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Retd Air Marshal
Jcetendra Mishra of
Operation Sindoor fame to be
first CEO of Ram Temple

Sensex, Nifty extend
losses for 3rd session
as oil prices, bond yields
weigh on sentiment

Rahul Gandhi afraid of
defeat, preparing excuses
years in advance: BJP



ACB CONDUCTS SEARCHES
AT PREMISES LINKED TO
TTD DEPUTY EXECUTIVE
OFFICER IN TIRUPATI

Tirupati, Sep 2 : The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday is conducting searches at the residence of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) Deputy Executive Officer, Mendu Lokanatham, in Tirupati. ACB teams have been carrying out searches at Lokanatham's residence in Peddakapu Layout since Wednesday morning. Meanwhile, ACB officials are also conducting searches at his office in Tirumala. Searches were carried out simultaneously at both his residence and office. ACB officials were also conducting simultaneous searches at the premises linked to his relatives. Seven teams of ACB officials, headed by ACB DSP Srinivasa Rao, started the searches at 6 a.m. Lokanatham was at his residence when the officials arrived to begin the searches. The searches by the anti-graft agency are part of the investigations into the allegations that the TTD official owns assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. According to sources, searches were on at a guest house in Tirumala linked to Lokanatham. Simultaneous searches were also on at the houses of Lokanatham's two brothers-in-law in Tirupati. Similarly, officials were also conducting searches at the residence of his sister in Chellur, Yerpedu mandal.

BOMBAY HC ORDERS CBI
PROBE INTO DISHA
SALIAN DEATH CASE

Mumbai, Sep 2 : The Bombay High Court on Wednesday ordered a CBI investigation into the death of Disha Salian, former manager of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput, who died by suicide in June 2020. The court clarified that no individual should be treated as an accused unless the Investigating Officer finds sufficient material against them during the probe. The order came while hearing a petition filed by Satish Salian, Disha's father, alleging lapses by the Mumbai Police in the investigation into his daughter's death. Speaking to IANS after the order, advocate Nilesh Ojha, counsel for Satish Salian, said the court had directed the CBI to record the petitioner's statement, register an FIR, appoint a senior officer to conduct the investigation, and take custody of all relevant records from Malvani Police Station. "The court has made it clear that action must be taken against anyone against whom evidence is found. At the same time, no person should be named as an accused without evidence. It has also clarified that if the CBI files a closure report, we will have the right to object and file a protest petition. We have full faith that truth will prevail." Ojha told IANS.

Kiren Rijiju holds series of bilateral talks
on sidelines of NAM Summit in Belgrade

Belgrade, Sep 2 : Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju held a series of bilateral meetings with leaders from several nations on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in Belgrade. The discussions were focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation and expanding engagement in key sectors. Rijiju met with Saudi Arabia's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Waleed A. M. Elkhereiji, as the two leaders discussed ways to deepen the close and longstanding partnership between India and Saudi Arabia and explored avenues to broaden cooperation across areas of mutual interest. Taking to X, Rijiju posted, "Met with H.E. Waleed A. M. Elkhereiji, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Exchanged views on further strengthening the close & enduring India-Saudi Arabia partnership & advancing cooperation across areas of mutual interest."



The Minister also met Ana Brnabic, President of the Serbian National Assembly, where the two sides exchanged views on the enduring India-Serbia relationship and the role of parliamentary engagement in fostering closer ties between the two countries and their people. Following the meeting, the Parliamentary Affairs

Minister took to X on Wednesday and said, "Had a warm & meaningful meeting with H.E. Ana Brnabic, President (Speaker) of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. Reflected on the strong bonds of friendship between India & Serbia & the important role of parliamentary exchanges in bringing our two countries & our people closer."

He also held talks with Angola's Minister of Foreign Affairs Tete Antonio, during which the two leaders discussed strengthening the bilateral partnership and expanding cooperation for the shared benefit of India and Angola. The minister also met Serbian Minister of Internal and Foreign Trade, Jagoda Lazarevic, and discussed prospects for enhancing trade and economic partnership between India and Serbia and creating new avenues for greater cooperation and mutual growth. On Tuesday, Rijiju called on Aleksandar Vucic, President of Serbia and reaffirmed the strong friendship and growing partnership between India and Serbia. "Called on H.E. Aleksandar Vucic, President of the Republic of Serbia, in Belgrade. Had a warm and meaningful interaction, reaffirming the strong friendship and growing partnership between India and Serbia, rooted in mutual respect & shared interests," Rijiju stated on X.

CM Vijay announces withdrawal of
cases filed against farmers, teachers
during DMK era

Chennai, Sep 2 : The Tamil Nadu government has announced the withdrawal of all criminal cases registered against farmers and teachers who participated in peaceful protests between May 2021 and April 2026 in support of their livelihood, rights and other legitimate demands. Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay announced the decision in the Legislative Assembly under Rule 110, describing it as an effort to protect democratic rights and rebuild trust between the government and ordinary citizens. The order will cover cases filed against farmers who opposed the proposed State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu industrial estate in Tiruvannamalai district. Cases registered during the prolonged agitation against the proposed greenfield airport at Parandur in Kancheepuram district will also be withdrawn. Residents of Parandur and surrounding villages had organised sustained protests against the airport project, arguing that it would lead to the acquisition of fertile agricultural land, damage waterbodies and destroy traditional sources of income. Several protesters were booked by the previous government during the agitation. Some farmers were also detained under the



Goondas Act, drawing criticism from political parties, civil society organisations and human rights activists. The government said the cases would be withdrawn on humanitarian and democratic grounds, regardless of the legal provisions under which they had been registered. Necessary instructions would be issued to the departments and authorities concerned to begin the process of withdrawal. Officials will examine the cases and complete the required legal formalities before applications are submitted to the appropriate courts. The decision is expected to provide relief to farmers who have been making repeated appearances before courts and police authorities in connection with the protests.

'Cheap, disgraceful act': BJP, SP slam Pakistan
PMO over edited SCO summit photo

New Delhi, Sep 2 : BJP and Samajwadi Party leaders on Wednesday criticised the Pakistan Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for sharing an edited photograph of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting, that left out Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other leaders, calling it a "cheap and disgraceful act". Talking to reporters, West Bengal Minister Dilip Ghosh said that such actions only damage Pakistan's image internationally. "The people of Pakistan indulge in such fraud and trickery, which is why no one in the world trusts them. Whether PM Modi's photo is there or not makes no difference at all. They are only tarnishing their own country's image," he said. Speaking to IANS, Samajwadi Party leader S.T. Hasan also criticised the move, saying Pakistan should not stoop to such a low level. "This is a very cheap and disgraceful act.



Pakistan should not stoop to such a low level. Our country is far ahead of Pakistan in every respect. Its only job is to spread terrorism, and it has shot itself in the foot," he said. Hasan further said that Pakistan had failed to respond to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks on terrorism during the SCO Summit. "They could not respond to our Prime Minister's

remarks on terrorism and remained silent. Since they had no answer, they edited the picture out of frustration. Such actions serve no purpose and only make them look embarrassed," he said. The X post by the Pakistan Prime Minister's Office featuring world leaders at the SCO Summit in Kyrgyzstan's Bishkek drew attention on Tuesday after the image was cropped on both

sides. The edited photograph left out Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, and several other leaders. "Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with heads of States at the SCO Council of Heads of State Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 1 September 2026," the Pakistan PMO said in the post on Tuesday.

Iran's IRGC claims
attacks on US
bases in Kuwait,
Jordan and Iraq

Tehran, Sep 2 : Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on Wednesday claimed that it carried out attacks on the US Ali Al-Salem base in Kuwait, a military camp housing US Marines in Jordan and destroyed a US surveillance balloon control system at an American base in Iraq, local media reported. In the statement, the IRGC said that it successfully hit the living quarters and command post of the US Ali Al-Salem base's American commander in Kuwait. The IRGC said that the action was taken as part of its operation against Ali Al-Salem Base and demonstrates that it has complete intelligence information regarding the US movements across the region, Iran's semi-official Tasnim News Agency reported. The IRGC said that it carried out a ballistic missile attack on a US Marines base, Camp Titon, on the Gulf of Aqaba in Jordan in retaliatory action against the US attack on a wedding ceremony in Sirik, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. According to the statement, the operation in Jordan destroyed several facilities and helicopters, and American forces suffered heavy casualties.

Nepal PM calls for global response to
rising Himalayan climate risks

Kathmandu, Sep 2 : Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah on Wednesday called for stronger international attention to growing climate-related risks in the Himalayan region as the death toll from devastating floods in the Bhotekoshi River crossed 1,100. Addressing the House of Representatives, Shah said Nepal must highlight more forcefully the disasters it is facing due to climate change. At least 1,114 bodies swept away by last week's floods had been recovered by 9 am Wednesday, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA). Around 3,916 people remain out of contact. Experts said an avalanche blocked the Lengde Khola, a tributary of



the Bhotekoshi River near the Nepal-China border. The accumulated water later breached the natural barrier, triggering a massive flood that swept downstream towards the Trishuli River and devastated settlements and infrastructure. Shah said the disaster had raised questions about how such an

event occurred and what it meant for Nepal's future. "The huge disaster, whose impacts of climate change we have suddenly experienced, has kept us working around the clock to manage the damage. At the same time, another profound question has arisen in our minds: How did this disaster come upon us?"

he said. Referring to expert assessments, Shah said the incident was a serious warning that climate change was increasing risks in the Himalayan region. "We must make the international community aware of the disasters we are experiencing as a result of climate change. Climate change is a global challenge. Its impacts and efforts to mitigate and manage them are the shared responsibility of the global community," he said. Shah also defended the government's response to questions over whether timely warnings were issued to the public. "As soon as we received information that the flood was approaching, our security personnel were deployed to alert residents.

World Bank President identifies 5 sectors
that could create huge jobs in India

Asheville, Sep 2 : World Bank President Ajay Banga has identified infrastructure, agriculture, primary healthcare, tourism and value-added manufacturing as five sectors that could create large numbers of jobs in India, particularly through micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. In an exclusive interview with IANS, Banga said private investment would be central to turning India's economic growth into employment for its large young population. "Jobs are created in the private sector. Government enables and the private sector creates," Banga said. "And the jobs are created with micro and small and medium sized enterprises." Banga placed infrastructure



at the top of the list, pointing both to employment generated through construction and to the wider economic activity enabled by better physical connectivity. "One of those is infrastructure, they're doing so, construction, but then what it enables," he said. Agriculture for small farmers was the sec-

ond area identified by the World Bank chief. "When I was in India last time, I was in Uttar Pradesh and I got a chance to see cooperatives working in the state with technology from Google and us trying to enable small farmers to get access to the inputs and stuff they need at scale," he said.

EDITORIAL

Symbols to Serve

India witnessed a quietly historic moment on Friday as Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Seva Teerth complex, the new home of the Prime Minister's Office, the National Security Council Secretariat and the Cabinet Secretariat. The shift from the colonial-era South Block near Rashtrapati Bhavan carries both practical and symbolic significance. That it happened on the 95th anniversary of New Delhi being inaugurated as India's modern capital adds historical weight to the moment. For decades, India's top administrative offices functioned from ageing buildings designed in a colonial era for a very different governance structure. These spaces served the nation well, but they also reflected a past India has steadily been moving beyond. Since 2014, the Modi government has taken visible steps to reshape this landscape, not merely through new buildings, but through a new mindset. Renaming public spaces has been part of this effort. Kartavya Path replaced Rajpath, emphasising duty over imperial symbolism. The Central Secretariat complexes became Kartavya Bhawan. Race Course Road is now Lok Kalyan Marg. Raj Bhawans and Raj Niwas have similarly been reimagined as Lok Bhavan and Lok Niwas. These are not cosmetic changes alone. They signal a shift from ruler-centric language to citizen-centric governance. Seva Teerth fits naturally into this larger narrative. The name itself conveys service as a sacred duty. The motto -- Nagrik Devo Bhava (the citizen is akin to God)-- inscribed there, captures the philosophy clearly. Governance, at its best, is not about power. It is about service. The symbolism is deliberate and timely. There is also a strong administrative logic behind the move. For years, key ministries and secretariats operated from fragmented locations across the Central Vista area. This created coordination challenges, higher maintenance costs and slower decision-making. Modern governance requires faster communication, secure infrastructure and efficient working conditions. Consolidating these offices into future-ready facilities can help improve both efficiency and responsiveness. This shift is therefore not just architectural. It reflects a broader attempt to modernise India's governance ecosystem while rooting it in Indian civilisational values. A country aspiring to global leadership must have institutions that are technologically modern, administratively efficient and culturally confident. Critics may debate costs or priorities, as they should in any democracy. But the broader direction is difficult to ignore. Nations evolve not only through policies but also through symbols, institutions and public imagination. When administrative spaces reflect national confidence rather than colonial inheritance, it subtly shapes how governance is perceived. Ultimately, buildings alone do not deliver good governance. People, policies and accountability do. Yet infrastructure that encourages efficiency and reminds leaders of their duty to citizens can play a meaningful role. The inauguration of Seva Teerth, therefore, marks more than a relocation of offices.

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A hand-drawn illustration of a hand writing on a notepad, with a newspaper clipping of the Tricolour Estate advertisement overlaid on it. The newspaper clipping features the same title and sub-header as the main ad, along with a photograph of a city skyline and several columns of text. A pen is shown writing on a notepad in the background.

Duleep Trophy

Ishan, Sooryavanshi steer East Zone to final, after win over Central Zone



Bengaluru, Sept 2: Ishan Kishan's unbeaten 39 and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's quick 43 helped East Zone defeat defending champions Central Zone by four wickets and enter the final of the Duleep Trophy on Tuesday. Chasing a target of 159, East Zone reached 162 for six, with Kishan anchoring the innings under pressure. Sooryavanshi provided the early momentum with a 43-ball 40, hitting three fours and a six. Mohammed Shami remained unbeaten on eight alongside Kishan to complete the chase. East Zone had faced a tough situation after Harsh Dubey claimed four wickets. Yash Thakur and Saransh Jain also struck to put pressure on the East batters. However, Kishan remained composed and guided his team across the finishing line.

Earlier, East's bowlers produced an impressive performance on the third day. Central Zone resumed

at 45 for three but were eventually bowled out for 158. Mukesh Kumar claimed four wickets, while Mohammed Shami took three. Abhijit K. Sarkar also made an early breakthrough by dismissing nightwatchman Aryan Pandey. Central slipped to 97 for eight before Harsh Dubey and Arshad Khan added 43 runs for the ninth wicket. Their resistance ended soon after, leaving East with a target of 159. During the chase, Sooryavanshi initially played cautiously before accelerating. He was dismissed in the 14th over after Patidar took a fine running catch off Yash Thakur. Dubey then briefly revived Central's hopes by dismissing Kumar Kushagra and Anukul Roy off successive deliveries, reducing East to 124 for five. Kishan, however, held his nerve despite the dismissal of Sudip Kumar Gharami and secured victory. Earlier, Central had scored 266 in their first innings, with Rinku Singh making 60. East also scored 266, led by Sooryavanshi's 92 and Abhimanyu Easwaran's 69. East's disciplined bowling in the second innings ultimately proved decisive, ending the defending champions' campaign.

Sangwan leads North's fight back but South favourites to reach final

Bengaluru, Sept 2: North Zone opener Sanat Sangwan answered his exclusion from the Duleep Trophy quarter-final with a determined 76 against South Zone in the semi-final on Tuesday, although South remained in a strong position at the end of the third day. South Zone resumed with captain Tilak Varma unbeaten on 106 and reached 312 in their first innings, securing a 117-run lead. Varma remained unbeaten on 116, while Kavuri Saiteja contributed 12. The pair added 42 runs for the final wicket. In reply, North Zone finished the day at 256 for seven, with Sangwan's 148-ball 76 providing the foundation. He struck eight boundaries and shared a 104-run second-wicket partnership with Delhi teammate Ayush Doseja, who scored his second half-century of the tournament. North, however, suffered a dramatic collapse after reaching 175 for two. Five wickets fell for just 34 runs, reducing them to 209 for seven. Nishant Sindhu and Anshul Kamboj then added an unbeaten 47-run stand for the eighth wicket to take the lead closer to 150. For South, Saiteja, MD Nidheesh and Shreyas Gopal claimed two wickets each. Sangwan's performance came amid controversy over his earlier omission from the quarter-final. He displayed solid defence against the new ball before opening up with attacking strokes. South need only a draw to reach the final against East Zone. North must build a substantial lead and take all 10 South wickets to qualify.

Samayra named best athlete at APR Nair sports meet

Jamshedpur, Sept 2: Samayra was named the Best Athlete during the girls' athletics events organised on Tuesday as part of the 15-day sports competition being held by the Aman Welfare Association in Mango to mark the death anniversary of educationist late APR Nair. Sharika secured first position in the long jump, while Meena Tudu and Aisha Minj topped the high jump and triple jump events, respectively. The winners were felicitated with medals by social worker Dr Afroz Shakeel, Md Tahir Hussain, Father Joseph Keretta, Father Robin Hessa and Satbir Singh after the events. The 15-day sports competition will conclude on September 8. During the closing ceremony, outstanding sports teachers from the city will be honoured with the APR Nair Excellence Award by the organising committee.

Bravo, Pollard and Narine honoured with stand at Queen's

Port of Spain, Sept 2: Trinidad and Tobago's most celebrated cricketers - Dwayne Bravo, Kieron Pollard and Sunil Narine - unveiled a stand named after them at the historic Queen's Park Oval. The stand unveiling, held on Monday, is part of the Queen's Park Cricket Club's (QPCC) celebrations, marking Trinidad & Tobago's 64th Independence Day. It recognises the three homegrown stars whose achievements have contributed significantly to the country's legacy in international and franchise cricket. The stand was formerly known as the Trini Posse Stand. The honour places Bravo, Pollard and Narine alongside a distinguished group of Trinidad and Tobago cricketing legends whose



names are associated with the Queen's Park Oval. Other notable facilities at the venue include the Brian Lara Pavilion, Deryck Murray Players' Gallery, Jeffrey

Stollmeyer Stand, Learie Constantine Stand, Gerry Gomez Media Centre and Cyril L. Duprey Stand.

Carlos Alcaraz returns to the US Open with a victory, Aryna Sabalenka also wins her first match



New York, Sept 2: Carlos Alcaraz returned to the U.S. Open and looked healthy enough for a run at a repeat. Alcaraz beat Roman Safiullin 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 on Monday,

showing no problems with the right wrist injury that had sidelined the 23-year-old Spaniard since April. Following fellow two-time U.S. Open champion Aryna Sabalenka

Stan Wawrinka's Grand Slam career ends as the 2016 US Open champion falls to Matteo Berrettini

New York, Sept 2: Stan Wawrinka's Grand Slam career ended Monday when the 2016 U.S. Open champion lost 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3), 6-0 to Matteo Berrettini. Wawrinka won the last of his three major titles in Flushing Meadows when he beat Novak Djokovic in the final 10 years ago. At 41, he was given a wild card into the event in what he has said will be

his final season before retiring. "I'm going to miss it for sure. I'm going to miss it big time. I love the game," Wawrinka said before he was honored on the court by U.S. Tennis Association officials. The match appeared remarkably similar to the meeting between the same players at Wimbledon, when Berrettini won a four-setter, with each going to a tiebreaker.

onto Arthur Ashe Stadium, the No. 2-seeded Alcaraz appeared more comfortable as the match went on and delivered the all-around game that has made him a fan favorite in New York. He held his hand to his ear to encourage louder cheers and pumped his fist after a pretty volley winner in the final game of the match.

"I'm just really happy that I was able to compete again," Alcaraz said. "I think the level of tennis is going to be better for sure. I'm just really happy with the level that I played my first match." If the seven-time Grand Slam champion stays healthy, he may quickly become a huge favorite with top-ranked Jannik Sinner sidelined by a knee in-

jury and No. 4 Novak Djokovic losing in the U.S. Open's first round for the first time on Sunday. With the tournament thrown into shock by that result - Djokovic had been 19-0 in the first round at Flushing Meadows, where he won four of his men's-record 24 Grand Slam titles - Sabalenka brought back some normalcy. Sabalenka beat Camila Osorio 6-4, 6-4 to begin her bid to be the first player to win three straight U.S. Open championships since Serena Williams from 2012-14. She has been to the last three U.S. Open finals, rebounding from a loss to Coco Gauff in 2023 by winning in 2024 and then topping Amanda Anisimova last year to repeat.

India A to tour New Zealand for three four-day matches

Mumbai, Sept 2: India A will play three four-day matches against New Zealand A in Christchurch from October 24, New Zealand Cricket announced on Tuesday. The series will be part of India's build-up to the two-Test series against New Zealand later in the tour, with the A side's matches preceding the senior team's red-ball assignment. The fixtures were announced as part of New Zealand Cricket's domestic red-ball schedule for the Plunket Shield. "The domestic red ball summer will also get an injection of international class as New Zealand A host India A for three four-day matches in Christchurch starting October 24," NZC said on its website. India are scheduled to tour New Zealand in October-November for five T20Is, five ODIs and two Tests.

The two-Test series will begin in Wellington from November 19-23, followed by the second Test in Christchurch from November 27-December 1.

India are currently ranked fifth in the World Test Championship points table, while New Zealand are third.

New Zealand had made a historic 3-0 sweep in their tour of India during their previous Test series in 2024-25.

Bumrah, Nitish included in India's squad for Afghanistan T20I series

New Delhi, Sept 2: Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, on Tuesday, was named in the Indian squad for the three-match T20I series against Afghanistan in the national capital subject to fitness clearance as the selectors picked an identical team that will travel to Aichi-Nagoya for the Asian Games later this month. Afghanistan will be 'hosting' India for three T20Is to be played on September 13, 15 and 17 here at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. The squad also features all-rounders Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar and fast bowler Harshit Rana, whose availability for the series to be hosted by the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) is also subjected to fitness. Bumrah returns to the squad after being sidelined due to an impact injury sustained on his knee during India's ODI series in England, and subsequently missed the team's two-Test series in Sri Lanka. The 32-year-old Bumrah was advised rest by the BCCI medical team when it was time for selection of the Sri Lanka tour. Bumrah had suffered the impact injury to his knee and played through the IPL with it, largely looking off colour. With their workload management and future series in mind, Indian selectors had earmarked both Bumrah and Hardik Pandya for more ODI cricket keeping the 2027 World Cup in mind, while also keeping the door open for recalling them any



important assignments. Each of these four players have been currently put on Return to Play protocols. Squad: Shreyas Iyer (c), Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Sanju Samson (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Tilak Varma (vc), Shivam Dube, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Varun Chakaravarthi, Ravi Bishnoi, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana.

Young sportspersons vie for honours at DAV tournament



Jamshedpur, Sept 1: The two-day DAV Sports State Level Tournament 2026 for athletics and squash was inaugurated at the JRD Tata Sports Complex on Tuesday. The tournament is being jointly hosted by DAV Public School, NIT Campus, Adityapur, and DAV Public School, Bistupur. Young sportspersons from 64 DAV schools across 10 clusters of Jharkhand are partici-

pating in the event. Dr Gautam Sutradhar, Director, NIT Adityapur and Chairman of DAV Public School, NIT Campus, Adityapur, was the chief guest. Ravinder Talwar, Secretary, DAVCMC, New Delhi and Chairman of DAV Public School, Bistupur, along with State Coordinator DAV Sports Pragna Singh and Principal of DAV Public School, Bistupur, and ARO, Jharkhand Zone E, was also

present. The sports oath was administered by Sports Captain Sumona Isha Mandal of Class XII H, with participants pledging to uphold honesty, fair play and respect.

Cultural performances were also presented, including a Rajasthani folk dance by DAV Public School, NIT Campus and a tribal folk dance of Jharkhand by DAV Public School, Bistupur. Addressing the participants,

Dr Sutradhar said sports should be made part of daily life and every child should play at least two games. He said sports help develop the ability to face challenges and pursue excellence. Competitions are being held in athletics and squash in Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 categories for boys and girls. Winners were awarded medals amid an enthusiastic atmosphere.

Lad replaces Shardul as Mumbai Ranji captain

Mumbai, Sept 2: Seasoned middle-order batter Siddhesh Lad has replaced Shardul Thakur as Mumbai captain for the upcoming Ranji Trophy season and either Shreyas Iyer or



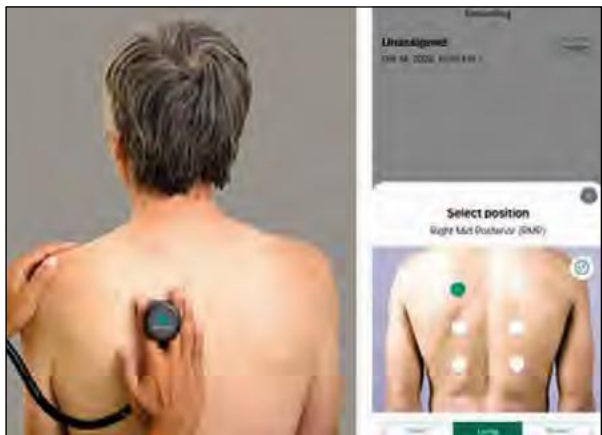
Suryakumar Yadav will lead the side in white-ball domestic tournaments depending on their availability. Thakur, 34, has been replaced to manage his workload since the Mumbai think tank aims to maximise his value as the premier bowler in the red-ball team. He has also contributed heavily with the bat in crunch situations in the past. It is for a second consecutive season that Mumbai

Unnati loses, Hariharan-Arjun retires on day 1 of China Masters

Shenzhen, Sept 2: Unnati Hooda fell at the first hurdle in women's singles, while men's doubles pair Hariharan Amsakarunan and M R Arjun retired at the first-game interval of their opening-round match at the China Masters Super 750 badminton tournament here on Tuesday. Hooda, ranked world No. 25, went down 10-21, 18-21 to South Korea's world No. 12 Kim Ga Eun in the opening round. Earlier, Hariharan and Arjun were trailing 8-11 in the opening game against China's Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi when they decided to concede the match. The reason for their retirement was not immediately clear, although it appeared to be related to fitness. Hooda looked out of sorts in the opening game as Kim raced to a 4-0 lead and quickly stretched it to 11-3 before closing out the game. The Indian showed greater resistance in the second game, staying in contention from the start and taking slender leads at 8-7 and 14-13 before the score reached 18-18.

HEALTH

AI-powered digital stethoscopes show promise in bridging screening gaps



New Delhi. As tuberculosis (TB) continues as the deadliest infectious cause of deaths globally, a new study has shown that artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled digital stethoscopes can help fill critical screening gaps, especially in hard-to-reach areas.

In a commentary published in the journal Med (Cell Press), global experts contended that stethoscopes combined with digital technology and AI can be a better option against the challenges faced in screening programmes, such as under-detection, high cost, and inequitable access.

"AI-enabled digital stethoscopes have demonstrated promising accuracy and feasibility for detecting lung and cardiovascular abnormalities, with promising results in early TB studies. Training and validation in diverse, high-burden settings are essential to explore the potential of this tool further," said corresponding author Madhukar Pai from McGill University, Canada, along with researchers from the UAE, Germany and Switzerland.

Despite advancements in screening and diagnostic tools, an estimated 2.7 million people with TB were missed by current screening programmes, as per data from the World Health Organization (WHO). Routine symptom screening is also likely to miss people with asymptomatic or subclinical TB.

While the WHO recently recommended several AI-powered computer-aided detection (CAD) software, as well as ultra-portable radiography hardware, higher operating costs and upfront hardware act as a deterrent.

This particularly appeared difficult in primary care settings and or among pregnant women due to radiation concerns.

At the same time, AI showed significant potential for screening, including applications beyond CAD of TB from radiographs, said the researchers.

"One application of AI for disease screening is to interpret acoustic (sound) biomarkers of disease, with potential to identify sounds that appear nonspecific or are inaudible to the human ear," they added, while highlighting the potential of AI in detecting and interpreting cough biomarkers and lung auscultation to analyse breath sounds.

Studies from high-TB burden countries, including India, Peru, South Africa, Uganda, and Vietnam, highlighted that AI-enabled auscultation could hold promise as a TB screening

Dia Mirza calls husband Vaibhav Rekhi her 'home' as they mark 5 years of marital bliss

Mumbai. Actress Dia Mirza called her husband Vaibhav Rekhi her 'home' as they marked 5 years of marital bliss on Sunday.

The 'Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein' actress posted a couple of rare pictures from the wedding day on social media on her 5th wedding anniversary with the businessman.

"The night we met the stars rejoiced....5 years side by side Vaibhav, you are my home. Our kids and our life together my sanctuary (sic)," Dia wrote, wishing her husband on their special day.

As soon as the post reached social media the comment section was flooded with wishes by sev-



eral members of the entertainment industry, including Bipasha Basu, Richa

Chadha, Patralekhaa, Riddhima Kapoor, Karishma Tanna and others.

For the unaware, Dia tied the knot with businessman and investment banker Vaibhav Rekhi on February 15, 2021. Just a few months into their marriage, the couple embraced parenthood as they welcomed their son, Avyaan, in May of the same year.

Before her wedding to Vaibhav, Dia was married to Sahil Sangha. However, the couple decided to amicably part ways in 2019.

Meanwhile, Vaibhav was also previously married to Sunaina Rekhi, a yoga instructor and lifestyle coach. These two even have a daughter named Samaira Rekhi.

Work-wise, Dia has joined forces with Netflix for not one but two promising projects.

She will be a part of the action thriller "Ikka", featuring Sunny Deol and Akshaye Khanna as the lead.

Directed by Siddharth P. Malhotra, "Ikka" explores themes of power, resistance, and moral conflict.

Dia has already wrapped up the shoot for the project expected to premiere this year.

Over and above this, she has also been roped in for "Operation Safed Sagar", a web series inspired by true events.

Helmed by Oni Sen, the drama will see Siddharth and Jimmy Shergill as part of the core cast.

Amruta Fadnavis says her song 'Shambhu Re' awakens the power of devotion



Mumbai. Playback singer Amruta Fadnavis, who has released her new song 'Shambhu Re' on the occasion of Mahashivratri, has said that the song has the power to awaken devotion.

The singer, who is also the wife of the Maharashtra Chief Minister, Devendra Fadnavis, spoke with IANS recently, and shared the idea behind the song.

She told IANS, "When you have a devotion and love for your God, whether it is a difficult song, whether it is this song that has just been sung, 'Shambhu Re', which itself is a very beautiful song. So I think the song that awakens the devotion in you is beautiful. So I can't compare. But both have their own qualities".

She also spoke about her passion for music, as she said, "Music is my soul. It's like breathing for me. Whether it's late night or early morning, whenever I get time, I practise classical music. I practise my suralap. And the songs that come, I work on them and then record them. So I think every song is a new production for you. You have a baby. So I think it's very important to give it justice. So I work on every song. In fact, Monty ji helped me a lot. And because of him, I was able to succeed".

When asked if she would ever take up a role on the celluloid, she said that she is not actively looking for films, and has also declined many acting offers in the past.

"Music is my passion. How to emote that passion, I naturally know how to do it. So in my vocals, or the songs I have sung, I feature in them. But I have never thought of acting. Whatever offers I got, I told them politely that this is not my path", she added.

Dhanush performs on stage with Rahman during surprise appearance at Chennai show

Mumbai. Tamil star Dhanush, who was recently seen in 'Terelshk Mein', made a surprise appearance at the Oscar and Grammy-winning music composer A. R. Rahman's Chennai leg of his Wonderment Tour.

Marking an electrifying presence on stage, the actor also performed with A. R. Rahman to the thumping beats. A. R. Rahman also took to his Instagram, and shared a picture from the show, as he notified his followers of his sabbatical from social media for over a month.

He wrote, "Home sweet home...my loving clan...touched EPI...Ps...before I take a sabbatical for the next 40 days from social media...this is a nice way to sign off". Meanwhile, Dhanush, who predominantly works in Tamil cinema, was recently seen in the Hindi film 'Terelshk



Mein' in the role of an air-force pilot. He made his acting debut with 'Thulluvadhollamai', directed by his father Kasthuri Raja. He gained wide recognition with 'Kadhal Kondein' and

'Pudhupettai', both directed by Selvaraghavan. He has won two National Film Awards for Best Actor for 'Aadukalam' and 'Asuran'.

His performances are often noted for naturalism and physical transformation.

Shekhar Kapur talks about significance of free will as he reflects on his journey from C.A to movies



Mumbai. Ace filmmaker Shekhar Kapur couldn't help but reflect on the importance of free will in one's life as he looked back on his unconventional yet fascinating journey from being a C.A student to making movies.

Shekhar recalled the time he went to London to pursue a career in Chartered Accountancy, heading towards a life of comfort. However, destiny had some other plans for him. He wrote on social media, "That was a night before I left India for London to be a Chartered Accountant. Life seemed set. The best qualification you could have then. Great job who you got back. High up the ladder in the marriage market. Membership to the Delhi Gymkhana Club...and a great

retirement playing bridge amongst the then elite at the club. Except it did not turn out that way. I walked away after qualifying and doing a couple of jobs in London. I wasn't sure what I was going to do, so I just walked away into nothingness. I had no choice (sic)."

The 'Mr India' maker questioned if Karma had a role to play in his journey, which led him to become a significant name in the entertainment industry.

"Or did I? Is there Karma involved? It's not like I did nothing. I acted and made Movies/TV in India and Hollywood. I created theatrical productions in the West End, in Broadway, in Europe and Dubai...I created India's first Digital Start Up. I taught at MIT...been on the Board of Singapore's Media Development Authority, and Board of Dubai Expo. And so so much more...because I had no choice...because I, like a child walked through any door that opened...for I had no choice...I had no choice?," he added.

Admitting how little of our lives we actually have control over, the 'Masoom' maker shared, "We don't control when we were born. When we die. When we fall in love or out of love...when we are betrayed (or betray). Looking back I ask myself this...did you control what you did, or was it supposed to happen? Or were you just rebellious? Or just constantly giving into the flow life?" "Did I have a choice...or was it supposed to happen? Karma, Destiny...really?," the director asked.

Gurmeet Choudhary calls wife Debinna Bonnerjee his 'Shakti' in a heartfelt anniversary post



Mumbai. A popular name in the television industry, Gurmeet Choudhary, called his better half, Debinna Bonnerjee, his 'Shakti' in a heartfelt anniversary post.

Sharing some glimpses from their anniversary celebration, which included a small cake-cutting ceremony, only in the company of one another, Gurmeet penned on his official Instagram handle, "We're still the ones we always look up to...With each other by each other's side, the world feels safe, calm, and home...She is my Shakti...I am her calm...(sic)."

"Happy Anniversary to us & Happy Mahashivratri. A divine blessing forever grateful that our paths crossed," the 'Punar Vivaah' actor

went on.

For those who do not know, 'Ramayan' co-stars Gurmeet and Debinna tied the knot on 15 February 2011. The lovebirds once again got married on 4 October 2021.

The couple embraced parenthood as they welcomed their first child, daughter Lianna, on 3 April 2022. They became parents for the second time on 11 November 2022 with the arrival of their second daughter, Divisha.

Debinna keeps on sharing glimpses from her family life on social media.

During Valentine's Day, she received an adorable surprise from her girls.

Her daughters, Lianna and Divisha, presented their mom

with a beautiful handmade card.

Debinna dropped a clip on her IG, where her kids are seen gifting her a beautiful card placed in a red envelope.

The handmade card featured a sketch of Debinna, Gurmeet, Lianna, and Divisha.

"You expect flowers from your partner...You don't expect a handmade Valentine's Day card from your kids. Not for mummy...but for us. All four of us their explanation of what this home feels like. Because the firsts are not just moments. They are emotional timestamps. The first time your children see you as part of their idea of love. My @gurmeetchoudhary @lianna_choudhary @divishaadiva", Debinna penned the caption while sharing the video.

Imtiaz Ali says 'Heer Ranjha' speaks the language of Gen Z while staying culturally rooted

Mumbai. Filmmaker Imtiaz Ali, who is set to join forces with the queen of television, Ekta Kapoor for the upcoming film 'Heer Ranjha', has said that the film speaks the love language of this generation while staying rooted in something eternal.

Imtiaz Ali and Ekta Kapoor are reuniting after the cult success of 'Laila Majnu'. 'Heer Ranjha' marks the second chapter of the 'Laila Majnu' franchise, carrying forward its love legend and deep-rooted connection with audiences.

Talking about the film, Imtiaz Ali shared, "Heer Ranjha' has its own world and rhythm, it speaks the love language of this generation while staying rooted in something eternal.



Collaborating with Ekta again feels like a natural continuation of a shared emotional language",

The film is rooted in classic romance yet shaped for today's time. It reimagines love for a new generation, promising a poetic

and emotionally immersive cinematic experience. Filming for Heer Ranjha will commence soon, with the film set to be directed by Sajid Ali.

Speaking about the film, Ekta Kapoor said, "Imtiaz and Sajid have the rare

ability to capture love with honesty and depth. While 'Laila Majnu' found its audience over time, and became a cult classic! Heer Ranjha is a love story that aims to transcend time and emotions. We hope to touch audiences across the Indian diaspora and beyond, with our story telling".

'Laila Majnu', which didn't find its audience in the theatres initially, emerged as a cult hit during its re-release.

Presented by Imtiaz Ali, directed by Sajid Ali and produced by Shobha Kapoor, Ekta Kapoor and Preety Ali (Pi Films Pvt Ltd), 'Heer Ranjha' builds on an iconic romantic franchise, making this Valentine's Day announcement a special moment for fans of timeless love stories.

Bhojpuri star Pawan Singh's ex-girlfriend Akshara Singh supports his wife Jyoti Singh's demand of alimony

Mumbai. Actress Akshara Singh has come out in support of actor-politician Pawan Singh's wife Jyoti Singh. The actress has supported Jyoti Singh's demand of alimony.

Akshara Singh is the ex-girlfriend of Pawan Singh, and she feels that Jyoti Singh's demands are completely valid, and the society should step in to help divorced women get the alimony with no cap.

She said, "Whenever a girl gets married, and she goes with someone, it becomes her responsibility. At the same time, it is her right to take her alimony, and she should receive it fully. Definitely, it should be given, whether she asks for Rs 10 crore, Rs 20 crore, or even Rs 100 crore, it may still not be enough".

Jyoti Singh, the estranged wife of Bhojpuri actor-singer Pawan Singh, has formally sought alimony and financial maintenance as part of her ongoing matrimonial litigation. In her pe-



tion, Jyoti Singh has argued that she is legally entitled to maintenance under Indian matrimonial law, citing the disparity in income, social standing, and earning capacity between the two parties.

As per the court filings reported in the media, Jyoti Singh has stated that

she does not have an independent source of income sufficient to maintain a lifestyle comparable to that of her husband. She has alleged emotional distress, marital discord, and abandonment, contending that the marriage broke down due to circumstances beyond her control.