

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### One dead, another injured in house collapse

SRINAGAR, Jul 17 (Agencies): A laborer died while another was injured as the house they were working in collapsed in the Gari-pora Bemina area of Central Srinagar district on Monday afternoon. Kashmir Scroll reported that two labourers identified as Mohammad Ramzan Ganae and Ghulam Hyder Bhat both residents of Goripora were critically injured in the house collapse incident. Both the injured were shifted to Bone and Joint Hospital Barzulla for treatment, where Mohammad Ramzan was declared brought dead.

### J&K BJP Chief serves defamation notice on former MLC Surinder Choudhary

JAMMU, Jul 17 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Monday served a defamation notice on former MLC Surinder Choudhary for his remarks against him while quitting the party recently. Raina sought an unconditional apology from Choudhary within a week for his attempts to damage his reputation among the masses and the party ranks and warned of a defamation suit worth Rs 5 crore against him after the expiry of the deadline. Choudhary quit the Peoples Democratic Party on March 30 last year and joined the BJP within a week. However, he left the BJP and joined the National Conference on July 7 this year. Choudhary announced his decision to quit the BJP on his Twitter handle and levelled allegations against Raina. Raina said, "I have served a legal notice on Choudhary through my lawyer...for leveling baseless allegations against me with the sole aim to defame my reputation within the party and the masses. He should apologize within one week or prepare for legal action." "You may choose any political party that suits your ambition, yet the

## Amarnath Yatra 2023 | Over 6,200 pilgrims leave Jammu for Amarnath



JAMMU, Jul 17 (Agencies): The 15th batch of more than 6,200 Amarnath pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base

camp here early on Monday morning amid tight security, officials said. As many as 2,29,221

devotees have paid obeisance at the Amarnath shrine since the annual pilgrimage began on July 1.

A total of 6,648 pilgrims left in a convoy of 241 vehicles for the twin base camps in Kashmir to undertake the onward journey to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Lord Shiva.

Officials said 3,686 pilgrims, headed for Pahalgam, left in a convoy of 132 vehicles while another convoy of 109 vehicles carrying 2,998 pilgrims left for the Baltal base camp at 3.30 am and 3.45 am, respectively.

The 62-day annual pilgrimage commenced

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## 2 terrorists killed, infiltration bid foiled in Poonch



JAMMU, Jul 17: In a joint operation by alert troops of Indian Army and Jammu Kashmir Police a major infiltration bid was eliminated on the night of 16-17 July 23 in Krishna

Ghati Sector in District Poonch. Movement of terrorist was observed near the Poonch River moving from across the line of Control towards own side. Alert troops of Indian Army and Jammu

Kashmir Police established anti infiltration posture in multiple tiers to prevent any terrorist from escaping.

In the early hours of the morning contact was established which led to heavy volume of fire being exchanged. In the ensuing fire fight two terrorists were hit. One of the terrorist fell on the spot while the other terrorist was observed falling in the Poonch River.

In a deliberate and massive search operation body of one terrorist has been recovered from the site. Major

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## 6,727 Kg of seized drugs destroyed in Jammu

JAMMU, Jul 17 (Agencies): Police on Monday destroyed 6,727 kilograms of drugs seized during various operations in Jammu, officials said.

It was done under the 'Nasha Mukh Bharat' campaign in Jammu led by Additional Director General of Police,



Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh.

"As a part of a nationwide campaign, 6,727 kg of drugs were destroyed in Jammu", a senior official said.

Officers of the Anti-narcotics Task Force, Narcotics Control Bureau and police officers were present on the spot.

## Two IEDs recovered from Wodhpura forest: Police

SRINAGAR, Jul 17 (Agencies): Army, in a joint operation with Jammu and Kashmir Police, recovered two sophisticated Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) from Wodhpura forest in north Kashmir Handwara on Monday.

Police in a statement, said the Indian Army, in a Joint operation with Handwara Police, recovered two IEDs from Wodhpura Ridge near NH 701 early Monday morning.

Based on information from a reliable source, the Indian Army and Handwara Police launched a swift and

well-coordinated Search and Destruction Operation (SADO) in Wodhpura Forest in the wee hours of Monday.

The operation resulted in the recovery of two sophisticated IEDs weighing approximately 5 and 7 kg, concealed in the jungle area. The team immediately cordoned off the area with adequate security measures.

The positive identification of an IED was carried out by the Indian Army's highly trained Explosive detection team, equipped with explosive detectors

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## Teacher arrested for alleged rape of class 9th girl

SRINAGAR, Jul 17 (Agencies): In an unfortunate incident in the Baramulla district of north Kashmir, a young girl has reportedly been subjected to a heinous act of rape.

As per sources, a teacher has been apprehended on allegations of sexually assaulting a ninth-grade student in the Zaloora area of Sopore.

The victim's family filed a First Information Report (FIR) against the accused, prompting the Jammu Kashmir Police to take him into custody.

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## Kashmir University PRO among three employees sacked by J&K govt

SRINAGAR, Jul 17 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir government has sacked the Kashmir University public relations officer, a police constable and a revenue department officer for allegedly working with Pakistan-based militant outfits, raising finances for them, and propagating their ideology, officials said on Monday.

The three employees

have been identified as PRO Kashmir University, Faheem Aslam, Revenue Department officer, Murawath Husain Mir, and J-K Police Constable Arshid Ahmad Thoker.

The officials said their services have been terminated due to a number of charges, including for allegedly working with Pakistan-based militant outfits, providing logistics to militants, propa-

gating militant ideology, raising finances for militancy and "furthering secessionist agenda".

The government has invoked 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution to sack the three government employees after investigation established "that they were acting on behalf of Pakistan ISI and the terror outfits".

Aslam is a "diehard secessionist who not

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## Traffic cop among three persons dead as three vehicles collide in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Jul 17 (Agencies): A traffic cop was among three persons killed in a fatal mishap involving crash of multiple vehicles in Maloora area of Shalting in Srinagar, official sources said.

GNS reported that a three-wheeler (auto), a tipper and a Maruti car crashed near Petrol Pump Maloora,

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## Dr. Tarun appeals LG to resume widow, old age pension

JAMMU, Jul 17: Actor, Director, President of Nat Manch, Dr. Tarun Sharma appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj sinha to resume widow and old age pension as early as possible because in old person will be depend on chil-



dren for little expenses like medicine but with the help of pension an old age person has enough money in his/her pocket for small expenses.

He said we have full faith in Lieutenant Governor and he will do

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## DFSS holds protest against sky rocketing prices of tomatoes



JAMMU, Jul 17: The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS) under the leadership of president Ashok Gupta held a protest against the sky rocketing prices of tomatoes and

demanding an arrest for those who are black marketing the tomatoes. Farmers are being paid very less and the people who are black marketing the tomatoes are earning massive profits, he said adding that Government of Punjab on

daily basis release the price list for vegetables and the commodities are being sold on those prices but in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir no such thing is done which leads to inflated prices of vegetables.

Our bordering state Himachal Pradesh where tomatoes are being sold at a prices of Rs 60 per kg, the black marketers are buying tomatoes from these Mandi's in Himachal and then selling at such exuberant prices of Rs 220 per kg, he said.

The Govt should form

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# Work with compassion to resolve people's problems: MP Khatana

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 17: BJP MP Rajya Sabha, Er Ghulam Ali Khatana on Monday urged the employees to work with compassion to resolve the issues of the common man and serve the humanity.

He said that people of Jammu and Kashmir has suffered mis-governance due to corrupt governments led by three dynasties which has totally shattered the economy and progress of the UT.

MP Khatana said that LG administration is trying hard to bring the system back on rails but the blunders committed by the erstwhile governments will take time to rectify.

He said that mess in the education department, daily wagers, need based, casual employees in PHE dept are huge challenges for



the UT administration.

MP Khatana today chaired meeting of NH1A and reviewed the progress of the various projects being undertaken by the NH1A.

Project Director Jammu YPS Jadon briefed the MP on various stages of the NH1A projects.

Later, a delegation of JKML Retired Employees Association led by its chairman called on

BJP MP Rajya Sabha Er Ghulam Ali Khatana here today and sought his immediate intervention in settling the long pending problems of retired JKML employees regarding release of their retirement dues i. e COLA arrears etc.

The delegation demanded that the retirement dues be settled at an earliest on the pattern of VR scheme already implemented in

JKML.

The delegation demanded that the pending dues of retirees be released without any further delay as without any pensioner benefits they are unable to perform their social obligations.

The delegation said that workers are suffering on this account for years together.

BJP MP Rajya Sabha Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana assured them that all their genuine demands will be fulfilled.

Others who were present on the occasion are Khadam Hussain, Mohd Aslam, Juginder Singh Thakur, Ashwani Kumar, Chaman Lal, Arun Kumar, Baldeev Singh, Tej Ram and Karnail Singh.

# Chandrayaan-3 India's remarkable progress in space exploration: Raj Rattan Raina

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 17: BJP leader Raj Rattan Raina has expressed his heartfelt admiration for the successful launch of Chandrayaan-3, India's lunar mission. He considered this achievement to be a strong testament to India's remarkable progress and increasing expertise in the field of space exploration.

In a statement issued today, Raina lauded the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the entire team involved in the mission for their dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment. He emphasized that Chandrayaan-3's successful launch highlights India's determination to push boundaries and attain new heights in scientific and technological



advancements.

Raina commended the scientists, engineers, and all the stakeholders involved in the project for their exceptional skills and efforts, which have placed India at the forefront of global space exploration. He emphasized that this remarkable achievement will not only inspire the youth of our nation but also enhance India's position in the international space community.

Furthermore, Raina acknowledged the steadfast support and guidance provided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the government in advancing India's space program. He expressed his pride in India's growing prowess and highlighted the importance of continued investments in research, development, and innovation to further propel the country's achievements in the realm of space exploration.

Raina conveyed his warmest congratulations to ISRO and the entire team for their resounding success with Chandrayaan-3. He expressed his optimism for even more significant accomplishments in the future and reiterated the BJP's commitment to supporting India's ambitious space endeavors.

# Bukhari expresses deep regret over loss of 3 lives in Shalteng accident

## TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jul 17: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari expressed profound grief over the demise of three persons including a traffic cop in an accident at Shalteng in the outskirts of Srinagar.

The fatal mishap occurred on Monday

afternoon because of a crash of multiple vehicles in Maloora area of Shalteng in central Kashmir's Srinagar locality.

In his condolences to the families of the departed individuals, Bukhari said,

"I am deeply saddened by the tragic loss of the individuals in the

accident at Shalteng Srinagar. During this time of immense sorrow, I stand in unwavering solidarity with the grieving families.

May the Almighty grant them the patience to endure the pain of this irreparable loss and grant eternal peace to the departed souls."

# Chandrayaan-3: India's growing prowess in space exploration, says Nitish

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 17: Nitish Mahajan, Co-Incharge of the Social Media Department of BJP in Jammu and Kashmir, today commended the Modi government for the remarkable success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, terming it as a proud moment for the entire nation and a testament to India's growing prowess in the field of space exploration.

In a statement issued here today, the senior BJP leader

highlighted the significant achievements of the Modi government in advancing India's space program and fostering scientific innovation. He emphasized that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has witnessed remarkable progress in various spheres, including space research and technology.

Nitish Mahajan said the successful launch of Chandrayaan-3 demonstrates India's commitment to exploring the myster-

ies of the moon and expanding our knowledge of the universe. He acknowledged the tireless efforts and dedication of the scientists, engineers, and all those involved in making this mission a resounding success.

Mahajan further stated that the successful launch of Chandrayaan-3 is a reflection of the government's unwavering support for scientific research and development. The Modi government has consistently prioritized the advancement of India's

space program, providing the necessary resources and infrastructure for our scientists and researchers to excel, he said. Furthermore, Nitish Mahajan highlighted the impact of this achievement on the nation's youth. It serves as a reminder that with determination and dedication, dreams can be turned into reality. He expressed confidence in the future of India's space program under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

# 162 Bn CRPF conducts medical camp in Khangund

## TOP NEWS REPORT

KUPWARA, Jul 17: A free Medical health check-up camp was organized in Khangund Khumriyal area of Kupwara under the Civic Action Programme by 162 Battalion Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Government Middle School Khangund Kupwara, during which free medicines were distributed here.

The camp was inaugurated by Second-in-command 162 Battalion CRPF Rajiv Kumar, Assistant Commandant D Raja Ilam Parati, Dr. Ajay Kumar Medical Officer 162 Battalion and other dignitaries were present on this occasion.

During the Medical camp a large number of people including women, children, senior citizens of the area visited to take advantage of the camp.

Second-In-Command 162 Battalion CRPF Shri Rajiv Kumar said while talking to media, "today we



have organized a free medical camp and consultancy for those who require medical assistance and you see a large number of people turned up in the programme. The aim of such Programmes is to have good relations with locals and also help them in difficult times. It's a continuous process and 162 Battalion

is periodically conducting community outreach programs in one or other way. In the past also such free medical camps were organized in Kupwara District".

Meanwhile the locals of Khangund Kupwara extended gratitude to 162 Battalion CRPF for conducting the medical camp in the area.

# Mir urges LG admin to lift restrictions, permit upcoming Muharram processions in Valley

## TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jul 17: Apni Party's Senior Vice President, Ghulam Hassan Mir, on Monday, urged the Lieutenant Governor (LG) administration to allow the movement of religious processions in the summer capital Srinagar and other parts of the Valley during the forthcoming Islamic month of Muharram.

In his press statement, Ghulam Hassan Mir said, "The Muharram processions, which have otherwise been denied for many years now, occupy a special place with regard to the commemoration of the holy month for our Shia brethren. Given

the relatively calm and peaceful atmosphere prevailing in the Valley for quite a considerable period of time now, the community has been looking up to Hon'ble LG Manoj Sinha with great expectations to allow these processions without any hindrance or interference."

He further said, "The Shia community, like every other, has the constitutional right to observe its religious activities with utmost freedom, dignity, and honor. It is expected that the authorities in charge recognize and uphold these rights, allowing the movement of processions on specific dates during the sacred month in accordance with the community's expectations." Mir added.

It is worth mentioning that during Muharram, the Shia community traditionally organizes processions following specific routes. On Muharram 6, the procession typically moves from Gulshan Bagh to Zadibal. On Muharram 7, the route extends from Kathi Darwaza to Hassanabad. Similarly, on Muharram 8, the procession proceeds from Guru Bazaar to Dalgate, on Muharram 9 from Mandibal to Zadibal, on Muharram 10 from Aabi Guzar to Lal Chowk, on Muharram 11 from Rainawari to Hassanabad, and

finally, on Muharram 25, the procession is observed from Mirgund to Budgam.

Ghulam Hassan also appealed for all the necessary arrangements to be made available for the commemoration of the religious activities. He said, "There have been complaints about the unavailability of potable water supply, pesky power cuts, dearth of ration and LPG, and other such basic amenities from various pockets of Srinagar and Budgam districts, and we, as such, urge the authorities to come up to the expectations of the general masses and do away with the grievances at the earliest."

# J&K stands number one in Geo Tagging of Union Ministry's CDPs

## TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jul 17: Jammu and Kashmir stands number one in Geo Tagging of Cluster Development Projects (CDPs) in the country, implemented by Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

This achievement of Jammu and Kashmir will result in faster approval of projects, timely release of funds from central government, which will result in faster growth of MSME's across J&K.

Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is implementing Cluster Development Projects in the

country including J&K through which central government's grant upto 80% is applicable for common facility centre projects and 70% for development of Industrial Estates.

J&K has received 10 projects from Ministry of MSME for the development of Industrial Estates and Common Facility Centers (CFCs). MSME-DFO Jammu, field office of Union Ministry of MSME, takes lead role in implementation of various schemes including Cluster Development projects for the benefit of MSME sector of the region.

The total project value of CFC's and ID's in J&K is Rs. 90.73 crore approximately. Recent-

ly, the Union Ministry called for Geo Tagging all the projects under MSE-CDP for all states including J&K. An app was also developed by Ministry, used for tracking the performance, including completion, percentage of completion of the projects sanctioned under MSE-CDP, which are monitored online based on the photographs taken through the Geo app.

In Jammu and Kashmir, two teams were appointed for Jammu and Kashmir divisions for completing this task. The teams worked with full spirit and completed the Geo Tagging of all the projects, completed and ongoing across J&K.

# BCPL Cricket Tournament concludes

## TOP NEWS REPORT

GANDOH, Jul 17: Bhalesa Chenab Premier League (BCPL) Cricket Tournament was organised jointly by Educational Environmental Social Sports and Cultural Society and Walli Constructions at Sports Stadium Kilhotran.

Final match was played between High Hills Rajouri and Shinning Cricket Club Doda.

Toss was won by Shinning Cricket Club and elected to bat first and scored 134 runs in 18 overs for the loss of 6 wickets.

While chasing the target, High Hills Rajouri scored the 135 runs in 14 overs for the loss of 5 wickets. Rajun Kumar of High Hills Rajouri was top scorer who scored 65 runs off 32 balls.

It is pertinent to mention that more than one 100 team participated in the tournament. Later final functional was held which was presided over by SDM Gandoh Ashraf Pervaiz where-



as Mehraj Malik DDC Khara was the Chief Guest.

Other dignitaries present includes SDPO Gandoh, SHO Gandoh, owner of Walli Constructions Javid Iqbal Zarger, Chairman of Society Mohammad Ayoub Zarger, Social activ-

ist, Rayaz Ahmed Zarger, Jamait Ali Agah, Muneer Ahmed Shaikh President Contractor Association and Raja Serfaraz.

Rs 2 lakh cash award and trophy was given to winner team and Rs 1 lakh and trophy was given to runner up team.

First time DRS system was introduced in the tournament. Chief organizer Akhyar Ahmed Zarger expressed thanks to public, civil administration, police and security forces for making the tournament successful

## EDITORIAL

## CAREER BUILDING

**B**uilding a career requires education, skill, determination as well as good opportunities. Building a lucrative career involves not giving up and persistently moving forward to achieve your goals.

India is known for producing lakhs of talented youth every year. Though the education system of our country has been criticized time and again, we cannot deny the fact that our graduates and post graduates are setting milestones by landing jobs in big brands all over the world.

Though the country provides good employment opportunities to these qualified and skilled persons but actually they face a lot of difficulties to get a job.

The first hurdle is that the jobs in the market are not equal to the number of qualified persons in the country. The increasing population of India is responsible for this. Second, the salary packages offered here are often less than what these youngsters get abroad.

Reservation or quota system is another reason why deserving candidates do not get good jobs in the country. All this is the reason why many qualified doctors, engineers and other professionals move out of the country.

Developed countries offer good salary and a better lifestyle as compared to the salary available in India. Countries like United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Singapore and Australia always look for talented youth to grow their businesses and take their country's economy to new heights.

There are many opportunities available in the fields of science, technology, management and many more. People of developing country like India are looking for good job opportunities, better packages and a good lifestyle and thus can get the opportunities provided by the developed countries.

Every year many professionals leave their country of origin and migrate to the developed world countries causing the problem of brain drain.

While many people go abroad in search of good job opportunities, others go abroad for low paying jobs or jobs that do not suit their qualifications. For all those people who dreamed of making it big but had to settle for less, there is still hope.

It is essential to maintain your LinkedIn profile to attract the attention of the hiring companies. Apart from this, be active on this forum as well as other job portals so that it can help in searching for any new opportunity. A good profile on this platform can help you get good opportunities.

Maintaining public relations and networking with professionals in the same field is essential to staying up to date with the latest information in the industry.

Many seminars and industry festivals are organized these days. It is suggested to attend such seminars to gain more insight into the industries and meet influential people. Also never stop learning and reviewing your career goals from time to time.

The Government of India should stop such issues which are creating hurdles in providing good career opportunities to the individuals of the country.

## India and France: United over 'strategic autonomy'

By: K.C. Singh

**T**he visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to France last week, on July 13-14, where he was invited to be the chief guest at the Bastille Day celebrations, marked 25 years since Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and French President Jacques Chirac elevated the relationship in 1998 to the strategic level. That was after France literally alone stood with India after the 1998 nuclear tests.

Unlike the annual Republic Day parade in New Delhi, where a different foreign dignitary is invited annually, the French do so only occasionally.

The unique and close relationship between India and France dates from soon after India's independence in 1947. The French atomic energy commission (CEA) had begun working with India's Atomic Energy Commission soon thereafter, even when the United States and Britain were keeping tight control over nuclear technology sharing. Unlike Portugal, which had made a big fuss over vacating Goa, the French had quietly handed over their Indian colonial possessions, including Puducherry, on November 1, 1954.

The debate between France and the United States on sovereignty and alliances originates from the 1950s over the unwillingness of France to place its military assets under a joint command led by the US. The Fifth Republic, created by President Charles de Gaulle in 1958, rested on ensuring the strategic independence of France. Coincidentally, post-Independence India was likewise moving towards a similar strategic independence of newly decolonised nations. From that yearning was born the non-aligned movement. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had a special fondness for France, both as

a source to diversify Indian defence procurements but also due to her penchant for the French language, which she learnt at school in Switzerland.

The visions of Presidents John F. Kennedy and Charles de Gaulle had differed precisely on the latter seeking more strategic space, especially as regards control over strategic nuclear assets. France shared American values but differed on the amount of dependence Europe must have on the US for its defence against the then Soviet Union. It is the same hymn that President Emmanuel Macron has been singing off and on.

Thus, France has always been the third nation that India has turned to for advanced technologies when US led the attempt to restrict transfer of dual-use technologies, especially after India's 1974 peaceful nuclear tests.

Therefore, it was not surprising that after 1971, when the bulk of Indian defence requirements were met by the Soviet Union, India always kept the French door open. When the US decided to transfer F-16 planes to Pakistan after it joined the US-Saudi plan in opposing the 1979 Soviet military incursion into Afghanistan, India turned to France. Mirage-2000 planes were inducted in 1985 to augment India's air power, then almost wholly dependent on Soviet MIGs.

France also extended the honour of being the chief guest at the Bastille Day parade to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2009. The French are adept at marrying commercial interests to strategic imperatives. The current prime ministerial foray has to be seen in this larger context as foreign policy is a process and not a series of managed events. President Macron has been facing domestic opposition with violent street protests over the killing of a non-white youth by the French police. There

has also been broad resistance to Mr Macron's pension reform proposal. Thus, Mr Macron is today a diminished political leader.

Anti-Macron chants were heard during the Bastille Day celebrations. Similarly, the European Parliament debated the worrisome state of Indian democracy and the situation in Manipur. It passed a negative resolution on the eve of Mr Modi's arrival in Paris. A French magistrate also complicated matters by seeking information from India about alleged bribery in the purchase of 36 Rafale fighters.

The joint statement issued at the end of the visit covers a wide spectrum of issues. In its annexure are steps that both nations envision over the next 25 years, when India completes a century of independence, titled "Horizon 2047 Roadmap". The emphasis is on co-production and co-development of advanced defence technologies. There is a commitment on Safran helicopter engine technology being shared for the Indian Multi-Role Helicopter project. There was speculation earlier about jet engine technology being shared. Considering that there has just been a US commitment to do the same, perhaps discretion required that the French and US agreements are kept separate.

There are the usual commitments about France supporting the UN Security Council permanent membership of the G-4, a group of Brazil, Germany, India and Japan. The hat is tipped to multilateralism, Indo-Pacific security, counterterrorism, etc. There is an expectation that France will have 20,000 Indian students by 2027. Although France was the first major power to sign a nuclear cooperation agreement with India after the Nuclear Suppliers Group waiver, no concrete projects are yet visible. One of the problems has been the uncertified nature of

France's next generation nuclear reactor technology. The other one about liability, in case of an accident, is less of a hurdle for the French, in comparison to the Americans, as the French government would be the foreign partner, not the private sector. The Scorpene submarine project has worked well so far and is likely to be extended.

So, what really is the convergence of Indo-French interests? On China, President Macron prefers engagement over de-linking as France sees a huge market at risk. India is in the US camp called the Quad, which includes Australia and Japan. On the question of Russia and Ukraine, Mr Macron has tried to mediate without success, though his position will be closer to India's than that of Nato. France has been irked over the US killing its submarine deal with Australia by offering nuclear submarines and perhaps technology.

For the US, Australia is a frontline state in its China-containment strategy. Mr Macron stirred up a debate by pitching for European strategic autonomy in view of the perceived US unreliability. This, as explained above, is an old De Gaulle-style argument. Mr Macron's domestic critics describe his foreign policy posturing as an escape from his political problems at home. His campaign pledge in 2017 was titled "Revolution". His reform stands stymied at home as he explores possibilities of leadership in a European Union rid of the UK. He is exploiting German diffidence, but in the process often finds himself outflanked by European consensus.

The Narendra Modi visit, when seen in this broader context, is not really a diplomatic coup. It is a logical next step by two nations practising strategic autonomy in a world facing great power transition and the resulting contestation.

## Farewell Dada! Memories of an extraordinary 1979 China visit

By: Saeed Naqvi

**I**t was just as well that a memorial meeting for Subhash Chakravarty was organised by the Press Club of India, where so many of us spent even evenings with him in the 1970s and 1980s before senior newshounds, for some reason, relocated to other, more segregated watering holes.

Subhash, with his stolid ways, never had a fan following, but editors like N.J. Nanporia and Girilal Jain couldn't practice their punditry without extensive, daily debriefing by Subhash after he returned from the parlours of the powerful with whom he was on first-name terms.

The man who could walk unannounced into the offices of the most powerful in the land was also extremely lonely in his private life. His extraordinary access to politicians like Pranab Mukherjee could be explained in parochial terms too... he couldn't conceal his Bengali chauvinism.

In this, he wasn't dissimilar to late Abu Abraham. A superb cartoonist, Abu was also a Malayali chauvinist, a tendency which erupted every time he touched on "North Indian culture".

Dada and Abu have crept into memory simultaneously because they link up in different ways with a China story gestating in my mind.

Among the many remarkable cartoons Abu Abraham sketched, the one he prided most was of Mao Zedong walking upto an Indian diplomat, Brajesh Mishra, smiling mysteriously,

eye contact and all. The enigmatic smile, at a time when relations between two nations were in "chill", was the subject of continuous discussion and punditry. Abu's caption of the cartoon were words of inspiration: "Mao-Lisa".

The Mao-Lisa smile may have been one of the ingredients behind K.R. Narayanan being named ambassador to Beijing in 1976. The date of Narayanan's appointment overlapped with the Emergency.

When Indira Gandhi was routed in the 1977 and Morarji Desai became PM, the external affairs ministry fell to the lot of Atal Behari Vajpayee. The office he occupied near South Block's main staircase was exactly the one Pandit Nehru occupied as Prime Minister. "I am about to occupy the chair on which Pandit Nehru sat." Vajpayee was full of emotion.

Among the earliest visits Vajpayee embarked on as foreign minister, with cerebral foreign secretary Jagat Mehta, was to China in February 1979.

N. Ram, Dada and I were part of a small team of journalists invited to accompany the delegation. Dada was never short on tips on chopsticks at the Great Hall of the People, the essential protocol of climbing the Great Wall... with an empty bladder. In February's biting cold there would otherwise be that embarrassing search for a toilet.

One big advantage of having Dada by our side was quite priceless. Since he called his editor Girilal Jain twice a day, we were regularly updated on how our stories were faring. The

editor's approval of the drift of one's stories was clear from the display given to what one was writing. It was all very satisfactory until one reached Hangzhou, a great cultural centre.

After a memorable banquet by the local party boss, we retired to our rooms in an exquisite hotel. This was usually the time for Dada to walk to the press room to talk to his editor. Such was Dada's demeanour that it appeared to those listening that Dada was actually scolding his editor. That was his style.

This particular conversation with Girilal Jain ended dramatically. Dada let the handset dangling by the spiral cord, rather like the climax of Dial M for Murder. He ran toward Jagat Mehta's room and began banging on the door. "Jagat, open the door" he thundered ominously, "China has invaded Vietnam".

It was feared from Day 1 of Vajpayee's visit that Deng Xiaoping might actually do what he verbally threatened: "teach Vietnam a lesson". Some action was expected after Vietnam occupied Kampuchea and removed the Khmer Rouge, supported by China.

Considering that India's foreign minister was in Beijing on something of an epoch-making visit, military action against Vietnam without as much as taking the visitor into confidence was construed an insult. What made it worse was that the foreign minister of Yugoslavia, who was in Beijing at the same time, was kept in the loop.

What took place in Vajpayee's suite that night was a sombre variant of a pyjama party.

Vajpayee's mind was made up. He cut short the visit and returned home via Hong Kong.

This was Chinese behaviour at a time when Deng's four modernisations had barely been announced as state policy. China, like India then, was a poor, developing country.

Did China deliberately insult Vajpayee? I would say no. The element of secrecy with India was dictated by India's close relations with the Soviet Union. Vietnam at this stage was largely in the Soviet camp.

What Vajpayee's successor, Narendra Modi, is coping with is China risen to the height of Gulliver, challenging not India, but the United States, which is almost India's patron. Circumstances of a changing global order have placed India on a sweet spot, wooed by both sides. In this situation, India's commitment to strategic autonomy is credible.

This credibility has to be sustained by managing the autonomy of action without ever looking like the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Village "Nutts" walk on ropes tightly held by two poles. A fall, if ever, is after all only before a small village audience. A high-wire act before a global audience, like the one India is embarked on, demands exceptional agility. Just because we are satisfied with the optics of the US visit, we cannot let our guard down. Our slipping into a virtual mode for SCO will have the world scrutinise the shift. Strategic autonomy as a policy will have to be sustainable. As a trick, it will be found out.

## Commissioner Secretary I&C inaugurates JKEDI's Startup Leadership Summit

### TOP NEWS REPORT

PAMPORE, Jul 17: Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce (I&C), Vikramjit Singh on Monday inaugurated 'Two-Day Startup Leadership Summit' at Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) campus Sempora here.

The Summit is being organized by JKEDI in collaboration with The India Network with an aim to cultivate a robust ecosystem for entrepreneurship and innovation across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Summit is being held under overall guidance of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and featured distinguished lineup of industry experts and successful entrepreneurs who shared their insights and expertise to empower aspiring and existing entrepreneurs. Large number of entrepreneurs from across Jammu and Kashmir are also participating in the Summit.

Delivering an insightful address on the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary said that government of J&K is going to be an enabling factor



and facilitating, guiding, and mentoring startups in Jammu and Kashmir. "The UT is embarking into a new phase of certainty and stability with lots of opportunities and we are committed to enrich and empower this ecosystem so that an entire society will benefit from it", he said.

In his welcome address, Director, JKEDI, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat said, "The summit will cover essential topics such as financial planning, marketing strategies, legal and regulatory frameworks, and access to funding opportunities". The Director further highlighted that the event will emphasize on the significance of innovation and the utilization of emerging technologies in driving business growth.

"JKEDI is always avail-

able for entrepreneurs and will work towards creating a sustainable startup ecosystem in J&K", he said.

Founder and CEO of Wyn Studio, Sonia Khurana, in her address spoke in length about the essence of storytelling in entrepreneurship. Her session, titled "Kahani Kya Hai" (What's the Story), explored the power of storytelling and its impact on building a successful startup.

Founder and CEO of India Network, Rahul Narvekar, shared his extensive experience and guided participants on how to build a startup from scratch. His session provided valuable insights and practical strategies for turning entrepreneurial visions into thriving businesses.

He added that our goal is to create 100 startup

stories in J&K.

Co-founders of Alpha Consultants, Dinesh Singh and Amit Mishra shared their expertise in business consulting and financial management to educate attendees on the intricacies of generating funding for their ventures. The session offered invaluable guidance and strategies for securing investment opportunities.

CEO, India Network, Himani Bhagat, talked about her strategic expertise and operational acumen to the summit. Her session also focused on various avenues and approaches entrepreneurs can explore to access funding for their start up endeavours.

The two day summit will also feature interactive pitching sessions, providing entrepreneurs with the opportunity to

present their business ideas and proposals to a panel of Angel Investors from diverse regions of the country. These investors will offer valuable feedback, guidance, and potentially investment opportunities to promising entrepreneurs. Various innovative models/prototypes were also displayed at the event.

In addition to the expert sessions and pitching sessions, participants will have the chance to engage with seasoned industry professionals, successful entrepreneurs, and subject matter experts. These individuals will share their experiences, provide mentorship, and offer guidance on various aspects of entrepreneurship.

The JKEDI is providing a unique platform for holistic and sustainable entrepreneurship development, across Jammu and Kashmir. This Startup Leadership Summit promises to be an enriching and empowering experience for all participants, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to excel in today's dynamic and competitive business landscape.

## DPAP holds protest against prepaid system for electricity



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 17: On the direction of Gulam Nabi Azad, DPAP District Committee Jammu (Urban) held a protest under the Leadership of Gourav Chopra, president Distt at PDD office, Parade Chowk, here against JKPDCL regarding prepaid system for electricity consumption.

People from various wards took part in the protest. The protesters were with banners like Prepaid System Bandh Karo, Bijli Ke Bill Kam Karo, PDD Hai Hai raising slogans against UT Government.

Speaking on the occasion, Gourav Chopra, District President, Jammu Urban, DPAP put questions on the JKPDCL (PDD) for starting of Prepaid Electricity System and disconnecting of connections of people in this scroaching

heat.

No one is ready to listen the grievances related Electricity System in Jammu, he said adding that especially the poor people are facing hardship due to the hefty bills.

Anil Kohli, Vice President Jammu urban also spoke over the irrigation bills issued by the JKPDCL/PDD. He said that UT Government is not trying to understand the hardships faced by people. Jammu Kashmir have great potential for electricity production. But UT Government is not working on projects neither try to stop the theft of electricity.

Firstly UT Government should check the wastage of electricity in Government offices because Meter/connection holder is already paying bills, then why UT Govt is pushing them in Prepaid Electricity System. Democratic Progress-

sive Azad Party strongly opposed the prepaid electricity system by JKPDCL and demand that such system be stopped immediately in interest of the poor people and also demand to waive off the Bills of poor.

Later the protesters handover a memorandum to Executive Engineer, Division-1, for LG to revoke the order regarding prepaid electricity system and immediately stop discontenting the electric connections and to give relief to the JK UT people.

The others who take part in the protest were Yassen Khan Billa, Anil Nargotra, Jodh Singh, Parkash Chand Digra, Rajgopal Sharma, Rajesh Gupta, Manik Sharma, Nadeem Choudhary, Monu Sharma, Anil Kumar, Ballinger Singh, Rizwan Choudhary and Yuvraj Singh.

## PM Modi, Shah should advise their functionaries to refrain from using derogatory language: Rattan Lal

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 17: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, Jammu, strongly condemned the abusive language used by the BJP leader against the senior functionaries of the Party.

In a statement issued here today, the senior NC leader said "It is regrettable that the outsider BJP leader, who appointed as the Prabhari of Jammu and Kashmir, is unaware of the significant contributions made by the National Conference towards the welfare of the state and its people. He (Chug) must be educated himself on such matters and uphold the

principles of ethical politics before issuing such irrelevant press statements."

Rattan Lal Gupta emphasized that abusive language and personal attacks against individuals who have held high positions such as former Chief Minister and the leader of a prominent political party, should not be tolerated in a democratic society. Such behavior undermines the spirit of healthy political discourse and reflects poorly on those who engage in it, he added.

Gupta apprised the BJP leader that Maharaja Hari Singh's 1927 State Subject Law and Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's 'Land to the Tiller' were a shield

which ensured that everyone in J&K had a home to live and grain to eat and nobody was shelter less, nobody slept hungry. That protection should be provided to the people of Jammu and Kashmir particularly the poor, downtrodden and disadvantaged, he said, adding that it was the BJP who abrogated the Art 370 Unconstitutionally and illegally from Jammu and Kashmir for which the people of J&K will never forgive the Saffron Party.

The Provincial President asked the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, recognizing the importance of maintaining decorum in political discourse, to advise

their functionaries to refrain from using derogatory and disrespectful language when referring to the political stalwarts of Jammu and Kashmir.

He called upon all political parties and their representatives to uphold the values of respect, dignity, and civility in public discourse. "We believe that a constructive dialogue and mutual understanding are essential for the progress and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir. We hope that this incident serves as a reminder to the Saffron Party to prioritize the interests of the people and engage in respectful and meaningful debates that contribute to the betterment of our society," he added.

## Kashmiri Pandits hold special prayers in Shiv temple after 34 years

### TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jul 17: After 34-years, Kashmiri Pandits held special prayers in Shiv temple at village Dhobiwan in Tangmarg area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district, Pandits said.

The gates of the temple were opened after over three decades together by the Pandit and Muslim community members of the village Dhobiwan and held special prayers and distributed "Prasad" on Sunday.

The non-migrant Pandits of the village were overjoyed and it was visible. Last time the "Hawan" was performed together by the

both communities more than three decades ago in the village.

Syed Amir Suhail, Sarpanch of the village told media that in village Dhobiwan the tradition was that both the members of the community Hindu and Muslims were together sharing the joy on the occasions.

"Today we have assembled here along with our Pandit brothers after over 30 years who are doing Hawan as per their religious belief and Muslims have always shared their shoulders with them since ages here," he said.

Suhail said the Pandits who migrated in

1989 from the village, their properties are safe and in the same conditions since they left the village.

"Today when they joined in the Hawan the Muslims of the village wholeheartedly welcomed them and felt the same atmosphere of celebrating the religious events together after decades in the village", he said.

A non-migrant Pandit teacher identified as Veer Ji of the Village Dhobiwan said that they organised this programme of Hawan on the occasion of Swami Ram after 34 years.

He said the last programme was held in

1989. "I feel the same atmosphere today as was visible 34 years ago in this village", he added.

He said today we did a new beginning with the help of some Muslim friends and the administration and the locals provided full support to celebrate the occasion after 34 years.

Suneel Bhan, another non-migrant Pandit, felt joyous to see Kashmiri Pandits and their Muslim villagers together celebrating the occasion.

"I feel the same brotherhood and the fragrance of the soil which we missed all these years today", he said.

## J&K stall awarded for presentation, design at TTF Kolkata

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KOLKATTA, Jul 17: The J&K Tourism stall was awarded for its presentation and design at the concluding ceremony of three-day Travel & Tourism Fair (TTF)-2023 here.

The award to J&K was given by CEO, Fairfest Media, Sanjiv Aggarwal during the last day of three-day fair, attended by representatives of participant countries, States and UTs besides organizations working in various tourism sectors across the country.

Earlier, the J&K Tourism department gave a detailed presentation on tourist scenario of J&K, tourism products and services, future prospects as well as new initiatives by the department.

The presentation also highlighted about the scope and role of sustainable tourism and responsibility on the part

of stakeholders and tourists to sustain the ecology and future of tourism. The presentation also talked about the initiatives of Government for sustaining and improving the tourist footfall to the UT by enhancing the experiences of tourists and providing them more services and products.

The delegates, during the presentation, were briefed about the new homestay policy launched by the Government as well as resolve to reduce the carbon footprints at the destinations and the introduction of new segments like adventure trails, horticulture tourism, heritage tourism, MICE and the effort to link local art and craft with the tourist experiences. The delegates were informed that to further improve the grievance redressal mechanism a dedicated helpdesk has been set up for the tourists.

It may be recalled that the J&K Tourism stall at the TTF saw a huge rush of visitors comprising prospective tourists, travel agents, travel writers enquiring about the tourism services and products available in the UT.

The fair brought together industry leaders, top media professionals and the entire travel industry from the Eastern part of the country particularly West Bengal and beyond. Around 400 exhibitors from the entire country and many foreign exhibitors including from Thailand, Mauritius, South Africa participated in the three day long tourism fest.

This year, a large contingent of tour operators and hoteliers from J&K, including many women travel entrepreneurs, also attended the fair for which adequate arrangements were made by the Tourism Department.

## Large group of youngsters from Shopian join Apni Party



### TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jul 17: A large number of youngsters from south Kashmir's Shopian district joined Apni Party today during an event organised at the party headquarters in Srinagar.

On this occasion, prominent party leaders, including Vice President Zaffar Iqbal Manhas, General Sec-

retary Rafi Ahmad Mir, and State Secretary Muntazir Mohiuddin, among others, gave a warm welcome to the new entrants and apprised them about the party's pro-people agenda and policies.

They told the joiners that the Apni Party is striving for peace, prosperity, and the development of Jammu and

Kashmir, as well as the political and economic empowerment of its people. The leaders hoped that the joining of youth would further strengthen the party cadre in their respective areas in Shopian.

They assured the new entrants that the entire party leadership would support them when they were

out there serving the people in their respective areas.

The new entrants included Ghulam Mohammad Mir, Mohammad Sidiq Khan, Mohammad Abrar, Shahid Ahmad, Mohammad Amin Mir, Mohammad Shareef, Aqib Mir, Ali Jan, Abid Hussain, Asif Ahmad, Inayat Mushtaq, Tariq

Ahmad Mir, Riyaz Ahmad Mir, Showket Ahmad Mir, Wasim Ahmad Mir, Aijaz Ahmad Mir, Mohammad Sameer Malik, Muzaffar Ahmad Mir, Mushtaq Ahmad Chopan, Khurshid Ahmad Dar, Muzaffar Ahmad Mir, Azad Ahmad Mir, Aijaz Ahmad Mir, and others.

## I've never paid heed to 'log kya kahenge' mentality, says Kajol

Kajol is not only a versatile actor but also an influential icon with her thoughts touching people, especially women. In a career spanning over three decades, she has always come across as a headstrong individual who lives her life the way she wants to.

In an interview, the 'DDLJ' star spoke about how her maternal lineage helped her become a strong person.

"I have never paid heed to 'log kya kahenge' in my life. I was raised by a wonderful mother. I was raised by a mother who did not give two hoots about society. Actually, I had a wonderful maternal lineage. From my great-grandmother to my grandmother and my mother, every one of them has always behaved and taught me by example that nobody else matters, your life is your responsibility and nobody else's opinion matters on that," Kajol said.

Kajol does not believe in giving someone else the steering wheel of life.

"Firstly, take responsibility for your life...your actions are your own not dictated by society. Secondly, at the end of the day, society will have to accept what you make out of your life and that's how my great-grandmother and grandmother lived their lives. Both of them had amazingly different opinions on life



and the world. My mother literally lives her life till today. I am trying to live my life like them," she added.

Kajol was born to legendary actress Tanuja and late director Shomu Mukherjee on August 5, 1974. Tanuja's mother Shobhana Samarth was also an actress and her father was producer Kumarsen Samarth.

Kajol in 2020 dropped a beautiful collage on social media, throwing light on her family lineage.

The collage features the actor, her mother Tanuja, late maternal grandmother Shobhana Samarth and late aunt Nutan, all of whom have had an illustrious career in Indian cinema. "Who I came from... the true feminists! #strongwomen #liveandlove," she captioned the post.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Kajol is being lauded for her performance in the web show 'The Trial - Pyaar, Kaanoon, Dhokha', which is helmed by Suparn Varma.

The courtroom drama is the Indian adaptation of 'The Good Wife', which starred Julianna Margulies in the lead role. Kajol plays Noyonika Sengupta, a housewife who starts practising law again when her husband's public scandal puts him in prison.

Driven to prove herself in the competitive world of law and navigating her way through complicated relationships while seeking justice for her husband, Noyonika treads through tough challenges served by her fate.

Talking about the show, Kajol said, "The complexities are what defines a character to me and the layers surrounding Noyonika are what spoke to me when this role first came over. Noyonika felt personal, I instantly felt protective about her and that reaffirmed my faith in choosing 'The Trial - Pyaar, Kaanoon, Dhoka' to be my first step into the long format. Suparn Varma has built a world where the vulnerability of characters meets the cruel situations posed by life." Jisshu Sengupta, Kubbra Sait, Sheeba Chaddha, Alykhan, and Gaurav Pandey are also a part of 'The Trial'.

## Shehnaaz Gill stuns in bridal avatar, says 'I love myself'



Actor-singer Shehnaaz Gill keeps treating her fans with new videos and pictures on social media. This time, she transformed into a beautiful bride and her fans can't get enough of it.

On Instagram, Shehnaaz shared a new video in which she is dressed in a tradi-

tional red lehenga with golden embellishment. She accessorised her bridal look with a statement necklace, maang tikka, red and gold bangles, rings and a bridal nose ring. She kept her makeup subtle.

Shehnaaz makes different facial expression and gestures in tune with the background

song 'Kahani Suno 2.0' song.

The video has been loved by her fans and they made sure flood the comment section with appreciation for Shehnaaz's bridal look.

A fan wrote, "We will also Love You Always & Forever. Keep shining #ShehnaazGill."

"Looking so gorgeous," wrote another fan.

A comment reads, "Wold best bridal i really love you ma'm."

A social media user wrote, "Iss duniya me agar beautiful girl koi hai to vo @shehnaazgill hai."

"Queen of hearts," another one wrote.

A fan wrote, "Sana ur looking beautiful n gorgeous #shehnaazgill."

On the work front, Shehnaaz Gill recently made her Hindi film debut in Salman Khan-starrer 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan'. The film also stars Pooja Hegde, Venkatesh Daggubati, and Bhumi Chawla in pivotal roles.

She also featured in Guru Randhawa's 'Moon Rise' music video. Next, she will be seen in Sajid Khan's film '100%', which stars John Abraham, Riteish Deshmukh and Nora Fatehi in lead roles.

## Actress Hansa Singh recently took a trip to Bali and it was full of adventure

Actress Hansa Singh recently took a trip to Bali and it was full of adventure and excitement.

She says, "It was a perfect getaway. It was a solo trip. It was an adventurous trip, unlike my earlier trips to Bali. From hiking to skydiving, I did it all. I went on a mid-night trek to watch the sunrise at Mount Batur. After two hours of steep climbing, I saw volcanoes and a crater. The scenic river among the clouds was mesmerizing."

She adds, "Darr ke aage jeet hai! I don't like a monotonous life. To challenge myself is my biggest mojo. Aasan



cheezin to sab karte hain hum woh karte hain jo sab nahi karte.

I love sky diving, scuba diving, swimming with whales, and rafting."

## Armaan Bedil, who debuts as actor in Munda Southall Da, says he was nervous doing romantic scenes

Keeping up with the tradition of Punjabi singers turning actors, Armaan Bedil is all set to make his debut with the Punjabi movie, Munda Southall Da. The star cast includes Tanu Grewal, Sarbjit Cheema, Preet Aujla, Goldboy, Gurpreet Kaur Bhangu and Malkeet Rauni.

At the trailer launch of the film, we catch up with Sukh Sangehra, the writer-director of Munda Southall Da.

Sukh, who started his career directing music videos, has directed the film Laiye Je Yaarian. So, how was the transition from music videos to films? He says shooting films much easier than songs.

He adds, "Working on film is more structured as there is a single story



and a finalised cast and crew to work with but for music videos, each time one needs a new story and as many actors. Also, one has to shoot in new and different locations to bring a distinctive flavour to each song."

Actress Tanu, known for her roles in Yaar Mera Titliyan Waga and Shava Ni Girdhari Lal, is excited about the trailer launch. This is her second film as the lead heroine. She says, "I was just 15 or 16-year-old when I first DM'ed Sukh that I would like to work with him. He didn't take me seriously then. Two years later, I had again mentioned it and got an opportunity to feature in a music video of Karan Aujla's song Chitta Kurta. Working with him has always

been a pleasure."

Singer-turned-actor Armaan shares some BTS moments with us. Recounting shoot days, he says, "I was really nervous doing the romantic scenes with Tanu but she made me comfortable and helped shoot those important scenes effortlessly."

Sukh also feels that the decision to shoot some important scenes the very first day was a wrong move which made Armaan nervous. "Normally for two actors who haven't worked together earlier, it's a good idea to shoot scenes with no dialogues but one of very important scenes of our film with heavy dialogues was shot the very first day. But all is well if it ends well."

The film will hit the theatres on August 4.

## Hair expert Florian Hurel talks on the dos and don'ts in humid weather



Monsoons mean excessive humidity. Hair expert Florian Hurel shares some styling

tips and highlights the trends of the season. "Oversized scrunchies and embellished head-

bands are the perfect finishing touches to elevate your style. Getting a layered haircut looks great and requires minimal styling", he says.

"The first step to perfecting monsoon makeup has to be using waterproof makeup. One of the most popular looks that is best suited for the monsoon is the minimalistic makeup look," he adds.

As far as hair care is concerned, people with frizzy hair face a lot of issues during this season. Sharing some hair care tips, he says, "Managing frizzy hair during the monsoon can be a challenge due to the increased humidity in the air. Use a gentle shampoo that is specifically formulated for frizz-prone hair. Follow it up with a hydrating conditioner that helps lock in moisture. Incorporate a weekly deep conditioning treatment to provide extra nourishment and protection."

## Aditi Patwa plays Koyal in Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya: Shiv Shakti



Actress Aditi Patwa is playing Koyal in Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya: Shiv Shakti. Talking about her role, she says, "She's confident and wears whatever clothes she feels like. She is always with her mobile phone, always busy wondering what to wear, what she should post, which hashtag to use, and all that. She just lives in her own world; she loves her brother Keertan (Gaurav Wadhwa) very much."

On her experience of working with Prateek, she says, "Collaborating with Prateek for this project actually felt unreal in the beginning. I am grateful that I got this chance."

## Sunny Leone reveals her favourite thing to do on a vacation

Sunny Leone who is currently in Dubai, shared a video of her favourite thing to do on her vacation.

Taking to Instagram, Sunny treated fans to a video from her Dubai diaries.

In the video, she can be seen skating in the skating rink. She captioned the post, "My favourite thing to do ever!! #dubai"

She wore a yellow spaghetti top, a white T-shirt and denim pants. She tied her hair in a ponytail and chose a natural makeup look.

Sunny's pictures garnered several likes and comments from the netizens.

"Superb," a social media user commented. "You are so gorgeous," another one wrote.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Sunny has received a lot of praise for her outstanding performance in the critically acclaimed film 'Kennedy.'

While critics praised Sunny Leone's performance as Charlie in 'Kennedy,' fans in India are eagerly awaiting the



film's theatrical release.

The film received a standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival 2023 and premiered during the midnight screening at the Cannes 2023.

The film revolves around an insomniac ex-cop, long thought to be dead, but still operating for the corrupt

system, and looking for redemption.

'Kennedy' is amongst the only two films from India this year to be the official selections at the festival.

Meanwhile, Sunny has multiple projects in the pipeline, and the audience can't wait to see what she has in store for them.







## Second edition of Pagah Theatre Festival culminates with theatrical brilliance

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jul 17: The highly anticipated Pagah Theatre Festival Second Edition 2023, presented by Vomedh in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL), reached its grand finale today at Tagore Hall in Srinagar. The festival, which commenced on July 10, showcased an extraordinary lineup of performances, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir through the power of theatre. The highlight of the second edition was the focus on folk theatre along with contemporary modern theatre. The encouragement that the folk artists received through the second edition of Pagah was highly appreciated by artists fraternity in Kashmir.

The closing day of the festival was graced by the presence of Khalid Tufail, General Secretary of Kashmir Province (DPAP), who attended as the esteemed Chief Guest. Tufail's presence added a touch of honor and distinction to the event, emphasizing the importance of promoting and preserving the arts in the region.

The play staged on the final day was "Mouj," presented by the renowned Mehak Dramatic Club. Under the direction of Farhat Sidiqi, "Mouj" offered a



captivating exploration of emotions, presenting a poignant narrative that resonated deeply with the audience. The performance showcased the exceptional talent of the actors and the dedication of the entire production team.

Reflecting on the success of the festival, Rakesh Roshan Bhat, Festival Director of Vomedh, expressed his gratitude, stating, "The Pagah Theatre Festival has once again exceeded our expectations, offering a platform for the diverse artistic expressions of Kashmir. We are immensely proud of the incredible talent showcased throughout the week, and we thank all the participating groups for their exceptional performances."

Rohit Bhat, Festival Director and Founder/President of Vomedh, added, "The over-

whelming response from the audience and the support of our esteemed guests have made this festival a resounding success. It has been a privilege to witness the celebration of our cultural heritage through the medium of theatre, and we are grateful to all who have contributed to its success."

The closing day also marked a special felicitation ceremony, where the exceptional contributions of artists and theatre groups were acknowledged and celebrated. Chief Guest Khalid Tufail presented awards and expressed his appreciation for the immense talent and dedication demonstrated by the performers.

As the festival comes to a close, it is worth reflecting on the remarkable plays staged throughout the week. From the captivating "Bakarwaal Paather" by Kashmir Bhagat

Theatre to the thought-provoking "Raze Pather" by Dilkash Folk Theatre, each performance showcased the richness and diversity of Kashmiri theatre. The audience was treated to a range of compelling productions, including "Darze Pather" by Nund-I-Reshi Folk Theatre, "Mokjar" by SMS Cultural Forum, "Bochi" by Feroze Cultural Forum, and "Mele Kane" by Azad Dramatic Cultural Club. Each play brought to life unique stories and themes, leaving an indelible impact on the hearts and minds of the attendees.

The event was ably anchored by Rashid Nizami in his inimitable style. This event was supported by Manzoor Ahmad Mir, Gulfam Barjee, Zafer Mir, Zara, Arshad Nuvsharee, Farhad Siddiqui & Asha the care foundation, Asha Saraf & Ashok Saraf Charitable Trust to pull off the spectacular weeklong event.

The Pagah Theatre Festival Second Edition 2023 has truly been a celebration of the artistic prowess and cultural heritage of Kashmir. Through the collective efforts of Vomedh, JKAACL, and the talented performers, the festival has provided a platform for artistic expression, fostering a deeper appreciation for theatre, and preserving the legacy of Kashmiri language and culture.

## Vibodh slams Omar, Mufti for glorifying rioters of July 13



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 17: In a meeting held at the BJP office, Jammu, BJP J&K General Secretary and former MLC, Vibodh Gupta, criticised the National Conference for promoting a false narrative surrounding July 13, 1931, and celebrating it as Martyr's Day. He also directed his criticism towards the National Conference for recognizing the rioters who caused havoc against minorities in Srinagar on that day as martyrs.

Furthermore, Vibodh strongly demanded an apology from Abdullah

for glorifying those individuals responsible for the killing and looting of Hindu Kashmiri Pandits, considering them heroes in the eyes of the National Conference. He accused him of twisting history to suit their communal and divisive politics.

"The false narrative being promoted to celebrate July 13 as the black day is a deliberate attempt to incite hatred against Jammu and Hindu Kashmiri Pandits. This also disrespects our beloved Maharaja Hari Singh," stated Vibodh.

Vibodh emphasised that the people of Jammu would never

tolerate any disrespect shown towards Maharaja Hari Singh. He also highlighted that the myth surrounding July 13 as Martyr's Day has been debunked by the Modi government, as it cancelled the state holiday.

Vibodh called upon the people of J&K to reject these false narratives and work towards fostering unity, harmony, and respect for all communities in the region. He emphasised the importance of acknowledging historical truths and promoting a shared vision of progress and inclusivity for the betterment of J&K.

## Indian Army Organised Awareness Lecture On Road Safety at Keri



### Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jul 17: Indian Army organised an awareness lecture on road safety at Keri, District Rajouri (J&K) for the local populace.

The lecture themed, "Sawdhani Hati Durghatna Ghati", promoted the necessity of safe driving in the mountainous region as road safety remains a paramount concern for everyone. The campaign emphasised and highlighted safe practices while commuting on hill

roads, encouraged responsible behaviour and maintenance of vehicles.

Further, comprehensive information on traffic rules, safe driving techniques and the consequences of reckless driving were discussed with the audience. Audio and video clips were also screened for better understanding and comprehension of the audience.

The attendees took keen interest in the details shared and appreciated the efforts of the Indian Army towards making the roads safe & drivers more responsible.

## Owing to skyrocketing prices of essentials, unable to afford huge electricity bills: Narinder

### Top News Report

RS PURA, Jul 17: Social Activist and PDP Media Coordinator Jammu District Narinder Sharma today led strong protest against the installation of smart meters and power outages, with locals slamming the government over rising power tariffs. Scores of men, women and children blocked RS Pura road at Kotli Shah Doula. They staged demonstrations against the installation of smart electric meters and raised slogans against the PDD. The protesting people claimed that after installation of smart meters in the area, they are unable to pay the excessive bills generated by the devices. "We already have meters installed



in our homes and we are paying regular bills. What is the fun of installing new meters?" protestors asked. Protesters blocked the main road leading to traffic jam in the vicinity for about three hours. However, after police intervened, the protestors dispersed peacefully.

Speaking on the occasion, Narinder Sharma

said most of household budget is already stressed owing to the skyrocketing prices of essentials, and they would be unable to meet any additional expenses. "They are poor families here, and majority of our men are in private sector and making both ends meet with lot of difficulty. After meters were installed,

they are unable to afford the bills," he said. "No one is rich enough to afford the enormous electricity costs. Something should be done for the underprivileged so that they can get some relief," Sharma remarked.

"We already have meters installed in our homes and we are paying regular bills.

What is the fun of installing new meters?" Sharma asked. He appealed to the Lieutenant Governor-led administration and Deputy Commissioner Jammu to reconsider the decision of installing smart meters in the area. We are a middle-class family and don't have that much money to pay for these meters. Those meters which have already been installed in our areas must be removed." He said that even the current bills are not easy to pay given their financial conditions and questioned how they would be able to pay huge bills. He said, "we are not getting the power supply for hours in a day still the department is delivering us tariff bills."

## Somany Ceramics launches new range of Luxury tiles

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 17: Somany Ceramics Limited, a globally renowned organization specializing in ceramics tiles and allied products, unveiled its highly anticipated collection of luxury tiles in Jammu. The new collection was introduced in Jammu in the presence of Mr. Amit Sahai, CEO- SOMANY's Tiles

Business. Titled "Embrace the Extraordinary - Igniting a New Era of Luxury in Tiles", this new range sets a new standard of opulence and sophistication in ceramic tiles.

On the occasion of the launch, Abhishek Somany, Managing Director & CEO, Somany Ceramics Ltd., said "Being a pioneer Indian brand, Somany has been

on top for designing and innovating extra-ordinary collection. We aim to grow from strength to strength and offer products that match the newer taste and trends of the consumers. By adapting to market dynamics, our brand aims to expand its product portfolio every year. We are delighted to introduce our new Extraordinary Collection, exemplifying the

premium quality for which our brand is known in the Indian ceramic industry. These new products exhibit natural-looking tiles, wooden textures, vibrant colors, and sizes with the advantage of easy installation, affordable prices, and maintenance."

The "Extraordinary Collection" presents a diverse array of products that exude the magnificence of nature,

featuring exquisite wooden finishes, rustic touches reminiscent of stone and slate, captivating fabric textures, and innovative cladding concepts. With this collection, Somany Ceramics aims to provide customers with a truly distinctive and captivating experience, elevating their living spaces into artistic sanctuaries.

The new launch included

products in the ceramic series, namely Glosstra Plus, Vistoso, and Marvella series in various sizes and finishes. The Vistoso range come in a matte finish with dimensions of 300x600mm while Marvella offers larger formats of 600x1200mm and 800x1600mm. The new launch of Durastone heavy vitrified tiles is available in 400x400mm and

600x600mm sizes. On the other hand, Polished vitrified tiles are available in 600x600mm and 600x1200mm. The Somany MAX - Long format tile in its Tech Homogenea collection offers impressive tiles in sizes of 800x2400mm, 1200x1800mm and 800x3000mm, both featuring full-body designs

## FROM PAGE 1

### Amarnath Yatra 2023 | Over 6,200 pilgrims leave Jammu for Amarnath

from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on July 1. The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

### 2 terrorists killed, infiltration bid foiled in Poonch

war like stores recovered, include One AK 74 rifle with magazine, Eleven rounds and other stores for sustenance.

By their quick action, alert troops of Indian Army and Jammu Kashmir Police have eliminated a major infiltration bid, which was aimed to disturb the peace in Poonch District. The Security Forces continue to

remain alert on the Line of Control and is fully prepared to thwart such attempts in the future too.

### Two IEDs recovered from Wodhpura forest: Police

and an army dog. The Bomb Disposal team executed a controlled detonation of IEDs, rendering them safe. A thorough search operation was resumed by personnel of the Indian Army and Handwara Police in the general area of Wodhpura Forest for any more IEDs or hiding militants. No loss to life and property was reported. The prompt action by the joint team of security forces averted major incidents in the area, police said.

### Teacher arrested for alleged rape of class 9th girl

A spokesperson for the police while speaking to Kashmir Life confirmed that an FIR has been registered, invoking the relevant sections of the law to address this grievous offense.

### Dr. Tarun appeals LG to resume widow, old age pension

positive work in this issue and pensions will be resume soon.

### Kashmir University PRO among three employees sacked by J&K govt

only subscribes to and endorses the secessionist ideology, but has been a key propagandist for terrorists and terror outfits in Kashmir Valley", they said.

The officials said several of Aslam's social

media posts "demonstrated his hatred" for the country and mentioned the security forces as "Indian Occupational Forces". However, when contacted, Aslam said he had no information about his termination from the services.

### Traffic cop among three persons dead as three vehicles collide in Srinagar

resulting in death of three persons and injuries to several others.

Among the killed persons included a traffic cop identified as Zahoor Ashraf resident of Pattan Baramulla, they said. Confirming it, a senior police officer said that they have taken cognizance of the incident.

### DFSS holds protest against sky rocketing

### prices of tomatoes

a price committee which should fix the price on daily basis so that the common man can be saved from such inflation and the black marketers can be caught as well.

The people present at the protest were Bantu, Kalu, Nanku, Ashish, Nares, Vikky, Sukhdev, Rampal and Vinay.

### J&K BJP Chief serves defamation notice on former MLC Surinder Choudhary

choice of words in the tweet on July 11 are purely inappropriate, rather defamatory to my clients and the BJP, despite you knowing well that my client was not involved in any of the alleged acts," the legal notice to Choudhary read.



## Wimbledon: This is the happiest moment of my life, says Carlos Alcaraz after beating Novak Djokovic in final

WIMBLEDON, Jul 17 (Agencies): 2023 Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz has said that this is the happiest moment of his life following his win over 23-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic. Alcaraz beat Djokovic 1-6, 7-6, 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 on Centre Court in the Wimbledon 2023 final.

Speaking after the Wimbledon final, Alcaraz said his win over Djokovic was great for him and the younger generation as well. Alcaraz became the first player in over 10 years to defeat Djokovic at Centre Court, with his previous defeat coming against Andy Murray in 2013.

"I did it for myself, not for tennis generation, honestly. Beating Novak at his best, in this stage, making history, being the guy to beat him after 10 years unbeaten on that court, is amazing for me. It's something that I will never forget, that's for sure. It's great for the new generation, as well, I think to see me beating him and making them think that they are capable to do it as well. It's great for me and I think for the young players, as well,"



said Alcaraz.

The 20-year-old went on to say that this is the happiest moment of his life, adding that he learnt a lot about himself in the Wimbledon final against Djokovic. Alcaraz became the third youngest man to triumph at Wimbledon, only behind legends like Boris Becker (17 years old in 1985) and Bjorn Borg (20 years old in 1976).

"Being a Wimbledon champion, something that I really wanted. Honestly, I didn't expect to get it so soon. It's the happi-

est moment of my life. Before this match, I thought that I wasn't ready to beat Djokovic in five sets, an epic match like this. To stay good physically or good mentally for about five hours against a legend. I learned a lot about myself," Alcaraz added.

In a thrilling showdown at the Wimbledon Men's Final 2023, the 20-year-old Spanish sensation emerged victorious against seven-time champion Djokovic. The match, which lasted four hours and 42 minutes, was a rollercoaster of emotions and

skill. The first set saw Djokovic dominate, winning 6-1. Alcaraz struggled to find his footing, with several shots overhit or hitting the net. However, the young Spaniard showed resilience in the second set, battling back to win 7-6 (8-6) in a tiebreaker. The crowd erupted as Alcaraz cleverly used drop shots and powerful forehands to outmaneuver Djokovic.

Alcaraz continued his momentum into the third set, winning 6-1, during which the fifth game lasted for almost 27 minutes. He displayed immense strength and control, sending Djokovic scrambling across the court. However, Djokovic wasn't ready to concede, fighting back in the fourth set to win 6-3.

The fifth and final set was a nail-biting affair. Both players showcased their best tennis, but it was Alcaraz who triumphed with a 6-4 victory. This marked his first Wimbledon title and second Grand Slam trophy, ending Djokovic's long reign at Wimbledon.

## Asian Athletics C'ships: India finish 3rd with 27 medals



BANGKOK, Jul 17 (Agencies): Unheralded Abha Khatua equalled the women's shot put national record on her way to finishing second, while Jyothi Yarraji and Parul Chaudhary clinched their second medals — both silver — as India ended its campaign at the Asian Athletics Championships with 27 medals and a third-place finish.

India won 13 medals on the final day for a total of 27 — six gold, 12 silver and nine bronze. It equalled the country's best medal haul in the event, achieved in the 2017 edition in Bhubaneswar. But India had won nine gold in 2017 to top the table.

The 28-year-old Khatua made an improvement of 93cm from her personal best of 17.13m as she recorded a distance of 18.06m with her fourth throw. She finished second behind Song Jiayuan (18.88m) of China. Veteran Manpreet Kaur, whose national record Khatua equalled, won bronze with a first-round throw of 17m.

"This year, I changed my technique from gliding to rotation," Khatua said. "Initially, there was problem in picking up the rotation technique properly. As I began to pick speed, my performance improved, that is the reason," she added.

Yarraji, who had become the first Indian to win a 100m hurdles gold in the Asian Championships on Thursday, added a 200m silver to her kitty. The 23-year-old clocked a personal best of 23.13 seconds to finish second behind Veronica Shanti Pereira (22.70) of Singapore.

Parul Chaudhary, who had won gold in the 3000m steeplechase on Friday, clocked 15 minutes, 52.35 seconds to finish second behind Yuma Yamamoto (15:51.16) of Japan in the women's 5000m final. The 28-year-old holds the 5000m national record of 15:10.35. Ankita won the bronze in 16:03.33 as India secured two medals from the event.

## Duleep Trophy: South Zone finish the job

BENGALURU, Jul 17 (Agencies): South Zone applied the finishing touches with a clinical performance on the final day to defeat West Zone by 75 runs and clinch the Duleep Trophy here.

Chasing 298 for victory, West Zone, who were 182/5 overnight, were bowled out for 222. Left-arm spinner Sai Kishore and pacer Vasuki Koushik were the pick of the bowlers for South Zone, sharing seven wickets between them.

South have now won the Duleep Trophy 14 times. They will count this as sweet revenge, having lost the 2022 final to West by 294 runs.

Priyank Panchal, who started the day on 92, could add only three runs this morning before edging pacer Vidwath Kaverappa to Ricky Bhui behind the stumps.

Atit Sheth and Dharmendra Jadeja added 23 runs for the eighth wicket. The 54-minute stand helped West to go past the 200-run mark. But Washington



Sundar settled nicely under the ball as Jadeja skied spinner Sai Kishore in his effort to clear the boundary.

Thereon, it was just a matter of time. South's moment of glory came when Sheth lofted Kishore straight into the hands of Washington at long on. Vidwath was adjudged the Player of the Match for his eight-wicket haul and the Player of the Tournament for his 15 wickets.

Brief scores: South Zone 213 (Vihari 63; Mulani 3/29) & 230 (Vihari 42; Jadeja 5/40); West Zone 146 (Shaw 65; Kaverappa 7/53) & 222 (Panchal 95; Koushik 4/36, Kishore 4/57).

## On This Day: Ajinkya Rahane scores a magnificent 103 against England in 2014 Lord's Test

LONDON, Jul 17 (Agencies): On 17th July, Ajinkya Rahane delivered a remarkable performance during the second Test match against England at Lord's in 2014 to pave the way for one of India's famous wins in Test cricket.

England had won the toss on the day and elected to field first. The match was held on a green-top pitch that was almost indistinguishable from the outfield, making it a challenging environment for the batters. Despite the difficult conditions, India had a decent start with a score of 86-3 when Rahane stepped onto the field.

However, the team soon found itself in a precarious position with a score of 145-7, with the onus being on Rahane to guide the team to safety. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who had previously scored two half-centuries batting at No. 9 in the first match



of the series, joined Rahane to rebuild the innings.

As Rahane grew more comfortable, he began to display a wider range of shots. His impressive performance included a series of clean drives through cover, point, and straight down the ground. When the English bowlers attempted to bowl short

at him, Rahane responded with cuts and pulls, unafraid to take the aerial route. One memorable moment came when Rahane, on 82 runs, faced a decent length delivery from Jimmy Anderson. With confidence and precision, Rahane shuffled across and extended his arms to play a lofted drive down the ground,

resulting in a surprising six.

Rahane soon reached his century, the second of his Test career, scoring 103 runs off just 154 balls. His dismissal came immediately after crossing this milestone. India ended up scoring 295 in the first innings, conceding a 24-run lead to England. However, they bounced back in the third innings, scoring 342 and setting a challenging target of 319 for the hosts.

The Indian team then bowled out England for 223, securing a memorable 95-run victory, with Ishant Sharma getting a seven-wicket haul in the second innings. After another memorable hundred against Australia at the MCG, Rahane had gone on to claim that his hundred at Lord's was his best.

"It was really special. Getting a century always is. Still feel that my hundred against England at Lord's is my best," said Rahane.

## Mexico beats Panama 1-0 to lift CONCACAF Gold Cup

INGLEWOOD, Jul 17 (Agencies): Eight months and two coaches after Mexico crashed out of an embarrassing World Cup, most of the same players triumphantly raised the CONCACAF Gold Cup amid confetti and raucous cheers Sunday night.

El Tri has reversed its fortunes with stunning speed, and its winning goal at SoFi Stadium came on an end-to-end play that was every bit as dramatic.

Late substitute Santiago Giménez scored after an electrifying sprint in the 88th minute, and Mexico won the Gold Cup for the record ninth time with a 1-0 victory over Panama.

After Edson Álvarez slid to block Iván Anderson's cross in the Mexico penalty area, Orbelín Pineda dribbled away and made a tremendous pass into the centre circle. Giménez, the 22-year-old Feyenoord forward, dribbled past Harold Cummings and outraced Cummings and Fidel Escobar into the penalty area.

Giménez scuffed a bouncing left-foot shot over goalkeeper Orlando Mosquera for his fourth goal in 18 international appearances and his second of the tournament.

"It's the biggest moment of my career," Giménez said. "I just tried to get down the field quickly. We followed our principles throughout the game, and they worked perfectly. The result was great, because there were a lot of competitive teams in this tournament."

The goal by the Argentina-born Giménez, who came on only three minutes earlier, set off a frenzied celebration at a Southern California stadium packed with fans celebrating Mexico's revival in this biennial CONCACAF tournament. After Mexico was eliminated in the



group stage of the World Cup for the first time since 1978, El Tri rebounded with an excellent tournament under interim coach Jaime Lozano, who took over the beleaguered program only a month ago after a Nations League loss to the U.S.

"Today the environment was like being in a World Cup," said Lozano, whose contract is only for this tournament. "It wasn't like a Gold Cup. I'm dreaming after I saw a stadium like we saw today, and to provide people with the happiness we've seen. Again, the team gave everything. We knew that we were writing history, and you have to take these opportunities."

Mexico, which allowed just two goals in its matches, has won this tournament more than all other nations combined. The U.S. has seven Gold Cup titles and Canada one.

Giménez's heroics ended an inspiring Gold Cup run by Panama, which upset the U.S. in the semifinals to earn its third appearance in the final. Los Canales couldn't get several solid scoring chances past veteran Mexican goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa.

Panama also lost the Gold Cup final in 2005 and 2013, both to the U.S.

"We gave everything we had," coach Thomas Christiansen

said through a translator. "The team died standing. There is nothing I can regret about my players. Some people remove the (postgame) medals when they are the runner-ups, but I told them they should be proud of the achievements because of the soccer they played."

While the Gold Cup is notorious for featuring half-strength national teams, Mexico began the final with eight starters who also started at last year's World Cup.

Mexico dominated play for most of the first half with 14 shots, but Panama defended capably. Henry Martín appeared to put Mexico ahead in the 33rd minute with a close-range goal, but a video review several minutes after the play found him offside.

Pineda and Martín both had tantalizing chances in the 43rd minute, but Mosquera stopped their consecutive point-blank shots.

Panama got its best scoring chance shortly after halftime, but Alberto Quintero put his header just wide of the far post. Edgar Bárcenas had another good-looking chance in the 87th minute but missed wide from outside the box.

Moments later, Giménez scored his biggest goal for Mexico and gave optimism to

fans hoping he'll be the centrepiece of a new generation of Mexican talent.

Lozano, who coached Mexico's Olympic team to a bronze medal in Tokyo two years ago, was hired to lead the Gold Cup campaign by Juan Carlos Rodríguez, who took over as Mexican Football Federation president only a month earlier. Mexico's World Cup disappointment led to coach Tata Martino's departure and Diego Cocca's brief tenure before the arrival of Lozano, who largely relied on the core of his Olympic team at the Gold Cup.

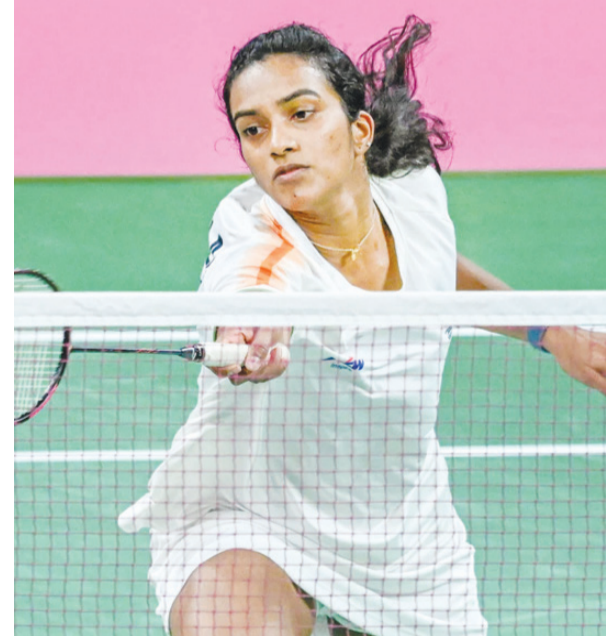
FIFA President Gianni Infantino congratulated Lozano on stage and wished him luck for the 2026 World Cup cycle, unaware that Lozano's contract is now up.

"I would love to be here," Lozano said. "It's a dream to lead my national team in the World Cup, specifically a World Cup that is going to be hosted by Mexico and (the U.S. and Canada). If it is me, I'm going to have to work hard with my coaching staff. If it isn't me, I'm going to support the team."

Anybody who thought the absence of the hosts' national team would lead to an anticlimactic Gold Cup final doesn't know Southern California very well: The sellout crowd south of downtown Los Angeles was overwhelmingly dominated by fans of El Tri, which is treated like the home team whenever it plays in this area -- even against the American team.

Just a month after frustrated Mexican fans boycotted the third-place match of the Nations League in Las Vegas against Panama, that passionate base returned in full voice to the Los Angeles Rams' palatial NFL stadium.

## US Open: This loss has left a significant emotional impact on me, says PV Sindhu after defeat vs Gao Fang Jie



COUNCIL BLUFFS, Jul 17 (Agencies): India's ace shuttler PV Sindhu has said that her exit in the 2023 US Open has left a significant emotional impact on her. Sindhu lost against China's Gao Fang Jie to be knocked out in the quarter-finals of the tournament.

Sindhu took to Instagram to say that she must commend Fang Jie for her performance in the quarter-finals, while adding that she got outplayed by her Chinese opponent. Sindhu suffered a 20-22, 13-21 loss in the women's singles quarter-final at Council Bluffs, USA.

"My US Open journey came to an end in the quarterfinals, where I faced the talented Gao Fang Jie. Despite having previously defeated her in Canada, she outplayed me in straight sets this time, making effective use of my weaknesses. I must commend her for being fully prepared and delivering an impressive performance. Next time I face you Gao, it should be a battle," Sindhu posted.

She added that this loss has left a significant emotional impact on her, adding that she's determined to channel her emotions and

redouble her efforts for the remaining year. This was Sindhu's 4th defeat in 5 meetings to Gao Fang Jie as the Chinese shuttler avenged her straight-game defeat from last week's Canada Open.

"This loss has left a significant emotional impact on me, especially considering the challenging and demanding year I've had. It's disheartening to experience a disappointing defeat after each successful tournament. However, I am determined to channel my emotions into redoubling my efforts and making the remainder of the year truly remarkable," Sindhu added.

Sindhu congratulated Lakshya Sen, saying witnessing strong performances from him has been truly inspiring. Sen reached the semi-finals but was defeated by eventual champion Li Shi Feng.

"I want to express my genuine happiness for Lakshya, who has been performing exceptionally well despite the difficulties he has faced. Witnessing his strong performances has been truly inspiring," Sindhu further added.

### PCI Folks Music's Chandi Maa Bhajan 'Paddar Machaila Jana' released



#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 17: PCI Folks Music's Chandi Maa Bhajan 'Paddar Machaila Jana' was released here Press Club by Zorawar Singh Jamwal Chairman Team Jammu including Mahant Rajesh Bittu, Adhayksh Sant Samaj (Jammu), Karan Singh, Vishal Malhotra, Narinder Gupta and Raminder Kour.

Paddar Machaila Jana featuring Renu Khuggar (Kuruksheetra) and Rrajesh Mahajan senior super model India, produced & directed by Amit Mahajan, Director (PCI Folks Music & Soulmates Events) has been sung by noted Ashok Sanasariya (sanasar) Lyrics by Ashok Sanasariya, Music given by Ashh K. After the release of song, speakers said that

they feel happy to be a part of releasing this Bhajan and gave best wishes to all to work on this song and gave best wishes to them. The video of this song is available on Youtube label PCI Folks Music. All the distinguished Guests release the poster of the Chandi Mata bhajan and appealed to the public to watch and share the song on social platform.

### JKBS members visit Home for Aged & Infirm

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 17: Members of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha today visited the Home for Aged & Infirm at Ambphalla where they interacted with elderly men and women living over there and celebrated the birthday of their colleague Havildar Des Raj Kaith with them.

Sweets and fruits taken by the members were distributed among

get affected by even the tiniest of troubles but it should also be not forgotten that they too take care of their children in their sensitive ages and phases. Hence, Kaith advised the children to give their full support to the parents during their difficult phases as well. Members fully appreciated the excellent services being provided to the aged and infirm persons living in the Home,



all. Speaking on the occasion, Sabha's General Secretary R.L.Kaith said, Taking care of parents in the old age is the moral responsibility of the children. No doubt parents become extremely vulnerable in the old age and have tender minds that can

the mission of which is to clinically offer the finest and outstanding customer-centric care for the inmates. Among those who visited the Home included Messrs Darshan Kumar Bassa, Jagdish Raj Kaith, Pritam Chand, Krishan Lal, Girdhari Lal, Kewal Krishan, Des Raj and Kulbhushan.

### Kulbhushan, others serve Langar among Shiva devotees



#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 17: National General Secretary Raju Chandel said that today many great devotees of our Lord Shiva have come to Baba's Bhandara to do their service, in which the main ones

were Kulbhushan Khajuria, Joint Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Vinod Sharma (Health Officer Jammu Municipal Corporation), Gaurav Chopra Councillor. He said that today only Sanatan Dharma can establish peace in the

whole world. Shiv devotees are coming from country and abroad on the yatra and it seems that today there is Mahakumbh Mela of Shiv devotees in Jammu, in which Shiv devotees are coming like before, this time the number of devotees will cross one million. We and our volunteers are very warmly welcoming all Shiva devotees coming to J&K and the more people come for pilgrimage, the more our tourism and the sales of small shopkeepers will increase and they will get employment.

### Dogri Sanstha Jammu releases Gianeshwars' poetry



#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 17: Dogri Sanstha Jammu and Bhartiya Sangeet Sansthan Jammu jointly organized a musical evening based upon the poetry of Gianeshwar, a veteran dogri poet who passed away recently. Geets and Bhajans were presented in this programme in which classical music

maestro V. K. Sambyal, Ridhima Bajpayee, Manju Bala, Kusha Sharma and Chinmai Sharma lent their voices. The music of the executed poetry of Gianeshwar was composed by V. K. Sambyal known as Rangeela Thakur in art arena and Sham Sajan. Rahul Bhardwaj and Shubham Banmotra were on table and harmonium

respectively. In addition to large number of artists and art lovers, family members of the deceased poet were also present in the programme. All the singers kept the audience enthralled with their soulful rendering of the musical compositions which had the shades of 'Nirgun' style most suited to Bhajans and spiritual poetry. The program was conducted by Pawan Verma. Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu while welcoming the audience spoke about poetic genius of Gianeshwar and his contribution to Dogri literature. Dr. Nirmal Vinod, a veteran Dogri and Hindi poet thanked the audience at the end of programme.

### JKBS hails award of gold medal to Raman Jot Chanjotra in Punjab State Challenge Cup



#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 17: Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha hailed award of Gold Medal to Raman Jot Chanjotra in Punjab State Challenge Cup.

Speaking during the meeting, the JKBS members said, her sincere and earnest efforts have paid off extremely well by winning the Gold

Medal. Also speaking, JKBS General Secretary R.L Kaith said, Karate develops the body and the spirit while acquiring skills and tools to defend unarmed. When taught this way, karate focuses on mental strength and self-discipline, including devastating techniques aimed at the fastest possible neutralizing of an aggressive opponent. Members advised parents to provide their wards with all opportunities to excel in academic, sports and cultural activities. They wished Raman unlimited success in the future.

### Civil Defence Jammu inaugurates five-day training programme

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 17: On the directions of Directorate of HG, CD and SDRF J&K, five days training programme was started at Central Sanskrit University Kot Balwal, Jammu under the supervision of DySP Anita Pawar, Deputy Controller Civil Defence, Jammu.



programme of the training, DySP Anita Pawar delivered a lecture and highlighted the role of Civil Defence and importance of this training. She urged that this training is considered to be very beneficial for the daily life of every human being.

Paramjit Kumar Chief Warden Civil Defence, Jammu also highlighted the setup of the organization especially the role of wardens in Civil Defence organization. At the end of the pro-

gramme Professor Joginder Dixit presented vote of thanks. Besides other who was present on the occasion were R. Vijay Magotra Dy. Chief Warden CD Jammu, Prof. Rishi Raj, Central Sanskrit University Kot Balwal Jammu, Dr. Hari Om, Central Sanskrit University Kot Balwal Jammu, Sub Insp. Ram Dayal Saini I/C CD Trainings, SgCt Rajinder Kumar Civil Defence instructor, and SgCt Parshotam Kumar civil Defence Instructor.

### Amarnath pilgrims hail langar, other facilities at Pantha Chowk transit camp in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Jul 17 (Agencies): In the ongoing Amarnath Yatra, pilgrims have been accommodated at the Pantha Chowk transit camp here where all the facilities are being given to them in a very organised manner. The pilgrims have appreciated these facilities being provided by Jammu and Kashmir administration, and 'langar', community

kitchens, providing to them by various organizations. A pilgrim said, "The langar facility is also available in the transit camp where we are being served food three times a day and as per our needs. Proper sanitation, cleanliness and adequate arrangements for public convenience are also ensured at the camp."

### Master Saleem releases devotional song "Laddi Sai De Bacha"



#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 17: Master Saleem (International Bollywood Star Singer & Music Director), Sahil Mahajan (Maa Bawe Wali Records MD), Prem Shahkoti (Master Saleem Musical Group Anchor), Sahil Mahajan (JK UT Co-Convenor Sanskriti, Art & Culture Cell) released devotional song "Laddi Sai De Bacha". Speaking on the occasion, Master Saleem complimented the singer making such a beautiful devotional song besides

musicians and composer on the release. Observing that music knows no boundaries, the Singer & Music Director said it binds the people in a unique cord and generates harmony in the society. "And, when music relates to spirituality, it directly touches souls and creates an aura free of tension and hatred. Master Saleem said while releasing devotional musical Song Sing by Rajveer Manni, Music Ashh K, Lyrics Sonu Rairpuria, Video Director K.K. Malhotra, Producer Pathan Darbar, Project by Sahil Mahajan and Released under Banner Maa Bawe Wali Records. Master Saleem lauded the efforts of devotional songs holds a promise to be a leading artist in the near future, "Devotional music quenches the spiritual thirst of devotees", he said, wishing the young singer a bright future. He said music plays pivotal role in preserving culture and taking it beyond boundaries. The Music Director & Singer said that the Union Territory has no dearth of talent but the only need is to identify and polish it by expert hands. He also hoped that the album will inspire young artists of the UT to explore their hidden talent and make their niche in the society. He hoped this would go a long way to promote local talent and said that youth should be educated about our traditional values which are the foundations of our age old heritage.

## Modi Govt should ensure safety of Hindus & Temples in Pakistan: Shiv Sena

### Demands arrest, extradition of Seema Haider

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 17: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit strongly condemned the heinous acts targeting a 150-year-old Hindu temple in the main city of Karachi as well as the rocket launcher attack on a Hindu temple in Sindh, both carried out by Pakistan. Taking serious note of these despicable acts, Shiv Sena sought that the Modi Government should take immediate steps to ensure the security of Hindus and temples in Pakistan, as well as the arrest and thorough interrogation of Seema

Haider, who unlawfully infiltrated the Indian border. Addressing a press conference at Party's Headquarters in Jammu on Monday, Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena J&K stated that Hindus and religious sites in Pakistan are continuously being targeted. The Hindu population in Pakistan is rapidly decreasing, and there has been a surge in attacks on Hindu temples, he said. Sahni appealed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take a strong stance on this act by Pakistan and immediately engage in



talks with the Pakistan government to ensure the safety of Hindus and

religious sites. He also sought a complete sev-

erance of all relations with Pakistan and the immediate arrest and extradition of the infiltrator Seema Haider, who brazenly trespassed into the Indian border using illegal means. Sahni emphasized that such reprehensible acts of cross-border infiltrations can be dealt with and put an end to, setting an example for others, perhaps better than anyone else. "Shiv Sena stands firm in its commitment to protect the interests and rights of Hindus and their religious freedom," he added.

Shiv Sena called for the immediate attention of the Modi Government to address this matter and ensure the safety and security of Hindus and temples in Pakistan, while also demanding the arrest and extradition of Seema Haider. Sahni emphasized that Shiv Sena will continue to stand united in the fight against any injustice or threat to the Hindu community and will take all necessary measures to safeguard their interests. On this occasion president Kamghar Singh, Mangu Ram were present.