proposal to develop a new industrial township on the lines of Noida



by the Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority (BIDA) in Jhansi has been approved."

He said, "In the first phase of the project, an industrial city will be set up by acquiring 35,000 acres of land from 33 revenue villages in Jhansi. The price of this land is Rs 6,312 crore." Khanna said that for setting up of the BIDA a provision of 5,000 crores was made by the government in the financial year 2022-23 and a provision of 5,000 crores in the form of a loan has been made in the current fiscal under the CM Industrial Area Expansion and New Industrial Area Promotion Scheme. "Of the land that will be acquired, 8,000 acres belong to the village society," he said.

## 685 farmers commit suicide in Marathwada region in 8 months: Officials

■ HT News Network

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Sep 12 (UNI) Farmers in Marathwada, who have been facing heavy rains for last three years in a row and now the scanty rainfall this year are taking the extreme step of suicide, fed up with debt, infertility and depression. Therefore, farmer suicides are not stopping in Marathwada. shockingly, as many as 685 farmers have committed suicide in Marathwada in the last eight months. Official update statistics upto August 31 stated that, averagely near about 3 farmers are committing suicides per day. Especially, most suicides were reported in Beed district of state agriculture minister Dhananjay Munde's home district which is known as drought prone where 186 farmers suicide cases reported in the last eight months followed by Osmanabad district 113, Nanded 110, Aurangabad district 95, Parbhani district 58, Latur district 51, Jalna district 50 and Hingoli district 22. During the beginning of this year heavy unseasonal rains and now in monsoon period scanty rainfall have caused huge losses to farmers in Marathwada.

Due to long dry spell in month of August this year Khariff crops were ruined at most of the areas in these districts and also water resources are empty till Tuesday resulting in fodder issue. Due to the worry of how to repay the loan, the constant hassle from the bank, the demand from the lender for money and the worry of running the family as the financial situation deteriorates, the farmers are committing suicide. 865 farmers have committed suicide in the last eight months of this year. The statistic further stated that out of the 865 suicide cases, 475 cases have been found eligible for compensation. As per the rule, compensation has been given to next of kins of 433 deceased by the respective district administrations.



# North Korea's Kim Jong Un To Meet Putin In Russia: Report

■ HT News Network

Pyongyang: North Korea said Monday that leader Kim Jong Un would visit Russia and meet President Vladimir Putin, with the reclusive leader's armoured train reportedly on its way to the border.

Experts suggest that President Putin is seeking artillery shells and antitank missiles from North Korea for Moscow's war in Ukraine, while Kim is reportedly in search of advanced technology for satellites and nuclear-powered submarines, as well as food aid for his impoverished nation.

Kim Jong Un "will soon visit the Russian Federation at the invitation of ... Putin," the North's official Korean Central News Agency said.

"The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un will meet and have a talk with Comrade Putin during the visit," it added.

The Kremlin also confirmed Monday that Kim Jong Un would visit Russia "in the coming days".

The announcement ends days of speculation after US and other officials told The New York Times at the weekend that Kim, who rarely leaves North Korea, was likely to head by armoured train to Vladivostok for arms talks with Putin.

Kim Jong has not travelled outside North Korea since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency



quoted an unidentified official as saying "intelligence authorities believe the train presumed to be carrying Kim Jong-un is moving to Vladivostok".

Broadcaster YTN said Seoul "expects that Chairman Kim will hold a meeting with President Putin of Russia around the day after tomorrow", meaning Wednesday.

Moscow, a historical ally of Pyongyang, was a crucial backer of the isolated country for decades and their ties go back to the founding of North Korea 75 years ago.

Kim Jong has been steadfast in his support for Moscow's invasion of Ukraine,

including, Washington says, supplying rockets and missiles.

In July, President Putin hailed Pyongyang's "firm support for special military operations against Ukraine".

Vladivostok will be hosting the Eastern Economic Forum until Wednesday.

'Pay a price' The White House warned last week that Pyongyang would "pay a price" if it supplied Moscow with weaponry for its war in Ukraine. Washington said Russia could use weapons from North Korea to attack Ukrainian food supplies and heating infrastructure heading into

winter to "try to conquer territory that belongs to another sovereign nation".

Andrei Lankov, a North Korea expert at Kookmin University in Seoul, told AFP that a Putin-Kim summit was part of "gentle diplomatic blackmail" by Moscow of Seoul because Russia did not want South Korea to supply weapons to Kyiv.

Seoul is a major arms exporter and has sold tanks to Kyiv's ally Poland, but long-standing domestic policy bars it from selling weapons into active conflicts.

"The major worry of the Russian government now is a possible shipment of the South Korean ammunition to Ukraine, not just one shipment but a lot of shipments," Andrei Lankov said. Cheong Seong-chang, a researcher at the Sejong Institute, told AFP that, were North Korea to expand military cooperation with Russia, "there is an increased likelihood of prolonged conflict in Ukraine". And Pyongyang's reward for aiding Moscow could mean that "advancements in North Korea's nuclear submarine and reconnaissance satellite development might then progress at a faster pace", he said. Kim Jong Un has become well-known for his preference for train travel when it comes to international trips. His father and predecessor, Kim Jong Il, was famously scared of flying. The current leader reportedly lacks confidence in his private jet and harbours "concerns about the potential for aerial bombing by Washington", said

## Lula backtracks on Putin's safety at Rio G20

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI: Brazil's leader withdrew on Monday his personal assurance that Russian President Vladimir Putin would not be arrested if he attends next year's G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, saying it would be up to the judiciary to decide.

Putin missed this year's gathering in the Indian capital New Delhi, avoiding possible political opprobrium and any risk of criminal detention under an International Criminal Court (ICC) warrant.

Brazil is an ICC member but President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva raised eyebrows at the weekend when he told Indian news network Firstpost: "If I'm the president of Brazil and if he comes to Brazil, there's no way that he will be arrested." He changed tack on Monday, telling reporters: "I don't know if Brazil's justice will detain him. It's the judiciary that decides, it's not the government." Putin has skipped recent international gatherings and sent his Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov to New Delhi instead for the September 9-10 G20 meeting, even though India is not an ICC signatory.

In March, the ICC announced an arrest warrant for Putin over the war crime accusation of unlawfully deporting Ukrainian children.

## Over 9k people missing after floods in Libya

■ HT News Network

Benghazi, Sep 12 (UNI) Over 9,000 people remain missing after devastating floods hit Libya's eastern city Derna, a spokesperson of the Red Crescent movement in the North African country told Sputnik on Tuesday.

On Monday, the head of the government appointed by the eastern-based parliament, Osama Hammad, said that the death toll from flooding in Derna had exceeded 2,000 people.

"We are in need of any international cooperation. We have over 9,000 missing person reports. Larger search operations are required," the spokesperson said, describing the situation in Derna and surrounding areas as "catastrophic."

## Analysis on failure of Russia's Lunar-25 mission to be made: Putin

■ HT News Network

Moscow, Sep 12 (UNI) Russia will analyze failure of its Luna-25 mission, President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday, adding that the lunar program will continue.

"An appropriate analysis will be carried out and the work will continue. It's a pity, of course, that the lunar landing did not take place, but this does not mean that we will end the development [of this program]. We will continue to work," Putin said at the Eastern Economic Forum.

## 5.5-magnitude quake hits NW Myanmar

■ HT News Network

Yangon, Sep 12 (UNI) A 5.5-magnitude earthquake jolted northwest Myanmar at about 1:58 a.m. local time on Tuesday, the country's Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) announced.

According to the DMH, the epicenter was determined to be about 16 miles (25.7 km) to the north and northwest of Paungbyin town of Sagaing region.

The epicenter, with a depth of 58 km, was initially determined to be at 24.49 degrees north latitude and 94.78 degrees east longitude, the DMH said.

The earthquake was also strongly felt in Homalin town of Sagaing region, a local resident said.

## Trump demands recusal of US judge in 2020 presidential election subversion case

■ HT News Network

Washington, Sep 12 (UNI) Former U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday demanded the recusal of the federal judge in his 2020 presidential election subversion case.

Trump's attorneys argued U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan's comments, which were made while sentencing two previous Jan. 6 defendants that appeared to reference Trump, indicated she believed that Trump "should be prosecuted and imprisoned."

"Judge Chutkan has, in connection with other cases, suggested that President Trump should be prosecuted and imprisoned," Trump's attorneys said in a court filing.

"Such statements, made before this case began and without due process, are inherently disqualifying," they added.

Trump has been charged by U.S. Special Counsel Jack Smith with four felony counts for allegedly attempting to subvert the results of the 2020 presidential election.

Trump is the first former U.S. president to face criminal charges. He has been indicted in four cases - two by Smith, and two by state prosecutors in New York and Georgia, separately. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

On Monday, Trump also sought to dismiss seven of the counts he faces in the Georgia case, arguing that he is immune from prosecution for actions he took in his official capacity as president.

## Macron caps Asia outreach with Bangladesh visit

■ HT News Network

DHAKA: President Emmanuel Macron was in Bangladesh on Monday in a bid to "consolidate" France's Asia-Pacific strategy and counterbalance a "new imperialism" in a region where China's influence is increasingly being extended. Different dance forms in the world "Based on democratic principles and the rule of law, in a region facing new imperialism, we want to propose a third way - with no intention to bully our partners or to lead them to an unsustainable scheme," Macron told Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The United States and China are competing for influence in the wider region, and Macron has pushed France as offering an alternative.

"Bangladesh is progressively retrieving its place on the world stage," Macron said, speaking after he arrived in the capital Dhaka on Sunday after the G20 leaders summit in neighbouring India wrapped up. He praised what he called



"the tremendous success" of the South Asian country, a rapidly growing economy and the world's eighth most populous nation with more than 170 million people.

Macron and Hasina on Monday discussed a "commitment" from the country's Biman airline to purchase 10 A350s from European aircraft maker Airbus, a potential contract that could be worth as much as \$3.2 billion.

Biman had previously always bought aircraft from the US manufacturer Boeing, and the hope of a purchase from Airbus was "an important point", Macron told reporters, alongside Hasina.

Macron held talks with Hasina on Monday and vis-

ited a memorial to her father, Bangladesh's first president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"We both hope that this new strategic move between Bangladesh and France will play an effective role in establishing regional and global stability and peace," Hasina said. Macron and Hasina on Monday discussed a "commitment" from the country's Biman airline to purchase 10 A350s from European aircraft maker Airbus, a potential contract that could be worth as much as \$3.2 billion. Biman had previously always bought aircraft from the US manufacturer Boeing, and the hope of a purchase from Airbus was "an important point".

## Clashes in Lebanon camp kill six Palestinians

■ HT News Network

SIDON: At least six people have been killed and dozens wounded in clashes in a Palestinian refugee camp in southern Lebanon, first responders said on Monday as fighting raged for a fifth day.

Does your car have these safety features if not it is useless

Violence broke out late on Thursday in the Ain al-Helweh camp on the outskirts of the coastal city of Sidon, just weeks after similar clashes pitted members of Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah movement against Islamist militants.

The toll has risen to at least "six dead, one of them killed on Monday, and more than 70 wounded", said Imad Hallak from the Palestinian Red Crescent's Lebanon branch, revising an earlier figure of 60 wounded. The casualties include both fighters and civilians, he added.

Lebanon's powerful Iran-backed Hezbollah group urged a halt to the fighting.



Hezbollah calls for immediate ceasefire, expresses 'deep regret'

"We call for an immediate ceasefire," Hezbollah said in a statement on Monday, adding that the group expressed "deep regret" at the violence.

A correspondent in Sidon reported ongoing clashes with automatic gunfire and shelling, after fighting had subsided somewhat overnight. Bullets and shells fell outside the camp's walls in past days, the correspondent said.

Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA) said the city's southern entrance was closed to traffic.

The NNA had reported on Saturday that three fighters and one civilian had been

killed.

Ainal-Helweh is home to more than 54,000 registered refugees and thousands of Palestinians who joined them in recent years from neighbouring Syria, fleeing the civil war there.

The camp, Lebanon's largest, was created for Palestinians who were driven out or fled during the 1948 war at the time of Israel's creation.

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said on Sunday that "hundreds of families have left the camp" since the clashes began.

Some 400 families were sheltering in a mosque, while others were taking refuge with relatives or in emergency shelters.

## Special Pak Court Allows Imran Khan To Talk To Sons Over Phone: Report

■ HT News Network

Islamabad: The Official Secrets Act Special Court has permitted the former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to talk to his sons over the phone till September 15, reported The News International.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief has been demanding to talk to his lawyers as well as his sons for a long time now.

One of Imran Khan's lawyers Sheeraz Ahmed Ranjha said that the court had ordered the jail officials to allow telephonic conversation between the PTI chief and his sons but the jail officials did not grant permission, according to ARY News.

Moreover, the lawyers of Imran Khan were also not allowed by the police to meet him at the Attock Jail, ARY News reported.

Lawyers Sheeraz Ahmed Ranjha and Gohar Ali were scheduled to meet Khan earlier this month.



According to The News International, Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain issued a notice to Attock Jail Superintendent Arif Shehzad seeking a report on the implementation of the court order.

Moreover, PTI chairman Khan also approached the special court against the jail superintendent for not complying with its order directing arrangements for telephonic conversation with his sons, reported The News International.

The Toshakhana issue became a major sticking point in Pakistan's

politics after the Election Commission of Pakistan disqualified Imran Khan for making "false statements and incorrect declaration," ARY News reported. The Toshakhana case alleged that Imran Khan did not share details regarding the gifts he retained from Toshakhana during his tenure as Pakistan's Prime Minister, according to an ARY News report.

Later, the Islamabad Court suspended the conviction of Imran Khan and directed to release him on bail from Attock Jail. However, the special court ordered to keep Imran Khan in judicial remand in cypher case.

The hearing of cypher case, against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) chief, was moved to the Attock jail. According to a statement from the law ministry, the ministry approved holding the former prime minister's Cypher case hearing in Attock prison.

Recently, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) summoned former Pakistan Prime Minister.

## 9 island states take ocean pollution case to UN court

■ HT News Network

HAMBURG: Leaders of nine small island states turned to the UN maritime court on Monday to seek protection of the world's oceans from catastrophic climate change that threatens the very existence of entire countries.

The island states are asking the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) to determine if carbon dioxide emissions absorbed by the oceans can be considered pollution, and if so, what obligations countries have to prevent it.

"This is the opening chapter in the struggle to change the conduct of the international community by clarifying the obligation of states to protect the marine environment," said the prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne.

"The time has come to speak in terms of legally binding obligations rather than empty promises that go unfulfilled," he told the court based in Hamburg, Germany.

The joint counsel representing the islands, Catherine Amirfar, said the point was to force countries to implement substantive measures against climate change.

"We're here to discuss what are the necessary, concrete, specific steps that they must take as a matter of law, not political discretion. That's the key and... a big part of the answer," she told journalists.



# SEC reviews 2nd supplement of Panchayat Electoral Roll in UT

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12: State Election Commissioner (SEC), B R Sharma today convened a meeting to review the preparations for adding left out voters in Panchayat Electoral Roll by way of new Supplement.

During the review meeting, SEC asked DCs to ensure that no eligible voters with respect to 1.1.23 as qualifying date is left out of current process of updation which will be stated from 20th of Sept and will culminate on 20th of October. A tentative schedule was shared with the Deputy Commissioners to start pre-updation activities.

The meeting Held brief

discussions on availability of soft/hard copies of Panchayat Electoral Rolls-2023 for displaying the same for preparing 2-d Supplement, Printing of electoral rolls/forms and availability of infrastructure, Strategy to include new voters in Panchayat rolls whose names already exist in Assembly Rolls w.r.t 01.01.2023 as qualifying date, availability of ERO/AERO/ Panchayat Election Booth Officials (PEBO) and updation of their names and other details on websites of Districts as well as on SEC website.

The mechanism of updation and printing both online and offline mode i.e (passwords etc for the users & user IDs and role of NIC/DIOs), requirement of funds by each District for the



Electoral Roll (Updation & SVEEP activity), tentative Schedule of Revision, Handbook for revision of rolls, meeting of DCs with District Technical

team headed by DIO of concerned District and (ERO/ AERO/PLBOs) along with RDD functionaries Was also discussed.

The SEC sought details from all deputy commissioners regarding polling stations, physical verification of polling stations, classification of poll-

ing stations into various categories, availability of minimum basic facilities, Migrant voter, besides, other special category of voters and Panchayat wise availability of their data for use in Election. The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners, Secretary SEC, Director RDD Kashmir, Director RDD Jammu, Director Panchayat Raj, Jammu, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, J&K State Informatics Officers, Dy DEOs, DPOs and other concerned. The mechanism of updation and printing both online and offline mode i.e (passwords etc for the users & user IDs and role of NIC/DIOs), requirement of funds by each District for the Electoral Roll (Updation & SVEEP activity),

tentative Schedule of Revision, Handbook for revision of rolls, meeting of DCs with District Technical team headed by DIO of concerned District and (ERO/ AERO/PLBOs) along with RDD functionaries Was also discussed. The SEC sought details from all deputy commissioners regarding polling stations, physical verification of polling stations, classification of polling stations into various categories, availability of minimum basic facilities, Migrant voter, besides, other special category of voters and Panchayat wise availability of their data for use in Election. The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners, Secretary SEC, Director RDD Kashmir, Director RDD Jammu.

## District Administration, Handicrafts-Handloom Department Join Forces to Organize 2-Day Craft Carnival 2023

■ HT News Network

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary today chaired a meeting in his chamber bringing together prominent officers from the district to discuss the arrangements for the upcoming Craft Carnival 2023.

The event, organized by the Handicrafts/Handloom Department in collaboration with the District Administration, is scheduled to take place on September 14th and 15th.

Chief Executive Officer,



PDA, Dr. Mohd. Tanveer Khan; PO ICDS, Khalid Hussain Wafa; ACD, Abid Hussain Shah; Chief Education Officer, Bishamber Dass; DSWO, Mohinder Paul; AD Handloom/Handicraft, Shazia Rehman; ARTO, Chowdhary Jamsheed Rasool; DEPO, N.M. Suri; District Culture Officer Rajouri/Poonch, Dr. Alamdar Adam; AEE Aslam Khan; AHTO, Parupkar Singh besides other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of cooperation among the various departments to ensure the overall

success of the Craft Carnival. Several key directives were issued to the concerned departments to guarantee a seamless experience for the attendees.

To maintain cleanliness and hygiene, the Executive Officer of the Municipal Council has been instructed to ensure the cleanliness of the venue, Krishan Chander Park, and its surrounding areas. Sufficient dustbins will be installed, and Safai Karamcharis will be deployed to maintain cleanliness throughout the event. Additionally, two mobile toilets will be set up at the venue for the convenience of the attendees.

## Delegation of JKPS Officers call on Lt Governor

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12: A delegation of Officers of Jammu Kashmir Police Services called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, today.

The delegation comprises of Sh. Joginder Singh; Sh. Perbeet Singh; Sh. Surjeet Bhagat; Sh. Sumir Kotwal; Sh. Ramnish Gupta; Sh. Raj Kumar; Sh. Mushtaq Choudhary; Sh. Shazaad Salaria; Sh. Suresh Chib and Sh. Abhishek Sharma expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for the release of NFS Scales of Grades.

## Training imparted to ROs, AROs at Kupwara

■ HT News Network



KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 12: On the directions of District Election Officer (DEO) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, Election Office Kupwara today conducted a one day training programme for Returning Officers (ROs) and Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) here in the anticipation of Municipal Elections. The day long training session was chaired by General Manager DIC, Sameer Jan. The training was attended by ROs, AROs, and concerned election officials.

During the training session, ROs and AROs were imparted training about their role and responsibilities, election management, nomination process, scrutiny of nomination papers, withdrawal of candidature, EVM management, conduct of polls, counting, declaration of results and provisions of the model code of conduct imposed after notification of Elections.

A thorough question answer session was also held to clear the doubts about the procedures and rules for the conduct of free, fair, and transparent Elections in the district.

## Anganwadi workers sensitized about their roles & responsibilities as members of SAKHI club at Ganderbal

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 12: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today addressed Anganwadi workers during a mega awareness and meeting event organized by SAKHI - Club Ganderbal, to discuss and understand their roles and responsibilities as members of SAKHI club at Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

SAKHI (Support and Knowledge Hub for Improvement) is a community-based initiative aimed at empowering women and promoting gender equality.

The event was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Mushtaq Simnani, District Program Officer, District Social Welfare Officer and other officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the alarming increase in domestic violence against women in day-to-day life and stressed the need for clubs like SAKHI to combat these issues effectively. He encouraged the Anganwadi workers to play a pivotal role in creating awareness and providing support to women in their respective areas.

The DC said that SAKHI club members are responsible for raising awareness about women's rights, gender



equality, and safety within their communities.

The event commenced with an opening address by the organizers, emphasizing the importance of the SAKHI - Club Ganderbal in addressing the issues related to crimes against women and promoting their well-being.

They are expected to provide a support system for women who are victims of abuse or violence, connecting them with relevant authorities and resources.

ADDC while speaking on the occasion emphasized the importance of collaboration between different departments to ensure the success of SAKHI - Club Ganderbal.

## A one month long Technical Theatre Workshop takes off in Srinagar

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, Sep.12, 2023 :A one month long technical Theatre Workshop for honing theatre light designing, Set-Designing and other crafts of theatre began here on Monday. Organized by NSD.TIE. Centre, Srinagar in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages. Secretary JKAACL Shri Bharat Singh Manhas JKAS was the Chief Guest. Other dignitaries present on the occasion were NSD Centre In-Charge Shri Aruna Kumar Malik, Workshop Director Shri. Suresh Bhardwaj, senior officials of JKAACL and senior theatre activists. According to NSD officials the initiative is aimed at giving exposure to theatre practitioners and youth of Kashmir who are interested to learn the techniques and crafts of theatre on Industry standards. Diverse range of topics dwelling on various aspects of theatre crafts will be covered during the workshop by eminent theatre experts. The workshop is monitoring by NSD's centre



in-charge Shri. Aruna Kumar Malik and Director of the Workshop is renowned theatre expert Shri. Suresh Bhardwaj. Speaking on the occasion Centre In-Charge, NSD Shri Aruna Kumar Malik said that NSD will be organizing such workshops in future as well to give boost to the theatre lovers and such kind of workshops would help the promotion in theatre in Kashmir and also help the theatre practitioners of Kashmir to get break through role on different platforms.

## Director Agriculture inaugurates 02 days Seminar on Beekeeping in Srinagar district

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 12: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today inaugurated two days district level Seminar on Bee-keeping in district Srinagar.

The programme was organised by Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare department Kashmir under National Bee and Honey Mission (NBHM) and was attended by Joint Director Inputs, Joint Director Extension, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Technical Officer, Apiculture Development Officer Srinagar, Bee Keepers, Farmers, Unemployed youth and other stakeholders.

Speaking at the inaugural session, the Director Agriculture marked the importance of bee-keeping as a complimentary source to the overall income of the farmers. He said that it is encouraging that a large number of youth is taking bee-keeping as a main venture to earn income and livelihood.



Director asked the educated youth of the region to come forward and take benefit from the programme and schemes by the department for the promotion of bee-keeping and other allied activities.

He said that the development of a bee-keeping special project under a holistic agriculture development programme has been approved by the government. He said that bee-keeping as an off-farm activity has a potential of employment generation due to wide agro-climatic diversity enabling round the year bee-flora available.

## Shahrukh Khan's movie 'Jawan' screened at Cinema Hall Handwara

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 12: After first movie show held last month, Shahrukh Khan starrer Bollywood Movie "Jawan" was screened at Cinema Hall Handwara today.

The Cinema Hall was inaugurated at Handwara last month with the Screening of Shahrukh Khan starred Movie "Chak De India". On the occasion, large number of people, PRIs and local youth enjoyed the screening of Shahrukh Khan starrer Movie "Jawan".

Meanwhile, people of the district expressed their gratitude towards the UT Government for opening up the Cinema and screening of movies in Kupwara district.

The Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan; ADC Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir, President Municipal Committee Handwara, Abdul Majeed Pandit; EO MC Handwara, Naveed Aijaz, ARTO, DSWO and other Officers were present during screening of the movie.

## Toyota Kirloskar Motor Showcases Hilux during North Tech Symposium

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Sep 12, KNT: Toyota Kirloskar Motor showcased two special purpose iconic Hilux, modified with the support of an authorised external vendor in Jammu. Commenting on the occasion, Mr. V. Wiseline Sigamani, General Manager - Strategic Business Unit (North) of Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said "We take great pride and consider it a true honour at TKM to have the opportunity to present the customized variants of the iconic Hilux, during the North Tech Symposium 2023, thereby displaying our technological prowess and offer solutions to the Indian army. Following an in-depth study conducted by our team, we have identified and developed few upgrades to the Hilux through our authorised external vendor, that can greatly benefit the other special customers and the Indian Army. Needless to mention, world-wide, the Hilux is celebrated for its exceptional off-road capabilities, unmatched reliability, powerful performance, and advanced safety features. Looking ahead, we remain committed to providing unwavering support to our esteemed Indian army by tailoring our Hilux offerings to meet their unique needs and serve specific defence purposes".

Globally, the Hilux sales have surpassed 20 million units winning hearts of many discerning customers from over 180 countries. Through more than five decades and eight generations, the Toyota Hilux has created extraordinary experiences and an unbreakable bond with those who desire awesome drives. The Toyota Hilux, which is tailored to meet the needs of customers seeking a versatile utility vehicle, excels not only in off-roading adventures on challenging terrains but also in everyday city use. Furthermore, it caters to emerging businesses, serving as a campervan, supporting farming, defence, mining, construction, and functioning as a rescue van, among other applications.



# Early Detection of Colorectal Cancer Can be Lifesaving, Yet People Avoid Screenings for 5 Common Reasons

Meredith Huetter had just turned 46 years old when she was diagnosed with stage 3 colorectal cancer (CRC) in December 2020.

"My symptoms started in March 2020...I started to experience some changes in bowel habits. That means anything from constipation to diarrhea to having this flip-flop of things happening from a bowel standpoint," Huetter told Healthline.

In April, she spotted bright red blood in her stool, which prompted her to talk with her primary care physician, who chalked up the cause of blood to hemorrhoids. After six months of living with symptoms, she pushed for more information.

In November, she had a CT scan of her bowel, rectum, and colon that detected inflammation. Then in early December, a colonoscopy determined she had stage 3 colorectal cancer.

"Having a colonoscopy at my age at that time wasn't standard of care. At the time, the recommendation was 50 and I was newly 46," said Huetter.

Immediately following the colonoscopy results, Huetter began treatment that involved surgery to install a port and 28 days of chemotherapy, which included five days of radiation treatment while wearing a pump to deliver chemotherapy.

She also underwent six months of chemotherapy followed by infusion and surgery to remove her anus, resulting in a permanent colostomy and her backside being sewn closed.

"Who knows what my world would have been had I been able to detect this earlier," Huetter said.

Screening for colorectal cancer should begin at 45 years old

In 2021, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) released a recommendation that adults aged 45 to 75 be screened for



CRC.

While CRC is most frequently diagnosed among those 65 to 74 years old, Trusted Source, it is estimated that 13% of new CRC cases occur in people younger than 50 years old, Trusted Source.

Additionally, CRC in those aged 40 to 49 years old increased by almost 15% from 2000-2002 to 2014-2016. In 2023, an estimated 19,550 people under 50 will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer, and 3,750 will die from the disease.

"We are seeing younger people get diagnosed with colon cancer (there is no settled agreement on why this is happening), and starting screening earlier can allow us to impact this spike in incidence of cancer in younger population," Dr. Arun Swaminath, chief of gastroenterology at Northwell Lenox Hill Hospital, told Healthline.

The disease disproportionately affects different socioeconomic groups, races, and regions, Trusted Source. In the United States, with higher rates being observed in certain communities, Trusted Source, such as Black

and American Indian or Alaska Native communities.

Despite the increase, awareness of CRC is still lagging, said Dr. Paul Limburg, chief medical officer of screening at Exact Sciences.

"Unless a person sees a healthcare provider on a regular basis, a 45-year-old is very likely limited in what they know and understand about CRC, the importance of screening, and the various options available including a noninvasive test like ColoGuard," he told Healthline.

ColoGuard is a simple stool test that you collect at home and mail in to check for hidden blood and certain DNA changes indicative of colon cancer — but if a person has a positive test, it's essential to have a colonoscopy.

Although a colonoscopy is more invasive and requires significant preparation to empty the colon the day before the procedure, it also prevents colon cancer by removing the potentially cancerous polyps before they become cancerous.

Although there are pros and cons with each test, any screening is better than no screening.

The importance of screening comes down to the fact that CRC is the most preventable, yet least prevented cancer, Limburg stressed.

It is estimated, Trusted Source, that nationwide implementation of an 80% CRC screening prevalence for all eligible adults could save tens of thousands of lives by preventing numerous cases and deaths.

"It's very simple; we can prevent many colorectal cancers through regular screening...screening can identify cancers that are more easily treated, and even pre-cancers that can be removed to avoid a cancer diagnosis entirely," said Limburg.

Why 45-year-olds are not getting screened for colorectal cancer

To uncover the reasons why 45-year-olds in the U.S. are not getting screened for CRC, Exact Sciences led a poll "I Am 45" that was conducted online by The Harris Poll and with steering committee collaborators, including the American Cancer Society, the Colorectal Cancer Alliance, and Fight Colorectal Cancer.

Data was collected among 1,005 adults aged 45 years on March 6-14, 2023. The following were identified as barriers standing in the way of screening for this age group:

Lack of time due to everyday life responsibilities

The poll found that 77% of respondents are parents or legal guardians, 79% work full-time or part-time, and most are juggling other responsibilities that may take priority over their health.

"Like everything else, we are learning that we have to take care of ourselves to be here for the long term to look after our loved ones, enjoy life, and be productive in our fields," said Swaminath.

## NEWS

### Green Peas: Know The Many Health Benefits Of This Excellent Protein Source



In our pursuit of a healthy body, we often rush to buy expensive supplements and protein powders, hoping for quick results. Unfortunately, these purchases can drain our wallets without delivering the desired outcomes. Therefore, it's crucial to consult a nutritionist before taking any supplements. But did you know that a simple ingredient found in your kitchen can provide ample protein, help control blood sugar levels and reduce the risk of health diseases? In an Instagram story, Nutritionist Lovneet Batra shared numerous health benefits of green peas. In the text, she also writes, "Healthy diet going affordable for all." It's a reminder that nutritious choices don't have to be costly.

According to the nutritionist, green peas offer following health benefits:

#### 1. Protein and fiber powerhouse:

Green peas are an excellent source of plant-based protein, making them satisfying and filling. Their high fibre content complements the protein, contributing to a sense of fullness. This combination not only helps control hunger but also supports healthy digestion.

#### 2. Blood sugar management:

As per nutritionist Batra, green peas play a role in regulating blood sugar levels. They have a low glycemic index (GI), indicating that they cause a gradual and steady increase in blood sugar, rather than a sudden spike. Additionally, their abundant fibre content slows the absorption of carbohydrates, promoting a more stable blood sugar profile. This is particularly beneficial for individuals concerned about blood sugar control.

#### 3. Heart-friendly minerals:

Green peas are rich in essential heart-healthy minerals like magnesium, potassium and calcium. These minerals are vital for maintaining normal blood pressure, which is a key factor in reducing the risk of heart disease. Furthermore, the substantial fibre content in green peas contributes to lowering overall cholesterol levels and specifically, LDL cholesterol (considered the "bad" cholesterol), promoting better heart health.

Incorporating green peas into your diet can be a cost-effective and practical way to enjoy these health advantages. Whether you include them in side dishes, soups, or salads, green peas offer a straightforward and nutritious solution for enhancing your overall well-being. As per Lovneet Batra, green peas are rich in protein and help control blood sugar levels.

## Smoking Can Accelerate Aging Process, Reveals Study

The study, presented at the European Respiratory Society International Congress in Milan, Italy, showed that smoking shortens the end fragments of chromosomes in the white blood cells of our immune systems.

The length of these end fragments, called telomeres, is an indicator of how quickly we age and our cells' ability to repair and regenerate. "Our study

shows that smoking status and cigarette quantity can result in the shortening of leukocyte telomere length, which is an indicator of tissue self-repair, regeneration and ageing. In other words, smoking can accelerate the process of ageing, while quitting may considerably decrease the related risk," said Siyu Dai, Assistant Professor in the School of Clinical Medicine at Hangzhou Normal Univer-



sity in China. Telomeres are lengths of repetitive DNA

sequences that protect the ends of chromosomes.

Each time a cell divides, the telomeres become slightly shorter, eventually becoming so short that the cell can no longer divide successfully, and it dies. This is part of the ageing process. Telomere length in white blood cells (called leukocytes) has been linked previously to smoking, but, until now, there has been little research into whether smoking status and the quantity of cigarettes

smoked actually caused the shortening in telomere length. The researchers used genomic data from 472,174 UK Biobank participants, related to current smokers, those who never smoked, and for people who had smoked previously. They found that current smoking status was statistically significantly associated with shorter leukocyte telomere length, whereas previous smokers,

## Turmeric Can Help Treat Indigestion As Good As Antacid, Claims Study

A natural compound found in the culinary spice turmeric may be as effective as omeprazole — a drug used to curb excess stomach acid — for treating indigestion symptoms, claims a study published online in the journal *BMJ Evidence-Based Medicine*. Turmeric, derived from the root of the *Curcuma longa* plant, contains a naturally active compound called curcumin, in thought to have anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties. It has long been used as a medicinal remedy, including for the treatment of indigestion, in Southeast Asia. The study findings showed that turmeric capsules improved digestion as well as omeprazole. While no serious side effects were reported, liver function tests indicated some level of deterioration among curcumin users carrying excess weight, noted the researchers from Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. The team randomly assigned 206 patients aged 18-70 with recurrent upset stomach



(functional dyspepsia) of unknown cause, between 2019 and 2021, to one of three treatment groups for a period of 28 days. These were: turmeric (two large 250 mg capsules of curcumin 4 times a day) and one small dummy capsule (69 patients); omeprazole (one small 20 mg capsule daily and two large dummy capsules 4 times a day (68 patients); and turmeric plus omeprazole (69 patients). Omeprazole is a proton pump inhibitor (PPI).

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dummy capsules 4 times a day (68 patients); and turmeric plus omeprazole (69 patients). Omeprazole is a proton pump inhibitor (PPI). PPIs are used to treat functional dyspepsia, the symptoms of which include feeling excessively full after food (postprandial fullness), feeling full up after only a little food (early satiety), and pain and/or burning sensation in the stomach and/or food pipe (epigastric pain). But long-term use of PPIs has been linked to increased fracture risk, micronutrient deficiencies, and a heightened risk of infections, note the researchers. The findings indicated significant reductions in symptom severity by day 28 for pain and other symptoms for those in the combined, curcumin alone, and omeprazole alone groups, respectively. These improvements were even stronger after 56 days for pain and other symptoms. They acknowledge the small size of the study, as well as several other limitations, including the short intervention period and lack of long-term monitoring data. Further larger, long-term studies are needed, the researchers said.

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## ADHD Linked to Higher Risk of Mental Health Disorders, Study Finds

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, commonly known as ADHD, may be a risk factor for several other mental disorders, according to research recently published in *BMJ Mental Health*.

According to the findings, mental health conditions associated with ADHD include:

major depressive disorder (MDD)  
post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

anorexia nervosa  
suicidal behavior

The study authors note that previous observational studies have found a link between ADHD and various mental disorders. However, it is unclear whether ADHD causes them.

They also suggest that mental health professionals treating patients with ADHD should be aware of the possibility that these other mental disorders could co-occur with ADHD.

What's the link between ADHD and other mental health disorders?

The American Psychiatric Association states that ADHD is one of the most common mental disorders experienced by children. Symptoms of ADHD include:

inability to remain focused  
engaging in excess movement in inappropriate settings  
acting impulsively

To better understand how ADHD could lead to other mental health

disorders, the researchers used a technique called "Mendelian randomization," Trusted Source.

Mendelian randomization uses



genetic variants to represent risk factors to provide evidence of whether that risk factor is causing the observed effect.

The team examined seven mental health issues to establish what sort of links existed between these conditions and ADHD, including:

major depression  
bipolar disorder  
anxiety disorder  
schizophrenia  
PTSD

anorexia nervosa  
having at least one suicide attempt

Their analysis found no evidence that ADHD might be causing bipolar disorder, anxiety, or schizophrenia.

However, it did appear that ADHD increased the risk for anorexia ner-

vosa. There was also evidence that ADHD both caused and was caused by major depression.

There also seemed to be a causal link between ADHD and both suicide attempts and PTSD.

Is ADHD genetic?

The researchers noted that while this type of study can provide stronger evidence of causation than the observational studies that have been done in the past, it does have certain weaknesses.

For example, it's possible that ADHD and another mental disorder could both share the same genetic cause without ADHD itself causing the other disorder.

Dr. Ellen Braaten — who is an associate professor of psychology at Harvard Medical School as well as the executive director of the Learning and Emotional Assessment Program (LEAP) at Massachusetts General Hospital and the author of "Bright Kids Who Couldn't Care Less" — said there are both primary and secondary reasons why people with ADHD are at risk.

"The primary reasons are due to genetics and biology," she told Healthline. "ADHD is a condition that is often inherited, and the genes that are linked to ADHD are linked to other disorders as well. In addition, the genes associated with ADHD are thought to be involved in the development of the brain."



# Rubiya to play for Gujarat Giants in Women's IPL

**SRINAGAR, SEP 12:** The 29-year-old all-rounder Rubiya Syed from south Kashmir, who has been picked up by the Gujarat Giants for the upcoming Women's Indian Premier League (IPL) has a dream to join the national women's cricket team.

Hailing from village Budasgam in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, Rubiya became the second Kashmiri woman to have been selected for the cricket tournament. Jasia Akhtar, a right-handed batter, was the first woman cricketer from Kashmir who had also played for the IPL team.

Obviously, I am feeling very happy for a call from the IPL...I am very excited to join the Gujarat Giants as early as possible", Rubiya said.

The woman cricketer has been playing cricket since 2012 and has represented the Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) for the last several years.

And after getting selected, she has a dream, which is to join the national women's cricket team.

"I want to see myself in the India eleven to play international cricket to show my capability and to make the name of the country, especially Jammu and Kashmir",



Rubiya said.

She said to achieve a spot, everyone has to fight and struggle very hard. "My teachers did hard work to ensure I reached this spot," she said. "I feel excited when I still see my mentors around and guiding me on the right path."

She said her teachers guided her

when school national cricket tournaments were being held, and later coaches taught her technical and other aspects of the game.

"But the foundation was laid at the school by my teachers," she said. Her father, Ghulam Qadir Sheikh, a fruit merchant, has always supported Rubiya despite

financial constraints.

She studied at the girls higher secondary school in Budasgam, and right from school days, Rubiya started playing cricket under the guidance of her teachers, who taught her about the game. "I am sure that I will play cricket in the world arena", she said. UNI

## India go down to UAE in AFC U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers

**DALIAN (CHINA), SEP 12:** India ended their AFC U-23 Asian Cup 2024 Qualification campaign with their second loss in as many matches, as UAE defeated them 3-0 at Dalian Suoyuwan Stadium here on Tuesday.

With this defeat, while India finished at bottom of Group G, they also played spoilsport for hosts China PR, to beat India 2-1 in an earlier match.

It was a do-or-die match for both the sides; a win by two or more goals would guarantee UAE the top spot in Group G of the AFC U-23 Asian Cup 2024 Qualifiers, while three points would give India a chance to qualify as one of the four best second-placed teams out of the 11 groups, the All India Football Federation sources said.

With a victory of 3-0 margin, UAE finished

on top of Group G with four points and a better goal difference. China who ended with four points too, have an outside chance of making the next round as one of the four best second-placed teams.

Both sides sensed the urgency and began the match at great intensity, tackles flying in both halves of the pitch. Jiteshwor Singh picked up a booking around the quarter hour mark for a tackle in the middle of the pitch.

The UAE managed to take the lead in the 26th minute as the Indian defenders were left rather confused after a melee inside the box. Mohammed Abbas Alblooshi was finally awarded the goal after a lengthy discussion between the referee and his assistant.

The side from the Persian Gulf doubled their lead just three minutes after the half-hour mark, when Sultan Adil Alameeri's low drive from inside the box found the back of the net.

Sensing the game slipping away from under their feet, India began to rotate the ball around the park, looking for openings. However, for all their intent, the UAE backline managed to keep them at bay.

After the change of ends, India looked to put some pressure on the UAE defence. Parthib Gogoi made a foray down the right into the attacking third early in the second half, but his cross evaded all the forwards.

India head coach Clifford Miranda made a couple of changes, bringing on Rabeeh Anjukandan and Sourav in place of Sanjeev Stalin and Parthib Gogoi a little after the hour mark, as they looked to pull one back.

However, UAE sat back and waited for the perfect opportunity to spring a counter-attack. Goalkeeper Hamad Abdulla Almeqbaali launched a long ball forward, as Eisa Khalfan finished off the move, to make it 3-0.

More changes were in store for India as Rohit Danu and Ayush Chhetri replaced Suhail Bhat and Jiteshwor Singh, followed by the final substitution of the day for India, as Amarjit Singh Kiyam replaced Vibin Mohanan.

Three substitutes combined with 18 minutes of regulation time left, as Danu cut it back to Rabeeh, who passed it on to Sourav, whose shot was blocked.

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