

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, JULY 08, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### India records 49 New Covid Infections, Count of active cases now 1,463

NEW DELHI, Jul 8 (Agencies): India has registered a single-day rise of 49 new COVID-19 infections and the count of active cases in the country now stands at 1,463, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Saturday.

The death toll due to the disease has increased to 5,31,912, the data updated at 8 am showed.

According to the ministry, the tally of coronavirus infections in the country is at 4.49 crore (4,49,94,543).

The national COVID-19 recovery rate is at 98.81 per cent and the number of people who have recuperated from the disease has surged to 4,44,61,168, the data showed.

The case fatality rate now stands at 1.18 per cent.

According to the ministry's website, 220.66 crore vaccine doses have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

### Traffic movement suspended on Jammu-Srinagar NH, Mughal road following landslides

JAMMU, Jul 8 (Agencies): Traffic movement was temporarily suspended on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway and the Mughal Road here on Saturday following multiple landslides triggered by heavy overnight rainfall, officials said. Train service between Banihal and Qazigund stations has also been suspended for the day, they said.

Several landslides struck the national highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, at Mehar, Cafeteria Morh, Keela Morh, Sita Ram Passi and Panthiyal in Ramban, the officials said.

They said a portion of the road leading to the Panthiyal tunnel was washed away.

A traffic department official said work was underway to clear the road and repair the affected sections despite the incessant rains. "People are advised not to travel on the highway till the restoration work is complete."

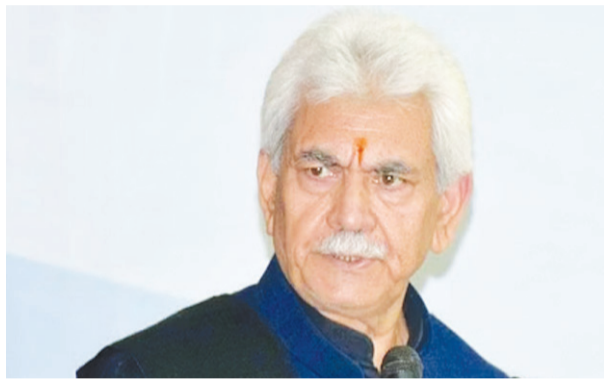
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## Abolished costly Darbar move practice soon after taking over as LG J&K: Manoj Sinha

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jul 8: Lieutenant Governor, Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that soon after he taking over the reins of the UT on August 7, 2020, he decided to abolish the Darbar Move practice, which caused a huge blow to the exchequer.

"When the government offices shifted back to Srinagar in May 2021, the decade's long practice of Darbar move ended forever. There used to be a practice



of ferrying files in 270 trucks from Srinagar to Jammu and vice-versa," he said while addressing BHU Urology Update and Alumni meet, organised by SKIMS, Sri-

nagar, at SKICC here. He said under the costly practice of Darbar Move, 1000 rooms were hired in Srinagar and 800 in Jammu every year to accommodate

officers and officials.

The LG said that today almost 400 government services are in online mode under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA). "All services are in auto-escalation mode. If an official fails to provide a birth certificate within 15 days, the matter will automatically reach to his higher ups and action may be initiated which includes fine also," he said.

LG Sinha said that Srinagar is jam-packed with tourists and he is getting calls about

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## Bad weather forces Amarnath Yatra to halt for second day, pilgrims stay put in Jammu base camp

JAMMU, Jul 8 (Agencies): The suspension of the Amarnath Yatra for a second consecutive day due to inclement weather across Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday forced pilgrims to remain at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here, officials said.

According to the officials, fresh batches of pilgrims were not allowed to leave Jammu to embark on their yatra due to closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway.

A mudslide, triggered by heavy rain, hit the national highway near Ramban in the early hours, forcing the suspension of traffic, they said.

More than 80,000 pilgrims have paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas since the beginning of the yatra on July 1.

The yatra was suspended on Friday following widespread rain, particularly along the twin tracks — the traditional

48-kilometre Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the 14-kilometre Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

"No fresh batch of yatrins were allowed (to leave) from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp this morning in view of the suspension of the yatra in the Valley and the inclement weather," a police official said.

On Friday, a batch of 4,600 pilgrims was stopped at Chanderkote along the national

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## Army conducts patrols along J&K highway to ensure safety of Amarnath Pilgrims

JAMMU, Jul 8 (Agencies): The Army is conducting area domination patrols daily along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway with drones, surveillance equipment and sniffer dogs to ensure a secure passage for Amarnath pilgrims, officials said on Saturday.

The drills on the highway are an integral part of the multi-security grid responsible for facilitating a smooth and incident-free pilgrimage spanning 62 days from July 1, they said.

"The Army undertakes intense area domina-

tion patrolling along the entire route of the yatra, from Jammu to Banihal and beyond, providing security to pilgrims," a senior security official said.

This proactive approach establishes a protective layer to deter terrorists from approaching the national highway and targeting convoys of pilgrims, he said.

Equipped with state-of-the-art gadgets such as drones, metal detectors and surveillance equipment, and sniffer dogs, the soldiers meticulously sanitise the highway and certain hinterland areas

as part of their security duties, the officials said.

The Northern Army commander and the corps commanders oversee the security arrangements and regularly assess the ground situation, they added.

"These tireless efforts, often performed in challenging conditions, significantly contribute to the successful execution of the pilgrimage while prioritising the safety and well-being of the pilgrims," the official said.

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the revered 3,888-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kash-

mir Himalayas commenced from Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on July 1.

Till now, a total of 43,833 pilgrims have departed from the Jammu base camp towards the valley in seven batches. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch of pilgrims.

The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31, and so far, over 86,000 devotees have visited the cave shrine.

The Amarnath yatra attracts devotees from

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## Implementing UCC not easy like revoking Article 370, will affect all religions: Azad



SRINAGAR, Jul 8 (Agencies): Former Union minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Saturday cautioned the Centre over implementing a uniform civil code, saying it will affect all religions. Talking to reporters here, he also said that

implementing UCC will not be "easy as it was to revoke Article 370".

"There is no question (of implementing it). It is not easy as it was to revoke Article 370. All religions are involved in it. Not only Muslims, but Christians

and Sikhs also, tribals, Jains, Parsis, annoying all these people at once, will not be good for any government," the chairman of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) said.

"So, I suggest this government to not even think about taking this step," he said.

UCC refers to a common set of laws that are applicable to all citizens of India that is not based on religion and dealing with marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption among other matters.

The DPAP

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## Congress's Karan Singh supports introduction of dress codes at temples

JAMMU, Jul 8 (Agencies): Veteran Congress leader Karan Singh on Friday came forward to support the introduction of dress codes in various temples across the country, asserting that individuals visiting these sacred places should dress appropriately and modestly.

The Bawe Wali Mata temple management in Jammu and Kashmir

recently introduced a dress code, urging visitors to dress "decently" by covering their heads and refraining from wearing attire such as shorts, mini skirts, ripped jeans, and capri pants within the premises.

The notice regarding the dress code was prominently displayed near the entrance of the Kali temple, located in

the Bahu Fort area of Jammu.

The development aligns with similar measures implemented by several other temples, including those in Nagpur, the Radharani temple in Barsana, and the Hanuman Dham in Shamli.

Mr. Singh, emphasised on the importance of respectful dressing at

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## Indian Army Tanks, combat vehicles carry out drills to cross Indus river, attack enemy positions

LEH (Ladakh), Jul 8 (Agencies): Having deployed a large number of tanks and armoured vehicles in the world's highest river valleys, Indian Army formations carried out drills in Eastern Ladakh to cross the Indus River and attacks in enemy positions.

The special drills carried out by Indian Army's tank formations including the T-90 and T-72

tanks and BMP infantry combat vehicles to cross the mighty Indus river which flows from the Tibetan territory controlled by the Chinese Army through the entire Ladakh sector before entering Pakistan.

Army officials said that such drills are carried out to prepare for contingencies where they have to take action against the adversaries if they try to

capture Indian areas by using the routes of valleys in this area.

Indian Army is one of the very few armies in the world that operates tanks at high altitudes up to 16,000 feet, and in large numbers.

After the Chinese forces started showing aggression in the Eastern Ladakh sector by diverting its training exercise troops, the

Indian Army brought in a large number of tanks and armoured combat vehicles in the eastern Ladakh sector that has large open valleys which are very conducive for tank battles.

Earlier, the Indian Army used to carry out such drills in a big way in the Punjab sector along the Pakistan front as it was believed that only

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## 95% Of 111-Km-long Katra-Banihal rail line of USBRL project complete: Officials



BANIHAL/JAMMU, Jul 8 (Agencies): Top Northern Railway officials here Saturday said 95 per cent of the work on the 111-km-long Katra-Banihal rail line has been completed. They said Northern

Railways General Manager Shobhan Chaudhuri inspected the ongoing work on the Katra-Banihal section of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL) project on Friday.

Chaudhuri carried out an intensive inspection of the project and other ongoing works in Jammu and Kashmir. He was accompanied by the USBRL's Chief Administrative Officer S P Mahi, Director R K Hegde and other senior officials.

Mahi explained to the team that of the 272-kilometre stretch of the project, 161 kilometres of railway tracks have already been commissioned.

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## Mehbooba tried to sabotage PMAY scheme, must offer unconditional apology: AJKPC



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 8: All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC), a registered organisation of elected PRI members, on Friday came down heavily on the former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti for her 'anti-poor' and 'anti-rural people' utterances, saying "she has been trying to sabotage 'PMAY Grameen scheme' by instigating the people in the name of demographic change".

Addressing a press conference here at AJKPC headquarters, Anil Sharma, the president of the organisation said it was unfortunate that the former chief minister, who once took oath of the constitution, was unaware of the PMAY Grameen scheme and made 'factually incorrect' state-

ment which was aimed to instigate the people to create unrest at village level.

"We strongly criticise the PDP President Mehbooba Mufti's statement on land allotment to the homeless in Jammu and Kashmir. It is a deliberate attempt to sabotage the welfare scheme meant for rural people by instigating the people in the name of demographic change. Her statement is the reflection of frustration," Sharma said.

The AJKPC leader said these politicians have never bothered to provide any succour to poor people living in villages and they, instead of appreciating the initiatives of the government, are making irresponsible statement and creating chaos among the poor and homeless people of the Union territory.

Sharma said the offi-

cial statement rebutting her utterances was a clear indication that she was unaware of the scheme and she acted immaturity to score political points by sabotaging this welfare scheme for poor masses in rural belts.

"We, Panchayat members, are the grassroots level representatives of the people and well aware of the scheme. There are still a number of people who are not only homeless but also landless in rural pockets of the Union Territory—be it Kashmir or Jammu," Sharma said.

"The poor people in villages needed the government handholding and they found a ray of hope after the UT administration, under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, announced five Marlas land for each landless family. It is a

welcome and historic move which will not only entitle the landless poor to own a piece of land and have a house but it would also provide them means of livelihood," the AJKPC leader said.

"It is an open fact that the politicians, like PDP president, have failed to deliver justice to the people of J&K during the past 70 years. They always preferred for their political career and privileges for them and their family members. It was during the PDP regime when the Roshni Scheme was introduced wherein hundreds of kanals of land was encroached upon by the politicians with the active support of these people," he said.

Sharma asked the PDP president to offer and unconditional apology to the poor people living in villages as she made deliberate attempt to sabotage the scheme under the garb of baseless utterances of demographic change. Prominent among those who attended the press conference were Ramsaroop Sharma, Des Raj Bhagat, Meena Kumari, Ramesh Chander, Jatinder Singh, Raman Kumar, Abdul Hamid, Bashir Malik, Maqsood Chowdhury,

## Delegation led by Mayor JMC calls on LG

### TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jul 8: A delegation led by Rajinder Sharma, Mayor, Jammu Municipal Corporation on Saturday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The delegation comprising of Baldev Singh Billawaria, Deputy Mayor JMC, Chairmen of JMC Committees and Councillors apprised the Lt Governor on various issues of public importance pertaining to



extension of benefits under pension and other welfare schemes.

The Lt Governor assured the delegation of due consideration of

the issues projected by them during the interaction.

## People of J&K in complete despair under BJP rule: Bhalla

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KHOUR, Jul 8: JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla on Saturday attributed the delay in the conduct of the Assembly polls to the BJP's "rapidly falling graph among people".

"When they (BJP) can hold urban and local body polls then what is restraining them from holding Assembly elections," he asked, adding "they know they cannot form government on their own".

This was stated by former Minister while addressing impressive public gathering at Khour Constituency organized by Satish Sharma.

On this occasion, newly appointed office bearers of PYC also felicitated.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include BDC President Praveen Kumar, Prem Singh, Prabhu Singh, Block President Prem Singh, Om Prakash, Des Raj Bhagat, Mohan Lal Bhagat, Vijay Kumar, Madan Lal Pragwalia Divyansh Singh, Sunil Singh, Nirmal Singh, Som Lal Bhagat, Chetan, Harshdev, Uttam Singh Corp, Vishal, Binny, Jyoti, Vikram, Rano Devi



besides others.

Addressing largely attended public rally, Bhalla said BJP was perhaps not feeling "politically comfortable" as its "much-hyped pitch about generation of large-scale employment after its historical blunders in J&K did not happen on the ground".

BJP's problems in J&K have increased in the wake of the demolition drive, imposition of property tax, increasing unemployment and non-regulation of daily wagers, he said. Besides, bureaucrats from outside J&K have been given "plum postings", which has caused resentment among local officials, he said, adding there was a "disconnect between the administration and common

public".

Bhalla said that people of J&K will teach BJP a lesson like recent elections in Karnataka, as the ruling party committed great atrocities upon the common people and all sections of society are great sufferers due to the policies of BJP Government. He said that BJP has let loose a reign of terror from tax terrorism to all sorts of other anti-poor, anti-farmers, anti-youth and anti-trade policies besides looting the local resources after the arbitrary disbanding and downgrading of historic Dogra State of J&K and offering jobs to outsiders at the cost of large scale unemployment in J&K.

He said that BJP is looting the people and skinning the common man through tax terrorism on

all items of common use including petrol, diesel and LPG.

Bhalla said people have learnt how to force Modi Government to change its anti-people policies and they will repeat the same here in future.

He said unemployment is at highest peak especially in J&K, economy is at the lowest ebb and each and every section of the society is suffering due to wrong policies of BJP and Modi Government people of Jammu have got only toll plazas, privatization of power and offering of local resources and jobs to outsiders, he added. He asked the people to teach BJP a lesson for their politics of deceit and hate and lust for power.

## Dr Mehak Targotra congratulated on joining as Medical Officer

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 8: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha and Batwal Samaj Ekta Manch Punjab have hailed appointment of Dr Mehak Targotra as Medical Officer. Dr Mehak hails from Village Kolian of District Pathankot.

Members of both the organisations whole heartedly congratulated



Dr Mehak and hoped that she would do her level best in the new role. Members also

congratulated her parents on their daughter's excellent achievement and said that they are very proud of her model family. Among the members who congratulated Dr Mehak and her parents included Messrs Dharam Pal Bassa, Ashwani Charjotra, Surinder Kaith, Adv Tarsem Charjotra, Naresh Kumar Lakhotra, Heera Singh,

Manik Nandan, Mandeep Targotra and Rajinder Pal Lakhotra from Ekta Manch, and Capt. Ram Chand Bassa, Capt. Kamal Chand Kaith, Sub. Karam Chand Bassa, Sub. Baldev Chand Sandhu, Hav. Des Raj Kaith, SI Darshan Kumar Bassa, Hans Raj Loria, R.L. Kaith, Sham Lal Bassa and Vijay Targotra from JKBS.

## Increased production of Millets will boost income of farmers: Rekha Mahajan

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 8: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan during the interactive session with the farmers has chalked out a strategy to promote the use of millets claiming the move will strengthen the economic condition of small and marginal farmers who grow these crops.

The programme was organized by BJP Mahila Morcha in Coordination with Kunjwani Mandal. Rekha Mahajan along with Mandal President Kunjwani Ranjit Singh, Mahila Morcha District President Divya Jain, District Vice President and Prabhari Kunjwani Mandal Shalu Gupta, District Secretary Pumi Choudhary, Morcha Parbhari Amit Sharma, Meetu Sharma, Sangeeta Sharma, Poonam, Rajni Gupta felicitated farmers in Babliana Panchayat in Kunjwani Mandal of RS Pura Constituency.

On the successful nine years of Modi-led government, Pertinent to mention here that BJP Mahila Morcha is celebrating this month as Millets Month.

While addressing the gathering of farmers in Babliana Panchayat,



Rekha Mahajan said the central government making swift efforts to enhance the production, yield, processing, and consumption of millets in the country.

Rekha highlighted the 9 Years of PM Modi, Farmer welfare schemes as the Modi Government celebrates nine years in power, it is important to acknowledge the numerous farmer welfare schemes that have been introduced to empower and uplift the agriculture sector.

Rekha asserted that under PM Modi's leadership, these initiatives have aimed to improve the lives of farmers by providing financial security, skill development, market access, and sustainable agricultural practices.

Rekha educates that

the Modi-led government delves into nine significant farmer welfare schemes introduced by the government and examines their impact on farmers across the country.

She said millets are climate resilient and can be grown in less water and with minimal use of fertilizers and pesticides. She said that there are multiple health benefits of consuming millet as it is nutritious. Rekha sounded an increase in the production of millet will also boost the income of farmers, especially small and marginal ones. She noted that a large number of startups are doing a commendable job in the field of millet. Rekha rued that importance of millet in a plate of food got reduced over

the years.

She stressed that acting upon India's proposal supported by 72 countries, the United Nations General Assembly declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYM 2023). The declaration positioned India at the forefront of the celebrations she added. Rekha likewise educates the large numbers of farmers and the general public the government has been working on a 'mission mode' to champion millet as a crop good for farmers, the environment, and consumers. She further highlighted that the year-long celebrations for millets (Shree Anna) will entail myriad activities aimed at creating awareness around the environmental, health, and economic

benefits of millet farming.

Speaking about the collaboration of NAFED and the ministry, Rekha said that ventures like the Millets Experience Centre would help widen the horizon for consumers, who are actively looking for healthier alternatives and bring visibility to India's robust millet-based startup community. She further said that the millets-based products will also be instrumental in promoting healthy snacking among customers, encouraging them towards adopting healthier millets-centric diets and India produces more than 170 lakh tonne of millet. Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, Sawan, Kangni, Cheena, Kodo, Kutki, and Kuttu are some of the major millets, Rekha added.

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UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI, PHE DIVISION SAMBA

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS**  
E-NIT No. PHES/38 of 2023-24 Dated: 04-07-2023  
Under endorsement No. PHES/ 6116-45, Dated: - 04-07-2023

The Employer Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, PHE Division Samba] on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K (UT) invites bids from eligible bidders of registered with the Governments /Central Government / MES / Railways for the construction of work as detailed in the table below.

S. No.	Name of Work	Estd. Cost (in lakhs)	Tender Fee	Earnest Money @ 2%	Time completion	Bid Validity	Class of Contractor
1	Improvement and extension of Distribution System to Karteen Fadyuki, Deon, Gattan, Badhori, Bari, Sarore, Raya and Bari Brahmana Town	5.48	500/- (Non Refundable)	10960/-	30 days	90 days	"A to D"
2	Improvement and extension of Distribution System incl. improvement of Sump Tank/ GSR (03 Nos.) at Birpur	1.25	200/- (Non Refundable)	2500/-	30 days	90 days	"A to D"
3	Improvement and Sump Tank, Pump Room, and other structures at Takkar and Smalpur	4.95	500/- (Non Refundable)	9900/-	30 days	90 days	"A to D"
4	Replacement of CI Rising Mains at spots by way of laying of 100 mm dia rising main.	2.50	200/- (Non Refundable)	5000/-	30 days	90 days	"A to D"

Scheme: District Capex Budget 2023-24  
Position of AAA: Accorded  
Position of T.S: Sanctioned

1. The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen / down loaded from the departmental web site (www. Jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below:

Publishing date of NIT	04-07-2023 at 04:00 PM
Period of downloading Tender Documents	From date: 04-07-2023 to 11 -07-2023 upto 4:00 PM Place (s) <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a>
Period of Submission of Bids	From date: 04-07-2023 to 11-07-2023 upto 4:00 PM
Date and Time Of Opening of Bids	12-07-2023 at 03:00 PM
Place of Opening of Bids	Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, PHE Division Samba

The bids shall be opened online on above mentioned date or any other date convenient to the opening authority in presence of the bidders who may wish to be present.

2. Bids must be accompanied by bid security deposit & cost of Tender document payable at Samba pledged in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, PHE Division Samba. The cost of downloaded Tender document shall be in the form of e-Challan through Treasury favouring Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti, PHE Division Samba and mentioning the name of work by crediting to MH-0215 WSS.

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## EDITORIAL

PROTECT  
MOTHERLAND

It is natural for every person to have the feeling of patriotism and the one who does not have this feeling is not a human being but an animal. It is our religion to love the country in which we were born, where the soil of the land is settled in our veins. That land is our mother, mother and everyone should protect their mother.

Our own mother only gives birth to us, but our mother earth gives us food, money, flowers and fruits, so the importance of motherland is more than heaven. This feeling of homeland is not only in humans, but also in animals, birds, insects and kites. Everyone has attachment to their place of birth.

Animals and birds also keep their place of living decorated and after roaming here and there throughout the day, they feel peace only after coming to their house in the evening.

Indians living abroad understand the pain of how painful it is to be away from the soil of your country. A person imbued with the spirit of patriotism can even sacrifice his life for his motherland.

It is true that the motherland has given us all the happiness. We have grown up eating food from this land, we have quenched our thirst by drinking its water. We are breathing in its pure air, then why don't we also protect our motherland with our lives. History of true patriots: The names of true patriots are written in golden letters in history.

Many great men, such as Maharana Pratap, Rani Lakshmi Bai, Shivaji, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Guru Govind Singh, Sardar Patel, Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru, Lal Bahadur Shastri etc. never worried about their personal happiness in front of the service of the country and the country He had sacrificed everything for.

He sacrificed his life, but did not let even a hair of Bharat Mata be left unturned. The land of the country pays heartfelt tribute to such brave sons.

We owe a lot to the motherland, which we can never repay. Today we are free, but our heroes have achieved this freedom after many sacrifices. We should also protect our motherland with all our lives. A true patriot is the one who does not think about himself when needed, but thinks about his motherland.

Patriotism demands sacrifice. We should not serve the country with empty words, but with our actions. Efforts should be made tirelessly for the progress of the country. Our Mother India should be saved from terrorists, thieves and robbers. If any outsider comes and harms our Mother India, then we should face it firmly. Only then we will be called true patriots.

## NEED FOR REFORMING MEDICAL EDUCATION



By: Kanka Pandita

Having quality healthcare facility at affordable cost is our fundamental right. But mostly we are unable to get this important service when needed, basically due to lack of less doctors in health sector and their proportionate presence all across the country.

India has one medical doctor for 1400 citizens as compared to 250 persons in developed nations. This ratio further varies due to its urban verses rural dichotomy. Two third of our country's population reside in rural areas, where there are less than thirty percent allopathic doctors as compared to the rest of our country. As per Rural Health Statistics 2021-22, there is about fifty percent shortage of doctors in rural India. Unfortunately, the existence of specialised medical professionals mostly remain restricted to our metro and mega cities.

Additionally, the distribution of healthcare workforce all across the country also varies from state to state. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Delhi have one doctor for about 600 persons compared to about 3000 persons in the states of Bihar, Jarkhand and U.P.

Recently Union Ministry for Health and Family Welfare informed the Parliament that there are more than 13 lakh registered allopathic doctors in India. Assuming their thirty percent non availability due to death, retirement or migration, that makes practically ten lakh practicing doctors available for one hundred and forty crore population of our country, which is far less than the prescribed World Health Organization (WHO) standards.

With the current rate of nearly one lakh allopathic doctors graduating every year, in the next five years there will be about fifteen lakh doctors for nearly 1.5 billion population of India, making one doctor for about 1000 persons, which is again less than WHO norms. The system is also faced with peculiar situation of ensuring uniform distribution of doctors all across the rural and urban India. Hesitation by the doctors to go to

rural India mainly due to lack of infrastructure or support system and inadequate remuneration pose another threatening challenge in the development of strong healthcare infrastructure.

Under prevailing medical education system, MBBS students get less exposure to the practices of medicine as they remain pre occupied to join their post graduation courses. Majority of the undergraduate students aspire to do PG in the subject of their choice immediately after completion of their graduation. Due to this specific field of choice of PG, uniform presence of expert healthcare professionals in specialized subjects is an additional difficulty faced by our healthcare system.

Now with the introduction of simplified NExT (National Exit Test) by National Medical Commission (NMC) as a single common examination for registration of medical professionals and undertaking post graduation course is one positive step to address this important problem.

Recently sanction of 50 new medical colleges by the government that would produce nearly one lakh fifty thousand doctors per year but at the same time about 100 existing medical colleges failed to meet the

laid down norms by NMC resulting in to abolishing of prescribed criteria for the continuation of their recognition to admit fresh students, ultimately affecting the injection of more doctors in to the system.

So we need not only to increase the number of allopathic doctors by increasing the number of medical colleges but equally to focus on their advancement in uniform technical specialisation through their higher studies also. Thus our existing medical education system requires much needed revamping to produce more number of doctors and their specialists.

Government need to realize the number of functional medical colleges, both private and government and their intake capacity, taking in to account the future need of doctors at primary, secondary (Specialist) and tertiary (Super specialty) levels in order to deliver quality healthcare facility to its large population scattered all over rural and urban locations. This type of revamping the medical education, as is being periodically done in the countries like as big as United States and as small as Singapore, requires to be done by us also.

(Author is a medical student at NCR - Delhi)

## Equity vs equality: Battle of the visible &amp; invisible

By: Shashidhar  
Nanjundaiah

Last week, the US Supreme Court issued two momentous judgments that may resonate around the world, including in India. It put a stop to affirmative action based on race in educational institutions, then struck down US President Joe Biden's scheme to waive education loans up to \$20,000. The court's ruling on affirmative action came on the legal yardstick of strict scrutiny. Socioeconomics and family education background will continue to be considerations, and applicants may state their racial group and their experiences in essays that colleges use in admission decisions. Overall, the court took a stand in the fight between equity and equality.

Broadly, these concepts are vocalised by groups that represent fair speech and free speech, respectively. Cacophonous extremes of the debate are represented by free speech absolutists on one hand, and on the other, by supporters of the so-called "cancel culture". The resolution, of course, promises to be unglamorous in the less visible middle ground.

The US affirmative action programme grants special consideration to historically excluded or underrepresented groups in education and employment. As the civil rights movement grew in the early 1960s, President John F. Kennedy issued an executive order of affirmative action in public workplaces. Affirmative action has been an allowance and not a stipulation — unlike the reservation system in India. But race-based decisions conflict with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits decisions based on race or other markers like colour and national origin. Since the 1970s, affirmative action

for admission in public universities (like the University of North Carolina) and private institutions that receive federal funding (like Harvard) has been under litigants' scrutiny.

Elimination of racial categorisation in admission decisions would also mean unequal representation of racial groups, leading to problematic questions of the much-touted principle of "equal opportunity" in a presumed "free marketplace" that is agnostic to even moral considerations. In particular, African-American and Hispanic groups could stand to lose as applications from other groups, significantly, Asian-Americans (including Indians), would overwhelm this illusive marketplace.

Meritocratic considerations have led to within-group competition. Statistics show that Asian-Americans (including Indians) have better academic credentials. When a college puts quota limits, an Asian-American student with similar merit may lose to a white student whose performance on a standardised test may prove him/her to be less meritorious. An Asian-American group sued Harvard in 2018, on the grounds that the admission policy was discriminatory. Admission policies relied on decades-old federal civil rights stereotypes of Asian-American applicants as "quiet, shy, science/math oriented and hard workers".

So, beyond doubt, affirmative action policies have been problematic. Paradoxically, universities may use affirmative action to further privilege the historically privileged over the underrepresented but meritorious groups. The problem has lain in viewing affirmative action as a diversity rather than equity initiative.

Expectedly, several student groups and universities have decried the

judgment. One university argues that it may "reverse generations of progress at colleges, universities and the nation".

But affirmative action has also benefited educational spaces and workplaces. When students from diverse communities and various identities share the same space of learning, those communications help communities become more conscious of their privileges — a preliminary step before being available for structural changes.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson wrote in 2020 that racism in American social practices renders invisible the underlying "infrastructure that we cannot see". She refers to the practice as a caste system. No amount of statistical evidence can truly reflect implicit biases and prejudices, and that is why much of the discrimination — whether in the US, India, or elsewhere — remains under the surface, erupting on extreme occasions or when instigated by bigger powers. We have seen such eruptions even recently, whether it is the Black Lives Matter movement or the January 2021 incursion of Donald Trump's extreme-right supporters at the US Capitol. I call them eruptions because they represent a widespread sentiment whose only vent is such extreme action that ensures visibility.

In India, affirmative action in education relies on government resources, leading to the emergence of a Dalit middle class. The problem is more complex as historically excluded groups gain from education and join the privileged classes — leading to the perception of "a certain kind of benefit to being marginalised", as Suraj Yengde writes in his 2019 book *Dalit Matters* (a geographic sequel of sorts to Cornel West's *Race Matters*). The newly "privileged" stay vulnerable in old

structures and economic arrangements that are built differently, around capital.

Still, as one of the best-known thinkers of social equity in our times and now the Green Party's 2024 presidential candidate Cornel West wrote, equity can be attained by community strategy, which lies in the demystification of privilege structures. This strategy can work only by osmotic exchange, in which the dominant classes may understand the identity and struggles of the historically oppressed, and the latter insinuate themselves into the system and repair the skew in them.

In our deeply entrenched social systems in the US, India and elsewhere, there is plenty of evidence of implicit prejudice. The very processes of our dominant narratives like the mainstream media quickly — and falsely — label those as individual and anecdotal. Even when a popular news story may recognise the underlying prejudice, its fleeting nature renders the perception transient. Moreover, the anxiety to project the visible beauty of social harmony may sweep under the carpet ugly realities. Whether the US Supreme Court overlooked invisible perpetuity and preferred visible disruption is moot.

Clearly, the US judgment is a moment for other countries in comparable situations to pause and ponder. The debate may gain more legitimacy particularly under illiberal right-wing governments. The quota system invokes familiar debates in India between government policies and historically privileged groups. If America claims to be at a stage of social equity where it can afford to do away with affirmative action, adopting the same formulaic positions without proper assessment would lead to false equivalence.

## Crime review meeting of EOW for 1st Half of year-2023 held



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 8: In order to review the performance on the investigation front of Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Jammu) for the first two quarters of the current year viz Jan-June, 2023, Shailender Singh, SSP EOW, CB Jammu held

a Crime Review Meeting in the Zonal Headquarters of Economic Offences Wing Jammu for assessment of the performance besides taking measures for expediting the process of foolproof investigation of cases & probe in Preliminary Verifications on merit.

The meeting was attended by all Investigating Officers, Prosecutors and other concerned staff of Economic Offences Wing of CB Jammu both through offline and online mode. Appropriate instructions were issued to the IOs after thorough interactions

and deliberations on various issues.

Thrust of the meeting was laid on making efforts for collection of substantial evidence through professional Investigation Agency of the UT of J&K as part of the Criminal Justice system.

IOs were impressed upon to work harder for speedy investigation of cases without compromising on evidence and Probe in Preliminary Verifications for the next two quarters of current year for achievement of the targets and delivery of justice to the aggrieved.

## AGS Chandigam hosts Bollywood Actor Sanjay Suri to mark Kargil Vijay Diwas



### TOP NEWS REPORT

KUPWARA, Jul 8: In consonance with prestigious Kargil Vijay Diwas, Army Goodwill School (AGS) organised a cultural programme to honor and pay homage to the martyred of Operation Vijay. The aim of organising this program was to increase the awareness amongst the locals.

The awareness was about sacrifice and bravery of the Indian Army in

safeguarding our nation and also to build a cohesive bond between the Indian Army and the locals.

The highlight of the event was the guest Sanjay Suri, the eminent Bollywood actor and producer. He visited the school to pay homage to the martyrs and join the students of AGS, Chandigam and youth of Lolab.

The gathering of over 500 people was witnessed to celebrate the

Lolab showcased their talents by their breathtaking and outstanding performances including cultural dance, patriotic and cultural songs.

Sanjay Suri interacted with the locals, having his ancestral roots from Kashmir. He shared his memories about Kashmir and also shared his experiences in Bollywood.

The gathering of over 500 people was witnessed to celebrate the

evening and host the esteemed guest. The locals were extremely grateful to the Indian Army for organising such an event and inviting Sanjay Suri as chief guest. Being a native of Kashmir, Suri is an inspiration for Kashmiris.

Suri's message of Kashmiriyat and hard-work to seek success was deeply embossed by the locals which is a testimony to forge a Naya Kashmir.

## ABVP's GGM Sc College unit distributes study material to underprivileged children

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 8: The GGM Science College Jammu Unit of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) organized a thoughtful initiative on the occasion of the upcoming National Students Day, celebrated as ABVP's Foundation Day.

The event took place near JDA Park in Jammu, where the ABVP members distributed essential study materials such as books, pens, and copies to underprivileged children residing in the nearby Basti.

The ABVP Jammu Mahanagar Organising Secretary, Nirdesh Khajuria, and the President of ABVP GGM Science College Unit, Harish Sharma, graced the occasion with their presence. Their presence further amplified the significance of the event and showcased ABVP's commitment to the betterment of education and the welfare of



students.

The distribution of study materials to the underprivileged children aimed to bridge the educational gap and provide them with the necessary tools to pursue their academic journey. By equipping these children with books, pens, and copies, ABVP aspires to empower them and ensure their access to quality education, despite their socio-economic challenges.

Nirdesh Khajuria, ABVP Jammu Mahanagar Organising Sec-

retary, expressed his gratitude towards the GGM Science College Jammu Unit for spearheading this noble initiative. He emphasized the importance of education in shaping the future of our nation and the need for collective efforts to support students from all backgrounds.

Harish Sharma, President of ABVP GGM Science College Unit, highlighted the significance of National Students Day as ABVP's Foundation Day. He emphasized that the organization's commitment to

the welfare of students extends beyond this day and that ABVP will continue to work tirelessly towards creating a conducive educational environment for every student.

The event received an overwhelming response from the local community, with the children and their families expressing their heartfelt appreciation for ABVP's generosity. The distribution of study materials not only provided immediate relief but also instilled a sense of hope and

encouragement among the children to pursue their education with renewed enthusiasm.

ABVP's efforts in organizing such initiatives resonate with its core values of empowering students and creating a holistic learning environment. By reaching out to underprivileged children, ABVP seeks to empower them with the necessary resources and opportunities to realize their full potential.

Karyakaryas who were present there at the moment were Harish Sharma Unit President, Nirdesh Khajuria District Organising Secretary, Varun Manhas Unit Secretary, Rajan unit vice president and many other students are present and donate books among poor students like priyanshu Raman, Tushant, Aditya, Ganesh, Bhavna, Palvi, Sonam, Gourav, Karan, Vikas, Atiq, Neharika.

## Building Partnerships for Autism Awareness and Management in J&K by Children in India

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 8: Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary to the Health and Medical Education Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, inaugurated a two-day training and management session on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at SMGS Hospital, Shalamar, Jammu.

The event, organized to raise awareness about autism and enhance management practices, marked a significant step toward ensuring the well-being of children with ASD in the region.

During his opening remarks, Bhupinder Kumar emphasized the importance of preventing autism and highlighted the need for concerted efforts to address this issue. He acknowledged that while this training session marked a humble beginning, there is still a long way to go in terms of detection and intervention for children with autism.

Stressing the significance of collaboration, Bhupinder Kumar emphasized the gov-



ernment's commitment to form meaningful partnerships with organizations like Children in India to ensure that no child with a disability is left behind.

Principal, GMC Jammu, Dr. Shashi Sudhan Sharma gave the opening remarks highlighting the need to work more vigorously for Children with Autism.

R. Britikah, Program Manager introduced the Children in India initiative to the gathering.

The two-day training and management session, organized by Children in India in partnership with NHM, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, and the Child Development

Centre, Kerala, witnessed the participation of esteemed guests and dignitaries from various medical institutions, the Rotary Club, Jammu and the Inner Wheel Club of Jammu.

The event aimed to equip medical practitioners with essential knowledge and skills for identifying, intervening, and effectively managing autism.

A consortium of medical professionals from multiple DEICs, the northern army command, NHM, SMGS, and GMC Jammu actively participated in the workshop, which was led by a renowned faculty from the Child Development

(CDC), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

The CDC faculty curated a comprehensive curriculum designed to streamline the understanding and practice of autism management.

Dr. Santhosh George, Founder Trustee, Children in India encouraged the participants to pose relevant queries, proposing an empathetic pathway of care for children with ASD. Dr. Ghanshyam Saini, H.O.D Pediatrics, Dr. Ashu Jamwal, H.O.D Neonatology, and Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Digna, Professor of Pediatrics at the Government Medical College and Hospital, Jammu, congratulated the faculty

from the Child Development Centre and the enthusiastic participants for their commitment to learning about autism management.

The two-day training and management session concluded on Saturday, with a hands-on training module on group therapy, led by the expert team from the Child Development Centre, Kerala, providing participants with practical skills to further enhance autism management practices. State Disability Program Coordinator for Children in India, Jammu, Ms. Vidushi Sharma provided the closing remarks for the session.

## Four women arrested for drug peddling in Samba

JAMMU, Jul 8 (Agencies): Four women were arrested on the charge of drug peddling in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Saturday, a senior police officer said.

The alleged drug peddlers were travelling in a vehicle from Kathua to Samba when they were intercepted at Supwal along Jammu-Pathankot national highway and taken into custody, Senior Superintendent of Police (Samba) Benam Tosh said.

He identified the arrested accused as Saleema alias "Bachi" of

Bari Brahmana, Gunna Bibi of Sidhra, Fullan Bibi and Salima Bibi of Vijaypur.

"Saleema was one of the most wanted drug peddlers active in Samba, Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch, Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar districts," the officer said, adding her arrest is a major success for the police as she had been evading arrest for a long time.

Saleema had changed her hideout from Balole Nallah in Bari Brahmana to Sidhra area of Jammu due to geared-up raids

and intensified patrolling by police, he said.

The officer said a total of 58 heroin suppliers, including 12 women, have been arrested by the police in the past six months.

Two hardcore heroin suppliers have also been detained and lodged in jail under the stringent Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, he said.

Under the PTI NDPS Act, a person can be put under preventive detention for a year without bail.

## 'Youth held for issuing online rape threats to girls'

SRINAGAR, Jul 8 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police arrested a youth for allegedly stalking and issuing online rape threats to girls, Police said on Saturday.

The accused, identified as Syed Shamoan Hamdani of Anwar colony in Rawalpura, Srinagar, was arrested after a girl approached police with evidence of his wrongdoings. Srinagar police announced the arrest of the accused on Twitter. "One Syed Shamoan Hamdani, S/o Mohd Ayoub Hamdani, R/o

Anwar colony Rawalpura, was arrested for harassing, stalking, assaulting, and giving online rape threats to girls. A courageous girl approached with evidence of his wrongdoings," a police tweet said.

A case under sections 354 (assault or criminal force on any woman, intending to outrage her modesty), 294 (obscene acts and songs), 506 (criminal intimidation), and 509 (word, gesture, or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of the Indian Penal Code was registered in Sadder Police Station.

## Bajaj Allianz General Insurance sets Guinness World Records

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 8: Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, one of the leading private general insurers of India, hosted the first-ever General Insurance Festival of India (GIFI) in Pune which officially set a new Guinness World Records title for the Largest attendance for an insurance conference. There was a record turnout of 5235 attendees who contributed to creating history worldwide in the insurance industry.

This record-breaking achievement was announced at the main event of GIFI.

The Company had earlier announced the GIFI Awards where they invited nominations which recognized the top-ranked health and general insurance advisors across the insurance industry. Subsequently, advisors submitted their nominations for the GIFI Awards resulting in an overwhelming response of more than



2000 entries across the five announced categories. Basis a stringent assessment process conducted by an independent process reviewer and a third-party panel of judges, the company announced and honoured winners and runners-up for each category at the General Insurance Festival of India.

The event was graced by Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman and Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv; with other eminent industry representatives like Charu Kaushal - CEO, Allianz Partners India; Matthew Stalgis-APAC Regional Leader - Broker

& Client Relations, International Health; Dr. Arokiaswamy Velumani, Founder, Chairman and MD of Thyrocare Technologies Ltd.; Ganesh Mohan, CEO, Bajaj Finserv Asset Management Ltd.; Vijendra Katiyar, Country Head-Trend Micro India & SAARC; Vishal Gondal- Influencer, Founder & CEO at GOQii; Nisha Narayanan- COO & Director, RED FM & Magic FM; Steve Watkins-CEO Greater South East Asia; Lieutenant General Satish Dua - PVSIM, UYSM, SM, VSM; and Devang Mody, CEO - Bajaj Finserv Health amongst others.

## Amitabh Bachchan feels honoured to be in same frame as Prabhas in 'Project K'

Veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan is elated to share screen space with Prabhas in 'Project K'.

As the hugely-anticipated Indian big-budget sci-fi film will unveil exclusive footage at the San Diego Comic-Con (SDCC), Big B expressed happiness on being a part of this film, which also stars Deepika Padukone, Kamal Haasan and Disha Patani.

Taking to Twitter, Bachchan wrote, "I am honoured and have had the great privilege of being a part of this great enterprise in Telugu Cinema, 'Project K' and to have had the huge honour of being in the same frame of the Idol, Prabhas.

He added, "Thank you all .. and thank you Nagi Sir, for thinking of me .. The humility, the respect and the concern Prab-



has has given me has been so so touching & emotional. Not for me, but for all those involved in 'Project K', may your hard work touch new horizons .. love and prayers."

Kicking off the SDCC celebration, Vyjayanthi Movies will offer fans a look at the film as part of an opening night party on July 19.

On July 20, the film's team will host a panel titled "This is Project K: First Glimpse of India's Mytho-Sci-fi Epic" with Deepika, Prabhas and Haasan during which the film's full title, teaser trailer and release date will be revealed, Variety reported.

Interestingly, the stars will also feature in a performance on SDCC's largest stage. "This

exclusive event will transport guests into India's most ambitious cinematic universe yet with their captivating storytelling, futuristic setting, and 'Spice Punk' aesthetic inspired by the film," the producers said in a statement.

'Project K' is directed by Nag Ashwin.

Director Ashwin also expressed excitement. He said, "We are thrilled to present 'Project K's debut at San Diego Comic-Con. India's storytelling tradition has ancient roots, with its epics serving as the origins for many civilizations worldwide. A world as big as this needs a platform as big to introduce it to the people. Comic-Con felt like the perfect place, where the honesty and enthusiasm needed for 'Project K' will be found."

## Melody queen once more



Country-pop singer Taylor Swift has finally dropped her latest album titled Speak Now (Taylor's Version), a re-recorded version of her 2010 album Speak Now. The 22-track album

has been released and includes all 16 songs from the original along with deluxe versions of the project. In addition, the album contains seven new From the Vault tracks along with

two collaborations with Hayley Williams and Fall Out Boy.

The musician took to Instagram and wrote: "It's here. It's yours, it's mine, it's ours. It's an album I wrote alone about the whims, fantasies, heartaches, dramas and tragedies, I lived out as a young woman between 18 and 20. I remember making track-list after track-list, obsessing over the right way to tell the story. I had to be ruthless with my choices, and I left behind some songs I am still proud of now. Therefore, you have six From The Vault tracks! I recorded this album when I was 32 (and still growing up, now) and the memories it brought back filled me with nostalgia and appreciation."

## Singer Madonna 'revived' by injection after suffering septic shock

Queen of pop Madonna had to be given an injection to revive her from septic shock after she was found unresponsive at home. The 64-year-old pop icon was found 'unresponsive' at her New York home towards the end of June after suffering what is believed to have been a 'serious bacterial infection', and now insiders have claimed that she was treated with a shot that was often used to reverse the effects of a drug overdose.

However, there was nothing to suggest that the shehad been using drugs and that the treatment was also used to "reverse acute septic shock in patients", which she is thought to have suffered from at the time.

The injection is 'commonly held in medical



treatment kits of the rich and famous' and is thought to 'increase blood pressure' in those suffering from the life-threatening condition, which causes blood pressure to drop to dangerously low levels.

The news comes shortly after a source claimed that the Madonna was 'feeling better every day', but was not going to 'rush' anything as she recovered at home having postponed her Celebration Tour.

## Kriti Kharbanda recalls shooting for 'Guest iin London'

It's a nostalgic day for actor Kriti Kharbanda as her film 'Guest iin London' completed six years since it was released.

Helmed by Ashwini Dhir, the film is a family entertainer which plays on the theme of uninvited guests. Kriti and Kartik Aaryan essay the role of a young couple who are living a comfortable life in London, only until Paresh Rawal and Tanvi Azmi arrive and end up creating havoc in their lives.

Recalling working on the film, Kriti took to Instagram and penned a lengthy note.

"Guest in London! A movie with many firsts! The first time I worked with @panorama\_studios :) they welcomed me with open arms and I made so many



new friends on this set, whom I can proudly call my friends even today. Ashwini dhir sir, our director not only gave me the opportunity to act in this film, but also share screen space with the greats of our industry. @tanviamofficial @pareshrawalofficial," she wrote.

"I had the most fun on set with these two! They're happy souls and it shows. Ah, the things I'd do to go back and relive my time with them! @kartikaaryan from a fab costar to a dear dear friend. We came a long way. We were two passionate, driven and motivated actors. Always trying to do what's best for the film and for ourselves. From discussing our debuts, to our future to our dreams. This journey was so adventur-

ous! @abhishepathakk thank u for being the shoulder I could cry on! To everyone else I'm unable to mention here, just know that you've genuinely made a difference, and I'm glad our paths crossed," she added.

She also shared several BTS images and videos from the sets of the film.

Kriti made her big screen debut with the Telugu film "Boni" in 2009. Her first screen appearance in Bollywood was in 2016 with "Raaz: Reboot," a horror-thriller by Vikram Bhatt.

However, Kirti rose to prominence in the industry after her strong performance in the hit Bollywood film 'Shaadi Mein Zaroor Aana' in 2017.

## Paridhi Sharma says one needs to find time for what is important



Paridhi Sharma believes that it is very important to have a balance between your professional and personal lives. One needs to learn to make time for what is actually impor-

tant. "In today's fast-paced life, managing things can become quite challenging. There is no straightforward solution to this, but the one suggestion

I can offer is to cultivate a spiritual connection within oneself. When you realise that your self-worth is not dependent on external factors and instead focus on developing an inner perspective and connection, it can bring a sense of peace and improve your overall quality of life," she says.

She adds, "We often waste our time on unproductive and meaningless activities.

It is crucial to be disciplined and conscious about how we spend our time, focusing only on what is truly important to us. I believe that we need to shift our mindset and start appreciating what we already have instead of constantly chasing skills or achievements we don't possess.

She believes that we need to be mindful of the technology we consume.

She says, "Technology, including mobile phones, has become an integral part of our lives. It is crucial to exercise discipline in our media consumption: being mindful of what we see, how much we view, and the type of information we access, as well as understanding how it affects us."

## Writer Manoj Muntashir Shukla apologises for hurting people's emotions with 'Adipurush'



"Adipurush" dialogue writer Manoj Muntashir Shukla extended his "unconditional apology" for hurting people's emotions.

The Prabhas-starrer mythological epic film, directed by Om Raut, was criticised heavily for its pedestrian language upon its release last month. The film's team, including Shukla, announced days later that they have decided to "revise some of the dialogues".

On Saturday, the dialogue writer said he accepts that "Adipurush" has hurt people's sentiments.

"I accept that people's emotions have been hurt by 'Adipurush'. With folded hands, I extend my unconditional apology," Shukla, who has penned the Hindi dialogues and songs of the retelling of the Ramayana, wrote on Twitter.

"May Prabhu Bajrang Bali keep us united and grant us strength to serve our sacred Sanatan and our great nation. #Adipurush" he added.

"Adipurush", which was released across the country in Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Tamil in June, stars Prabhas as Raghav (Ram), Kriti Sanon as Janaki (Sita) and Saif Ali Khan as Lankesh (Raavan).

Produced by T-Series, the big-budget multilingual saga was panned on social media over its poor VFX and colloquial dialogues, with many political parties demanding a ban on the film's screening.

In Nepal, the film was banned over its dialogue referring to Sita as India's daughter.

The film, reportedly mounted on a budget of Rs 500 crore, earned Rs 340 crore in first three days but the box office collections went significantly down after the opening weekend. So far, it has raised over Rs 450 crore.

## Kaya Scodelario joins Netflix's limited series, Senna

English actor Kaya Scodelario has boarded the cast of Netflix mini-series Senna, based on the life of Brazilian racing legend Ayrton Senna da Silva. The actor is best known for featuring in The Maze Runner and Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales.

The streamer had in March roped in actor Gabriel Leone to portray Senna in the series, being shot in Brazil and Argentina.

Senna is described as a story, detailing the "adventure and triumph of the man who became a Brazilian national hero and conquered the world's attention both on and off the Formula 1 track".

Senna was one of the top racing drivers of the late 1980s and early 1990s, winning 41 Grands Prix over the course of his career.

His life died in 1994 during the San Marino Grand Prix, when he hit a concrete wall at around 145 miles per hour.

The 31-year-old actor will play a fictional character in the series. "Being half Brazilian it has always been a dream of mine to work on a Brazilian production. It is an honour to be involved in a project that tells the story of Ayrton, a true national hero who



means so much to the people of Brazil and around the world. It's a huge responsibility and I am so excited to go on this journey," Scodelario said in a statement. The six-part show,

being produced in participation with Senna's family, is directed by Vicente Amorim and Julia Rezende.

Scodelario will next be seen in the Netflix series The Gentlemen.

## KCR works only for his family, doesn't care about others: PM Modi in Telangana

Addressing a public meeting in poll-bound Telangana's Warangal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi slammed the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government and said CM Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) only worked for the development of his family and not others.

WARANGAL, Jul 8 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who launched development initiatives worth Rs 6,100 crore in poll-bound Telangana's Warangal on Saturday morning, addressed a public meeting in the region and launched a scathing attack on the state government led by Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). He said Chief Minister Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao, also known as KCR, only worked for the development of his family and not others.

He cautioned the people of Telangana against dynasty politics and corruption and urged people to beware of the BRS and Congress.

He said, "KCR government means the most corrupt govern-



ment, and now their corruption has spread to Delhi as well."

The Prime Minister said during their entire regime, the BRS government only engaged in rebuking the Centre and dynasty politics, thereby failing to fulfill its promises. He said when the

BJP-led Centre promises something to people, it fulfills it.

PM Modi also accused the BRS government of trying different tricks to divert the attention of the people of Telangana.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday laid founda-

tion stones for several infrastructure development projects worth around Rs 6,100 crore in Warangal during his Telangana visit.

The projects for which the foundation stone was laid include a railway wagon manufacturing unit to be developed at a cost of over Rs 500 crore.

The modern manufacturing unit will have enhanced wagon manufacturing capacity. It will help in employment generation and development of ancillary units in nearby areas, an official release said.

Earlier, Modi offered prayers at the famous Goddess Bhadrakali temple in historic Warangal, the capital of the Kakatiya kingdom.

Telangana is scheduled to go to polls by the end of this year.

## Notices seeking reply on disqualification issued to 40 MLAs of Shinde-led Sena, 14 of Uddhav camp: Speaker

MUMBAI, Jul 8 (Agencies): Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar on Saturday said notices have been issued to 40 MLAs of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and 14 of the Uddhav Thackeray faction, seeking their replies on disqualification petitions against them.

The development comes a day after Narwekar said he has received a copy of the Shiv Sena's constitution from the Election Commission of India, and hearing on the disqualification petitions against

16 Shiv Sena MLAs, including CM Shinde will start soon.

"Notice seeking replies on disqualification issued to 40 MLA of Eknath Shinde-Shiv Sena faction, 14 of Uddhav Thackeray faction," Narwekar told agency.

Earlier this week, the Shiv Sena (UBT) approached the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Assembly Speaker to hear the disqualification petitions expeditiously.

MLA Sunil Prabhu had, in his capacity as chief whip of the undivided

Shiv Sena, had filed the disqualification petitions against Shinde and other 15 MLAs last year after they rebelled and joined hands with the BJP to form a new government in June 2022.

On May 11, the top court ruled that Eknath Shinde will continue to be the chief minister of Maharashtra. It cannot reinstate the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition government headed by Uddhav Thackeray as the Sena leader chose to resign without facing a floor test in the wake of Shinde's rebellion, the court said.

## UP women rush to help bikers injured in accident, die after speeding truck hits them

ETAWAH, Jul 8 (Agencies): Two women were killed and three others were injured after a speeding truck rammed into them in Uttar Pradesh's Etawah district. The women were mowed down by the truck while trying to help a bike rider and a woman who were injured in an accident.

The deceased were identified as Mithlesh Devi (45) and Nema



Dev (43).

A local, Ravindra Yadav, said that a man and a woman who were on a bike were hit by a truck on the Agra-Kan-

pur national highway, after which they fell on the road and sustained injuries.

The women who witnessed the accident on

the highway rushed to help the injured.

It was when they were trying to lift the duo, a speeding truck rammed into them, killing two women on the spot, injuring three others. The other bikers were rushed to a hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, locals blocked the highway for about 2 hours after the accident, leading to traffic jams.

## IIT Aspirant From UP, 17, Dies By Suicide In Rajasthan's Kota: Cops

KOTA, Jul 8 (Agencies): A 17-year-old student allegedly died by suicide today in Rajasthan's Kota, the police said.

The student, who was from Uttar Pradesh's Rampur, had shifted to Kota just two months ago, officials said, adding that he was taking coaching classes to crack the tough IIT JEE.

He had been staying at a paying guest accom-

modation in Kota with a friend. The student allegedly died by suicide while his friend was out of town, police said.

The student's roommate returned to their room early this morning and found the door locked. He informed the neighbours and the police who then broke into the room. "The student was found hanging in the room," officials said. Police said they are

investigating the case.

Kota has seen a high number of deaths by suicide of students preparing to crack extremely demanding and competitive national exams.

Last year, at least 15 cases of suicide by students were registered in Kota. This year as well, the number has reached 15.

Kota is renowned for housing prominent coaching centres that train students to crack

competitive exams for entry to engineering and medical courses in top institutions.

Sources say the Rajasthan government is planning to bring a law to regulate coaching centres. The state government wants to take an aptitude test of students to see if they are prepared to take medical and engineering exams before enrolling at Kota's coaching centres.

## 4 Arrested In Mumbai For Stealing 90-Foot-Long, 6,000-Kg Iron Bridge

MUMBAI, Jul 8 (Agencies): The Mumbai police have arrested four persons for allegedly stealing a 6,000-kg iron bridge placed over a drain in a western suburb, an official said on Saturday.

The 90-foot-long metal structure in Malad (west) had been constructed to move huge power cables, said the official from Bangur Nagar police station.

After a permanent bridge was built over the drain, the temporary structure was moved to another place in the area a few months ago, he said.

However, the makeshift bridge was found missing on June 26 following which the construction company filed a police complaint, the official said.

During their probe, the police found that the

bridge was last seen at its place on June 6.

As there are no CCTV cameras at the spot, police scanned the footage of surveillance cameras installed in nearby areas and found a large vehicle moving in the direction of the bridge on June 11, the official said.

The police then tracked down the vehicle from its registration number. "The vehicle had gas-cutting machines which

were used to dismantle the bridge and steal iron weighing 6,000 kg," the official said.

Further investigation led the police to an employee of the firm that had been given the contract to build the bridge. The police arrested the staffer and three of his accomplices last week, the official said.

The material stolen from the site has been recovered, he added.

## Madhya Pradesh Man Brutally Thrashed, Forced To Lick Feet In Moving Car

GWALIOR, Jul 8 (Agencies): Amid an uproar over the Sidhi urination incident in Madhya Pradesh, a video has now surfaced showing a man licking the soles of another person's feet after being forced to do so in a moving vehicle in Gwalior, following which two persons have been arrested, police said.

The video has gone viral on social media.

The victim and the accused are residents of Dabra town in Gwalior district, an official said.

The viral video shows the victim being slapped several times by another man, who also forces the former to say "Golu Gurjar baap hai" (Golu Gurjar is father) in a moving vehicle.

The victim is then seen licking the soles of the feet of the man after the latter forces him to do so.

The accused is also seen thrashing the victim on his face repeatedly and verbally abusing him.

In another video clip, the accused is seen hitting the victim on his face with a footwear several times. Speaking about the incident, state Home Minister Narottam Mishra said two persons have been arrested in connection with this incident.

Dabra Sub Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) Vivek Kumar Sharma said, "A video went viral on social media on Friday evening that shows a man being thrashed in a vehicle. The video clip is being sent for

a forensic examination." A case has been registered against the accused under relevant provisions of Indian Penal Code for abduction and beating following the complaint of the victim's family, Mr Sharma said.

Earlier this week, a video showed a man urinating on a tribal youth in Sidhi district of the state, which triggered huge outrage.

The accused, Pravesh Shukla was arrested after the video of the incident surfaced on social media on Tuesday.

On June 30, two Dalit men were allegedly beaten up by members of a minority community on the suspicion that they molested and filmed some girls at Varkhadi village in Shivpuri district.

## 11 people killed, several injured as rural West Bengal votes in panchayat elections

6 TMC members, 1 worker each of BJP, CPI(M), Congress and ISF among the dead

KOLKATA, Jul 8 (Agencies): Eleven people were killed in election-related violence in West Bengal since midnight as voting was under way for the three-tier panchayat polls in the state on Saturday, officials said.

Among those killed were six TMC members, and one worker each of the BJP, CPI(M), Congress and ISF, and another person whose political identity could not be known, they said.

Besides violent clashes that injured several people, ballot boxes were destroyed in several parts of the state, they added.

The polling began at 7 am in 73,887 seats in the rural areas of the state with 5.67 crore people deciding the fate of around 2.06 lakh candidates. Till 1 pm, 36.66 per cent voter turnout was recorded, officials said.

Governor CV Ananda Bose visited different areas in North 24 Parganas district, and met people injured in the violence.

BJP polling agent Madhab Biswas was allegedly killed in Falimari gram panchayat in Coochbehar district, they said.

The BJP alleged that when Biswas tried to enter the polling booth in the morning he was stopped by TMC supporters, and as the situation escalated, they killed him. The TMC denied the allegations.

The supporter of an Independent candidate was injured in Kadambagachi area in North 24 Parganas district. Superintendent of Police Bhaskar Mukherjee had earlier told reporters that 41-year-old Abdullah Ali died, but later the superintendent of Barasat Hospital said that he was critically injured and on ventilator support but not dead.

A TMC worker was killed in Murshidabad district's Kapasdanga area in overnight violence. The deceased was identified as Babar Ali, officials said.

Another TMC worker was killed in the district's Khargram area. He was identified as Sabiruddin Sk.

The TMC also alleged that its booth committee member in Tufanganj 2 panchayat samiti in



Cooch Behar, Ganesh Sarkar, was killed in an attack by the BJP.

The brother of a TMC leader was killed in a clash with Congress supporters in Malda district, police said.

The incident happened in Jisharattola in Manikchak police station area. The deceased was identified as Malek Sheikh, they said.

The TMC also alleged that one of its workers was killed in Nadia's Chapra.

An ISF worker was killed in a clash with TMC in the district's Haringhata area. The victim was identified as 48-year-old Saidul Seikh, police said.

Nadia's TMC president Debasish Ganguli claimed that the incident happened when ISF supporters were hurling crude bombs at TMC workers. "One of the bombs slipped from their hands and exploded," he claimed.

However, Seikh's family alleged that he was killed in an attack by TMC supporters.

A 38-year-old man was killed in South 24 Parganas district's Basanti. The incident happened in the Fulmalancha area, and the deceased was identified as Anisur, police said.

A Congress worker was allegedly killed in Murshidabad's Rejinagar police station area in election-related violence. He was identified as Yasmin Sk.

CPI(M) worker Rajibul Hoque was critically injured allegedly in an attack by TMC supporters in Purba Bardhaman district's Aushgram 2 block. He died in the morning while undergoing treatment at a hospital.

The TMC alleged that one of its workers was killed outside a polling booth in the district's Katawa area by CPI(M) supporters. The deceased was identified as Goutam Roy.

Incidents of destruction of ballot boxes and intimidation of voters were also reported from

some areas.

In Cooch Behar district's Dinhat, ballot boxes were vandalised and ballot papers were set on fire at a booth in Baravita Govt Primary School. At another booth in the Barnachina area, locals torched a ballot box along with ballot papers, alleging that false voting was done.

Protests were also held in various areas, demanding the deployment of central forces.

In Nandigram, female voters gheraoed a police officer with bottles of poison in their hands, demanding that central force be deployed in the area.

Governor CV Ananda Bose toured various areas in North 24 Parganas, meeting people injured in the violence and listening to complaints.

"People requested me to stop my motorcade on the way. There were a lot of tales to tell, they told me about murders happening around them, goons not allowing them to go to polling booths, and also about presiding officers not listening to them. These are stray cases but even one incident of bloodshed should cause concern to all of us," he told reporters.

"This is the most sacred day for democracy. These are stray incidents but there should be a stop to it," he added.

The ruling TMC questioned where were the Central forces that were brought in for the elections.

"Shocking incidents are being reported since last night. BJP, CPI(M) and Congress had concluded, demanding central forces. Where are they deployed? TMC workers are being murdered. Where are the central forces?" state minister Sashi Panja asked.

The TMC also alleged that at a border village in Cooch Behar's Gitaldaha, BSF personnel attempted to create chaos and disrupt the

poll process. CPI(M) state secretary Md Salim shared a video of open ballot boxes lying in the field, tweeting, "Vote is over! Condition of the ballots, ballot boxes in one of the booths. Btw this pic is from Diamond Harbour."

At least 600 companies of central forces have been deployed for the elections along with around 70,000 state police.

Sharing photos on Twitter, BJP state president Sukanta Majumdar that the State Election Commission (SEC) was reluctant to deploy the central forces that were sent to the state.

"On the one hand, the SEC is reluctant to deploy the central forces. On the other hand, civil volunteers are deployed for the election duty. This clearly shows that state govt and SEC has hoodwinked the courts. Is SEC silently facilitating the booth capturing by TMC goons?" he asked.

There are 63,229 gram panchayat seats and 9,730 panchayat samiti seats in 22 districts, while 928 zilla parishad seats in 20 districts as Darjeeling and Kalimpong have a two-tier system with Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) and Siliguri Sub-divisional Council at the top.

The ruling TMC is contesting all the 928 seats in zilla parishads, 9,419 seats in panchayat samitis and 61,591 seats in gram panchayats. The BJP has fielded candidates in 897 zilla parishad seats, 7,032 panchayat samiti seats and 38,475 seats in gram panchayats.

CPI(M) is fighting 747 zilla parishad seats, 6,752 panchayat samiti seats and 35,411 gram panchayat seats. The Congress is contesting 644 zilla parishad seats, 2,197 panchayat samiti seats and 11,774 gram panchayat seats.

The election assumes significance for political parties as it will serve as an opportunity for them to assess their organisational strengths and weaknesses ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, besides broadly outlining the mood of the state after two years of the TMC government's third consecutive term.

## Dutch govt collapses after failing to reach immigration deal

*The four parties all believe that measures need to be taken on migration issues, but they still have disputes about the strictness of the approach*

THE HAGUE, Jul 8 (Agencies): Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte has announced the collapse of his government after a failure to reach an agreement on an immigration policy between the four coalition parties, a move that will now trigger elections later this year.

"It is no secret that the coalition partners have very different views on migration policy. And today we unfortunately have to conclude that those differences are irreconcilable," Xinhua news agency quoted Rutte as saying at a press conference in The Hague late Friday night following a meeting with his Ministers.

"This decision is difficult for all of us and for me personally too. It is regrettable that it did not work out," he added.

The four parties all believe that measures need to be taken on migration issues, but they still have disputes about the strictness of the approach.

The most thorny issue is family reunification.

Rutte's People's Party for Freedom and Democracy



and the Christian Democratic Appeal insisted that a restriction on family reunification is a way to reduce the migration flow, but the Democrats 66 and Christian Union drew a red line on this.

The government later said in a statement that Rutte has filed an application for the resignation of all ministers and state secretaries to King Willem-Alexander.

"The King has considered the application for dismissal and has requested the Prime Minister, Ministers and State Sec-

retaries to continue to do whatever they deem necessary in the interests of the Kingdom," it said.

The monarch will meet with Rutte on Saturday for an explanation of the cabinet's application for resignation, it added.

The collapse of the current government means new elections have to be planned, probably in November, according to local media reports.

Rutte, 56, is the longest-serving government leader in Dutch history and the most senior in the European Union after Hun-

gary's Viktor Orban.

He is expected to lead his VVD party again at the next elections.

Rutte's current coalition, which came to power on January 10, 2022, was his fourth consecutive administration since he became Prime Minister in October 2010.

The Netherlands already has a one of Europe's toughest immigration policies but under the pressure of right-wing parties, Rutte had for months been trying to seek ways to further reduce the inflow of asylum seekers, CNN reported.

Asylum applications in the Netherlands jumped by a third last year to over 46,000, and the government has projected they could increase to more than 70,000 this year -- topping the previous high of 2015.

This will again put a strain on the country's asylum facilities, where for months last year hundreds of refugees at a time were forced to sleep in the rough with little or no access to drinking water, sanitary facilities or healthcare.

## Iran hangs two in public over 2022 terror attack on Shah Cheragh mosque

TEHRAN, Jul 8 (Agencies): Iran hanged two men in public on Saturday over an October attack on a shrine in the southern city of Shiraz that claimed over a dozen lives, the judiciary said.

The October 26 attack on the highly revered Shiite Muslim shrine of Shah Cheragh, which left 13 people dead and 30 wounded, was claimed by the Sunni Muslim extremist Islamic State (IS) group. "The death sentences of two of the perpetrators of the Shah Cheragh terrorist attack were carried out in public this morning," the judiciary's Mizan Online website said.

The pair were hanged at dawn on a street near the shrine in Shiraz, the capital of Fars province, the official news agency IRNA reported.

They were identified as Mohammad Ramez Rashidi and Naeem Hashem Qatali, Mizan said, without elaborating.

In March, an Iranian court had sentenced the two men to death after they were convicted of "corruption on earth, armed rebellion and acting against national security". They were also charged with membership of IS and "conspiracy against the security of the country". At the time, Fars chief justice Kazem Moussavi said they were directly involved in the "arming, procurement, logistics and guidance" of the main perpetrator.

Three other defendants in the case

were sentenced to prison for five, 15 and 25 years for being members of IS, he said.

One of the attackers, identified by media in Iran as Hamed Badakhshan, died of injuries sustained during his arrest, the authorities said.

In November, the Islamic republic said 26 "takfiri terrorists" from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan had been arrested in connection with the attack.

In Shiite-dominated Iran, the term takfiri generally refers to jihadists or proponents of radical Sunni Islam.

The shrine attack came more than a month after protests erupted across Iran over the death in custody of a young Iranian Kurdish woman.

Mahsa Amini, 22, died after her arrest by the morality police in Tehran for allegedly violating the country's dress code for women. IS claimed its first attack in Iran in 2017 when armed men and suicide bombers attacked the seat of parliament in Tehran and the mausoleum of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic republic, killing 17 people and wounding dozens.

Public executions are relatively rare in Iran with almost all hangings carried out inside prisons.

Iran executes more people annually than any nation other than China, according to rights groups including the London-based Amnesty International.

## Keeping up pressure, China sends warships and fighter jets near Taiwan during Yellen's Beijing visit

*Taiwan's Defense Ministry said it is monitoring the situation from the air and sea, and land-based missile systems were prepared to respond.*

BEIJING, Jul 8 (Agencies): China's People's Liberation Army sent 13 aircraft and 6 vessels into airspace and waters around Taiwan over the past 24 hours as of early Saturday, overlapping with United States Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's visit to Beijing aimed at mending strained relations.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry said it is monitoring the situation from the air and sea, and land-based missile systems were prepared to respond. It said four Chinese aircraft — two SU-30 fighters, one BZK-005 reconnaissance plane and one Y-8 anti-submarine warfare plane — crossed the median line in the Taiwan Strait that serves as a de-facto border between the sides, and had entered Taiwan's southwestern air defense identification zone.

China claims Taiwan as its own territory to be annexed by force if necessary and sends air and naval missions on a virtually a daily basis in an attempt to wear down the island's defense capabilities and



intimidate its 23 million people, who thus far seem largely unfazed by such moves.

U.S. support for the self-governing island republic that split from mainland China amid civil war in 1949 remains a major irritant in relations with Beijing.

Shortly before Yellen's arrival, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited the headquarters of the People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theater on Thursday. Its area of operations directly faces the island across the Taiwan Strait.

Addressing commanders at the Jiangsu province headquarters, Xi "stressed efforts to ... break new ground for theater command development and war preparedness," state

media reported.

He called for "enhancing the planning of war and combat ... and stepping up training under real combat conditions to raise the forces' capabilities to fight and win," the reports said.

The PLA, the world's largest standing armed force, serves as the military wing of the Communist Party and is overseen by a committee headed by Xi.

Beijing also objects vigorously to United States military support for Taiwan, and lashed out Wednesday at an upcoming \$440 million sale of cannon shells and other equipment, accusing the U.S. of turning Taiwan into a powder keg.

Yellen is not expected to meet with Xi during her visit.

## Zelensky wins Erdogan's NATO backing after securing US cluster bombs

ISTANBUL, Jul 8 (Agencies): President Volodymyr Zelensky on Saturday secured Turkey's crucial backing for Ukraine's NATO aspirations after winning a US pledge for cluster munitions that could inflict massive damage on Russian forces on the battlefield.

Washington's decision to deliver the controversial weapons -- banned across a large part of the world but not in Russia or Ukraine -- dramatically ups the stakes in the war, which entered its 500th day Saturday.

Zelensky has been travelling across Europe trying to secure bigger and better weapons for his outmatched army, which has launched a long-awaited counteroffensive that is progressing less swiftly than Ukraine's allies had hoped.

He called the latest US arms package "timely, broad and much-needed", tweeting that it "will provide new tools for the de-occupation of our land".

US President Joe Biden admitted that supplying Ukraine with weapons that are capable of covering several football fields with hundreds of multiple small explosives was "a difficult decision".

"And by the way, I discussed this with our



allies," Biden told CNN. "The Ukrainians are running out of ammunition."

Civilian toll  
Humanitarian groups strongly condemn the decision to supply cluster munitions, which can go undetonated and potentially endanger civilians for years to come.

Defending the US move, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan argued there was "a massive risk of civilian harm if Russian troops and tanks roll over Ukrainian positions and take more Ukrainian territory".

Russian officials issued no immediate response.

As the war passed the 500-day mark, the United Nations condemned the civilian cost inflicted.

More than 9,000 civilians, including over 500 children, have been killed since Russia's February 24, 2022 invasion, the UN's Human Rights Monitoring Mis-

sion in Ukraine said in a Friday statement, though rights experts have previously warned the real count is likely far higher than what is being tallied.

The monitoring mission said three times as many civilians were killed in the last 500 days as during the previous eight years of hostilities in eastern Ukraine.

Kremlin watching closely  
Zelensky's talks in Turkey -- a strategic member of NATO on uneasy terms with the West -- were being watched closely by the Kremlin, which has tried to break its international isolation by cultivating strong relations with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Erdogan has tried to portray himself as a neutral mediator, substantially boosting wartime trade with Russia while supplying Ukraine with drones and other weapons that helped keep Kremlin forces from

seizing Kyiv in the first weeks of war.

But while reaffirming his longstanding call for both sides to enter peace negotiations, Erdogan risked drawing the ire of Russian President Vladimir Putin by delivering unequivocal support for Ukraine's NATO aspiration.

"There is no doubt that Ukraine deserves membership of NATO," Erdogan told reporters in Istanbul.

While Zelensky is pressing for NATO membership "now", the White House has urged restraint and said plainly it would not happen at next week's summit in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius.

Erdogan meanwhile said he will personally brief Putin on the negotiations when the Kremlin chief makes his first visit to Turkey since the invasion next month.

The Turkish leader said he and Putin will discuss possible prisoner swaps, as well as a possible extension of a deal brokered last year under which Ukraine was able to ship grain to the global market.

The deal will expire on July 17 unless Russia agrees to its renewal.

'Progress' on nuclear inspections  
The head of the UN's nuclear watchdog said on Friday that it was

"making progress" on inspecting several areas of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in Ukraine, after claims it had been mined.

Ukraine and Russia have accused each other of planning a provocation at the Russia-controlled site, raising alarm over the threat of radioactive disaster at Europe's largest nuclear plant.

Ukraine's military this week claimed "external objects similar to explosive devices" had been placed on the outer roof of the third and fourth reactors at the site.

Officials from the International Atomic Energy Agency had been able to "complete the tours of the cooling ponds and other places", IAEA chief Rafael Grossi said in Tokyo.

They had "not seen any indications of explosives or mines", he said, although he added IAEA officials had not yet been able to visit the facility's rooftops.

Rescuers on Friday found a 10th body in the rubble of buildings in Lviv after the biggest Russian missile attack on civilian infrastructure in the western Ukrainian city since the invasion, its mayor said.

The strike also wounded 42 people, including three children, Ukraine's interior ministry said.

## Japan Marks A Year Since Former PM Shinzo Abe Was Gunned Down

*Shinzo Abe is remembered for pursuing economic policies aimed at ending years of deflation, including aggressive monetary easing, fiscal stimulus and deregulation. Critics said those measures also opened up an income gap.*

TOKYO, Jul 8 (Agencies): Japan on Saturday marked one year since former prime minister Shinzo Abe was gunned down during an election speech by a man angry at his links to the Unification Church.

The death of Japan's longest serving prime minister, which was caught on video, rattled a nation unused to gun violence.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and other senior officials and lawmakers joined Abe's widow, Akie, at a private memorial service at a Buddhist temple in Tokyo. The public were let in to offer

flowers after the service ended.

Among them was Tsuu Ogawa, 49, a hotel worker, who celebrated her birthday the day that Abe was assassinated.

"I was shocked that such a terrible thing as this could happen in Japan, and I pray that such a thing never happens again," she said carrying flowers to the temple.

Abe is remembered for pursuing economic policies aimed at ending years of deflation, including aggressive monetary easing, fiscal stimulus and deregulation. Critics said those

measures also opened up an income gap.

Abe, who stepped down in 2020, also championed an aggressive defence policy that increased military spending and reinterpreted Japan's war-renouncing constitution to allow Japanese troops to fight overseas for the first time since World War Two.

"I will support politicians who carry on the work of Abe's administration," Atsuhiko Ueda, a 35-year-old office worker, said as he joined others at the temple.

While Kishida has stepped back from Abe's



economic agenda, he has maintained his predecessor's hawkish policies, announcing last year that Japan would

double defence spending.

BACKLASH  
Abe's death triggered a public backlash against

the ruling Liberal Democratic Party after close links between it and the Unification Church came to light.

Tetsuya Yamagami 42, who has yet to stand trial, is suspected of using a handmade firearm fashioned out of metal and wood to kill the 67-year-old politician. In social media posts before the shooting, he blamed the Unification Church for leaving his mother in financial straits.

Known globally for its mass weddings, the South Korean church has been blamed for causing financial hardship by seeking large donations from its followers.

Revelations that Abe and more than half of all LDP lawmakers had

links to the church, with some accepting donations or using its followers as election workers, prompted high-level resignations, including that of Economic Revitalisation Minister Daishiro Yamagiwa.

Although Kishida was not among them, his public support slumped in the aftermath of the scandal.

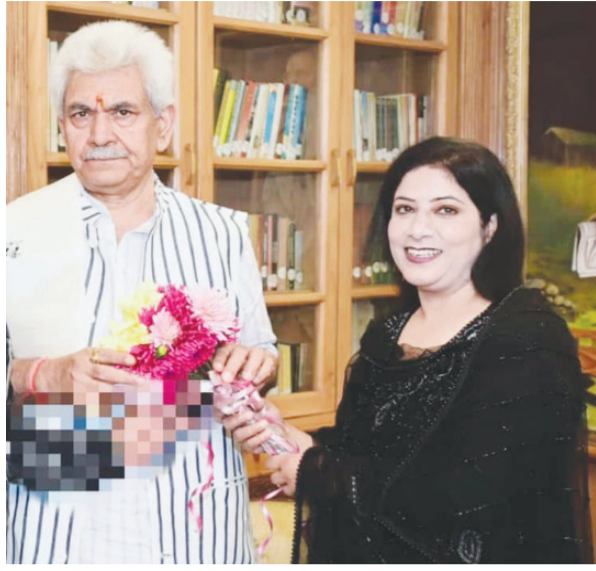
In April, concern about political violence erupted again after a man threw what appeared to be a pipe bomb at Kishida during an appearance in western Japan. He escaped unhurt.



# Ruheena Shahzad calls on LG Sinha

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jul 8: BJP Vice President District Ganderbal, Ruheena Shahzad on Saturday called on the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan Srinagar. She apprised him about the public issues of the district Ganderbal. She also urged to promote the tourism in the Ganderbal district and to enhance facilities to the pilgrims of forthcoming Budha Amar-nath Ji Yatra.



# Braham Jyot inaugurates Bhandara at Bawe Temple

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 8: Braham Jyot Satti (Senior leader and Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir) inaugurated Bhandara and performed Langar Sewa at Bawa Temple, Jammu.

This Bhandara will last for consecutive 3 days.

Programme was organised by Sanjay Baba. It was supported by Ankush Gupta and CL Bhat.

Programme started with Pujan by dignitaries then they pray for peace and harmony of nation.

They inaugurated Bhandara for general public and performed Langar Seva.



Braham Jyot greeted devotees on this occasion and said that every year this Bhandara

is being organised with high enthusiasm and religious fervor at Bawa Temple.

He said during this entire day devotees performed various dance and chanted Bhajans in favour of Mata and Shree Ram with zeal and gaiety.

He said on this day people also perform special Puja and Hawan which holds a very high importance since time immemorial and it literally means devotion, sacrifice, offering and worship and refers to any ritual done in front of sacred fire, often with mantras.

He appreciated organisers and said social work like Bhandaras is highly appreciable and Mata Rani will bless all devotees with health, wealth and prosperity.

# SCI Jammu along with Health Department starts providing cancer screening facilities in Jammu District

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 8: There is an increasing trend of cancer incidence and deaths due to cancer in India and according to Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) study, one in every nine Indians will develop cancer during their lifetime.

The number of cancer cases in the country is projected to go up from 14.6 lakh in 2022 to 15.7 lakh in 2025 (ICMR-NCRP). Recent data of Hospital Based Cancer Registry Jammu has shown that the cases of malignancies in Jammu district are on the rise. In females, Breast Cancer is the most common malignancy followed by Cervical cancer in Jammu District. Cancer of the oral cavity is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in

India affecting young and middle-aged population. For cancer prevention, early detection and widespread public awareness remains an integral part as it plays a pivotal role in effectively treating and managing cancer.

In an effort to raise awareness about the importance of early detection and to promote the overall well-being of our community, Preventive Oncology Unit of State Cancer Institute (SCI), GMC Jammu led by Dr Bhavna Langer, Associate Professor Department of Community Medicine and Nodal Officer Preventive Oncology Unit shall be organising multiple Oral, Breast and Cervical cancer screening and awareness camps in 9 Blocks and urban wards of Jammu District.

These camps shall be conducted on a fortnightly basis to provide easy access to Preventive Healthcare services with the primary goal of detecting potential Pre-cancerous conditions in their early stages and ultimately saving lives.

The screening camps will offer comprehensive screening and examination services, facilitated by a team of doctors. These camps shall be held in collaboration with Department of Health services Jammu, National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases and National Tobacco Control Programme Jammu.

At these camps, along with the screening of the masses, healthcare facility assessment will also be done and comprehensive training shall be imparted



to the healthcare workers to equip them with the necessary skills to effectively screen for oral, Breast and Cervical cancer.

The Healthcare workers will receive in-depth training on conducting thorough visual oral

examination, Clinical Breast examination and Visual inspection after application of Acetic acid for cervical cancer screening and recognizing warning signs and symptoms of these cancers.

By offering special-

ized training, Preventive Oncology Unit of State Cancer Institute, GMC Jammu, aims to empower healthcare workers with the latest knowledge and strengthen the skills, ensuring accurate and timely diagnosis thereby enhancing better outcomes, strengthen the overall quality of cancer screening services provided to patients and ultimately contributing to overall well-being of our communities.

The first camp was held on 8th of July 2023, at PHC Arnia in Block Bishnah of Jammu District. At this camp healthcare facility assessment and hands on training of the healthcare staff to screen Oral, Breast and Cervical cancer was provided.

Awareness and screening of the par-

ticipants was done by a team of doctors from the Department of Community Medicine which included Dr Bhavna Langer, Dr Kamna Singh, Dr Nahida Chowdhary, Dr Jyoti Bala, Dr Sakshi Manhas, Dr Sumaira, Dr Imran Zaffer, Dr Hemaal Koul, Dr Amani Majeed, Dr Raheel Murtaza and Dr Burhan Hameed.

Dr Shamim Ahmad Choudhary BMO Bishnah and Dr Mridula Singh Nodal Officer NTCP were also present and provided an over whelming support.

The camp was organised under the guidance and supervision of Dr Shashi Sudhan Sharma, Principal and Dean GMC Jammu, Dr Rajeev Sharma Director Health Services Jammu, Dr Rajiv K Gupta, HOD Depart-

ment of Community Medicine, Dr Harbaksh Singh CMO Jammu and Dr. Deepak Kumar Dy. Medical Superintendent State Cancer Institute Jammu.

Preventive Oncology Unit of State Cancer Institute, GMC Jammu welcomed community members to participate in these screening camps and those who cannot attend the screening camps, they should get themselves screened for oral/ Breast/Cervical cancer at Preventive Oncology OPD at State Cancer Institute Jammu. Early detection can significantly improve treatment outcomes and increase survival rates for individuals diagnosed with pre-cancerous or cancerous lesions.

# 1st Annual Showa Mata Charri Yatra flagged off

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 8: BJP Leader Baba Chanchal Singh and Social Activist Atul Sudan on Saturday jointly flagged off 1st Annual Showa Mata Charri Yatra from Agore to Showa Mata Temple.

Led by Sewadar Manoj Kumar, hundreds of pilgrims including women and youth hailing from various villages assembled at Agore this

morning and marched in a procession with flags in their hands, dancing on the tunes of drumbeats and enchanting Bhaints.

While flagging off Charri Yatra of Showa Mata BJP Leader Baba Chanchal wished safe journey to the pilgrims and highlighted the need of such annual pilgrimages that inculcate a sense of spiritualism in the society. He also prayed for peace and prosperity of the State besides giving strength to the Army Jawans and para-

military forces in neutralizing anti-national elements as well as befitting reply to the enemies who are acting as stumbling blocks in State and nation's growth.

Located in Showa village, the sanctum sanctorum of Mata Showa Cave is in the midst of magnificent hillocks. The ancient Holy Cave is abode of five Pindies of Mata Vaishno Mata, Showa Mata, Kali Mata, Lakshmi Mata and Sarwaswati Mata. According to legend, this

cave leads to the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and inside it is naturally formed Shiv Lingham, akin to Shri Amarnath Cave, on which water droplets fall from the roof top of the cave.

Others present during the yatra are Pintu Chib, Sham Lal, Mohan Lal, Babu Ram, Nitin Kumar, Kannu Kumar, Ajju Kumar, Surinder Kumar, Kuldeep Singh (ZEO), Bhagwan Dass, Dayal Singh, Ajay Singh, Makhan Lal, Mukesh Kumar, Rakesh Kumar.

**NOTICE**  
I, Sanjay Bhut, S/o Maharaj Krishan, R/o Lower Muthi Jammu have lost my Registration Certificate (RC) of Scooty bearing No -JK02 /Bt-3765. I am applying for duplicate. Objection if any may contact to RTO Jammu with 7 days.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Abolished costly Darbar move practice soon after taking over as LG J&K: Manoj Sinha

availability of rooms almost every day. "Last year, 1.88 Crore tourists visited J&K and this year the number is expected to increase further," he said. "The hotel infrastructure will come up at district level too besides at the tourist resorts of the UT."

He said before 2020, 9000 developmental projects were completed in a year, and this year the administration is about to complete 93000 developmental projects. "The funding cost is almost the same and there is not a major difference," the LG said.

About the G-20 Tourism Working group meeting in Srinagar held on May 22 to May 25, the LG said the event is much talked about across the globe even though similar meetings were held in various parts of the country. "The successful G-20 meet wasn't possible in Srinagar without the support of locals," he said.

### Bad weather forces Amarnath Yatra to halt for second day, pilgrims stay put in Jammu base camp

highway in Ramban district to avoid crowding at the Pahalgam base camp after the yatra's temporary suspension.

All the pilgrims are safe and sheltering at halting stations along the route, the officials said, adding that the yatra will resume after the weather improves.

The Met office has predicted widespread moderate to heavy rain, accompanied by thundershowers, under the influence of

monsoon winds and western disturbances across Jammu and Kashmir till Sunday.

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam and Baltal on July 1. The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

### Army conducts patrols along J&K highway to ensure safety of Amarnath Pilgrims

across the globe and contributes significantly to the local economy, benefiting small villages along the route, as well as larger towns and cities in Jammu and Kashmir, the officials said.

### Implementing UCC not easy like revoking Article 370, will affect all religions: Azad

chairman welcomed the announcement of the land-for-landless policy by the Jammu and Kashmir administration, but demanded that land be given only to the poor residents of the Union Territory and not outsiders.

"Land should be given, but there is a condition. We welcome the announcement, but it should (be given) only to the poor residents of Jammu and Kashmir. That is important," he said.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, who formed the DPAP in September last year after ending his more than five-decade-long association with the Congress, also battled for early assembly elections in the Union Territory.

"We have been waiting for the last many years, when the assembly was dissolved in 2018. Since then, we have been waiting for the conduct of the elections. The people of J-K have been waiting for the restoration of the democratic setup in the state. When people will elect their representatives, they will become MLAs and form the government," Azad said.

"Only elected representatives can work for the people in a democracy. Officers cannot run it for more than six months here or anywhere else in the country. It is important to have elected representatives. We have been continuously demanding this that elections be conducted as soon as possible," he added.

On the developments in the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in Maharashtra, Azad said, "I have a high regard for (Sharad) Pawar, I wanted his party be strong. But, because of the internal situation, whatever has happened, we are not happy with that. However, it is their internal matter."

Earlier, AAP leader Nazir Itoo and his supporters joined the DPAP and was welcomed in the party by Azad. Itoo was also associated with the PDP earlier.

### Congress's Karan Singh supports introduction of dress codes at temples

places of worship. "It is essential for anyone visiting a temple to dress appropriately. Just as individuals cover their heads while visiting gurdwaras, it becomes important for people to cover their heads when entering temples," he reasoned.

As the chairperson of one of the largest Dharmarth Trusts, overseeing numerous ancient and historically significant temples in Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Singh encour-

aged individuals to voluntarily make an effort to dress decently while visiting these holy places.

"People should strive to make these efforts. It will become a habit for them. Obscene clothing should be avoided when entering a temple," he stated, emphasising the significance of 'respectful' attire.

He, however, said the temple trust does not intend to enforce a strict dress code, which might discourage individuals from visiting these sacred sites.

"We do not wish to impose such rules that deter people from experiencing the temple's sanctity. It should be a voluntary choice," he affirmed.

The Dharmarth Temple manages more than 30 ancient and prominent temples and shrines in Jammu and Kashmir, including the Shankaracharya Temple, Jwala Ji temple, Mata Kheerbhawani temple in the valley, as well as the celebrated Ragunath temple, Purmandal-Uttarvani temples, Maha Kali temple, and Ranveshwar Temple in Jammu.

### Indian Army Tanks, combat vehicles carry out drills to cross Indus river, attack enemy positions

plains and deserts would see tank battles but the mindset changed later.

The brigades and other formations with tanks started getting inducted into the force in Eastern Ladakh in 2013-14 onwards but the numbers increased manifold after the Galwan Valley clash incident in 2020.

The Indian Air Force's C-17 and Ilyushin-76 transport aircraft brought in tanks and BMPs from deserts and plains in large numbers after that incident.

The armoured strength in the area has been strengthened by the Army to an extent where they can tackle any misadventure by the adversary.

### 95% Of 111-Km-long Katra-Banihal rail line of USBRL project complete: Officials

95 per cent in spite of all geological, topographical, and meteorological challenges," he said.

Chaudhuri commenced his inspection from Katra onwards by motor trolley up to tunnel T1 and thereafter, conducted an exhaustive inspection and review of tunnel T1 at the site with officers and the agency.

He further conducted an inspection of the world's highest Chenab railway bridge.

### Traffic movement suspended on Jammu-Srinagar NH, Mughal road following landslides

completed," he added.

Mughal Road, an alternative link connecting the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri with the Shopian district of south Kashmir, also witnessed several landslides near Rata Chambh in Poonch district.

Road clearance agencies are on the job to ensure early restoration of traffic, the officials said.

They said the waterlogging of the railway tracks near Hillar forced the suspension of the rail service between Banihal and Qazigund for the day.

The weatherman has predicted widespread moderate to heavy rains with thundershowers under the influence of monsoon winds and western disturbances across Jammu and Kashmir till Sunday.

## Supreme Court orders SpiceJet to pay Rs 578 crore to Kalanidhi Maran, Kal Airways

NEW DELHI, Jul 8 (Agencies): In a jolt to low-cost airlines SpiceJet, the Supreme Court refused to extend the time for making payment to media baron Kalanidhi Maran and his Kal Airways in pursuance of an arbitral award of Rs 578 crore related to a share-transfer dispute, saying these are "luxury" litigations.

While refusing to extend the time, the Delhi High Court had on June 1 directed SpiceJet to deposit "forthwith" Rs 75 crore that has to be paid to Maran and his Kal Airways towards interest on the arbitral award.

Prior to this, the top court had ordered that the bank guarantee of Rs 270 crore furnished by SpiceJet to Maran and his firm must be encashed immediately if the airlines failed to pay Rs 75 crore towards interest on the arbitral award by May 13.

A Bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha on Friday did not accept the vehement submissions



sions of senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for SpiceJet, and refused to extend the time, saying the entire award has now become executable.

"The battery of lawyers is involved in all this and you know, the idea is just to delay complying with the orders of the court. I personally will not approve this... The writ of the court has to be complied with and now, they (the Delhi High Court) will execute the award," the CJ said.

At the outset, senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for Maran and his Kal Airways, said nothing has been paid after the Supreme Court asked them to pay Rs 75 crore as interest and no indulgence be granted to them in the form of extension of time.

Singh, appearing through Karanjawala and Company, said SpiceJet has earlier also failed to comply with the order of the high court directing it to file an affidavit disclosing assets. "Rs

75 crore is not a small amount," the lawyer of SpiceJet said.

"But then these are not small parties either... These are all luxurious litigations. No further extension of time can be granted and the award becomes executable," it said. — TNS/PTI

Share transfer dispute  
The Delhi High Court had on June 1 directed SpiceJet to deposit "forthwith" Rs 75 crore that has to be paid to Maran and his Kal Airways towards interest on the arbitral award.

Prior to this, the top court had ordered that the bank guarantee of Rs 270 crore furnished by SpiceJet to Maran and his firm must be encashed immediately if the airlines failed to pay Rs 75 crore by May 13.

The SC did not accept the vehement submissions of senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for SpiceJet, and refused to extend the time, saying the entire award has now become executable.

## Vedanta to buy chip, display biz from Twin Star

NEW DELHI, Jul 8 (Agencies): Vedanta Ltd said it will acquire the semiconductor and display businesses from sister concern Twin Star Technologies Ltd.

The new structure will make Vedanta India's first company in Integrated Semiconductor and Display Fab Business.

Twin Star Technologies is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Volcan Investments Ltd which is the ultimate holding company of Vedanta.

"The acquisition will be effected by way of a share transfer at face value of Twin Star Technologies Limited's (TSTL) Semiconductor and Display SPVs. TSTL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Volcan Investments Limited, the ultimate holding company of Vedanta Limited," Vedanta said in a statement.

With this restructuring, Vedanta Limited announced the addition of semiconductors and display glass manufacturing ventures to its diversified portfolio.

"Vedanta is committed to making India self-reliant in electronics. This is the beginning of the creation of a Silicon Valley in India, a cutting edge and world class electronics ecosystem. My dream is for every Indian youth to have

an affordable smart phone, laptop and an electric vehicle," Vedanta chairman Anil Agarwal said.

Vedanta said semiconductor and display glass manufacturing represents a large growth opportunity for India. It said the semiconductor market is estimated to reach \$80 billion by 2026.

The display panel market is estimated to be worth \$7 billion and is expected to grow to \$15 billion by 2025. Currently, India imports 100% of these requirements, the statement said.

"We believe semiconductors and display fab are at the core of any electronics ecosystem. This will also spawn the creation of multiple ancillary industries and opportunities in both downstream and upstream, creating jobs," Vedanta's semiconductor and display business global MD Akarsh Hebbbar said. Deal dynamics

Twin Star Technologies is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Volcan Investments Ltd which is the ultimate holding company of Vedanta.

The acquisition will be effected by way of a share transfer at face value of Twin Star Technologies Limited's Semiconductor and Display SPVs.

## Global diet study challenges advice to limit high-fat dairy foods

NEW DELHI, Jul 8 (Agencies): Up to two servings a day of dairy, mainly whole fat, can be included in a healthy diet as it may protect against high blood pressure and metabolic disorders, according to a study using data from 80 countries.

The research, published on Friday in the European Heart Journal, found that diets emphasising fruit, vegetables, dairy (mainly whole fat), nuts, legumes and fish were linked with a lower risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and premature death in all world regions.

The addition of unprocessed red meat or whole grains had little impact on outcomes, the researchers said.

Low-fat foods have taken centre stage with the public, food industry and policymakers, with nutrition labels focused on reducing fat and saturated fat, they said.

"Our findings suggest that the priority should be increasing protective foods such as nuts (often avoided as too energy dense), fish and dairy, rather than restricting dairy (especially whole fat) to



very low amounts," said study author Andrew Mente from McMaster University, Canada.

"Our results show that up to two servings a day of dairy, mainly whole fat, can be included in a healthy diet. This is in keeping with modern nutrition science showing that dairy, particularly whole fat, may protect against high blood pressure and metabolic syndrome," Mente said.

The study examined the relationships between a new diet score and health outcomes in a global population. A healthy diet score was created based on six foods that have each been linked with longevity.

Associations of the score with mortality, myocardial infarction, stroke and total CVD

(including fatal CVD and non-fatal myocardial infarction, stroke and heart failure) were tested in the study which included 1,47,642 people from the general population in 21 countries.

During a median follow-up of 9.3 years, there were 15,707 deaths and 40,764 cardiovascular events, the researchers said.

Compared with the least healthy diet (score of 1 or less), the healthiest diet (score of 5 or more) was linked with a 30 per cent lower risk of death, 18 per cent lower likelihood of CVD, 14 per cent lower risk of myocardial infarction and 19 per cent lower risk of stroke, they said.

Associations between the healthy diet score and outcomes were

confirmed in five independent studies including a total of 96,955 patients with CVD in 70 countries.

"This was by far the most diverse study of nutrition and health outcomes in the world and the only one with sufficient representation from high-, middle- and low-income countries," Mente said.

"The associations were strongest in areas with the poorest quality diet, including South Asia, China and Africa, where calorie intake was low and dominated by refined carbohydrates," he said.

"The study suggests that a large proportion of deaths and CVD in adults around the world may be due to undernutrition, that is, low intakes of energy and protective foods, rather than overnutrition," said Professor Salim Yusuf, senior author and principal investigator of the study.

Dariusz Mozaffarian from Tufts University, US noted that the new results, in combination with prior reports, call for a re-evaluation of unrelenting guidelines to avoid whole-fat dairy products.

## Isro's Chandrayaan-3 mission and its potential to boost Indian economy

*As India gives its ambitious moon mission another shot, the spotlight is once again on its potential to propel the space sector and drive economic growth.*

NEW DELHI, Jul 8 (Agencies): The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is gearing up for the launch of its ambitious Chandrayaan-3 mission on July 14. This upcoming lunar exploration mission holds significant promise for the Indian economy.

As India gives its ambitious moon mission another shot, the spotlight is once again on its potential to propel the space sector and drive economic growth. However, before delving into the economic benefits, it is crucial to grasp the significance of missions like Chandrayaan-3.

Pawan Chandana, Co-Founder and CEO of Skyroot Aerospace, a leading domestic aerospace company credited with launching India's first privately developed rocket, told India Today, in that Chandrayaan-III, once successful, could take India to the top league along with the US, Russia, and China. "Chandrayaan-III is a major step in India joining the elite club as the fourth country to successfully accomplish a moon landing," Chandana said.

India's space tech rush  
India's latest space mission is a testament to the country's remarkable progress in space exploration and technology. Six decades after its first rocket launch, India now has a surer footing in the field of space exploration and technology.

Today, India's private space-tech ecosystem is beaming with a vast horizon of opportunities, thanks to a new generation of entrepreneurs like Chandana. Just a couple of years ago, India's space economy was valued at over \$9.6 billion in 2020. By 2025, this could go up to \$13 billion, according to EY India.

At present, the country has over 140 registered space-tech startups, including Skyroot, Sat-Sure, Dhruva Space, and Bellatrix, who are working towards creating technologies that have real-world utilities — from satellite-based phone signals, broadband, OTT, and 5G to the operation of solar



farms and much more.

Venture capitalists are increasingly seeing India's space-tech sector as a lucrative opportunity, given the scale of the market and the sector's historic achievements in 2022. The year was marked by many firsts, including a private rocket launch and multiple other satellite launches.

Greater private participation in India's space industry with the approval of the Indian Space Policy 2023 is likely to provide a bigger boost to the Indian space-tech ecosystem in 2023. Initiatives like the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) have already promoted private participation in space activities.

Chandrayaan-3's success and its economic impact

As far as the Chandrayaan-3 mission is concerned, a successful landing will be a decisive moment for India. It will not only give the country an edge in the space exploration race but also contribute to the economy.

From employment generation to increased private investments and even technological advancements, there are several ways in which the Chandrayaan-3 mission can provide a boost to various aspects of the Indian economy.

Investment boost  
The successful launch of Chandrayaan-3 could bolster investor confidence and attract more private investment in space technology.

Pawan Chandana said if the Chandrayaan-3 mission concludes successfully, it will make

"The space industry requires high-tech skills in science and engineering. This know-how is a strategic asset for the country. India's investment in moon missions alone generated several hundreds of direct high-tech jobs and thousands of indirect jobs," said Chandana.

"As this sets a path to many more missions to the moon, we can expect several thousand jobs to be generated by both the Indian government and private lunar programs," he added.

In addition to jobs, the Chandrayaan-3 mission will also open up commercial opportunities for Indian companies and startups in the space sector. Chandana explained that the success of the mission will add to India's goodwill in the space league and serve as a technology demonstrator for future moon missions.

"This can attract joint ventures into India and can help Indian companies and startups design and manufacture space systems and subsystems for the world," he said.

Global positioning  
Last but not least, the success of the mission would position India among the top four technologically-advanced space nations and pave the way for important international collaborations, similar to the recent Artemis Accord signing between ISRO and the American space agency NASA.

Chandana said, "This (Chandrayaan-3 mission) will boost more investments to take advantage of the cost efficiency and abundance of high-tech skill to build products and services in India for the world."

Moreover, increased private sector involvement can lead to the emergence of new startups, businesses, and job opportunities, further driving economic growth and innovation.

Impact on space startups and jobs  
The rapid growth in India's space-tech ecosystem has created thousands of jobs over the past few years since the pandemic but has historically struggled due to a lack of focus on the space economy. But today, the sector has the potential to create lakhs of jobs, both blue-collar and white-collar.

Along with Russia, China offered low-cost options for launches. But with Russia reeling under economic pressure due to its conflict with Ukraine, India has a perfect opportunity to compete and strengthen its position.

## Jawbone changes in middle-aged women could predict height loss, finds study

NEW DELHI, Jul 8 (Agencies): Mid-life structural changes to the jawbone may signal subsequent height loss in women, according to a new research published in the journal BMJ Open.

Advancing skeletal deformation and/or degenerative processes including osteoporosis, along with fallen arches in the feet and altered posture, spinal disc compression or loss, and vertebral fractures are some of the explanations thought to be behind such height loss in women, which tends to speed up over the age of 75 and is associated with increased risks of ill health and death.

Researchers from University of Gothenburg, Sweden, and other Swedish institutes studied the jawbones of 933 women in Gothenburg aged 38, 46 and 54. The women were a part of a larger ongoing

study which began in 1968, and they had had health and dental check-ups at least twice over the monitoring period.

They assessed their jawbones' general bone health by observing cortical erosion, or the loss of the bone's outer layer, and trabecular sparseness, which is the thinning of the rods in the inner 'honeycomb' interior, to understand if these attributes might signal subsequent height loss in middle aged women.

They calculated the women's reduction in height over three periods of 12-13 years from 1968 to 2005, with the women aging with each observation interval.

On an average, women were found to lose up to 0.9 centimetres (cms), 1 cms, and 2.4 cms in each observation interval, respectively.

Women with severe cortical erosion rose from just over 3 per cent in the first interval, to just



over 11 per cent in the second, and just short of 50 per cent in the third. Prevalence of sparse trabeculation, similarly, had increased from 20 per cent, to 33.5 per cent, to nearly 42 per cent, across the three intervals.

In each of these intervals, height loss was greatest in those with severe cortical erosion and sparse trabeculation.

While cortical erosion providing as a significant predictor of height loss 12 years later, sparse trabeculation could predict significant bone shrinkage over the same period.

The structural jawbone changes in women likely resembled those of their vertebrae, or spinal bones, which might explain the height reduction and are thus, key to height loss as well as osteoporosis, the researchers pointed out.

Dentists, likely to spot these changes in X-rays during routine check-ups, should collaborate with patients' doctors opening up possible opportunities for prevention, they suggested.

However, being an observational study, no cause and effect relationships could be drawn, they said.

## Sourav Ganguly: The dynamic revolutionary of Indian cricket

**Former BCCI President and India captain Sourav Ganguly is celebrating his 51st birthday on July 8, 2023. On his special day, let us delve into the illustrious career of one of India's greatest sons and relive some of his defining moments.**

NEW DELHI, Jul 8 (Agencies): When it comes to Sourav Ganguly, neutrality is a rare stance. One either loves him passionately or holds him in disdain. As one of India's most controversial and combative cricket captains, Ganguly transformed the face of Indian cricket, earning global respect for a team that had struggled in adverse situations.

On the occasion of Ganguly's 51st birthday, let us delve into the illustrious career of one of India's greatest sons and relive some of his defining moments.

**Emergence of a Star**  
Ganguly burst onto the international cricket scene in 1996, fulfilling India's need for a talented left-handed top-order batter. His debut at Lord's was a remarkable display of skill, as he crafted a magnificent 131 runs, the highest score by a debutant at the historic venue. Ganguly's performance not only helped India secure a lead against England but also solidified his place in the team.

**World Cup Heroics**  
The 1999 World Cup in England witnessed Ganguly's elevation as an opening batter. In a match against Sri Lanka, he unleashed his brilliance with a breathtaking knock of 183 runs off just 158 balls.



This innings became the second-highest score in World Cup history at the time and the highest by an Indian. Ganguly's record-breaking 318-run partnership with Rahul Dravid remains the highest in World Cups and the second highest in ODI cricket.

**Captaincy and Resurgence**  
Appointed as captain in the wake of the match-fixing scandal that plagued Indian cricket, Ganguly proved to be the leader the team needed. Under his captaincy, India won the ICC Champions Trophy in 2002, marking their second triumph in an ICC tournament. Ganguly's astute leadership and ability to instill a fighting spirit in the team brought about a resurgence in Indian cricket.

**Iconic NatWest Series Triumph**  
In the historic NatWest Series final against England in 2002, India set a formidable target of 328 runs. Facing a precarious situation with five wickets down for under 150 runs, Ganguly's young brigade, led by Mohammed Kaif and Yuvraj Singh, orchestrated a sensational comeback. Kaif hit the winning runs, and Ganguly's exuberant celebration on the Lord's balcony endeared him to fans worldwide.

**Breaking Barriers in Australia**  
During the 1990s and 2000s, touring Australia seemed like an insurmountable task for any team.

However, under Ganguly's leadership, the Indian squad showcased their class in a four-

match Test series. India managed to win one match, matching Australia's victory count. This remarkable feat, coupled with their competitive spirit, shattered the preconceived notion that India could not compete in Australia.

**Legacy Beyond the Field**  
Ganguly's leadership extended beyond the cricket field. He captained India in 195 matches across all formats, achieving victory in 97 of them. After retiring from the game, Ganguly held significant roles in cricket administration, serving as the President of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), and currently, as the Director of Cricket for the Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Sourav Ganguly's career is a tapestry woven with moments of brilliance, controversy, and transformation. As a player, he redefined the role of a captain, instilling a fighting spirit and leading India to several remarkable victories. Ganguly's impact on Indian cricket, both as a player and an administrator, is undeniable. Love him or hate him, his legacy will forever be etched in the annals of cricket history as one of India's greatest sons and an indomitable leader.

## Sabalenka, Alcaraz fight back as Tsistipas outlasts Murray

LONDON, Jul 8 (Agencies): Second seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus recovered from a poor first set to beat Varvara Gracheva 2-6 7-5 6-2 and reach the third round at Wimbledon.

The 2021 semifinalist at the All England Club is only behind world No. 1 Iga Swiatek (40) for match wins on the Tour this year with 35. However, her status as one of the favourites to lift the Venus Rosewater Dish was severely tested.

The Australian Open champion struggled badly in the opening set, with Gracheva, representing France for the first time since switching nationality from Russia last month, moving around with ease in the sunshine on Court One. "It was just crazy, it was super tough and I couldn't find my rhythm. I was just telling myself to keep fighting, keep trying and just do your best and probably you're going to win this one," Sabalenka said in an on-court interview.

**Alcaraz on song**  
Top seed Carlos Alcaraz produced an entertaining mixture of power hitting, fearsome returning and delicate drop shots to beat France's Alexandre Muller 6-4 7-6(2) 6-3 and reach the third round.

But he made 41 unforced errors and did not have it all his own way against an obstinate opponent, who clearly enjoyed his first outing on the big stage and went toe-to-toe with the Spaniard for much of the match.

The 26-year-old Muller, ranked 84th, has spent most of his professional career on the second-tier challenger circuit. He came up with some delightful shots of his own, particularly on the backhand but, in the end the smiling top seed's all-round game was just too strong for him. — Reuters

**Day 5: highlights**  
Coming back to life  
Greek fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas fought back from a one-set deficit

against home favourite Andy Murray to win their second-round clash 7-6(3) 6-7(2) 4-6 7-6(3) 6-4 after it was suspended.

**Shining like sun**  
Third seed Daniil Medvedev beat Adrian Mannarino 6-3 6-3 7-6(5) after their match was suspended on Thursday due to poor light.

**KVITOVA finds feet**  
Twice Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova struggled with her first serve but the ninth seed still beat Aleksandra Sasnovich 6-2 6-2 with a flurry of winners.

**ZVEREV vs berrettini**  
German Alexander Zverev, playing on consecutive days due to the backlog of matches, beat Japan's Yosuke Watanuki 6-4 5-7 6-2 6-2 to set up a third-round clash with Matteo Berrettini, who stunned Australian 15th seed Alex De Minaur 6-3 6-4 6-4.

**BADOSA RETIRES**  
Paula Badosa retired from her second-round match against Marta Kostyuk while trailing 6-2 1-0.

Dhamne qualifies for junior Wimbledon

Young Manas Dhamne qualified for the boys' singles main draw at Wimbledon today with a three-set win over 10th seed Atakan Karahan. The 15-year-old Dhamne beat his opponent from Turkey 6-2 6-7(5) 10-8 in the second and final qualifying round. Dhamne, placed 78th in the junior ITF ranking list, had two match points in the second set but the 69th-ranked Karahan stretched it to the decider. It will be a second junior Grand Slam appearance of the season for Dhamne, who had competed at the Australian Open. "It is a proud moment to represent my country at the Grand Slam," Dhamne said. Meanwhile, fourth seed Aryan Shah lost 3-6 3-6 to 11th seed Italian Fabio De Michele.

## Stokes drags team back into contest

LEEDS, Jul 8 (Agencies): Key wickets late in the day helped put England in with a chance of staying in contention in the Ashes series in their must-win second Test, Australia finishing a thrilling Day 2 on 116/4 with a second-innings lead of 142.

More heroics from captain Ben Stokes single-handedly got England within 26 runs of Australia's first innings total after a big-hitting 80, the hosts skittled out for 237.

Despite losing the early wicket of David Warner for one, to Stuart Broad for the 17th time in the veteran bowler's Test career, Australia looked to be in control and coasting towards generating a commanding lead.



But the cheap wickets of experienced duo Marnus Labuschagne (33) and Steve Smith (2) dragged England back into the match, before first innings centurion Mitchell Marsh steered Australia through to the close of another gripping day of Ashes action.

When Stokes came to the wicket, England were staring down the barrel of another defeat, languishing on 87/5, needing their captain to

save them, just as he did at Headingley in 2019 to avoid Australia retaining the Ashes early then.

After lunch, despite visibly struggling with a variety of injuries, a wounded Stokes took the attack to Australia, hammering back-to-back sixes to pass 6,000 international Test runs in style.

**Brief scores:** Australia: 263 and 116/4; England: 237 (Stokes 80; Cummins 6/91).

## Gurjapneet Singh, A TNPL star in making

*In his best form this season, Gurjapneet Singh is making strides on the field.*

CHENNAI, Jul 8 (Agencies): For a state that is looking to bolster its fast bowling resources in order to have a crack at the Ranji Trophy title, Gurjapneet Singh comes as a whiff of fresh air. The lanky left-arm seamer has shown a lot of promise to move up to the next level in the ongoing Tamil Nadu Premier League for Siechem Madurai Panthers.

Gurjapneet can clock mid-130kmph while hitting the deck hard on a regular basis. Apart from the bounce and pace he extracts from the surface, he also has a deceptive back-of-the-hand slower ball and toe crushing yorkers. In the 2021 season, he was picked by R Ashwin to play for Dindigul Drag-

ons in his first TNPL season. After that, Gurjapneet was picked as a net bowler by Chennai Super Kings, but a back injury then ruled him out of TNPL 2022.

Now with Madurai Panthers, he is in great form with 13 wickets from seven games and has helped his team reach the playoffs. His economy rate of 5.95 is the best among seamers who have bowled at least 15 overs this season. "Good to be playing in the TNPL this season. So far it has been good. Happy to contribute for the team. Glad we made it to the playoffs," Gurjapneet told this daily from Tirunelveli.

The 24-year-old has put in a lot of hard work during the time he had

a forced lay-off due to injury. Dedication and sincerity helped him bounce back sooner than expected. "It's really hard to be injured. But thanks to my trainers and physios who really worked hard on me. I recovered well and I followed the process sincerely. Thanks to them, I am able to play this season in the TNPL," said Gurjapneet.

Recalling the good time he had playing under the ace India player Ashwin at Dindigul, he said that it was a 'learning experience'. "I learned so many things from that season with Dindigul. Playing under coaches S Badrinath sir and Yo Mahesh was rewarding. With Ashwin anna's experience, he always helped me by

giving inputs as to how to perform in any condition and there are so many other things that I have learnt about my craft," revealed Gurjapneet.

Studying in Gurunanak College, playing in the Chennai TNCA league has helped the pacer a lot to move up the ranks. "I have improved my bowling playing in the TNCA league. I think I am bowling 137-138kmph now. Last year, I played for Grand Slam in the TNCA First Division, this year I will play for Vijay CC. Looking forward to a good season," he shared.

With the quality that he brings to the table, Gurjapneet has a good chance to play for Tamil Nadu this season in both red-ball and white-

ball formats and he is aware of it as well. "I am preparing myself to play both white-ball and red-ball. And I am mentally prepared and ready to take on the challenges of playing both formats. I am constantly trying to improve upon my game. I am working on my fitness in particular," he said. The teams that made the TNPL playoffs are all of good quality and it all depends upon how one plays on a given day to make it to the final. "(It is) really challenging because all are good sides and all the teams are playing really good cricket, if we (Madurai) have to win this tournament, we have to work hard and have to accept all kinds of challenges," he signed off.

## BCCI Reveals Plan For Upgradation Of Cricket Stadiums Ahead Of World Cup

NEW DELHI, Jul 8 (Agencies): In the 19th Apex Council meeting held on Friday, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) decided that the upgradation of cricket stadiums across the country will go forward in two phases, with the first phase dealing with all venues announced for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023, which will be held in the country in its entirety for the first time ever.

"The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) held its 19th Apex Council meeting on Friday, July 7, 2023, at Mumbai," said a press release from the governing body of the sport in the country.

The following key decisions were taken during the meeting -

-BCCI will formulate a policy for its players (including retired players) with respect to their participation in overseas

T20 leagues.

-The board will send both men's and women's teams to the Asian Games scheduled to be held in September 2023 at Hangzhou, China. However, considering the overlap of the schedule of the Asian Games with ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, BCCI will select from the players not participating in the World Cup to play in the Asian Games.

-BCCI will continue with the concept of Impact Player in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy in the next season with two variations from the previous season and the Indian Premier League -

(a) The teams will have to select their playing XI along with 4 substitute players before the toss; and

only use the Impact Player before the 14th over of an innings.

-The board has decided to introduce two bouncers per over in the upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy to balance the contest between bat and ball.

-BCCI will work towards the upgradation of stadiums in the country in two phases:

(a) The first phase will deal with the upgradation of the venues of ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, work for which shall be completed before the commencement of the World Cup; and

(b) The second phase will involve upgradation of the rest of the venues.

The opening match of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, featuring defending champions England and runner-up New Zealand, is set to commence on October 5 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in

Ahmedabad.

Ten teams will feature in this biggest Cricket World Cup ever, to be played across 10 venues from October 5 to November 19, with the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad hosting the tournament opener and the final. The event will feature 48 matches to be played across 46 days.

India's World Cup campaign will begin with a match against Australia on October 8 in Chennai.

The venues other than Ahmedabad and Chennai are Bengaluru, Delhi, Dharamsala, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai and Pune. While Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram will join Hyderabad in hosting the practice games.

Arch-rivals India and Pakistan will square off at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 on

October 15 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Eight teams have qualified for the 46-day event through the Cricket World Cup Super League while the final two spots will be taken by the finalists of the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier taking place in Zimbabwe.

The tournament retains the round-robin format of last time with all teams playing against each other for a total of 45 league matches. There are six-day matches that will start at 10 30 Indian Standard Time (IST) while all other matches, including the knockouts, will be day-night fixtures starting at 14 00 IST.

The top four teams will qualify for the semifinals, to be played in Mumbai on 15 November and in Kolkata on 16 November. The semi-finals and the final will have reserve days.

## Sindhu, Sen enter semifinals of Canada Open



CALGARY, Jul 8 (Agencies): Commonwealth Games champions PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen notched up contrasting wins to advance to the semifinals of the Canada Open Super 500 badminton tournament here.

Sindhu, a double Olympic medalist, stamped her authority over Fang Jie to register her first victory in four meetings against her opponent with a dominating 21-13 21-7 margin in the women's singles quarterfinals late on Friday night.

Later, Sen staved off a spirited fighter from German qualifier Julien Carraggi 21-8 17-21 21-10 in the men's sin-

gles quarterfinal. Sindhu will now face world number one Japan's Yamaguchi and Sen is pitted against fourth-seeded Japanese Kenta Nishimoto.

The 28-year-old from Hyderabad has a favourable 14-10 head-to-head record against the top-seeded Japanese, who had beaten the Indian in their last meeting at Singapore Open this year.

Sen, on the other hand, has a 1-1 record against Nishimoto, having last played him at the 2022 Japan Open.

Sindhu looked more alert as she zoomed to a 5-1 lead early on.

Her trademark smashes and drops troubled Fang Jie, who also com-

mitted lot of unforced errors.

The Indian entered the break with a 11-6 lead. Sindhu was quick on her feet and covered the court well, returning everything thrown at her with ease.

With the shuttle going to net a few times, Fang Jie reduced the deficit to 10-14 and then 12-16 but Sindhu finished things with two whipping smashes.

The second game started on an even keel with Fang Jie managing a slender 5-3 lead at one stage but Sindhu quickly turned things around, reaching the interval at 11-5 with her opponent finding the net.

It was mostly a one-way traffic as Sindhu made her opponent work hard, dominating the rallies to keep moving ahead.

Looking for precision, the Chinese missed the lines and soon handed over the match to the Indian with two net errors.

## Manjit anguish over unscheduled curtailment of electricity, drinking water supply issues in Kandi Belt

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 8: - Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has expressed his anguish over the inability of the authorities for ensuring electricity and drinking water supply in Kandi belt of Vijaypur constituency.

The Former Minister highlighted the concerns of the people after a deputation of people from Kandi area of Vijaypur met him and raised issues being faced by them.

While addressing them, S. Manjit Singh said that the Kandi belt is worst affected because of non-availability of drinking water supply that has



compelled the people to buy drinking water.

"The Jal Shakti Dept has not been able to frame a policy for the Kandi people to ensure drinking water supply. The people have no other source. Therefore, they hire water tankers to supply them with purchased drinking water,"

he said.

He said that "For decades, the kandi belt has always been neglected by the Jal Shakti Dept. The people suffer due to unscheduled long hours power cuts.

"The power cuts also affect the water supply system as well as irri-

gation of the agricultural fields," he added.

He demanded that the electricity should be supplied round the clock in Kandi areas where the people suffer due to unscheduled long hours power cuts.

"The power cuts also affect the water supply system as well as irri-

gation of the agricultural fields," he added. He demanded that the Govt should come up with a comprehensive policy for the welfare of the kandi belt as they remained neglected for decades.

He however assured the people that he would highlight their issues before the concerned authorities for the early redressal. He said that the Apni Party is committed to work for the welfare of the people.

"The people are disappointed with the administration and they seek restoration of statehood as well as holding of assembly elections in J&K only because their concerns are not being given heed by the Govt officials," he added.

## Corporator Pritam conducts sanitation drive at Apna Vihar colony



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 8: Corporator Pritam Singh of Ward 55 in collaboration with New Team of reconstituted board of society in follow up action after visit of Joint Commissioner JMC (Health & Sanitation) Kulbhusan Khajuria

carried on curbing of rat menace, catching of stray dogs grass cutting, tree cutting etc President of Society, Vijay Sharma Rtd. Deputy Commissioner, Vice-President Dr. Vijay Sharma, Rajesh Sharma and Chowdhary Chaman Lal, Secretary of society Pritam

Singh participated in the drive.

President of society said its beginning and with the active cooperation of residents of colony we will take this colony to new heights. He further declared that society is in search of another venture on the pattern of Apna Vihar and South-X.

## Robust Sanitation facilities in place to ensure eco-friendly pilgrimage: Dr. Singla



### TOP NEWS REPORT

ANANTNAG, Jul 8: Secretary Revenue and Nodal officer, Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2023 (SANJY 23) for Pahalgam Axis, Dr Piyush Singla, on Saturday said that robust sanitation facilities are in place to ensure that SANJY 23 is an eco-friendly Pilgrimage.

The Secretary made these remarks on the culmination of his three day foot tour to Holy Cave. He said that the unprecedented resource influx towards sanitation by the Government has reaped rewards and littering and open defecation on the track are all talk of past.

Dr. Singla, who meticulously assessed

the sanitation facilities along the track and in various camps en route, noted that toilet facilities have been strategically placed at regular intervals. He added that an ample number of dedicated personnel have been deployed to ensure proper maintenance.

The Secretary commended the efforts of sanitation workers, whose hard work has resulted in litter free and open defecation free track.

During his foot tour, Dr. Singla interacted with pilgrims who gave numerous positive remarks regarding the high standards of sanitation maintained throughout the Yatra. The pilgrims expressed their satisfaction with

the efforts made to preserve the fragile ecology of Pahalgam, which is recognized as an eco-sensitive zone.

The camp directors at various camps, including Chandanwari, Sheeshnag, Wavbal, and Panchtarni, provided detailed briefings to the Nodal Officer regarding the availability of manpower at their respective camps. They assured the Nodal Officer that a well-structured schedule has been implemented to ensure cleanliness and create a pleasant pilgrimage experience for the Yatrīs. They also briefed the Secretary about the waste disposal plan put in place for smooth conduct of Yatra.

## BVP honours CCI President & his team under Samparak Abhiyan

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 8: Today under the Samparak Abhiyan of BVP J&K Prant the Executive body led by the State President Bharat Bhushan Sharma met with Chamber of Commerce and Industries President Arun Gupta, Jr Vice President Rajeev Gupta and Rajesh Gupta Secretary at CCI Office Rail Head Complex Jammu.

Prominent members present on the occasion were Dev Raj Sharma Regional President North 1, Arun Sharma Regional Joint General Secretary North 1, Shiv Ram Sharma Prantiya General



Secretary, Ashok Gupta Prant Vice President Sanskar Parmukh, Vijay Sharma Vice President Sampark Parmukh, Prof B.B Sharma Sewa Parmukh, Devinder Maha-

jan Prant Coordinator, Ramesh Sharma Organizing Secretary, Aarti Sharma Mahila Parmukh, Gurmeet Singh Convenor and Er. Pawan Sharma Senior Member.

Chamber President Arun Gupta and Jr Vice President Rajeev Gupta and Secretary Rajesh Gupta were felicitated and honoured by the State unit of BVP.

Arun Gupta appreciated the activities and functions of Bharat Vikas Parishad and ensured full cooperation and support of CCI for the upcoming functions of BVP.

## ABDPSS continues Bhandara for Amarnath pilgrims



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 8: Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti (ABDPSS), Jammu and Kashmir has continuously arranging Bhandara for Baba Amarnathji Yatrīs since 6th July, 2023 at Railway Station, Jammu with enthusiasm and fervour.

The Samiti has the mission of Public Service accomplishments which forms the core of the organization. The Langar run by the Samiti run continuously and provide pure healthy meals to pilgrims and devotees come from across the country for the Darshan of Baba Amarnath.

The National Coordinator of the Samiti, Sunil Sharma informed that today in Bhandara large number of yatrīs came from different

states of India take meals and appreciated the efforts of the Samiti for arranging meals day for such a long time for Yatrīs on the directions and teachings of Bhrahmgyani Guruji.

The pilgrims shall be served hygienic, delicious, energetic and digestive "sattvic" Bhojan in all days; besides there shall be special and exclusive arrangement for pilgrims observing "fast" on important Tithis (Dates) in Shravan Month and other important festival dates.

The Joint Secretary of the Samiti, Parshotam Sharma, informed that for this purpose, the Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti under the guidance of Sunil Sharma actively assisted by Madan Mohan gupta, Swatanter Bakshi and Ajay Kumar have constituted

a team of highly dedicated Members to serve the yatrīs in the best possible manner.

Among others who attended today's Bhandara namely, Jyoti Kumar, Ramesh Sharma, Parshotam Sharma, Tara Chand, Madan Mohan and others etc.

## Bukhari visits bereaved family of Haji Mohammad Maqbool Mir, offers condolences

### TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jul 8: Apni Party President, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, extended his heartfelt condolences to the family of Haji Mohammad Maqbool Mir from Hari Wantnoo Tangmag in North Kashmir. Mir Sahib recently passed away after a brief illness.

According to a press release issued here, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari visited the bereaved family's residence at Watnoo, Tangmag, on Saturday and extended his condolences to the family members, including the deceased's sons, Nazir Ahmad Mir, Irfan Ahmad Mir, Zahoor Ahmad Mir, and Shabir Ahmad Mir.

On this occasion, Bukhari expressed his solidarity with the bereaved and prayed for the departed soul.

He said, 'I share the pain of the grief-stricken family, and I pray to Almighty Allah to grant them the much-needed patience to bear the agony of their irreparable loss. May Allah grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannah and shower His choicest blessings upon his grave.'

"Haji Mohammad Maqbool Mir was a noble soul who consistently contributed to society. In this hour of grief, Apni Party stands in unwavering solidarity with the bereaved family," Bukhari added.

## Ajaz Kazmi criticises Anvil Cable for engaging unskilled workers in installing pre-paid meters

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 8: Apni Trade Union J&K President Ajaz Kazmi has strongly criticized Anvil Cables Pvt Ltd for sub-letting its work to the unskilled workers to install pre-paid meters in Jammu City that has resulted into unfortunate fire incidents.

"The workers installing pre-paid meters are unskilled and there is no JEs or PDD to ensure that the work is done in a professional manner so that the possibility of harm to the public and pri-

vate properties can be reduced," said Kazmi. He said that it was unfortunate that the fire incidents in two areas have happened because of the unprofessional work done by these workers at 46A/B Gandhi Nagar, Sanjay Nagar, Canal Road, Gumat area.

"The Anvil Company officials are not settling the issue with the people in the above said localities where people have suffered because of the unprofessional work performed by the workers without the supervision of the respective JEs

or other professionals," he added.

He demanded compensation for the people whose property got damaged due to blaze and penalty to the Anvil Company for causing damage to the property and posing risk to the lives of the people as well as to the workers.

"These workers can be seen working without protection gears and helmets," he added while warning the company that the people will come on the roads if the compensation is not given to the affected families.

## Lecture-cum-demonstration organised by Fire fighters at Magam

### TOP NEWS REPORT

HANDWARA, Jul 8: A Lecture-cum-Demonstration was organised by Fire and Emergency Service Department at Magam Army Camp.

The lecture was conducted by a special instructor in fire fighting from Fire Department, Srinagar,

arranged by Fire Department, Kupwara.

The event was aimed at creating awareness about life saving techniques, which one must know to protect life and property in an event of domestic fire until the fire fighters come for their rescue.

Apart from educational value, the lecture cum demonstra-

tion was conducted to recognise the selfless devotion of fire fighters, who risk their lives every day for this noble cause and also to spread this awareness among the youth.

The event was organised at ground of Magam Army Camp which was witnessed by 108 persons from Magam block.