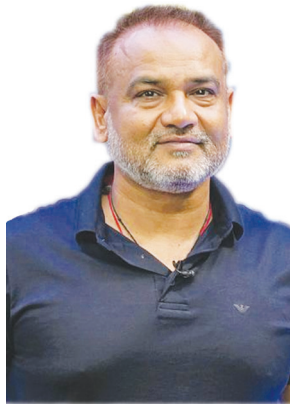


# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, AUGUST 03, 2023

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## BRIEFLY

### Two held with 153 kg poppy husk bound for JK

SRINAGAR, Aug 3 (Agencies): Pathankot police on Thursday apprehended two individuals in possession of 153 kg of poppy husk, being smuggled to Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). The incident took place at Kandrodhi Morr Nangal village of Pathankot, reported Hindustan Times.

The arrested suspects have been identified as Sahil Bhatia and Taranjeet Singh from SBS Nagar.

The police, as per Hindustan Times revealed that the accused were en route to J&K to carry out the drug smuggling operation under the instructions of the notorious jailed gangster, Preet Sekhon.

Notably, Preet Sekhon is involved in around 20 criminal cases, including one where an Akali leader and his aide were shot dead in Patti back in 2019. Despite being in jail, Sekhon was running the drug nexus and maintaining contact with some J&K-based smugglers.

The arrest was made after the SHO Nangal Bhur, acting on a tip-off about a Canter with registration number PB-29-X-1105, suspected of carrying narcotics into Pathankot from Mukerian side, led his team to intercept the vehicle.

### Five injured in JK Road accident

JAMMU, Aug 3 (Agencies): Five persons were injured in a road accident that took place in the Kotranka area of Rajouri district on Thursday, officials said.

They said that the driver of the car lost control over the vehicle following which the car fell into a ditch in the Rehan area of Kotranka. Soon after the accident, the team of police station Kandi and local people started the rescue operation and took all the injured to District Hospital Rajouri for treatment.

"The injured have been identified as Arfana Kosar wife of Mohd Alyas, Mohd Shabir son of Makan Din, Mohd Qadeer son of Nazir Hussain, Azmath Bagam wife of Wali Mohd and Shamim Akhtar all residents of Lamdarthal

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## 181 children go missing from J&K from July 2022 to June 2023: Ministry of Women and Child Development

SRINAGAR, Aug 3 (Agencies): A total of 181 children have gone missing from Jammu and Kashmir from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, reveals an official data of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

As per the data, nearly 58,546 children went missing across India during the same period. Earlier, National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) data revealed that 627 children had gone missing in J&K by 2020 that included 350 boys and 277 girls.

In 2020 alone, 230 children including 167 girls and 63 boys went missing in Jammu and



Kashmir.

The NCRB data suggested that the recovery rate of the missing children in J&K was a mere 29.2 percent.

Under Mission Vatsalya Scheme, 817 children including child labourers had been rescued and rehabilitated by Child Welfare Committees in J&K.

In the last five years, the government revealed that 35 children were booked under drug-related offences including the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

Child Welfare Committee Chairperson, Khairul-Nissa told Greater Kashmir that they had custody of seven miss-

ing children currently.

She said that the reasons behind missing children cases involving locals and non-locals differ significantly.

"Local children often leave their homes due to familial conflicts while non-locals primarily come for work opportunities," Nissa said.

"We are receiving cases of missing children, but mostly these cases are non-locals. Earlier, we registered missing cases of locals as well but they had been traced out within hours and the matter was resolved," she said. "Similarly, we are

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## E-Challans of 7,366 vehicles pending; dispose of by Aug 9 or face action: SSP Traffic

SRINAGAR, Aug 3 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Traffic Police have urged 7,366 vehicle owners to dispose of their pending e-challans by August 09 failing which their vehicles will be impounded.

SSP traffic Srinagar, Muzaffar Ahmad Shah issued a public notice

quoting a court order. "This office is in receipt of a court order dated 28.07.2023 issued by the Court of Special Mobile Magistrate (Traffic) Srinagar annexed with a list of 7366 vehicles with Pending E-Court Challans shown against each, with the directions that the owners of these

vehicles be informed for disposal of the challans against their vehicles by or before 09.08.2023," the notice said.

It said that in view of the above, the list of vehicles along with the pending challans issued by the Court is hereby circulated among the General Public with the advise

that the vehicle owners/ violators whose challans are shown pending in the list against each, shall appear before the Court of Special Mobile Magistrate, Traffic Srinagar for disposal of the challans by or before 09.08.2023. On failure to do the same, stern

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## J&K | Wife releases comic on Army Officer killed in 2008

SRINAGAR, Aug 3 (Agencies): A comic on the life and gallant act of Army officer Col. Jojan Thomas, who died while fighting militants along the Line of Control in 2008, was released on Thursday in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The comic was released by Beena Thomas, wife of the late Col. Thomas, in the presence of their son Philomen in the Machil



area of Kupwara.

The aim of publishing this comic is to present the life of Col. Jojan Thomas for future soldiers as a guiding light

and motivation while discharging their duties, Beena Thomas said.

"The comic is also aimed at making

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## NIA moves HC to produce malik virtually in plea seeking death for JKLF Chief in terror funding case

NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (Agencies): The NIA Wednesday moved the Delhi High Court seeking permission to produce virtually from jail Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik in a terror funding case in which it has sought death penalty for him.

The application is listed for hearing before a bench of Justices Sidharth Mridul and Anish Dayal on August 3.

The high court had on May 29 issued a warrant for production of Malik, who is serving life term in the case in Tihar jail,

on August 9 when NIA's plea for enhancement of sentence is listed for hearing.

In an application seeking modification of the order, the investigating agency said Malik was a "very high risk prisoner" and it was imperative to not physically produce him in court in order to maintain public order and safety.

It also said that as per an order passed by the Home Ministry, Malik cannot be "moved from the Tihar Jail" and shall "not be taken out of the jurisdiction of NCT of

Delhi". "Respondent/Convict Yasin Malik has been lodged in the Tihar Jail, New Delhi under the category of very high risk prisoners and thus, the present Application is in relation to a heavy security issue. Therefore, it is imperative that the Respondent/Convict Yasin Malik is not physically produced before this Hon'ble Court in order to maintain public order and safety," the application said.

Stating that grave prejudice would be

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## Govt to levy 28 per cent GST on online gaming, casinos from October 1: Sitharaman

NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (Agencies): Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday that the 51st GST Council meeting 28 per cent GST on online gaming and casinos is expected to be implemented from October 1.

"It (28 per cent GST on online gaming & casinos) is expected to be implemented from 1st October," Nirmala Sith-



araman said. The 51st GST Council meeting was held on Wednesday. It was presided by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The council also recom-

mended the valuation of supply on online gaming should be done on the amount paid or payable or payable to or deposited with the supplier on behalf of the player.

"The council recommended that valuation of supply on online gaming and actionable claims in casinos may be done based on the amount paid or payable or payable to or deposited with the supplier by/or

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## Injured during rescue operation, policeman succumbs in Ladakh

KARGIL, Aug 3 (Agencies): A policeman of Ladakh Police, injured during a rescue operation at Kaksar area on July 22, succumbed to his injuries on Wednesday.

Constable Mohd Raza of UTRDF unit Kargil was injured during a rescue operation after a private vehicle fell into the river Shingo near Kaksar area of Kargil district on July 22. While rescuing the people in the car, the policeman suffered head and back injuries. He was referred to SKIMS Soura for spe-

cialized treatment, however on Wednesday afternoon, he breathed his last. A large number of people participated in his funeral procession here at his native village in Kargil where he was laid to rest.

Meanwhile, a wreath laying ceremony was held at District Police Lines Kargil to pay homage to the deceased constable. During the wreath laying ceremony, Chief Executive Councilor, LAHDC Kargil, Feroz Ahmad Khan, Deputy Commissioner Kargil, S

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## 32nd batch of over 1,100 Amarnath pilgrims leave Jammu for cave shrine

JAMMU, Aug 3 (Agencies): The 32nd batch of Amarnath Yatris with over 1,100 pilgrims Thursday left the base camp here for the holy cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas amid tight security arrangements, officials said.

Over 4.3 lakh devotees paid obeisance at the 3888-metre high shrine since the commencement of the Yatra on July 1, the officials said.

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## Azad faces music for staking credit of Sibal's Article 370 Arguments

SRINAGAR, Aug 3 (Agencies): DPAP Chief Ghulam Nabi Azad has evoked strong criticism on social media with his comments on the supreme court hearings regarding the reading down of Article 370 in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Azad in a Tweet while lauding the efforts of Kapil Sibal said that they have been fighting from Parliament to

the Supreme Court, in pursuit of justice for the people of J&K.

"Gratitude for the brilliant efforts of Kapil Sibal sahib as he fearlessly & eloquently presented the crucial issue of Article 370 in SC today. We have been unwaveringly fighting from Parliament to the Supreme Court, in pursuit of justice for the people of J&K. With unwavering hope and anticipation, we look to

the SC to deliver fair judgment for the rightful aspirations of the people," Azad said.

Kapil Sabil, who represents the petitioner and National Conference MP Mohammad Akbar Lone, started the arguments on the day first of the SC hearing.

The tweet did not go down well with the National conference leaders who were quick to respond and slam

Azad for taking credit of Sibal's Article 370 arguments. Chief spokesperson NC Tanvir Sadiq asked Ghulam Nabi Azad to refrain his party leaders from spreading misinformation & lies about Sibal representing his party.

"You're absolutely correct, Azad Sahab. We should express our gratitude to KapilSibal Sahab for his

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**In Loving Memory of  
Sh. Brij Nath Kher**

(18 November 1936 - 27 July 2023)

With heavy hearts, we inform that our beloved **Sh. Brij Nath Kher**, left for his heavenly abode on July 27, 2023.

He enriched the lives of everyone around him and lived a remarkable life filled with love, joy, and cherished memories. His legacy is etched in our hearts forever.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** is planned at Murad Nagar, Ghaziabad on August 5, 2023 at 5:30 AM followed by gathering at residence (C-34, Sector 52, Noida, UP) at 11 AM.

Left to mourn his loss, his grief-stricken family members:

**Grief Stricken:**Asha & Bansil Lal Kher (9419642651) (Bhabhi & Brother)  
Renu (9811123977) & Ramesh Kher (9811120307) (Daughter-in-Law and Son)  
Swati & Hemanshu Kher (Granddaughter-in-law & Grandson)  
Zoya & Sahil Kher (Granddaughter-in-law & Grandson)  
Shobha & K.K. Zutshi (Brother-in-law & Sister)  
Veena & Ramesh Dhar (Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law)  
The Kher, Dhar, Bali, and Zutshi families are united in their sorrow.**Sh. Brij Nath Kher**  
(18 November 1936 - 27 July 2023)**OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA**WITH HEAVY HEART AND PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SHRI BALRAJ DHAR S/O LATE SHRI AFTAB RAM DHAR**, ORIGINALLY FROM SHESHYAR HABBA KADAL, KASHMIR AND PRESENTLY RESIDING AT 105- SAVARKAR APARTMENT PATPARGANJ DELHI. HE ATTAINED NIRVANA ON 26TH JULY 2023.**TENTH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 4TH OF AUG. 2023 (8:00 AM) AT CHHOTA HARIDWAR, MURAD NAGAR. GHAT, GHAZIABAD.**GRIEF STRICKEN****BASANTI DHAR - WIFE****SIDDHARTH DHAR - SON****MEENAKSHI DHAR - DAUGHTER****SHUBNI DHAR(TATHI) W/O LATE JAWAHAR LAL DHAR****SAMASTH DHAR, TIKU, WALI AND JINDAL PARIVAR**

9312813538 (BASANTI)

7406088866 (MEENAKSHI)

9055002935 (TATHI)

**SHRI BALRAJ DHAR****10TH DAY/KRIYA**WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT SARLA KAUL** ON 28TH JULY 2023 AT FLAT NO 33, SECTOR 19, POCKET 2, GREEN VIEW APPT DWARKA, NEW-DELHI.**10TH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED AT GARH-GANGA, MURAD NAGAR (UP) ON AUGUST 6, 2023 (SUNDAY) AT 7 A.M.**GRIEF STRICKEN:****TAPAN KUMAR KAUL -HUSBAND****YOGESH KAUL -SON****SEEMA KAUL PANDITA -DAUGHTER****SOMESH PANDITA -SON-IN-LAW****KIRTI KUMAR KAUL -BROTHER-IN-LAW****PERMELA KAUL -SISTER-IN-LAW****GIRIJA KAUL -SISTER-IN-LAW****SHIBAN KRISHAN KAUL -BROTHER-IN-LAW****GRAND CHILDEN: SANCHITA & SHIV****SMT SARLA KAUL****10TH DAY & 13TH DAY**With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Pernal Kumari** expired on 23-7-2023.**10th Day** on 01/8/2023 (Tuesday) & **13th Day** on 04/08/2023 (Friday) at our residence Ward No. 20, Behind Head Post Office, Near Billion Bowli, Uthampur.**Grief Stricken:**

Sh Shanker Singh (Husband)

(Sister &amp; Brother-in-law)

Smt Nirmal Devi &amp; Sh Kartar Singh

Smt Renu (Bhabhi)

(Brother &amp; Sister-in-law)

Sh Sukhdev Singh and Smt Sreeshta Devi

**Daughter and Son-in-law**

Smt Anita &amp; Sh Sukhdev Singh

Smt Anjana &amp; Sh Jagdeep Singh

Smt Sapna &amp; Sh Kuldeep Kumar

**Son & Daughter-in-law**

Sh Rajesh Singh &amp; Smt Veena

**Grand Children**Agrim, Aarshi, Bunu, Bebu, Aadi, Pitha, Veeraj, Manasvi, Shanaya, Aaru, Salvi, Cheeki, Vibhu and all **Rasol & Mankotia family members**

Contact No. 9419296872, 9419671846, 9419359539

**Smt Pernal Kumari****10TH DAY/KRIYA**With Profound grief and Sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Rakesh Chander Baru** S/o Lt. Sh. Charanjeet Lal Baru, R/o H. No. 120, Kucha Wazir Sabha Ram, Panjthirthi, Jammu- who left for heavenly abode on 25th July 2023.**10TH DAY** will be performed on 3rd August 2023 (Thursday) at Rani Park Tuttiya. Time: 11:00 A.M.  
**KRIYA** will be performed on 4th August 2023 (Friday) at our residence Time: 12 noon.**GRIEF STRICKEN****Kailash Baru (Wife)****Abhishek Baru (Son)****Chacha Ji**

Shanti Sroop Baru

Brij Bhushan Baru

**Sister and Brother-in-laws**

Anju Sharma &amp; Prem Sharma

**Brother & Sister-in Law**

Rajesh Baru &amp; Manisha Baru

Raman Baru &amp; Rachna Baru

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

Vasudha &amp; Ajay Sharma

Varsha &amp; Alok Sharma

**BARU & GAUR FAMILY.****Mob: 9796690161****SH. RAKESH CHANDER BARU****OBITUARY AND 10TH DAY KRIYA**With deep grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Anil Kumar Koul S/o Late Mohan Lal Koul** of Veeri Nowbugh, Anantnag Kashmir, presently residing at Flat No. 03, Block No. 101, Lane No. 19, Jagti Colony, Nagrota, Jammu (J&K) on 30/07/2023 at about 7 PM.The **MOURNING** will be held at his parental house, H. No 2, Lane No. 2, Kailash Vihar, Udhewwala, Jammu, opposite K C Sports Club.The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Muthi Ghat, Jammu on 08/08/2023 at 8.30 AM.**GRIEF STRICKEN****Rashmi Koul -Wife****Prisha Koul -Daughter****Chatresh Koul - Son****Bimla Koul W/o Late Mohan Lal Koul -Mother****Parmeshori Koul W/o Late Badri Nath Koul -Aunt****Paray Lal Koul - Uncle****Archana Koul and Rakesh Kumar Koul -Bhabhi and Brother****Dazy Koul and Sanjay Kumar Koul - Bhabhi and Brother****Usha Pandita and Ashoni Pandita - Sister and Jija Ji****AND SAMAST KOUL PARIVAR OF VEER NOWBUGH, ANANTNAG.****CONTACT NO. 9419148433, 9796826927, 9419122083****ANIL KUMAR KOUL****10TH DAY AND RASAM PAGRI**With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Kiran Gupta W/o Sh. Raman Kumar Gupta M/o Akash Deep Gupta (Advocate) R/o Ward No. 10 Near Calvary Mission School Samba**, who left for heavenly abode on 25/07/2023.**10th Day** shall be performed on 03-08-2023 Thursday From 10 AM to 11 AM at Dina Nath Memorial Hall (Mahajan Hall) Samba Near New Bus Stand Samba.**Rasam Pagri** will be performed on (Monday) on 07-08-2023 from 4 PM onwards at our residence Ward No. 10 Near Calvary Mission School Samba.**GRIEF STRICKEN:-****Pakhetra Family 9419149874. 9796243572****Smt. Kiran Gupta****TENTH DAY**With heavy heart and, profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Basanti Wangoo W/o Shri Chand Ji Wangoo** originally from Trapperpora, Shopian, Kashmir and presently at Flat No 23, Block No 176, Lane No 27, Jagti migrant colony, Jammu on 30-07-2023.**Tenth Day** will be performed on 08-08-2023 at Muthi Ghat near sabzi mandi, Jammu.**GRIEF STRICKEN:****Chand Ji Wangoo - Husband****Smt Diksha & Sh Deepak Koul - Daughter & Son-in-law****Martyr Deepu & Smt Sweety - Son & Daughter-in-law****Smt Vijay & Sh Shuban Lal Wangoo - Bhabhi & Brother-in-law****Smt Bimla & Late Sh Bhushan Lal Dhar - Sister-in-law & Jija ji****Smt Babli & Sh Mahraj krishan Bhat - Sister-in-law & Jija ji****Smt Daisy & Sh Roshan Lal Bhat - Sister-in-law & Jija ji****Deeply Remembered By:****Wangoo's, Kouls, Bhats, Dhars****Ph: 9622287069, 9419209170, 9622163560****Smt Basanti Wangoo****DASH KRIYA & TERVI VIDHI**With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Parkash Ram Verma** who left for his heavenly abode on 26-7-23.**10th Day:-**

4/8/2023 Friday

11 am to 12 Noon

**Tervi Vidhi:-**

7/8/2023 Monday

Bhog: 1 pm to 4 pm

Rasam Pagri: 5 pm to 6 pm

**Venue:- Amba Niwas, Border Road (Near convent school), Samba****Grief Stricken:- Verma Family****Ms. Lakshmi Devi - Wife****Daughter-in-laws & Sons:**

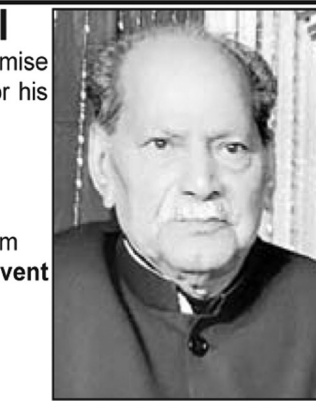
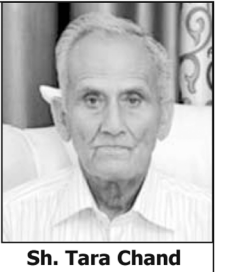
Mrs. Sushma Kumari &amp; Shri. Randhir Verma

Mrs. Sunita Verma &amp; Shri. Rajinder Kumar Verma

Mrs. Rita Verma &amp; Shri. Ajit Verma

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

Mrs. Sushma Bhola &amp; Shri Satish Bhola

**R.S.V.P****Amba Medical Hall, Samba****Amba Medicos, Samba****Amba Traders, Samba****9419202490, 9530954512, 9419147057, 9906306996****Sh. Parkash Ram Verma**  
(23/04/1936 to 26-7-23)**TENTH DAY**With profound grief and sorrow we inform that our beloved **Sh. Roshan Lal Koul (KAS) S/o Lt Sh. Niranjan Nath Koul & Lt Smt Janak Rani Koul R/o Rangtang Ali Kadal** Behind Rishi-Peer A/p H. No 285 Niranjan Kutir Laxmipuram Chinore, Near Telephone Exchange Bantalab Jammu passed to Heavenly abode on 01-08-2023 at 11.25 PM.**Cremation** took place on 02-08-2023.**10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 10-08-2023 (Thursday) at 8.30 A.M at Muthi Ghat Near DSE Jammu.**GRIEF STRICKEN****Smt Shakuntala Koul (Wife)- 6006836472****Sh. Makhan Lal Koul (Uncle)****Smt Bimla Raina W/o Lt Sh. Vijay Kumar Raina & Family****Smt Arti Koul & Sh. Shaleen Koul (Son & Daughter in Law)****Shashank Koul & Sukant Koul (Grand Children)****Smt Sheela Mattoo (Mother in Law)****Smt Piarey Sharabi & Sh. Lal Ji Sharabi (Koul)****MOBILE NO: 9796223635, 7006970018****ROSHAN LAL KOUL (KAS)**  
(SABA JI)**TENTH DAY**With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Autar Krishen Fotedar S/o Late Sh. Nand Lal Fotedar** on 26th July, 2023 at Shalimar Garden Extn-2, Sahibabad, originally resident of Barbuzkocha, Habba Kadal / Barzulla Bagaat, Srinagar**TENTH DAY** will be performed at Murad Nagar Ghat and Assembly will be held at our residence H. No A-32, Flat No F-5 Shalimar Garden Extn-2, near Pannu Chowk, Sahibabad, Gaziabad at 11 AM on 4th Aug 2023.**Grief Stricken****Smt Santosh Fotedar- Wife****Smt Raj Dulari & Sh. Ram Krishen Fotedar- Bhabhi & Brother****Sons & Daughter in Law****Anil Fotedar & Rozy Fotedar****Suman Fotedar & Satya Fotedar****Deepak Fotedar & Suchitra Fotedar****Grand Children:** Palak, Shrenik, Soumil, Kanan and Kamil**CONTACT NO: 9599948663, 9971110424, 001201-336-2088****SH. AUTAR KRISHEN FOTEDAR**  
(RETD UNDER SECRETARY J&K GOVT SECRETARIAT)**OBITUARY AND 10TH DAY KRIYA**With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Santosh Koul W/o Lt Jagger Nath Koul** original residents of Seer Hamdan district Anantnag A/p Lane No. 22, Flat 08, Block 135, Jagti Nagrota.**10th Day Kriya** will be observed at Hanuman Mandir Gath, Srinagar on 06-08-2023 (Sunday) at 9.00 am.**GRIEF STRICKEN****Subash Koul -Son****Indu Priya -Daughter-in-law****Chander Lata -Daughter****Geetika Koul -Grand Daughter****And Samast Koul Parivar****Mob: 9419003012, 8899954669****Smt Santosh Koul****OBITUARY AND 10TH DAY KRIYA**With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mrs. Sarla Kachroo W/o. Lt. DySP. Sh. Abhimaneu Kachroo** originally resident of Raj Ghat, Baranulla, presently at Block A, Qtr no. 3, Police Line, Channi Himmat, Jammu left for heavenly abode on 28th July 2023 at Jammu.**10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 5th August 2023 (Saturday) at 9.00 am at Muthi Ghat, near Directorate of School Education, Jammu.**Grief Stricken:-****Vasabh Kachroo and Vasundra Kachroo****(Son and Daughter-in-law)****Vasal Kachroo and Meenakshi Kachroo****(Son and Daughter-in-law)****Mrs. Gajpal Mattoo (Sister-in-law)****Mr. Kunj Bihari Tisai (Brother)****Mrs. Santosh Labroo (Sister)****Grand children: Richi, Talli, Nitya & Rudhra****Contact no: 7006953804, 78947828, 9825012941****Mrs. Sarla Kachroo****TENTH DAY**With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Tara Chand Gupta S/o Late. Sh. Bili Ram Gupta R/o Dinga Amb, Distt. Kathua**, who left for heavenly abode on 27th July, 2023.**Tenth Day** will be performed on 5th August, 2023 at our home Dinga Amb at 11:00 am.**GRIEF STRICKEN****Smt. Padma Gupta- Wife****Sons & Daughter-in-laws****Sh. Raman Kumar & Smt. Ritu Gupta****Sh. Sanjeet Kumar & Smt. Rashmi Gupta****Sh. Rakesh Kumar & Smt. Neha Mahajan****Smt. Saroj & Sh. Darshan Gupta- Daughter & Son-in-law****Grand children:** Sahil, Rishav, Ridhima, Vanshika, Rishita, Anurudh, Krish, Anandita**Contact No. 7807813588, 9419821789, 9697239869, 6005610586****Sh. Tara Chand Gupta****TENTH DAY**With heavy heart and profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Vinod Kumar Koul S/o Late Mohan Lal Koul R/o Drabiyar** presently Durga Nagar Sec-1, Near Park Jammu on 31-07-2023 (Monday).**Tenth Day** will be performed on 9-8-2023 at Muthi Ghat at 9 AM.**GRIEF STRICKEN****Kaki Koul - Wife****Son & Daughter-in-law****Vishal Koul & Shweta Koul****Bipin Koul - Brother****Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law****Ashok Tickoo & Sarla Tickoo****K.K. Khushu & Gudi Khushu****R.S. Ticku & Nimi Ticku****Kuldeep Kaul & Sunita Kaul****Dhar's, P.N. Raina, Bamzai & Raina's**



# Since 2018, CBI filed cases against 216 civil servants: Govt

NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (Agencies): The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered cases against 216 civil servants in more than five years, Rajya Sabha was informed on Thursday.

Giving a state-wise break-up, the government said 39 civil servants were from Maharashtra, 22 from Jammu and Kashmir, 21 from Delhi, 17 from Uttar Pradesh and 14 from Karnataka among others.

"During the last five years viz. 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (up to 30.06.2023), the CBI has registered cases against 216 number of civil service officers," Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said in a written reply.

Of the total civil servants facing cases, 12 were from Bihar, 11 from Tamil Nadu, nine each from Gujarat, Haryana and Kerala, and eight each from Punjab, Rajasthan and Telangana, according to the reply.

"The All India Services (Con-



duct) Rules, 1968, and the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, lay down the code of conduct for central government employees to which every member of the service shall, at all times, follow," Singh said.

The Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, imparts training to officer trainees through appropriate courses keeping in view national aspirations and constant feedback,

he said.

"This also inter alia includes imbibing the spirit of nationalism, citizen centricity and financial integrity," the minister said.

"The government of India had approved the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building - Mission Karmayogi - in September 2020 with the objective to create a professional, well-trained and future-looking civil service, that is imbued with a shared

understanding of India's developmental aspirations, national programs and priorities," Singh said.

In another reply, the minister said that the CBI has registered 135 cases - regular cases and preliminary inquiries - against various civil service officers during 2018 to June 2023.

"Out of these 135 cases, charge-sheets have been filed in 57 cases in the courts concerned for trial," he said.

Of these cases, sanction for prosecution is pending for more than two years in two cases, Singh said.

In the last five years (2018 to 2022), the Central Vigilance Commission has recommended action against 12,756 officers during first stage advice and 887 officers during second stage advice, he said.

"Out of this, grant of sanction of prosecution was advised in respect of 719 officers," the minister added.

## Anti-Corruption Bureau arrests revenue official for accepting bribe

SRINAGAR, Aug 3 (Agencies): Anti-Corruption Bureau on Thursday arrested a revenue official namely Fayaz Ahmed Shora, Nazir, of Tehsil Office Khag, red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe.

A complainant approached PS ACB Srinagar, with a written complaint against a public servant, Fayaz Ahmad Shora, Senior Assistant/ In-Charge Nazir Tehsil Office Khag, alleging demand of bribe for listing his case of property dispute sooner in the court of Tehsildar concerned. It was alleged that the complainant has a dispute with his uncles with regard to land. The

case in this regard is under trial in the court of Executive Magistrate First Class, Tehsildar Khag. The complainant alleged that the accused Nazir had been delaying the hearings of case and requested him to expedite the trial of case, who however demanded bribe of Rs. 2000/- for listing his case. The complainant did not want to pay bribe and instead approached Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Srinagar for taking legal action against the accused public servant as provided under law.

On receipt of the complaint, a Case FIR No. 14/2023 U/S 7 PC Act 1988 was registered with PS ACB Srinagar

and investigation taken up.

During the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted by this Bureau, which laid a successful trap and caught the accused public servant red handed while demanding and accepting bribe amount of 2000 from the complainant. The money was recovered from the accused on spot.

The accused has been identified as Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Shora S/O Allaud-Din Shora R/O Hassanabad Beerwa, Senior Assistant/ In-Charge Nazir Tehsil Office Khag.

Further investigation into the case is going on.

## 1,365 vacant posts in IAS, 703 in IPS: Govt

NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (Agencies): There are 1,365 vacancies in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and 703 in the Indian Police Service (IPS), Rajya Sabha was informed on Thursday.

Besides these, 1,042 vacancies exist in the Indian Forest Service

(IFS) and 301 in Indian Revenue Service (IRS), Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said in a written reply.

"Occurrence and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. It is the endeavour of the central government to fill up vacant posts

expeditiously," he said.

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) conducts the Civil Services Examinations (CSE) for filling up of vacancies on direct recruitment basis in civil services, including IAS, IPS, IFS and IRS, every year, he said.

"To fill up vacancies in

IAS and IPS promotion quota, selection committee meetings are held by Union Public Service Commission with state governments," the minister said.

The government has increased the annual intake of IAS officers to 180 through the CSE till CSE-2022, Singh said.

"Intake of IPS through the CSE has been increased to 200 from CSE-2020.

Intake of IFS has been increased to 150 in 2022. Department of Revenue has reported 301 vacancies for filling through CSE-2023," he added.

## JK Bank security guards protest against disengagement

SRINAGAR, Aug 3 (Agencies): In Srinagar, scores of JK Bank ATM guards appeared in the press enclave on Wednesday and staged a protest against the disengagement of their services and raised slogans in favour of their

demands. The protesting bank guards alleged that the bank has installed CCTV cameras within the bank premises and inside the ATMs, following which they have been asked to resign from their posts.

"We have been asked to resign from our posts. We have been working as ATM guards for decades now.

We not only guard the ATMs but also help people in operating these machines. We have been left

in lurch after the bank asked us to resign," they said.

Stating that there is no need for digitization in case it ends up snatching the jobs of employed people, the protesters said, "We are here to request the J&K Bank

authorities and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha led administration to intervene and ensure justice is delivered as we have been working for the last 20 years and if we become jobless our families will starve."

## Army welcomes pilgrims returned from Hajj at Marh

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 3: The Indian Army, in a heartwarming gesture, extended a warm welcome to the pilgrims who have returned from their spiritual journey of Hajj. The event took place at the Panchayat Shar. Village Mach, Tehsil Nagrota, Dist Jammu where the pilgrims were greeted with profound gratitude and reverence.

The annual Hajj pilgrimage holds immense significance for the Muslim community worldwide, and it is an honor for the Indian Army to join hands in commemorating this sacred journey.

The pilgrims, who traveled to

the holy city of Mecca to perform the rituals, were embraced with open arms by the Indian Army officials, signifying the nation's support and respect for their religious devotion.

In the presence of esteemed dignitaries and community leaders, the event was graced with heartfelt speeches, expressing the significance of the Hajj pilgrimage and the importance of religious harmony and unity in our diverse nation.

The occasion served as a testament to India's commitment to safeguarding its citizens right to practice their faith freely and without hindrance. The Indian Army's gesture further reaffirms its dedication to fostering unity and brotherhood among



all communities, reinforcing the nation's fabric of diversity and inclusivity.

The event concluded with a warm exchange of greetings and blessings, symbolizing the spirit of togetherness and har-

mony that unites the people of India.

The Indian Army remains committed to serving and protecting its citizens, fostering an environment of peace, compassion, and coexistence.

## VK Magotra conferred Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam Sewa Saman-2023

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 3: V.K. Magotra, versatile personality in the field of Mass Communication and Sports, has been conferred with prestigious "Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam Sewa Saman-2023.

Magotra's tremendous contributions in the field of peace bond, human rights, education, culture, peace, diplomacy, and sports encouraging social order in your country and the world in general, is indeed a great honour and a humble tribute to Dr. Kalam for cherishing his dreams of making the universe -an abode of peaceful living.

Magotra after serving over 35 years in the Ministry of I&B, GOI as Media Communication officers in the Directorate of Field Publicity, has distinction of establishing many mile stones in over 60 outreach programmes covering thereof the remotest corners of J&K.

By dissemination of Govt. Policies & Progs through mass - media activities preferably in the local dialects the well being of the masses was highlighted prominently.

Besides Magotra after his retirement rendered services to Press Information Bureau, another Media unit of Ministry of I&B as a



Consultant over a dozen "Vartalaps" initiated for interaction with media fraternity in different districts of J&K. Magotra has also conducted two Bharat Darshan Tours one in the year 1987 from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and another in the year 2010 of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh states of India.

The object of these tours was to promote national unity and Communal Harmony besides showing historical / developmental projects to opinion leaders who on their return act as ambassadors of development in their respective areas by narrating developmental / human development stories of various parts of the country.

Magotra's excellence performance has been acknowledged by the ministry of I&B, during golden Jubilee celebrations of Directorate of Field & Publicity in 2009 by honoring him with "a lifetime achievement award" for best performance as "communicator" in J&K region at New Delhi.

Magotra's enriched knowledge, journalistic instinct and managerial skills with publication of articles , relating to land and people with special emphasis on tourism in J&K in leading newspapers and magazines has won laurels by one and all.

His contribution in preparation / production of various projects in the fields of performing arts/sports also has been lauded.

Being Managing Director of BLSKS / General Secretary of Volleyball Association of J&K both ( NGO's) for the last over 10 years , Magotra has left no stone unturned in promoting traditional culture /sports especially volleyball.

M.L Dogra Chairman BLSKS felicitated Magotra by presenting the award of excellence today at Jammu.

Dogra has expressed his gratitude to the Samman Committee for considering the name of Magotra for such honour.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION KATHUA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
e-NIT No. JSPHEMK/78 OF 2023-24 Dated: 31-07-2023

ForandonbehalfofL.T.GovernorofJ&K,ExecutiveEngineer,JalShakti PHE Mech. DivisionKathua,invitesetendersfromreputableandresourcfulBidders/Firms/Companies/joint venture etc.forbelowmentioned works at Water Supply schemeTharaKalwal(B) of Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Sub Division Mahanpur ofKathuaDistrictofJ&K,underJalJeevanMission(JJM).The bidding process shall be completed online on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) in twocovers viz. Cover 1<sup>st</sup>consisting of General Terms and Conditions and TechnicalSpecificationsandCover2<sup>nd</sup>FinancialBidinthe prescribedBOQ.

| S. No. | Particulars of the Work   | Estimated Cost (Lacs) | Tender fee (in Rs)  | Earnest money Deposit  | Bid Validity | Time of Completion of work (days) |
|--------|---|-----------------------|---|--|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1      | Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of pumping machinery andelectromechanical works along with allied jobs to be executed at water supply scheme Thara Kalwal (B) of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Sub Division Mahanpur of Kathua District of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). | Rs. 66.04             | 1000/- (Non-Refundable) In the shape of Treasury Challan/ Challanor through RTGS in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua | 50000/- (pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua) | 60 days      | 120days                           |

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (J.J.M)  
Position of AAA : Accorded  
Position of T.S : Sanctioned  
The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE (M) Div. Kathua.

Critical Dates:

|     |                                   |                              |
|-----|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| i   | Publish Date                      | 31-07-2023                   |
| ii  | Document Download/sale start Date | 31-07-2023                   |
| iii | Date of Pre-bid meeting           | 05-08-2023 (02:00 PM)        |
| iv  | Bids submission start date        | 01-08-2023                   |
| v   | Bids submission end date          | 16-08-2023 (04:00 PM)        |
| vi  | Date and time of Bid opening      | 17-08-2023 (01:00 PM onward) |

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)
- The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in). The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
- The valid bids received shall be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Kathua. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Kathua.
- The cost of tender documents should be in the form of Treasury challan/e-challan towards the cost of tender document to be deposited in MH-0215 (Revenue head) or through RTGS in J&K Bank Ltd. Kathua City bearing bank account No. 0555010200001579, IFSC CODE: JAKA0PCKATU in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Kathua.
- The original hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury challan/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.
- The bids shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be a violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bidder shall be declared non-responsive.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).
- Queries by email if any should be made at [pejmmumd.kathua@gmail.com](mailto:pejmmumd.kathua@gmail.com)

No: JSPHEMK/2008-2020  
Dated 31-07-2023  
DIP/J-6122/23  
Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division  
Kathua



## EDITORIAL

SHOW  
PATRIOTISM

There must be some unfortunate person in the world who does not love his country. Not only humans, but even animals, and birds also cannot stay away from their country or home for a long time. Birds fly away from their nests early in the morning to feed on grains, but in the evening they return to their nests chirping. Even a small ant does not know how far it goes from its burrow, it is also desperate to return from its small and invisible by pressing a grain of rice in its hands or teeth.

If the mother gives birth to us, then the motherland nourishes us with its food and water. Motherland is indeed greater than heaven. This is the reason that after going away from home, a person starts experiencing a kind of sadness and sickness.

A country in itself is a territory. It has some natural and geographical boundaries of its own, it may have some of its own characteristics, but it happens unnecessarily. The customs, living conditions, food habits, language and colloquialism, religious-social beliefs and establishments, the form of culture and ultimately the behavior are all their own.

Even vessels, rivers and other sources of water, trees and plants are our own. This most coordinated form is called country. For this reason, the real meaning of patriotism does not mean living on that particular land and only loving those who follow their beliefs and beliefs.

Rather, every particle of that earth has love for the trees, plants, flora, animals and birds and leaves and stems growing on the earth. The one who has affection for his motherland is not fit to be called a human being.

'He who has neither his own pride nor his country's pride is not a man, has fallen to an animal, and is like a dead man.'

In front of the freedom and protection of his motherland, a person despises even his life. Don't hesitate to sacrifice your every happiness and interest, even your life for him. Biggest sacrifice seems insignificant in front of the love of the country and the protection of its honor. When the country was struggling for independence.

Then, after getting a signal from the leaders, people used to tolerate sticks and bullets and were even ready to hang themselves around the noose. Inspired by the feeling of patriotism, many youths rotted in the jails and hanged themselves and continued to suffer the punishment of black water after leaving the country.

In fact, patriotism is considered to be more important than the devotion and worship of Gods and Gods. Hundreds of thousands of miles away from Ghajnakra to protect the borders by guarding the bone-chilling snow-capped peaks, soldiers do not do such a thing just to get a few rupees salary, but at the core of them is the unbreakable feeling of love for the country. And there is also the concern of security.

This is the reason why the brave soldiers risk their lives by entering between the tanks and cannons while continuously firing bullets. People full of patriotism seem ready to die for it, regardless of hunger and thirst etc.

## Tomatoes and turbulence: Indians face harder times

By: Patralekha Chatterjee

There is no getting away from the stream of images of chilling violence. Toxicity, fuelled by the contagious hate virus, is spreading faster in a society with an immuno-compromised system and fast losing its natural defences. Meanwhile, for ordinary Indians, the hard times are set to get even harder. On top of everything else, incomes are not rising, while the prices of basic food items soar. The headline-grabbing pricey tomato is just another marker of turbulence as climate change and weather shocks add to the turmoil and uncertainties ahead.

By now, everyone is aware of the tale of the tomato in India. Tomato prices have risen sharply in recent months, triggering tales of tomato thieves and tomato millionaires.

As I write, the police in Kolar, Karnataka, has launched an investigation into the missing case of a local truck carrying 11 tonnes of tomatoes worth Rs 21 lakhs. The truck was bound for Jaipur in Rajasthan. On July 31, the price of tomatoes rose to an all-time high at Rs 170 per kg in the Solan-based Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC), with a 24-kg crate fetching Rs 4,100. Tomatoes are now part of the subsidy regime in many states. The Tamil Nadu government, for example, has decided to expand the sale of tomatoes at a subsidised rate of Rs 60 per kilo through 500 ration shops across the state. In mid-July, the Union government also put out an official statement flagging its intervention of selling tomatoes at concessional rates at several locations in the country where the prices had reached alarming levels. Tomatoes are off the menu in many fast-food outlets in the country.

But while the everyday tomato has emerged as a star newsmaker, it is no longer just about tomatoes. So, whataboutery will not work.

Today, the rise in food prices is being driven by a spike in a host of other items, including other vegetables, pulses, cereals, and now even spices. Erratic and extreme weather, leading to shortages in supply and hoarding, have cumulatively pushed up prices of turmeric and ginger, two widely used spices in Indian cuisine. With Onam, a major harvest festival, around the corner, there are anxious reports in newspapers in Kerala about the soaring prices of vegetables, pulses and other essential commodities disrupting household budgets in the state. Onions are the latest on the hit list. Retail prices of onions have started clambering up for the first time in nearly two years in the wake of reports of sluggish kharif sowing due to a delay in the arrival of the monsoon in Maharashtra and Karnataka, two key onion producing states.

"Weaker monsoon rains in parts of India and floods in other areas contributed to soaring prices of vegetables, cereals, and pulses. Food, which makes up about half of the CPI (consumer price index) basket, pushed inflation to a three-month high of 4.81 per cent in June," noted Bloomberg, a leader provider of business news and insights.

Arguably, weather shocks jolting food prices is not a uniquely Indian phenomenon. It is a global trend. But in India, with most of the population working in informal jobs with scant social protection, the knocks are harder than many other places. The alarming rise in the cost of tomatoes in India is just the trailer. Climate change

is affecting agriculture and consequently food prices with implications for food security.

We need to be well-prepared.

The recently released "Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2023" offers some important insights.

"Drought, intense rainfall, and floods are already contributing to decreasing agricultural produce and surging food prices. Those most impacted by a decline in agricultural productivity will be the many farming communities living on the brink of poverty and the urban poor who are vulnerable to food price inflation..." notes the report, brought out by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

"Climate change-induced disasters pose an increasingly serious threat to Asia and the Pacific. The region remains the most disaster-prone region in the world where two million people have lost their lives to disasters since 1970. In 2022, over 140 disasters struck the Asia-Pacific region, leading to over 7,500 deaths, affecting over 64 million people, and causing economic damage estimated at \$57 billion. Climate change is already affecting agriculture, including fisheries and livestock, across various economies and farming systems," the report adds.

As many experts have pointed out, rice and wheat, the region's staple crops, are particularly vulnerable due to their high-water dependency and heat stress and water scarcity resulting from climate change increases the risk of drought and crop loss, leading to higher food prices. The ESCAP report also points out that the decline in agricultural productivity due to climate-related hazards will have severe consequences for

food security, particularly for vulnerable farming communities and urban poor populations already living in poverty.

For context, in 2021, 418 million Asians experienced extreme hunger, indicating a rise from the previous year.

Many would argue that India is not among the worst-off as far as domestic food inflation goes. Venezuela, Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Argentina and Suriname are among the hardest-hit countries. But that is no consolation for ordinary Indian families struck by scorching food prices.

How the monsoon plays out in the coming weeks would be crucial. Till date, there has been uneven distribution of rain – some parts of India being ravaged by incessant rains and intense floods while there are drought-like conditions in other places. We are already seeing the impact. The government has imposed export bans on non-basmati white rice varieties, hoping to stave off inflationary pressures on a diet staple. A July 20 statement by the ministry of consumer affairs, food and public distribution noted that this was done "in order to ensure adequate availability of non-basmati white rice in the Indian market and to allay the rise in prices in the domestic market".

The bottom line -- weather shocks are here to stay. Climate change is affecting the food that we eat in India. Our policies must factor that in. Farmers must get early warnings and be equipped to adapt to erratic and extreme weather. Agriculture provides employment to over 40 per cent of India's labour force. India may be in a geoeconomic sweet spot for now, but the everyday life of ordinary Indians will get grimmer if food inflation does not slow down.

## Buzz in Bengal on ex-CBI man as Mamata's security adviser

By: Dilip Cherian

The recent appointment of former Karnataka DGP Rupak Kumar Dutta as security adviser to West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has stirred much interest and debate. His illustrious career as an IPS officer, having served in different capacities, including as special director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), adds intrigue surrounding his new role in the state.

Sources have informed DKB, that Mr Dutta's impressive credentials apart, the appointment assumes even greater significance given the recent security breach near CM Ms Banerjee's residence. The arrest of an individual carrying weapons and narcotics, and possessing fake identity cards of multiple security agencies, has heightened concerns about the state of security preparedness in West Bengal.

Some critics, however, view Mr Dutta's appointment with scepticism. His sudden transfer to the ministry of home affairs as special secretary, just before the selection of the CBI director, followed by his return to his home state of Karnataka to assume the role of state DGP, they say, point to a likely political motivation behind the decision. Although Mr Dutta had been offering advisory services to

the West Bengal government even before the panchayat polls, his formal appointment comes at a critical juncture. It is hoped that given his extensive background in the CBI, Mr Dutta will bring a unique perspective that enables the state government to tackle security-related issues effectively.

Demographer pays price for busting Swachh Bharat propaganda

The suspended director of the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), K.S. James, is the most highly rated demographer in the country and among the leading ones in the world. So, naturally, his suspension has become the talk of Delhi's babu corridors.

The official reason cited for the suspension of Mr James was his alleged involvement in unauthorised research activities and financial irregularities at the IIPS. But those in the know say that Mr James was already facing fire for 'unflattering' data. Under Mr James, the institute, which is an organisation of the ministry of health and family welfare, conducts the National Family Health Surveys (NFHSs) and other sensitive topics such as the impact of government policies on population dynamics, public health and socio-economic inequalities.

The NFHS-5 survey, the

cause of Mr James' ouster, showed that anaemia had risen, and open defecation was still prevalent in all states despite the Swachh Bharat boasting.

The survey also showed that more than 40 per cent of households did not have access to clean cooking fuel – thus questioning the claims of success of the Ujjwala Yojana. It said in rural areas, more than half the population, 57 per cent, do not have access to LPG or natural gas. Clearly, none of these findings will bring cheer to the Centre, as they bring to light certain inconvenient truths. The discomfort within the government can be gauged from the fact that some recent reports say that it was mulling to drop the anaemia measurement for NFHS-6.

Mr James' suspension is being viewed by many as a message to those who may wish to challenge official narratives: rebel at your own risk. Point taken?

The importance of being S.K. Mishra

The Modi Sarkar has gone to unprecedented lengths to retain Sanjay Kumar Mishra as the director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The government moved a special application in the Supreme Court citing "extraordinary and unusual" circumstances to allow his continuation in the post. Although few

observers buy the excuse that Mr Mishra's continuation is needed for the ongoing Financial Action Task Force (FATF) review, the apex court obliged and extended Mr Mishra's tenure till September 15, citing "public and national interest" even though earlier it had noted that the previous extension of tenure was "illegal". Clearly, Mr Mishra is a special case, according to the government.

The thing is that under Mr Mishra's tight control, the ED has acquired more powers and its investigations of Opposition leaders and critics of the government have led to allegations of "discriminate use" of the agency by the government against its detractors, even if the conviction rate in money laundering cases probed by ED remains dismal.

But what perhaps makes Mr Mishra the "ideal" babu in the eyes of the ruling party is that he maintains a low profile while making himself indispensable to those in power. Observers noted this trait in the officer even during the UPA days when he was reportedly close to the late Congress leader Ahmed Patel and Pranab Mukherjee. Apparently, during Pranab's tenure as finance minister, Mr Mishra was more powerful than even the then revenue secretary. Since then, he's come a long way and the ED has never been the same.



# Tourism Directorate Jammu to promote tourism in off-beat destination Lal Draman in Doda

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 3: The Directorate of Tourism Jammu, District Administration Doda, and Jammu Kashmir Academy of Art Culture are all set to host a two-day tourism promotion mela at Lal Draman in Doda district on the 5th and 6th of August. The event aims to promote tourism in the region and showcase the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the area.

Lal Draman -15 km from Doda town is a scenic meadow having picturesque landscapes and unique mosaic of cultures. It is surrounded by majestic mountains and beautiful landscapes, making it a popular destination for tourists looking to escape the hustle and bustle of the city. The meadow is also home to a

rich cultural heritage, with traditional customs and practices still prevalent among the local community.

The Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, while interacting with the media here on Thursday, informed that the Department is making concerted efforts to promote offbeat destinations in the region and boosting the tourism sector. He informed that Out of the 75 newly identified Off-beat destinations, 37 are in Jammu Province. He said that the Department of Tourism is committed to build a strong network of passionate individuals and organizations committed to make Jammu a prominent destination. He emphasized the importance of creating an unforgettable experience for travellers while empowering local communities and pre-



serving the region's natural and cultural heritage. He further added that the upcoming tourism promotion mela at Lal Draman is an excellent opportunity for visitors to explore the natural beauty and cultural richness of the region and experience the warmth and hospitality of the local

people. He further informed that the much-awaited "Bijrni Lal Draman road" will be inaugurated during the event. Apart from other arrangements, a beautiful tentage facility will be available for the visitors and that remain operational till 31 October on payment basis. The Joint Director of Tour-

ism Jammu, Sunaina Sharma Mehta, briefed the media about the importance of promoting sustainable tourism practices that benefit both the tourists and the local communities. She informed that elaborate arrangements have been made by District Administration Ramban and Directorate of Tourism Jammu to organise the Lal Draman Mela in a grand manner.

She further added that various activities will be conducted during the event, including trekking, zorbing, marathon, local cuisines, horse riding, Kabaddi championships, cultural performances and displaying of art & craft stalls showcasing the agro-based and rural tourism.

She also highlighted the role of the homestays initiative in providing an opportunity for

tourists to stay with local families and experience the local way of life.

She also emphasized the need to preserve the region's natural and cultural heritage for future generations, ensuring that the beauty and richness of the area are enjoyed by visitors for many years to come.

Mehta promised a fun-filled and exciting event for all visitors during the two-day tourism promotion mela at Lal Draman. Apart from the tourism promotion mela, debates will be organized for the local youth on the topics "Duties over rights" and "the expectations of the younger generation from Developed India".

This initiative aims to provide a platform for young people to voice their opinions and ideas on various issues affecting the

country and bring forth a positive change.

Deputy Director Tourism, Jammu Abdul Jabbar urged the public to participate in large numbers and make this event a grand success.

He informed the media that tourism promotion Mela at Lal Draman in Doda district is a wonderful opportunity for visitors to explore the natural beauty and cultural richness of the region.

Surely, the event promises to be exciting and informative, highlighting the beauty and diversity of the region and the commitment of the authorities to promote tourism in the region. The best successful conclusion of the event will be a testament to the region's potential as a tourist destination and the support of all stakeholders in the tourism sector.

## CEO Kupwara organizes camp for distribution of Aids appliances among CWSN

### Top News Report

HANDWARA, Aug 3: Inclusive Education Wing of Samagra Shiksha in Collaboration with ALIMCO (Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India) organized distribution Camp for Aids and Appliances among the Children with special Needs for Langate & Mawer zones at Govt Boys Middle School Langate Handwara.

Camp was inaugurated by Chairman District Development Council Kupwara Irfan Sultan Pandithpuri in presence of BDC Chairman Langate Showket H Pandith, BDC Chairman Qaziabad Bashir Ah, BDC Chairman Mawer Tahir Aftab, ZEO Lan-



gate Naseer Ah, ZEO Mawer Ab Ahad Lone, Principal Girls Hr Sec School Langate, Principal Boys Hr Sec School Langate, Headmaster Govt Boys Middle School Langate, SAMAGRA team head by Nazir Ah from CEO office Kupwara and IE team headed by District Coor-

ordinator Javid Ah wani.

While interacting with these specially-abled children, the DDC Chairman Kupwara Irfan Sultan Pandithpuri said that administration is committed towards welfare and upliftment of specially-abled persons and is doing a lot for this community

and a lot many things need to be done.

During the camp, 78 CWSN (Children with Special Needs) were provided recommended Aids and appliances as per their need already assessed.

Aids and appliances distributed include Tricycle, C.P Chairs, Wheel Chairs, Smart cane, Hearing Aid, Elbow crutches, AFO/ KFO.

District Coordinator thanked CEO Kupwara for his timely guidance, all PRIs and officers officials for their cooperation and Coordination for their presence and sharing valuable experiences during the Conduct of distribution Camp.

## SCS GDC Mendhar inaugurates plantation drive

### Top News Report

MENDHAR, Aug 3: SCS Government Degree College Mendhar in collaboration with the Social Forestry Department organized a plantation drive at the premises of College Campus.

This drive is a part of the country wide Vasuda Vandhan campaign under which every Unit is targeted to plant 75 indigenous plants/trees.

The programme was collectively organized and hosted by NSS Unit, NCC Unit, Shikshit Bharat Club and Department of Economics of the College, which was collaborated and coordinated by Social Forestry Department, Range Office Mendhar.

Amidst to the celebrations of Independence day, this plantation drive was a part of series of activities being organized by the College under the overall supervision of Dr. Mohammed Azam, Principal of the College.

The cleanliness drive was inaugurated by Vice-Principal of the College, Prof. Showket Hussain. He applauded the progress made by the concerned Units and Departments and advised them to contin-



ue their work with dedication and commitment and to make inside and outside campus Green and eco-friendly.

The drive started with the planting of pear sapling by concerned Units under the Supervision of Dr. Rehfit Naz kouser, NSS programme Officer, Prof. Mohd Akram, NCC Officer, Prof. Mur-taza Ahmed, Nodal Officer Shikshit Bharat and Dr. Tabarak Amin Khan HOD Economics. The plants were provided by Social forestry Department under the supervision of Range Officer Surankote-Mendhar range Mr. Mohd Hus-sain, who was also present in the event. During the drive many indigenous plants/trees like Deodar, Silver Rock, Almus (Manu) were planted in the College Campus and students were awarded and

inspired to do this noble cause for making the healthy and ideal environment.

At the end Dr. Rehfat Naz Kouser, NSS Programme Officer extended formal vote of thanks to all the stakeholders involved in this effective and remarkable plantation drive.

Beside the NCC, NSS and Shikshit Bharat volunteers, the other dignitaries and employees from various department who joined the plantation drive were Prof Ayaz Ahmad Choudhary HOD English, Prof. Javed Manzoor, HOD Environment Science, Prof. Asrar Ahmed HOD Sociology, Ali Asghar, IC social forestry Beat Mankote, Vishva Miter, IC beat Mendhar, Ayaz Dar, BDO Mendhar, Zahoor Ahmed, forester and Inam Ul Haq.

## Angdaan Mahotsav celebrated by GDC Kishtwar

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Aug 3: On the Occasion of "Angdaan Mahotsav" a debate competition was organized on "Importance of Organ Donation" by NSS unit of Govt. Degree College Kishtwar in Conference Hall of College Campus.

The program was organised under the patronship of Principal of the College Dr Jyoti Parihar in which more than 60 students participated and threw light on the importance of Organ Donation. Around 10 students spoke on Importance of Organ Donation.

In the 2nd session Panch Pran Pledge taking organized under the banner of "Meri Maati, Mera Desh". Dr

Vijay Kumar NSS programme officer supervised the whole event while Prof. Umer Din Rather, Prof. Falak, Prof. Romana, Prof. Sonika Sen, Dr. Sehrish Gazal-NSS Advisory Committee Members assisted the proceedings.

During the event Prof. Falak, HOD English spoke at length about the importance of Organ donation. Prof. Sonika Sen, H.O.D Sociology also emphasized on the importance of Organ Donation and encouraged the students to participate in these kinds of Programme in future.

Prof. Romana, Prof. Sonika Sen and Dr. Sehrish Gazal were the Jury members.

## Subrato Cup U-14 Football Championship Sainik School Nagrota bags Runner-Up Trophy in UT Level



### Top News Report

NAGROTA, Aug 3: The Union Territory Level U-14 Subrato Cup Football Championship final was organized by District Youth Services & Sports, Srinagar at Gindun Sports Centre, Ikhrajpora, Srinagar. The highly anticipated face-off between Jammu Division represented by Sainik School Nagrota U-14 Boys team and Srinagar Division proved to be a nail-biting contest.

The young colts of Sainik School Nagrota qualified to play the finals by emerging winners of Jammu Division quali-

fier matches held at Khel Gaon Nagrota earlier in May 23. Despite putting up a spirited show the team finished Runners-up in the tournament.

Cadet Ayush Sharma, the Captain of the School team received the prestigious trophy from the Chief Guest Wazim Raja, Joint Director, Dept of Youth Services & Sports, Kashmir.

Capt (IN) AK Desai, Principal sent a special word of appreciation to the School Team for their excellent performance and display of highest standards of sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

## Toyota Kirloskar Motor unveils all-new 'Vellfire' in India

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 3: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) on Thursday launched the highly anticipated All-New Vellfire, a luxurious self-charging strong hybrid electric masterpiece that redefines the essence of comfort, sophistication, and performance in the Indian automotive landscape.

The All-New Vellfire offers excellent comfort and refined mobility, commanding force and dynamic prowess that elevates the driving experience to extraordinary heights.

Crafted with seamlessly intuitive technology and thoughtful amenities, the vehicle embodies convenience and opulence into every journey. While the All-New Vellfire delivers a powerful performance, it also ensures low fuel consumption and carbon footprints. Vellfire being a strong hybrid electric vehicle (SHEV), studies have shown that SHEVs can run 40% of distance and 60% of time on electric or zero emission mode with engine off.

Sharing his thoughts on Toyota's All-New Vellfire Launch in India, Masakazu Yoshimura, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Toyota Kirloskar Motor said, "Today marks a momentous milestone in our India journey as we introduce the All-New Vellfire, a symbol of Toyota's class-leading technology, comfort and elegance. We are thrilled to present this masterpiece to the customers which represents the pinnacle of luxury, while embracing a greener future. This further reflects our relentless efforts, by adopting multiple path-

ways towards realizing 'Carbon Neutrality', and in line with the direction of the 'Government of India'. We remain steadfast in our pursuit of mass electrification and offering sustainable mobility, as we strive to create a better tomorrow for all."

Also speaking on Toyota's latest offering, Atul Sood, Vice President - Sales and Strategic Marketing, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "The introduction of the All-New Vellfire in the India market signifies a remarkable milestone in our pursuit of excellence. We understand the discerning preferences of the market and strive to push boundaries and set new benchmarks in the automotive industry. The All-New Vellfire, with its refined aesthetics, and advanced features, brings a new level of opulence and sophistication. The vehicle's spacious interiors provide a haven of relaxation and indulgence, allowing passengers to truly immerse themselves in a world of luxury. With unique design interfaces and intuitive controls, every aspect of this new model is crafted to make driving effortless and enjoyable."

The All-New Vellfire delivery is expected to commence from November 2023 onwards. With this new launch, we are confident to further elevate the positive demand which the Vellfire Brand has established for itself over the last 4 years, since its first-ever introduction, in India. We are taking every effort to maximize the supply to the best possible & deliver the All-New Vellfire at

the right time and right location to our discerned customers".

Experience an awesome driving experience with the courtesy of the All-New Vellfire's TNGA platform (GA-K). With enhanced rigidity and stability, the advanced suspension system endows the All-New Vellfire with superior manoeuvrability, while offering luxurious & comfortable ride. In addition, this strong hybrid electric vehicle (SHEV) model, features a 2.5-liter inline four-cylinder DOHC (Double Overhead Camshaft) engine, offers maximum power output of 142 kW (@ 6000 rpm) and a maximum torque of 240 Nm @ 4300-4500 rpm. It is also coupled with electric motor and a hybrid battery, ensuring low emissions whilst delivering a delightful driving experience. The Toyota's Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicle System promises an outstanding fuel efficiency (19.28 km per liter\*), contributing to a greener and more sustainable future.

The All-New Vellfire is available in exciting colors - Platinum Pearl White, Jet Black & Precious Metal and 3 interior colors - Sunset Brown [New Color], Neutral Beige & Black, reflecting premiumness. Needless to mention, the All-New Vellfire offers the renowned Toyota experience through a warranty of 3 years/100,000 kilometers and an option of extended warranty of up to 5 years/220,000 kilometers, 3 years free roadside assistance, attractive financial schemes and 8 yrs/160,000 kilometers warranty on the Hybrid battery.

## UIET Kathua Campus organizes Expert Talk under Lecture Series

### Top News Report

KATHUA, Aug 3: Under the Expert Lecture Series, UIET, Kathua Campus (JU) organized an Expert Talk (6th in the series) on the topic "Bulk Heterojunction: A New Class of Solar Cells". The resource person was Dr. Dinesh Pathak from The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. Pathak has also been awarded with Rising star award and International Union of crystallography award by Asian and Chinese crystallography society in Beijing City, China.

Dr. Pathak discussed that bulk heterojunction solar cells present a promising avenue for advancing solar energy technology.

He said that their unique structure, broad light absorption range, and potential for cost-effective production make them an exciting prospect for the future of renewable energy.

He added that the solar cells are based on a unique concept of blending two different semiconductor materials including polymer and fullerene derivative.

He further highlighted that this blend forms a continuous network of electron-donor and electron-acceptor regions that provides an efficient pathway for charge separation and transport.

Dr. Pathak also stressed that bulk heterojunction solar cells offer several other notable benefits that makes them suitable for various applications including integration into flexible electronic devices and building-integrated photovoltaics.

Dr. Meenakshi Kilam, Rector, Kathua Campus (JU) in her message eulogized the resource person for sparing his time and interacting with the students of Kathua Campus.

She urged everyone to support and contribute to the progress of bulk heterojunction solar cells and other renewable energy solutions.

She said that by working together, it is possible to usher a brighter, cleaner, and more sustainable future for generations to come. She further highlighted that the efficiency of bulk heterojunction solar cells has continued to rise and will show tre-

mendous performance for the sustainable development.

Dr. Sourabh Shastri, I/c Coordinator, UIET, Kathua Campus (JU) welcomed and introduced the resource person. He said that solar energy has emerged as a crucial solution to address the growing global energy demand while mitigating the impacts of climate change, where bulk heterojunction solar cells offers a revolutionary approach in harnessing sunlight.

Dr. Shivani Sharma coordinated the whole programme and Er. Arooshi Gupta delivered vote of thanks.

Dr. Narinder Kumar, Er. Sushant Galgal, Er. Sandeep Raj, Dr. Seema Jamwal, Amarjeet Chopra, Palvi Verma, Er. Komal Khadotra, Ritu Sharma, Dr. Nisha Choudhary, Er. Vishavjeet Singh, Er. Sourav Gupta, Gaurav Sharma, Dr. Zahir Ansari, Pranav Ratta, Ritika Goal, Tiharika Nath, Kamakshi and other teaching and non-teaching staff of the Campus participated in the talk.



## Acclaimed director Nila Madhab Panda makes his digital debut with 'cli-fi' The Jengaburu Curse, which is based on how human greed has led to largescale destruction globally

Nila Madhab Panda is a passionate storyteller, who effortlessly weaves social causes into entertaining, engaging narratives. His directorial I Am Kalam and Kadvi Hawa, among others, won critical acclaim. The recipient of many awards globally, Panda makes another leap with The Jengaburu Curse, touted as India's first climate fiction (cli-fi). While the climate concerns have been central to the recent film Bhediya and web series Dahan; Jengaburu, which translates into 'red hill' and starts in Orissa, narrates a global story.

Panda has written and directed the web series. "When you bring hawa and paani and try to build a thriller, it is a long, rewarding journey. Something that you enjoy even though it translates into sleepless nights," shares Panda. The story begins in Orissa and moves to London, Myanmar and North Korea. "It's a story of how we suffer day-to-day due to climate change. It is about how human greed has led to it all."

Panda's films often raise an issue and he makes people love it. He explains, "I believe when artistes also become responsible the impact is more," says Panda, talking of Malayalam film 2018, which was based around the catastrophic consequences



of the Kerala floods in 2018. "As the world becomes climate-conscious, we would see more of such cinema."

**Shock value**  
National Award and Padma Shri recipient, we ask the Jalpari director the value of honours. "Recognition pushes me to another level. Civil honours make one more responsible." Not that he feels the pressure of churning another award-winning film, but would rather make something drastically fresh. "I don't take any pressure, but want to work harder and give better stories. I want each of my films to be distinct, which people

get shocked after watching ki yeh kya bana diya!"

Being part of prestigious film festivals around the world, and on the jury of some, including IFFI (International Film Festival of India), Panda loves it all. "One gets to see such diverse cinema," he says. As much he appreciates others, he admires Bollywood too, "Bollywood remains our best brand ambassador globally."

Writing and composing music remains Panda's first love. "I really enjoy the writing process." When not working on a film, Panda has a huge interest in farming. In fact, he penned

a book Return to Innocence, which describes the colossal transformations in the country and the world over during the last few decades.

Having been working relentlessly, he is eagerly awaiting a response to The Jengaburu Curse and wants to take a break before starting another project. "My first web series presents a whole new world in terms of location, casting and how the story is approached; it's a never seen world on OTT."

A Rollercoaster ride, says actress Faria Abdullah

In The Jengaburu Curse, Telugu actress Faria Abdullah plays the character of Priya Das, a financial analyst in London, for whom life takes a 360-degree turn. She describes the experience as a rollercoaster ride. "This was 100 days of many emotions. The elation of being part of Nila Madhab Panda's spectacular vision, shooting in jungles as well as cities the world over and the character going through such traumatic experiences... it has forever changed how I would see the world." Faria makes her Hindi debut with this series, and found support in her director. "Nila Madhab sir is an insane artiste. He has a great vision."

(The Jengaburu Curse streams on Sony LIV from August 9).

## Actor Chrisann Pereira, held in Sharjah in drugs case, returns to Mumbai after release



Actor Chrisann Pereira, who was released by Sharjah authorities after being implicated in a drugs case, has returned to Mumbai, an official said on Thursday.

She will meet Mumbai Police Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar and other senior police officials later in the day, he said.

Pereira (27), who acted

in Mahesh Bhatt-directed Bollywood movie 'Sadak 2', was apprehended at the Sharjah airport on April 1 after drugs were found inside a memento which some persons had asked her to hand over to someone in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

She spent nearly a month in a prison in Sharjah.

During the probe into

the case, it came to light that she was framed by some persons, later arrested by the Mumbai crime branch, the official said.

The authorities in Sharjah had released her after the probe into the case, but she could not return here immediately due to some legal formalities.

After completion of the legal formalities, authorities in the UAE allowed the actor to leave for India.

Accordingly, the actor has returned to Mumbai, the official said.

After Pereira's arrest in the UAE, two of the accused, Anthony Paul and his friend Rajesh alias Ravi Bobhate, allegedly demanded Rs 80 lakh from her mother to arrange for her release.

The actor was released after the Mumbai police sent case-related documents to authorities in the UAE.

The Mumbai police in June filed a chargesheet against Paul, Bobhate and another person for allegedly framing Pereira in the drugs case.

## Have talent, will shine

Afreen Alvi says that while there are many factors involved in making it big in this industry, talent is what sets you apart.

"There are a lot of fish in the pool, and only the intelligent ones survive. In the same case, there are lots of people who aspire to be actors, but the talented ones survive. These two qualities make you different from the others," she says.

She adds, "I think that's how the industry works. No one has the time or patience to wait in this industry. If I'm offered a role and I can invest my time in it, I will take it up."

Casting, power games, lobbying, and nepotism are part of the industry, she says. "These things are present in our industry, and one has to go through them.

But I feel that hard



work, patience, and socialising helped me achieve success," she adds.

## Hrithik Roshan-starrer 'Koi...Mil Gaya' to re-release in theatres ahead of its 20th anniversary

To celebrate the 20th release anniversary of "Koi... Mil Gaya", starring Hrithik Roshan, the makers of the sci-fi hit on Wednesday said the film is set to be re-released in select theatres across the country on August 4.

"Koi... Mil Gaya", directed by Rakesh Roshan, originally hit the screens on August 8 in 2003 and narrated the story of a developmentally disabled man called Rohit (Hrithik Roshan), who befriends Jadoo, an extraterrestrial being.

Also starring Preity Zinta, Rekha, Prem Chopra and Johnny Lever, the movie will be re-released in PVR INOX screens this Friday across 30 cities in India.

Rakesh Roshan said he hopes the re-release



of the film takes the audiences on a nostal-

gic trip. "The team at PVR

INOX reached out to us to celebrate 20 years of 'Koi... Mil Gaya'. I was happy to know of their plans and jointly decided to re-release the film. The idea is to relive the nostalgia.

"We hope the re-release marks to be a family outing with parents taking their kids to cinema halls and introducing the new generation to Jaadoo, while the parents reminisce memories of watching the film 20 years ago," the veteran filmmaker said in a statement.

Rakesh Roshan, who also produced "Koi... Mil Gaya", said it is surreal that his film continues to be loved after two decades.

"We set out to make 'Koi... Mil Gaya' as a children's film that would be enjoyed by the kids

and also entertain their families. It was a risk I was taking as a filmmaker introducing a sci-fi film with an alien, but the audience response was my biggest reward.

"It was satisfying and strengthened my belief as a filmmaker to keep making films on different genres, storylines and keep experimenting. Knowing that it's 20 years, and 'Koi... Mil Gaya' is still etched in the audience's mind is a very heartwarming feeling," the 73-year-old added.

The success of "Koi... Mil Gaya" spawned a superhero franchise, beginning with "Krrish", which was released in 2006, followed by "Krrish 3" in 2013. There have been reports that a fourth film in the franchise is in the works.

## Vaani Kapoor casts a spell in red chikankari lehenga at India Couture Week 2023



On Day 8 of India Couture Week, designer

Isha Jajodia made a debut with her Romantic

Reverie collection and actress Vaani Kapoor turned muse for her.

Vaani walked the ramp wearing a red chikankari ensemble that featured handcrafted details over the blouse, skirt and dupatta. She wore a sleeveless blouse with a plunging neckline. She slayed the fusion-inspired outfit like a queen. Her smoky eyes, blushed cheeks, glossy lips and wavy hair raised the glam quotient. To complement her outfit, she added a diamond emerald necklace.

Her collection drew inspiration from the captivating fusion of French Riviera fashion and the allure of Hollywood's golden era. Each garment in this collection paid homage to the glamorous vintage era, as intricate chikankari details, delicate laces and dreamy organza fabrics intertwine with pearls and crystals.

## Gyanendra Tripathi talks about his character in Half CA



Amazon MiniTV recently premiered Half CA featuring Ahsaas Channa, Gyanendra Tripathi and Anmol Kajani, among others. The story revolves around Archi, who struggles with the fundamental question of "Why do CA?", and her ambitious cousin brother Niraj, who has not given up on his dream even after two unsuccessful attempts to clear the exam for CA.

While talking about his character, Tripathi says, "I played Niraj's character, who is an aspiring CA and comes from a middle-class family based in Nashik. Niraj wants to be a CA for all the right reasons; he knows how important this job is for every earning citizen of this country and what values are attached to this profession. He is extremely hardworking and sincere, but yet he is not able to crack this, one of the toughest exams. But since society only values and appreciates the result and not the process, he is often mocked for being a Half CA. A person who has the knowledge and ability but doesn't have a stamp, so to be able to live his dream, he has to take that stamp."

## Nikki Sharma learns local dialect of Varanasi to bring authenticity to her character

Nikki Sharma, who plays the character of Shakti, a young and passionate girl from Varanasi, in Zee TV's show Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya Shiv Shakti, has tried her best to make her character stand out. To portray Shakti with utmost authenticity, Nikki even adapted the local dialect of Varanasi and spoke in the particular dialect regularly to get the right diction.

Nikki says, "I have been learning the dialect for the show. I have always believed that with every character, an actor gets to learn a lot of things, and it makes them grow. Even though we are using Hindi as a language for our conversations, there are some words and mantras that need to be said correctly.

While the whole team has been helping me to get the nuances right, I'm loving this whole



process of learning new things, and I hope I can

do justice to my character."



## 'I am a married man for 45 years, mujhe gussa nahi aata': Jagdeep Dhankhar says Rajya Sabha

He was responding to a remark by Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge

NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (Agencies): Amid continuous acrimony between ruling BJP and INDIA alliance parties in Rajya Sabha, Chairman of the House Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday tried to create a light-hearted moment in the House when he said, "I am married for 45 years, I do not get angry," while responding to a remark by Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge.

Kharge was insisting that the business of the House be set aside to prioritise Rule 267, which allows for the suspension of rules to debate an urgent matter with the Chairman's approval.

"You said that to accept it, there should be a reason. I stated the reason. Yesterday, I requested you the same, but maybe you were angry," Kharge told the Chairman.

This led Dhankhar to respond saying: "I am a married man for more than 45 years, main kabhi gussa nahi karta (I never get angry). Trust me," and the



House burst into laughter.

In the midst of the light-hearted banter, Dhankhar continued with a touch of humour, "Mr Chidambaram is a very distinguished senior advocate we know, as a senior advocate we have no right to show our anger, at least to authorities. You are an authority. Isko modify kardo thoda. (Please modify this statement)."

Then Kharge, too, responded in an equally lighter vein, saying: "You don't get angry, you don't

show anger, but you get angry from inside."

However, before this Dhankhar and Kharge exchanged barbs over the former's refusal to direct the Prime Minister to come to the House for a discussion over Manipur.

The Opposition and the Government agreed to hold a discussion on the violence in Manipur. Dhankhar stated that he will call the floor leaders of parties to his chambers at 1 pm and "accommodate a discussion on

Manipur irrespective of time and other constraints."

Following this, Kharge suggested that the House be adjourned till 1 pm. He went on to say, "Sir, you don't agree to such small requests. We asked for the Prime Minister to come, you didn't agree to that either. You are defending the PM so much...I don't understand."

On this Dhankhar said, "Our Prime Minister does not need to be defended by me. He has come to be recognised on global platforms — Senate and Congress in the US... Every Indian should be proud of him... Why are you shirking from the hard reality, India is rising as never before. The rise is unstoppable... Everyone has contributed to it. I am not required to defend anyone."

"After three decades of coalition government under the PM, I am not required to defend anyone. I am required to defend the Constitution. I am required to defend your rights," Dhankhar added.

## Allahabad High Court allows ASI survey at Gyanvapi mosque



PRAYAGRAJ, Aug 3 (Agencies): The Allahabad High Court on Thursday dismissed a petition filed by the Gyanvapi committee challenging a district court order directing the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to conduct a survey to determine if the mosque was built upon a temple.

It said the district court order is just and proper, and no interference from this court is warranted.

ranted.

The Varanasi district court had on July 21 directed the ASI to conduct a "detailed scientific survey" — including excavations, wherever necessary — to determine if the Gyanvapi mosque located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple is built upon a temple.

The Anjuman Intezamia Masjid committee, which manages the mosque, had moved the

high court on July 25, a day after the Supreme Court halted the ASI survey till 5 pm on July 26, allowing time for the committee to appeal against the lower court's order.

Allahabad High Court Chief Justice Pritinker Diwaker had reserved the order on the mosque committee's petition on July 27 after hearing arguments from both sides.

Dismissing the petition on Thursday, the high court said there is no reason not to believe the ASI's assurance that the survey would not cause any damage to the structure.

It asserted that no digging should be done at the mosque as part of the survey.

The order of the district court for a survey on the disputed premises is just and proper, and no interference from this court is warranted, it added.

## 17 injured in clashes in Manipur's Bishnupur; day curfew reimposed in Imphal valley

IMPHAL, Aug 3 (Agencies): Seventeen people were injured in clashes as the Army and RAF personnel fired teargas shells at Kangvai and Phougakchao area in Bishnupur district on Thursday, officials said.

The district magistrates of Imphal East and Imphal West also withdrew curfew relaxations announced earlier, imposing the restrictions during the day as a precautionary measure, on top of the night curfew throughout the Imphal valley.

Hours before the clashes, a planned

mass burial of Kuki-Zomi people killed in Manipur's ethnic violence was stalled after the state's High Court on Thursday morning ordered status quo to be maintained at the proposed burial site in Churachandpur district.

The ITLF, an apex tribal body, also said it was postponing the burial of 35 people at the site in Haolai Khopi village of Churachandpur district, on the border with Bishnupur.

Tension has been brewing since morning in Bishnupur district as thousands of locals

came out on the streets to block the movement of security forces.

Locals led by women tried to pass the barricade put up by the Army and RAF personnel, demanding that they be allowed to go to Tuibong, the burial site.

During the day, the state government withdrew curfew relaxations in Imphal East and West districts as a precautionary measure.

The district magistrates of Imphal East and West issued separate orders reimposing the day curfew apprehending disturbance.

## 1 killed, 6 injured as girder launcher falls on workers in Gujarat's Vadodara

VADODARA, Aug 3 (Agencies): One worker was killed and six others injured after a girder launcher fell on them during the construction of a high-speed rail corridor for the upcoming bullet train project near Karjan town in Gujarat's Vadodara district on Thursday, officials said.

The incident occurred near Kambola village in the morning, they said.

It took place two days after a girder launcher collapsed in neighbouring Maharashtra killing 20 persons, including 10 labourers, during the construction of a viaduct for the Samruddhi



Expressway in Thane district early on Tuesday.

"Construction work for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train corridor is currently under way at Kambola village of Karjan taluka. Due to some technical issues, a girder launcher fell on workers," Karjan

MLA Akshay Patel, who rushed to the spot after the incident, told report-

ers. "Of the total seven workers who got crushed under the metal structure, one died on the spot, while others were pulled out safely and referred to a hospital," he said.

Soon after being alerted, personnel of the local fire brigade as well as police rushed to the spot and started a

rescue operation. In a statement, the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL), which is executing the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor, said one worker who was trying to check the wheelbase got trapped and died.

"Today, in the MAHSR C-4 package of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor construction site in Karjan near Vadodara, a girder launcher after successfully completing 14 km of girder launching had reached its new launching location near Vadodara," it said.

The launching gantry was shifted on top of the girder transporter to the launching location. While self-unloading from the girder transporter, the wheelbase of the front support got jammed and got inclined, thereby disturbing a part of the launching gantry, it said.

"One worker, who was trying to check the wheelbase, got trapped and died. Six other workers, who suffered minor injuries, were admitted to a nearby hospital. NHSRCL senior officials have already reached the site," it said.

## Noted Marathi poet Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor passes away

PUNE, Aug 3 (Agencies): Noted Marathi poet and lyricist Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor, popularly known as Na Dho Mahanor, died in a hospital in Maharashtra's Pune city on Thursday morning due to old age-related ailments, a family member said.

He was 81. He was admitted to the Ruby Hall Clinic here for the last few days and was on ventilator support, his grandson Shashikant Mahanor said.

Born in 1942, Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor had been awarded Padma Shri, the fourth-highest



civilian award. He had also been a member of the state legislative council.

He penned several popular poems and songs, including 'Jagala Prem Arpave', 'Ganga Wahu De Nirmal' and 'Divelaganichi Vel', and also wrote songs for

Marathi movies like 'Ek Hota Vidushak', 'Jait Re Jait', 'Sarja' and others. He is survived by two sons and three daughters.

His last rites will be performed at his native place Palaskheda in Aurangabad district, a family member said.

## 1 person killed, 2 injured as truck overturns on Mumbai-Pune Expressway; traffic affected

MUMBAI, Aug 3 (Agencies): A person was killed and two others received injuries when a speeding glass-laden truck overturned after hitting another truck on Mumbai-Pune Expressway in Maharashtra's Raigad district in the wee hours of Thursday, police said.

Vehicular movement on a Mumbai-bound lane was affected for a few hours it was closed between 5.30 am to 8.30 am to remove the truck and the glass material scattered on the road, an official said.

The accident took place when the truck carrying the glass material rammed into another truck from its rear side and then overturned on the expressway in Khopoli area, he said.

Three persons received serious injuries and were taken to hospital. One of them, identified as Sadanand Patil (43), driver of the glass-laden truck, succumbed to injuries during treatment, the official said.

The Mumbai-bound lane was opened for traffic after 8.30 am and the vehicular movement was slow, he said.

## Chhattisgarh man with mental health problems kills wife, 3 daughters

JANJGIR, Aug 3 (Agencies): A man with mental health issues allegedly killed his wife and three daughters with a hoe, an agricultural tool, in Chhattisgarh's Janjgir-Champa district, the police said on Thursday.

The incident took place on the night of July 31 at Devri village under Pantora police post but it came to light on Wednesday following which the suspect, Deshraj Kashyap, was arrested. Janjgir-Champa Superintendent of Police Vijay Agrawal said.

The deceased were identified as Kashyap's wife Mongra Bai (40) and their daughters Pujya, alias Kalyani (16), Bhagya Lakshmi (10) and Yachna (6), he said.

As per preliminary information, Kashyap lived with mental health problems and had been undergoing treatment for the last 10 years, he said.

Kashyap returned home on July 31 after visiting a doctor in neighbouring Bilaspur district.

The same night, he allegedly killed his wife

and three daughters with a hoe and left the house after locking the gate, he said.

Suspecting something was fishy as no one from the family was seen in the house for two days, the village head informed the police on Wednesday.

The police found four bodies in the house and shifted them for post-mortem, he said.

The exact reason for the murders is yet to be ascertained, said the official, adding a case had been registered against Kashyap.

## Body of minor girl recovered from brick kiln in Rajasthan's Bhilwara; locals allege rape and murder

Locals allege that the girl was raped before she was thrown into the kiln

JAIPUR, Aug 3 (Agencies): The burnt body of a 14-year-old girl has been recovered from a brick kiln in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan, police said today.

Locals alleged that the girl was raped before she was thrown into the kiln.

Late on Wednesday night, while looking for the girl who went missing in the morning, her family spotted her footwear near a brick kiln. On peeping inside, they

found her bangle and a few bones, the police said.

Locals caught hold of a few persons of the Kalbelia nomadic tribe, suspecting their involvement in the crime, and handed them over to the police, they said.

Around four to five people from the nomadic community who operate the kiln and live near it have been detained and are being interrogated at the Kotda police station, they added.



BJP leader Kalulal Gurjar who reached the village and met the victim's family alleged that the girl was raped and her body burnt in the kiln.

Gurjar alleged that the police did not act

promptly in the case and detained the suspected accused only after the villagers caught them.

Police said they had not yet ruled out the possibility of rape in the matter, adding that further probe is on.

## ED conducts fresh searches in money-laundering case against Tamil Nadu minister V Senthil Balaji

CHENNAI, Aug 3 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday conducted fresh searches in connection with its ongoing money-laundering investigation against Tamil Nadu minister V Senthil Balaji and others, official sources said.

They said premises linked to some entities being probed in this case and alleged benamidars (in whose name a benami property is standing) were being raided in Coimbatore and Karur.

Balaji continues to be a minister without portfolio in the Tamil Nadu government even after his arrest by the ED on June 14 in a money-laundering case linked to an alleged cash-for-jobs scam in the



Tamil Nadu transport department.

The federal probe agency told the Supreme Court on Wednesday that Balaji was preventing it from exercising its right of custodial interrogation and the apex court reserved its verdict on the pleas of the DMK leader and his spouse challenging his arrest. The top court had on July 21 sought the ED's response on the petitions filed by Balaji and his wife Megala challenging the July 14 order of the Madras High Court upholding his arrest by the probe agency in a money-laundering case.

The minister and his wife have filed two separate petitions in the top court challenging the high court order.



## Should Trump go to jail? 2024 election could become a referendum on that question

*Critics have long alleged that Trump's fear of prosecution was a chief motivator for his decision to mount another campaign*

NEW YORK, Aug 3 (Agencies): The 2024 election will determine whether former president Donald Trump returns to the White House. It could also decide if he will face time behind bars.

Now slapped with his third criminal indictment—this time for his efforts to overturn the 2020 election and block the transfer of presidential power—for Trump, winning is about more than ego, redemption, score-settling or the future of the United States.

"This election may very well be about Donald Trump's personal freedom," said Ari Fleischer, a longtime Republican strategist. "It is not an exaggeration to say, if convicted, he could be sentenced to prison unless he wins and he uses the levers of justice to reverse it or stop it or drop it."

The deeply personal stakes for Trump add to what is already an election unlike any other in modern history. It is now not only a debate over the country's challenges, but a partisan fight over whether the 77-year-old former president and GOP frontrunner should spend time in prison. Putting that issue out front, Trump ally Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., tweeted that she "will still vote for Trump even if he's in jail".

Critics have long alleged that Trump's fear of prosecution was a chief motivator for his decision to mount another campaign. While Trump denies that—insisting that charges never would have been brought had he decided against running—the new indictment ensures his campaign and legal issues are now intertwined.

"The legal messaging is the political messaging and the political messaging is the legal messaging," Trump campaign spokesman Steven Cheung said of the new reality. "It is part of what we are running on. Trump has made the legal issues a big focus of his campaign and from our standpoint, it is messaging that works."

The combined 78 state and federal charges against Trump are already dominating his stump speeches as he seeks to portray himself as the victim of a politicised Justice Department bent on damaging the prospects of President Joe Biden's chief political rival. At his rallies, he tries to frame the charges as not



just an attack on him, but his supporters.

"They are not indicting me, they are indicting you," he told the crowd at a weekend rally in Erie, Pennsylvania.

On a more practical level, Trump is confronting an unprecedented balancing act, campaigning while facing possible trials in at least three different jurisdictions.

He will appear in federal court in Washington on Thursday to face the latest charges, before headlining an Alabama Republican Party dinner on Friday. He faces another arraignment next week in Florida after special counsel Jack Smith filed additional criminal charges against him there in the case related to his handling of classified documents. That will come between a campaign stop in New Hampshire and a possible trip to the Iowa State Fair.

Trump also faces the potential of new charges in Atlanta related to efforts to overturn the 2020 election results in Georgia and must also decide whether to attend the first Republican presidential debate on August 23.

Trump campaign officials said they were not worried about such logistical challenges.

"President Trump's campaign will not be impacted by the deep state's efforts at election interference no matter how hard they try," said Trump senior campaign adviser Jason Miller, who, like others, argued Trump and his team are well-practised at being on defence.

Cheung noted that, to date, no campaign events had been rescheduled or cancelled because of legal proceedings and that, if anything, more stops have been added.

"It is full speed ahead," he said before the latest indictment.

But the challenge for Trump goes beyond politics. Each of the cases against him—ranging from the classified documents case in Florida to allegations in New York of making improper hush-money payments to women and the indictment released on Tuesday—will require intense preparation.

"Obviously, under normal circumstances, it is impossible to prepare for more than one criminal trial at a time," said Barry Boss, a leading white-collar criminal defence attorney. "Usually that is overwhelming in and of itself. So the notion of having multiple indictments that you are facing is just to me inconceivable." In general, rules require defendants in federal cases to be present for major events like their initial appearances and when a verdict is returned, but give them leeway to decide when else to appear.

"There are some people who are very engaged in their defence and want to talk to you every day, and there are others that leave it to you and will be available if you need them," Boss said.

The investigations are also dominating Trump's campaign spending. So far this year, the former president's political operation has spent more on legal fees defending him, his staff and his allies than on travel, rallies and other campaign expenses combined, an AP analysis found.

Under Department of Justice guidelines, sitting presidents are generally shielded from indictment and criminal prosecution. But winning back the White House would not protect Trump indefinitely.

If he is elected anew, he could direct his attorney general to dismiss the federal cases, fire

prosecutors or test the limits of presidential power by trying to pardon himself. But those efforts would only apply to the federal cases, not the state criminal charges he faces in New York or could face in Georgia.

Even if Trump does not end up the nominee, a different Republican president would likely face enormous pressure from Trump to drop the charges to placate his supporters—a type of pressure no president has faced since Gerald Ford pardoned his predecessor, Richard Nixon, for his Watergate crimes.

In all, "It is extraordinarily bad news and the impact internationally would be devastating. That is why people need to come to their senses," said John Bolton, Trump's former national security adviser and now critic, who believes the reality heightens the pressure on Republicans to find an alternative candidate. "Somebody better take the initiative and say we are heading off the edge of a cliff here."

But so far, Trump has faced little political fallout from his indictments, his big lead over Republican challengers even growing as they struggle to respond. At the same time, he has used the prospect of jail time to try to raise cash.

The "Department of Justice" he complained in a recent fundraising email, "is trying to put ME in JAIL for the rest of my life as an innocent man". Other solicitations have arrived with subject lines like "re: 400 YEARS in prison".

Fleischer said voters will begin to view Trump's legal triumphs and losses through the lens of the campaign.

If charges in one case are dismissed, for instance, "it will be like he won this legal primary", and if a judge rules against him, "people will feel like he lost the first day of the court primary".

Fleischer said that if Trump ends up having to spend significant time in court, he can imagine the former president holding forth on the courthouse steps, telling voters watching at home, "I am not on trial, you are on trial. And I am in this courtroom fighting for you."

"It can take him off the road, but he just has another platform on which to have his voice heard. To him it is all one campaign."

## 'No good options': Sudan's warring sides have committed 'extensive war crimes', says Amnesty

CAIRO, Aug 3 (Agencies): A leading human rights group said on Thursday Sudan's warring parties have committed "extensive war crimes" including mass killings of civilians, rape and sexual slavery of women in the ongoing conflict.

The east African country plunged into chaos in mid-April when monthlong tensions between the military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces exploded into open fighting in the capital of Khartoum, and elsewhere across the country.

Amnesty International's 56-page report said civilians were deliberately targeted and killed and wounded. Women were raped, with some of them held in conditions "amounting to sexual slavery" mostly in the capital, Khartoum, and the western region of Darfur.

"Sexual violence has been a defining element of this conflict since the beginning," Donatella Rovera, co-author of the report, told The Associated Press. "Civilians really have no good options. It's difficult for them to leave. It's incredibly dangerous for them to stay."

Almost all rape cases were blamed on the RSF and its allied Arab militias. The report said the RSF abducted 24 women and girls — as young as 12— and held them "for several days during which they were raped by several RSF members."

Rovera said that war crimes such as sexual assault are happening, "on what seems to be a large scale." While the RSF, which was born out of the notorious Janjaweed militias, was also blamed for most of the deliberate attacks and rape cases, some members of the military were accused of the crimes, Amnesty said.

Responding to the report, the military said they had established a unit to ensure targeted

decisions to minimise civilian harm while the RSF denied allegations of sexual violence, as well as carrying out violent acts in West Darfur.

The conflict has turned Khartoum and other urban areas into battlefields. Darfur — which had been the scene of genocidal war in the early 2000s — saw some of the worst bouts of violence with the current fighting turning into ethnic clashes.

The fighting forced about 4 million people to flee their homes either to safer areas inside Sudan or to neighbouring countries, according to the UN migration agency.

The violence in Darfur was mostly blamed on the RSF and its allied Arab militias who the group said targeted the African Masalit community in the region. The group, however, said armed men from the Masalit allegedly also targeted Arabs suspected of siding with militias.

Amnesty detailed waves of violence in West Darfur province — one of five constituting the Darfur region — including the killing of civilians, looting and destruction of homes and facilities such as the main hospital and markets.

The killing of West Darfur Gov. Khamis Abdalla Abkar on June 14 — following his detention by the RSF — promoted an exodus of many members of the African Masalit community to eastern Chad, which turned into an open camp for those who fled the fighting in Darfur, Amnesty said.

"Civilians throughout Sudan are suffering unimaginable horror every single day," said Agnès Callamard, the group's secretary general. He called on the warring sides and their affiliated groups to "end their targeting of civilians, and guarantee safe passage for those seeking safety."

On April 20, an attack in Khartoum's southern

neighbourhood of Kalakla killed three children from the same family as they tried to escape the gunfire, the group said, adding that it was not able to determine which side was responsible for the killing.

Amnesty quoted Kadi Abbas, a 55-year-old teacher, whose two sons and nephew were killed, as saying they "were small and couldn't run away fast enough... I don't know who shot them. The war killed them."

The group said it also documented an attack by the RSF on the complex of the Mar Girgis Coptic church in Khartoum's Bahri district. RSF members in a pick-up vehicle stormed the church shooting five members of the clergy, and stole money and a gold cross, the report said citing witnesses.

"They were shouting and insulting us — saying things like, Egyptian dogs and sons of dogs' — and asking for money and gold," an unnamed survivor was quoted by the human rights group.

Amnesty's report was the latest one documenting atrocities in Sudan's conflict.

Last month, Human Rights Watch called for the International Criminal Court to investigate atrocities in Darfur including "summary executions" of around three dozen of 28 non-Arab tribesmen in a Darfur town.

The United Nations Human Rights Office said a mass grave was found outside Geneina with at least 87 bodies, citing credible information. And the International Criminal Court's prosecutor, Karim Khan, told the UN Security Council in July they were investigating alleged new war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur.

"There are allegations that this could be ethnic cleansing," said Rovera, "the situation is a very difficult one, is a very dangerous one because it can escalate further."

## China proposes to limit children's smartphone time to a maximum of 2 hours a day

*Restrictions are Beijing's latest efforts to attempt to limit internet addiction, a problem it views as widespread among its youth*

BEIJING, Aug 3 (Agencies): China's internet watchdog has laid out regulations to curb the amount of time children spend on their smartphones, in the latest blow to firms such as Tencent and ByteDance, which run social media platforms and online games.

The Cyberspace Administration of China on Wednesday published the draft guidelines on its site, stating that minors would not be allowed to use most internet services on mobile devices from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., and that children between the ages of 16 and 18 would only be able to use the internet for two hours a day.

Children between the ages of 8 and 15 would be allowed only an hour a day, while those under 8 would only be allowed 40 minutes.

Only certain services,



such as apps or platforms that are deemed suitable to the physical and mental development of minors, will be exempted. The CAC did not specify which internet services would be allowed exemptions.

The restrictions are Beijing's latest efforts to attempt to limit internet addiction, a problem it views as widespread among its youth. In 2019, Beijing limited children's daily online game time to 90 minutes a day and tightened those restric-

tions in 2021, allowing children only an hour a day of online game play on Fridays, weekends and public holidays.

Short-video and online video platforms like Douyin, Bilibili and Kuaishou have offered youth modes that restrict the type of content shown to minors and the length of time they can use the service. Children are also pushed educational content, such as science experiments.

The latest restrictions

would impact firms like Tencent, China's largest online game company, and ByteDance, which runs popular short-video platform Douyin. Firms in China are often responsible for enforcing regulations.

"To effectively strengthen the online protection of minors, the CAC has in recent years pushed for the establishment of a youth mode on internet platforms, expanding its coverage, optimising its functions and enriching it with age-appropriate content," the CAC said.

"Since the mode was launched, there has been a positive impact in reducing youth internet addiction and the impact of undesirable information," it added.

The CAC said draft guidelines were open to public feedback until September 2. It did not say when the new rules would be into effect.

## Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf could be declared ineligible for election symbol, warns ECP

*The top electoral body asks PTI Chairman Imran Khan to appear before it on Friday*

ISLAMABAD, Aug 3 (Agencies): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has warned the former ruling party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) that it could be declared "ineligible" to obtain election symbol over its failure to hold intra-party elections, Geo News reported.

In a notice issued on Wednesday, the top electoral body summoned PTI Chairman Imran Khan to appear before it on Friday, "failing which the Commission under Section 215 (5) of the Elections Act, 2017, may declare your political party ineligible to obtain election symbol for future election(s)".

The ECP referred to its earlier notices and said the PTI's intra-party elections were due on June 13 in 2021 under



the party's constitution.

It added the PTI was "intimated/reminded" to conduct intra-party elections within the timeframe provided under sections 208, 209 and 215 of the Elections Act, 2017 but the party failed to "provide the requisite certificate to this effect", Geo News reported.

The polls organising authority also said it issued final notice to the PTI in May last year for ensuring the conduct of intra-party elections "on or before June 13, 2022

(extended date) with the observation that no further extension shall be allowed".

After the notice, PTI submitted a copy of the amended party's constitution which was deemed "insufficient" by the electoral body.

The ECP referred to Section 209(1) of the Election Act saying every registered political party is bound to provide the ECP with a certificate regarding the conduct of the intra-party elections as pro-

vided by law, as per Geo News.

"(...) if any political party fails to comply with the provisions of the said section 209, this Commission is empowered to declare the said political party ineligible to obtain an election symbol," Geo News quoted the notice.

Last month, the ECP instructed political parties to submit their applications for the allotment of elections symbols ahead of general polls in the country scheduled for later this year.

The ECP had directed the parties to attach a list of symbols they prioritise along with their applications, adding that the signature of the party leader is a must.

In 2018, the PTI was allotted a "bat" symbol to contest the general elections, Geo News reported.



## Apni Party holds protest against installation of prepaid meters, excess electricity bills

**Ajaz Kazmi questions wastage of Govt money in replacing already existing meters worth crores in Jammu City**

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 3: Apni Party on Thursday staged a protest demonstration at Shaheed Chowk in Jammu against the installation of pre-paid meters, and excess electricity bills in Jammu and Kashmir.

The protest was organized by Apni Trade Union J&K President Ajaz Kazmi with other party leaders, and workers. While shouting slogans against the installation of the smart meters in Jammu and Kashmir, the Apni Party leaders demanded its roll back and end to the harassment of the electricity consumers in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the protesters, Ajaz Kazmi said that it appears to be a scam in which the already working electricity poles mounted with meters worth Rs 5 lakhs in 1700 crore poles in Jammu City's 1, 2 and 3rd division under RAPDRP scheme in the last three years.

Kazmi expressed surprise over why Rs 1000 crores are



being spent to install 3 lakh smart meters despite knowing that earlier meters mounted on poles are working fine and all these have automatic reading features which do not require a meter reader.

"The contract of installing meters is being sub-let to other experienced contractors, and surprisingly, these smart meters are not being tested at the time of installation. It shows that transparency has not been adopted by the concerned agency," he said while questioning the PDD.

There is growing concern over the excess electricity bills

being charged to the consumers. The PDD has adopted no transparency about units being consumed on hourly basis, he alleged.

He further stated that "Along with smart meters, the meters are being converted into prepaid mode without taking consumers into confidence. The consumers who are not defaulters should pay in pre-paid mode. Hence, the PDD has not adopted any reason for the installation or charging of bills from the consumers."

"The elderly are not using smartphones, so how will they

re-charge these meters," he said, highlighting the plight of the elderly people.

On the other-side, he said "The dismantled meters are lying rotting on roads and have not been utilized and its wastage of Govt exchequers."

Prominent among those who were present in the protest include Provincial Vice President, Sheikh Mohammad Shafi, State President SC Wing, Bodh Raj Bhagat, State President, OBC, Bhagat Ram, Spokesperson, Yasser Khan, Provincial President Jammu Youth Wing, Vipul Bali, Provincial President Women Wing Jammu, Pavneet Kour, Provincial President Transport Union, Tirath Singh, District Senior Vice President, Jammu Urban, Vaibhav Matoo, District General Secretary, Mohammed Asif, Provincial Secretary Youth Wing, Yaspal Choudhary, Rakesh Mahajan, Kurwarjeet alias Shivani Koul, Sheekha Bhardwaj, Dalbir Singh, Rahil Paul, Asaiq Wazir, Raja Amjad, Manzoor Khan, Rampal, Zaheer and others.

## Double yardstick of JK Govt exposed in MG-NAREGA scheme



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 3: Aam Aadmi Party Spokesman, Partap Singh Jamwal accused Jammu and Kashmir Government for adopting double yardstick in MG-NAREGA schemes.

Addressing press conference, Partap Singh labelled serious allegations against Rural Development Department for not releas-

ing payments of works executed in Panchayats on account of that works were not executed on ground.

He alleged that payments of panchayat works for 2016-17, 2017-18 were not released alleging violations but no action against concerned officials for approving the same works.

"If developmental works were not exist on ground then how

come that government officials approved the same. Instead of taking action against the officials the government stopped payment of unemployed youth who had executed the works" he alleged.

He said that works were executed on the ground under the scheme of self employment generation and now department is not releasing funds and payment for a number of works questioning actual execution of works and this all shows that all is not well on ground.

"We demand for high level enquiry into the matter so that actual execution of these works is ascertained and action is initiated against officers involved in case there is misappropriation of funds," Jamwal said.

## Open House Discussion held at Chinar Nau Jawan Club

### Top News Report

BARAMULLA, Aug 3: An open house discussion was conducted today at Chinar Nau Jawan Club, Baramulla on "Aspirations of the Youth of Kashmir".

The topic was warmly appreciated by the students of the skill development centre who gathered in mass at the discussion hall to listen to the volunteer speakers. The relevance of the topic was reflected strongly on the firm opinions and speeches delivered by the speakers.



The event was chaired by Maj Gen Rajesh Sethi, GOC Dagger Division and Paramjit Sethi. The discussion led to some healthy conclusions which was well accepted by the house. GOC Dagger Divi-

sion concluded the discussion with his final remarks. The audience of the house drew motivation out of the event and went back with a positive mindset and strong resolve to steer Kashmir towards a better future.

## Dimple with black auto union holds protest

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 3: Sunil Dimple President Mission Statehood Jammu and Kashmir along with the office bearers of Jammu Kashmir Auto Union held protest against the govt move to launch and start the battery busses in Jammu city.

Sunil Dimple addressing the protestors and all auto operators union demanded the RTO, Traffic authorities and the administration to strictly impose the zone routes of Erikshaws earmarked for the e-rikshaws.



Dimple said soon in Jammu city, the Govt has announced to start electric, small and big

battery buses in Jammu city which will badly affect the matadors, black autos industry.

He demanded govt before launching of the battery small busses in Jammu which will

damage the black autos trade.

The govt should give subsidies to the black auto owners and they should be given priority to come in battery bus trade.

Dimple said so the auto drivers and owners should be given subsidies and adjusted in this new battery bus trade.

Sanjay Sethi president, Haneef, Senior Vice President, Ajeet Singh & Satish Kumar, Amar Jeet Singh, Pawan Kumar, Vikram Sharma, Ranjeet Singh and Taran Singh were also present.

## FROM PAGE 1

## 181 children go missing from J&K from July 2022 to June 2023: Ministry of Women and Child Development

sending the missing non local children to their homes after involving police and Child Welfare committees."

Director Mission Vatsalya, Harvinder Kaur told Greater Kashmir that there were centres and committees where missing cases of children had been registered.

"We are doing our best to handle such cases with care," she said.

To address the issue of missing children, the Centre has implemented the 'TrackChild' portal, which allows any citizen to report missing or sighted children.

Various stakeholders, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Railways, state governments and UT administrations, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, and the National Legal Services Authority, support this portal.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) have been issued to ensure effective utilisation of the 'TrackChild' portal.

The 'TrackChild' portal is integrated with the Crime and Criminal Tracking and Network Systems (CCTNS) of the Ministry of Home Affairs, enabling matching of FIRs of missing children with the 'TrackChild' database to facilitate tracing and reunification efforts by the concerned state and UT police.

## Govt to levy 28 per cent GST on online gaming, casinos from October 1: Sitharaman

on behalf of the player, excluding the amount entered into the games, bets out of winnings of previous games and not on the total value of each bet placed...." Sitharaman said.

## E-Challans of 7,366 vehicles pending; dispose of

## by Aug 9 or face action: SSP Traffic

action would be initiated against the violators under the relevant provisions of M.V.Act read with its allied rules and shall lead to impounding of vehicles and recommendation for cancellation of registration, it said.

## Injured during rescue operation, policeman succumbs in Ladakh

Balasaheb Suse, SSP Kargil Anayat Ali Chowdhury other district police officers/officials paid floral tributes to the constable.

Guard of Honour was also honoured in favour of the deceased policeman who laid down his life in line of duty. Kargil Police paid rich floral tributes and homage to the deceased constable.

## 32nd batch of over 1,100 Amarnath pilgrims leave Jammu for cave shrine

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to Amarnath shrine commenced from the twin tracks — the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag and the shorter 14-km Baltal route in the Ganderbal — on July 1.

In the early hours of Thursday, 1,198 pilgrims — 1,023 men, 116 women, 58 seers and a child — left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the twin base camps of Baltal and Pahalgam in a convoy of 43 vehicles, the officials said.

As many as 932 pilgrims, headed for Pahalgam, left in a convoy of 33 vehicles, while another convoy of 10 vehicles carrying 266 pilgrims left for the Baltal base camp, they added.

The Yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

## J&K | Wife releases comic on Army Officer killed in 2008

stories of our heroes accessible to school-children to motivate them towards following

in the footsteps of these heroes as future citizens of this country," they added.

In August 2008, Col. Thomas was commanding the 45 Rashtriya Rifles battalion in the Machil sector and acting on a specific input from a militant movement he led from the front.

"He neutralised two terrorists at close quarters. In the process, he sustained severe gunshot wounds. In spite of this, he refused to be evacuated and, in a daring act, rolled down a cliff to surprise a third terrorist who had taken a concealed position and was engaging our soldiers effectively.

In a fierce hand-to-hand fight, he eliminated the third terrorist. However, he later succumbed to his injuries," they said.

Col Thomas, was awarded the highest peacetime gallantry award, 'Ashok Chakra' posthumously.

The comic was released at 'Naaz-e-Hind' at 'Zamindar Gali' in Machil sector in Kupwara.

'Naaz - e ' Hind' is a complex made at Z Gali Machil to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of Col Jojan Thomas and Naik Neeraj, who laid down their lives fighting the terrorists near Z Gali and were honoured with the posthumous award of the Ashoka Chakra by a grateful nation.

## Azad faces music for staking credit of Sibal's Article 370 Arguments

exceptional ability in presenting facts to the Hon. CJI and esteemed Judges. However, I would humbly suggest that your party leaders refrain from spreading misinformation & lie about Mr. Sibal representing your party. He is actually representing the JKNC through Mr. Akbar Lone. As for what was said in URI. I repeat your words- "Tell me now who is lying and deceiving the people," Tanveer Sadiq said in a Tweet.

NC spokesperson Imran Dar said that Azad is neither a petitioner nor an applicant in Article 370 case.

"GN Azad is neither a petitioner nor an applicant in Art 370 case. Kapil Sibal sb is not his counsel. Except for a brief call to Sibal sb, DPAP has made no substantial effort to participate in the proceedings. He stated he's appearing on behalf of our party MP Mohammad Akbar Lone", NC spokes-

man Imran Dar tweeted.

## NIA moves HC to produce malik virtually in plea seeking death for JKLF Chief in terror funding case

caused to the State as well as the society if the request is not accepted, the application said, "Hon'ble Court may graciously be pleased to modify the Order dated 29.05.2023 passed by this Hon'ble Court to the effect that the Respondent Yasin Malik be produced through the video conferencing facility from Tihar Jail, New Delhi".

Recently, the presence of the jailed separatist leader in the Supreme Court had created a flutter, prompting Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta to flag a "serious security lapse" to Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla.

Malik apparently appeared before the top court on July 21 in connection with the CBI's appeal against a September 20, 2022 order of a trial court in Jammu in the 1989 kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed, the daughter of then Union home minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

He was brought to the high-security apex court premises in a prison van escorted by armed security personnel without the court's permission.

Later that week, the Department of Delhi Prisons suspended four officials over Malik's physical appearance before the top court and ordered an inquiry into the lapse.

On May 29, the high court had issued notice to Malik on NIA's plea seeking death penalty for him in the terror funding case and said, "Let warrants of production be issued against Mr. Yasin Malik, before this Court on the next date of hearing. List on 09.08.2023."

On May 24, 2022, the trial court had awarded life imprisonment to the JKLF chief after holding him guilty of various offences under the stringent anti-terrorism law-the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), and the IPC.

Malik had pleaded guilty to the charges, including those under the UAPA, and was convicted and sentenced to life imprison-

ment.

Appealing against the sentence, the NIA has said a terrorist cannot be awarded life sentence only because he has pleaded guilty and chosen not to go through trial.

While seeking enhancement of the sentence to death penalty, the NIA has said if such "dreaded terrorists are not given capital punishment on account of pleading guilty, there would be complete erosion of the sentencing policy and terrorists would have a way out to avoid capital punishment".

A life sentence, the NIA has asserted, is not commensurate with the crime committed by terrorists when the nation and families of soldiers have suffered loss of lives, and that the trial court's conclusion that Malik's crimes did not fall within the category of the "rarest of the rare cases" for grant of death penalty is "ex-facie legally flawed and completely unsustainable".

The agency has emphasised that it has been proved beyond reasonable doubt that Malik spearheaded terrorist activities in the Kashmir Valley, and with the help of dreaded foreign terrorist organisations, had been "masterminding, planning, engineering and executing armed rebellion in the Valley in an attempt to usurp the sovereignty and integrity of a part of India".

"Not giving capital punishment to such dreaded terrorist will result in miscarriage of justice, as an act of terrorism is not a crime against society but it's a crime against the entire nation; in other words it's an act of 'external aggression', 'an act of war' and an 'affront to the sovereignty of nation'," the NIA plea said.

The trial court, which rejected the NIA's petition for capital punishment, said the crimes committed by Malik struck at the "heart of the idea of India" and were intended to forcefully secede Jammu and Kashmir from Union of India.

It had, however, noted the case was not the "rarest of rare" to warrant death penalty.

## Five injured in JK Road accident

Nowshera," they said. Station House Officer Kandi Shakeel Manhas said that a case has been registered at Kandi police station and an investigation has been started.



## Sensex, Nifty open lower as global weakness dents sentiments

As of 9:16 am, the Nifty 50 index was down by 0.34 per cent, reaching 19,460.60, while the S&P BSE Sensex fell 0.35 per cent, standing at 65,563.19.

NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (Agencies): Benchmark stock market indices started the trading session on Thursday with a dip, mirroring the cautious sentiment in Asian markets.

As of 9:16 am, the Nifty 50 index was down by 0.34 per cent, reaching 19,460.60, while the S&P BSE Sensex fell 0.35 per cent, standing at 65,563.19. Broader market indices also opened with a mixed outlook as volatility remains on the higher side.

Most of the high-weightage sectoral indices opened in negative territory, including Nifty Bank, Nifty Financial Services and Nifty IT. Nifty Metal was the top loser, falling over 1.24 per cent.

The top five gainers on the Nifty 50 were Sun Pharma, Bajaj Auto, NTPC, Dr Reddy's and Hero MotoCorp. UPL, Hindalco, Titan, Ultratech Cement and HDFC



Life were the top drags in early trade.

Ameya Ranadive, research analyst at Choice, suggested that market weakness may persist.

"The daily momentum indicator displayed a negative crossover, signaling a sell-off, and it remains distant from the equilibrium line, suggesting that the market weakness may persist," he said.

According to Ranadive, the Nifty is currently at a crucial juncture, with the possibility of breaking below the immediate support at 19,500,

based on the concept of change in polarity.

In the upcoming week, investors should closely watch for critical lower supports at levels around 19,150-19,100. Additionally, any potential pullback rally toward 19,600-19,650 could be seen as a selling opportunity.

"In summary, the current market outlook indicates a cautious sentiment due to recent negative developments, and investors should be vigilant about potential support and resistance levels in the coming days."

## India's services sector growth climbs to 13-year high in July on pick-up in international sales: PMI

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index rises from 58.5 in June to 62.3 in July

NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (Agencies): India's services sector growth touched a 13-year high in July as a substantial improvement in demand conditions and pick-up in international sales induced the strongest increase in new business and output, a monthly survey said on Thursday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index rose from 58.5 in June to 62.3 in July, signalling the sharpest increase in output since June 2010.

For the 24th straight month, the headline figure was above the neutral 50 threshold. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"The resilience of the service sector underscores its vital role in fuelling India's economy,



with the PMI results for July so far pointing to a notable contribution from the sector to overall GDP for the second fiscal quarter," Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said.

According to survey members, the upturn was largely attributed to demand strength and new business gains.

Demand for Indian services improved to the greatest extent in over

13 years during July, with around 29 per cent of survey participants reporting higher intakes of new business.

"The broad increases in sales across the domestic and international markets are particularly welcoming news, especially in light of the challenging global economic scenario.

Firms noted a widespread upturn in services exports to several nations including Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri

Lanka and the UAE," Lima said.

On the inflation front, cost pressures intensified and monitored companies signalled greater food, labour and transportation costs. Despite the rise in cost pressures, charges were raised to a weaker extent as firms were cautious about their pricing strategies.

"Looking at PMI price indices in recent months, it seems that competitive advantage

continued to support demand for Indian services, with increases in output prices here modest relative to several other nations," Lima said.

Although input cost inflation ticked higher in July, service providers were again cautious in their price-setting decisions amid efforts to not deter sales, Lima added.

On the job front, companies continued to add to their workforces by hiring a combination of part-time, full-time, permanent and temporary staff. Service sector employment expanded at a slight pace that was broadly similar to those seen in the prior two months.

On the year-ahead outlook for business activity, service providers on average were optimistic. Growth expectations stemmed from forecasts of demand strength and marketing initiatives.

## Rupee falls 5 paise to 82.72 against US dollar

MUMBAI, Aug 3 (Agencies): The rupee depreciated 5 paise to 82.72 against the US dollar in early trade on Thursday as a negative trend in domestic equities and firm crude oil prices weighed on investor sentiments.

Sustained foreign fund outflows, strength of the American currency in the overseas market further dented sentiments, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 82.71, then touched 82.72, registering a decline of 5 paise over its last close.

On Wednesday, the rupee had settled at 82.67 against the

dollar, registering a fall of 45 paise from its previous close.

This was the biggest single-day fall for the rupee in nearly six months.

The Indian currency had witnessed the steepest intra-day fall of 68 paise on February 6, when it had settled at 82.76 against the greenback.

The rupee was trading in a negative note on risk aversion in global markets and weak Asian currencies.

There was also downside pressure on the local unit due to strong dollar against major rivals overseas, traders said.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against



a basket of six currencies, rose 0.10 per cent to 102.68.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.10 per cent to USD 83.28 per barrel.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex was trading 23.31 points or 0.04 per cent lower at 65,759.47.

The broader NSE Nifty declined 11.90 points or 0.06 per cent to 19,514.65.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Wednesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,877.84 crore, according to exchange data.

## Govt restricts import of laptop, tablets and computers with immediate effect



NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (Agencies): The government on Thursday imposed import restrictions on laptops, tablets, all-in-one personal computers, ultra small form factor computers, and servers with immediate effect.

The Directorate General of Foreign

Trade (DGFT) in a notification said exemption from import licensing is provided up to 20 items per consignment for R&D, testing, benchmarking and evaluation, repair and return and product development purposes.

The move is expected to cut imports from countries like China.

"Import of laptops, tablets, all-in-one personal computers, and ultra small form factor computers, servers...is 'restricted' with immediate effect," it said.

Products under restrictions need licence or permission from the government.

## Hepatitis B and Liver Cancer: Strategies for prevention and screening

NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (Agencies): Hepatitis B is a type of virus that can cause severe liver infection with serious complications such as liver cancer. Liver cancer, especially hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), is the second most prevailing cause of cancer-related deaths, wherein Hepatitis B is responsible for over 50% of HCC cases. However, with suitable preventative methods and timely screening, the effects of Hepatitis B-related liver cancer can be significantly reduced. Here is some valuable information from Dr. A Satya Srinivas, a Medical Oncologist and Consultant at the HCG Cancer Centre in Vijayawada in Vijayawada.

Screening Strategies  
1. Testing and Diagnosis: Hepatitis B screening includes blood tests to identify hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg), hepatitis B e antigen (HBeAg), and hepatitis B virus DNA. These tests help identify people with chronic hepatitis B infection and guide further treatment.

2. Regular Monitoring: Individuals with chronic hepatitis B should have their liver function tests, viral load, and alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) levels checked regularly to detect any signs of liver damage or progression



to liver cancer.

3. High-Risk Populations: Screening should be prioritised for people born in hepatitis B-endemic areas, those with a family history of liver cancer, and those with a history of injectable drug use or multiple sexual partners. Healthcare practitioners must also be diligent in recognising at-risk persons and prescribing appropriate screening procedures.

4. Primary Care Integration: Integrating hepatitis B screening into routine primary care settings can enhance access and early detection. This can be accomplished by developing standardised screening techniques and ensuring proper follow-up for people who have chronic hepatitis B infection.

Prevention Strategies  
1. Vaccination: The most effective preventative method against Hepatitis B is vaccination. It is recommend-

ed that all infants take the hepatitis B vaccine as part of their regular vaccination schedule. Individuals at high risk, including healthcare workers, those with chronic liver illness, and those with several sexual partners, should also be vaccinated.

2. Mother-to-Child Transmission Prevention: During childbirth, an infected woman can pass Hepatitis B to her child. Comprehensive preventative services that involve early screening of pregnant women, antiviral medication for moms with high virus loads, and prompt vaccination of infants can greatly minimise mother-to-child transmission.

3. Safe Injection Practices and Blood Screening: Hepatitis B can be transmitted through infected needles, syringes, and blood products. Secure injection practices and blood screening are critical. To prevent

hepatitis B transmission, using sterile needles and syringes, promoting safe injection practices, and thoroughly screening blood and blood products are essential.

4. Awareness and Education: It is critical to raise awareness about Hepatitis B transmission, preventative techniques, and the significance of regular screening. Educational initiatives aimed at high-risk communities, healthcare providers, and the public can help with hepatitis B identification and prevention.

Hepatitis B is a significant public health concern as it contributes to the high prevalence of liver cancer. HBV infection can be minimised by taking efficient preventative measures such as vaccination, mother-to-child transmission prevention, safe injection practices, and public awareness.

It is also essential to undergo regular screening for early detection and treatment of liver cancer, especially in high-risk patients. By implementing comprehensive preventative and screening techniques, we can lower the burden of hepatitis B and its associated liver cancer cases, saving lives and improving public health.

## How exposure to toxic chemical products can impact reproductive health

NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (Agencies): Toxic chemicals are present everywhere around us and they enter our bodies through the air, water, food, and the consumer products used daily. Exposure to these sources that contain toxic materials not only has a detrimental effect on health but also impairs a person's fertility.

India Today spoke to Dr Sandeep Talwar, Fertility Specialist, Nova Southend Fertility and IVF, Delhi to get more insight on this.

A toxic material is one that can be dangerous or have negative health effects. Household cleaners, prescription and over-the-counter medications, petrol, alcohol, pesticides, motor oil, and cosmetics are all potentially harmful. Phthalates, a type of plastic-related chemical, are found in toys, bottles, and medical equipment.

It is also utilised to provide scent and is found in air fresheners and personal care goods. In addition, toxic chemicals such as PFAS (poly-fluoroalkyl substances) are found in a wide range of consumer products, such as menstruation products, canned foods, receipts, cosmetics, food containers, non-stick pans, and many others.

These supplies contaminate our food resources and leach into our water sources, posing a significant concern to human health.

Environmental pollutants can affect female reproduction directly (hormone disturbance) or indirectly (immune toxicant). If an environmental chemical is structurally close to an endogenous molecule and is capable of entering reproductive organs, it leads to a direct impact.

Indirect effects may arise if a substance requires metabolic conversion within the body before it may exert an adverse effect. For example, some phytoestrogens are not considered hazardous until they

are bioactivated in the gastrointestinal system or liver. Additionally, indirect effects can also be caused if a toxin interferes with natural hormones.

Natural hormones are essential for appropriate development, behaviour, puberty, sexual function, and gametogenesis. Some environmental pollutants may disrupt normal hormone action, thereby negatively affecting reproductive processes.

Particularly sensitive groups include developing fetuses, newborns, kids, preteens, and teenagers. With the help of experimental research, scientists have discovered that when pregnant rats are exposed to phthalates, it hampers the testosterone production in their male offspring, resulting in a variety of genital abnormalities and sperm issues.

Phthalates are a class of chemicals that are recognised endocrine disruptors but are commonly utilized as plastic softeners and lubricants in personal-care items. Phthalates exist in various household items, medications, cleansers, and personal care products in order to make them flexible, durable, and aromatic.

They easily escape as vapours or particles from these goods. Bio-monitoring has revealed that women of reproductive age have greater phthalate levels and thus are at a higher risk of fertility problems than the population, at large, as young women use more goods such as perfume, deodorant, shampoo, and conditioners.

PFAS substances are another compound detected in drinking water. Certain levels of PFAS exposure have been associated with a decrease in fertility and elevated blood pressure in pregnant women.

As pregnant women consume more water than normal people,

it is assumed that they are at a higher risk of pollution.

Furthermore, several studies conducted on PFOS and PFOA, encompassing both human and animal studies, have revealed a broad spectrum of potential health consequences.

These include reduced fertility in women, decreased sperm count and penis size, diminished birth weight, and an increased risk of cancer. Bisphenols-A (BPA) function as endocrine disruptors, imitating estrogen in the body and potentially leading to detrimental health effects.

In contrast to pharmaceuticals, the majority of environmental chemicals have been introduced into the market without thorough and standardised information regarding their potential long-term toxic effects, particularly on reproductive health.

It is crucial for the government to tackle this issue. At an individual level, exposure to phthalates can be minimised by adopting certain practices. These include using unscented lotions and laundry detergents, microwaving food in glass containers, choosing cleaning supplies that are scent-free, and avoiding air fresheners and plastics.

Additionally, adopting a diet that focuses on consuming more fruits and vegetables, washing hands before meals to prevent chemical ingestion of dust, removing shoes before entering the home, and vacuuming with a HEPA filter are effective precautionary measures for maintaining good health.

It is also important to be cautious when making purchasing decisions. There is a need to search for and buy things with less packaging. For cleaning purposes, vinegar or baking soda should be used instead of artificial, scented cleaning products.



# India's Asiad dress rehearsal

Asian Champions Trophy: Eye final touches before big-ticket Asian Games

NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (Agencies): Tournament favourites and three-time champions India will look to give final touches to their Asian Games preparation in the Asian Champions Trophy beginning here today.

World No. 4 India are the highest ranked side in the tournament and will open their campaign against China at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here, which is hosting a major event for the first time since 2007. It is also the first time that India are hosting the ACT since the tournament's inception in 2011.

For India, the primary objective in the tournament would be to test the players and get a fair bit of idea about their main rivals ahead of the Asian Games, to be held in Hangzhou, China, from September 23 to October 8.

With the Asian Games providing a direct ticket to next year's Paris Olympics, India are expected to test their resources in the ACT while also playing a balancing act to keep their players fresh and free from injuries.

India captain Harmanpreet Singh has already clarified that the team will have to be smart in this tournament and will not go all-guns-blazing as its priority is the Asian Games.



India might have gained both in terms of ranking and respect in world hockey, but the Tokyo Games bronze medallists fared poorly in the FIH World Cup co-hosted by Bhubaneswar and Rourkela earlier this year.

The Indians finished a disappointing ninth in the World Cup. But since then, the Harmanpreet-led team has played 16 games, winning nine and losing five, along with a couple of draws. India come into the tournament straight from a four-nation tournament in Spain.

The one area India will be looking to address in the tournament is their penalty corner conversion rate. Despite boasting of potent drag-flickers in Harmanpreet, Varun Kumar, Amit Rohidas and Jugraj Singh, the

conversion rate has been a topic of debate lately.

But coach Craig Fulton is not losing sleep over it. "We have a world-class penalty corner specialists. I think we can always improve. It's just how much detail we want to go into and how much time we put into improving it," he said.

India won the event in 2011, 2016 and 2018. They also won silver in 2012 and bronze in 2021. China, on the other hand, would be playing their first continental tournament this year, having missed the World Cup.

India could travel to Pak if Asiad bid fails, says HI prez Turkey

Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey today said that the national men's team will travel to

Pakistan for the Olympics qualifiers in case it fails to secure a direct berth by winning gold at the Asian Games. "We will be trying to get the job done in Hangzhou," Tirkey said. "But, if for some reason, we fail to qualify, then there are a couple of venues that have been identified for the qualifiers — Pakistan and Spain. So, wherever it happens, we will definitely go," he added. Travelling to Pakistan requires government clearance. pti

Young Pakistan relishing India tie

Tasked with the duty of guiding his country's premier talents, Pakistan's assistant coach Rehan Butt cannot wait for the India game to start. Pakistan play India in a high-profile match on August 9. "I have heard that tickets have been sold out for the India-Pakistan clash. There is a lot of following for this game and it is time the bilateral hockey relations resumed between the two nations," he said. Pakistan have sent a young side for the ACT and their focus is to prepare the side for the Asian Games in September. "Since we have a young side facing world No. 4 India, pressure will of course be on the players," Butt said. "But India will be under pressure too, for they are playing on their turf."

# Moeen Ali reiterates retirement from Tests, not to travel to India next year



LONDON, Aug 3 (Agencies): Confirming that the fifth Ashes Test against Australia was the last traditional format match of his career, England all-rounder Moeen Ali said he will not travel to India next year for a Test series.

India will host England for a five-match Test series across January and March 2024.

"There is no way I am going (to India). It is nice to finish like this. Test cricket is the best cricket. I wish I could rewind time," Moeen was quoted as saying by the Guardian.

Moeen has played 68 Tests for England

making 3,094 runs with five hundreds and 15 fifties. The off-spinner also has taken 204 wickets in Test cricket.

Despite the fine record, Moeen accepted the fact that his Test career would have hit a higher note.

"Although my Test career has been a bit up and down, I wouldn't change it. I loved it. I would have regretted (not accepting England's recall) later in life. It was quite daunting because I've never done well against Australia. I had nothing to lose -- it was a free hit," he said.

The 36-year-old, though, has no plans to move away completely

from cricket as he wants to concentrate on franchise cricket.

Moeen has done well for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, while making his presence felt in other leagues like the PSL and the Hundred.

"White-ball (cricket) is great. I love the leagues, but there is nothing better than playing against the best attack with a new ball in their hand. It's a challenge," he said.

England gave a fitting send-off to Moeen as he led the side out of the Oval with Stuart Broad, who had also announced his retirement after the fifth Ashes Test. Moeen said it was indeed nice of Broad to allow him to walk beside him.

"It proves the man he is. I didn't want to do it and he said I had to. From the start, he was always amazing with me. I've always got on well with him and really pleased he's finished the way he has," he added.

# Australia open: Sindhu breaks jinx, Manjunath wows

SYDNEY, Aug 3 (Agencies): Unheralded Indian Mithun Manjunath stunned fourth seed and world No. 7 Loh Kean Yew of Singapore in the opening round while PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth secured straight-game wins at the Australia Open Super 500 here.

Manjunath, ranked 50th in the world, beat Loh 21-19 21-19 in a men's singles first-round match that lasted 41 minutes.

However, Lakshya Sen conceded his match against compatriot Kiran George due to an injury. Sen was trailing 0-5 in the opening game when he decided to quit.

World No. 19 Srikanth defeated Japan's Kenta Nishimoto 21-18 21-7, while sixth seed HS Prannoy had to dig deep to beat Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong 21-18 16-21 21-15.

Rising shuttler Priyanshu Rajawat also tasted success as he beat Australia's Nathan



Tang 21-12 21-16.

In the women's singles, fifth seed Sindhu, who has lost in the first round at seven different tour events this season and is playing under a new personal coach in Malaysia's Muhammad Hafiz Hashim, defeated compatriot Ashmita Chaliha 21-18 21-13 in 36 minutes.

Aakarshi Kashyap beat Malaysia's Goh Jin Wei 21-15 21-17, but it was curtains for Malvika Bansod as she

lost 20-22 11-21 to Pai Yu Po of Chinese Taipei. Only one Indian will survive after the second round in the women's singles as Sindhu and Kashyap are pitted against each other.

The Indian mixed doubles pair of Rohan Kapoor and N Sikki Reddy made a first-round exit after losing 14-21 18-21 to world No. 5 and third-seeded South Korean pair of Seo Seung Jae and Chae Yu Jung.

# Applications invited for Indian women's cricket team support staff

In another much-anticipated issue, the Indian cricket board has finally invited bids from reputed entities for acquiring the media rights for international and domestic matches at home.

NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (Agencies): The Board of Control for Cricket in India has invited applications for the positions of bowling coach and fielding coach of the senior women's team. The applications are available on the BCCI website and the last date is August 10, 6 PM.

The women's team has been without a head coach since Ramesh Powar was relocated to the National Cricket Academy in December 2022. While the BCCI had invited applications for the role and short-listed candidates that include former cricketers Amol Muzumdar, former India coach Tushar Arothe and former Durham coach Jon Lewis. However, it is understood that the BCCI is yet to make the final call on the same.



Since the 2022 ODI World Cup, the support staff for the senior women's team have been on rotation from the NCA and for the 2023 T20 World Cup, the board had Hrishikesh Kanitkar as batting coach and Troy Cooley as bowling coach with Subhadeep Ghosh as fielding coach. After much delay, the BCCI shortlisted the candidates for the head coach and last month it was said that the board will be looking to appoint

dedicated support staff for the team.

The interested candidate should have played for India or any other country at the international level or have a minimum NCA Level 'B' certified coach or a similar certification from a reputed organisation/Institute and a minimum of 30 FC games or have the experience of coaching an international team for a period of minimum 1 season or a T20 franchise/state team for a

minimum of 2 seasons. BCCI announce bids for media rights

In another much-anticipated issue, the Indian cricket board has finally invited bids from reputed entities for acquiring the media rights for international and domestic matches at home. The BCCI's media rights came to an end with the last season and since then they had not invited bids. In fact, it took massive outrage on social media for the

board to eventually stream Duleep Trophy and Deodhar Trophy matches on its website.

"The detailed terms and conditions governing the tender process including eligibility requirements, process for submissions of bids, rights and obligations, etc. are contained in the 'Invitation to Tender' ('ITT') which will be made available on receipt of payment of a non-refundable fee of INR 15,00,000 (Indian Rupees Fifteen Lakh Only) plus any applicable Goods and Services Tax. The procedure to procure the ITT documents is enlisted in Annexure A to this notice. The ITT will be available for purchase till August 25, 2023," BCCI said in a statement.

# Rinku Singh on India call-up for Ireland tour and Asian Games: Working hard is in my hands and I will do that

NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (Agencies): KKR star, Rinku Singh, is set to thrill the crowds in India's tour of Ireland and the Asian Games in Hangzhou following his stellar performance in the IPL 2023.

Continuing in his no-nonsense, focused fashion, the 26-year-old cricketer from Aligarh who gained the attention of cricket fans with his impressive feat of five sixes in a single over during a match against GT, spoke candidly about his approach to the game.

"My job is to score runs. If I get an opportunity, I would try to do well," Rinku told agency while mentioning that he prefers to live in the present and let his relentless effort to achieve do the talking. His previous work in first-class cricket and three IPL seasons has not only boosted his family's living conditions but also taught him the importance of hard work.

Rinku's journey from deliver-



ing LPG cylinders to various houses and hotels along with his father and brothers during his teen years to becoming an internationally recognised cricketer player has fostered a deep desire within him to give back to society.

And he is doing exactly that by

constructing a hostel adjacent to the Aligarh cricket ground where he first began his cricket lessons. This hostel will house at least 15 underprivileged boys who will receive training under his coach, Masood Amini.

Even with his success, Rinku remains grounded, refusing to

turn a blind eye to overconfidence. "Life has changed a lot as people now recognise me. I never believe in hyping things up. I want to keep things normal and play normal cricket," noted the cricketer.

In the same vein, when asked about transforming his playing style, Singh asserted his approach uniquely belongs to him, different from the 360-degree variant popularised by Suryakumar Yadav. His life mantra is a reflection of his simplistic, dedicated approach to the game; "Having faith in my hard work," he summed up.

As Rinku prepares for his first overseas tour, fans can look forward to more dazzling performances from this rising star. India will play a three-match T20I series against Ireland between August 18 to 23 at Dublin. The series also marks the return of India bowlers Jasprit Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna.

# KL Rahul likely to miss Asia Cup, World Cup could be touch and go for Shreyas Iyer



NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (Agencies): Senior batter KL Rahul in all likelihood will miss the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka as he will take more time to recover from his hamstring injury, while it could be a touch and go for another star Shreyas Iyer as far as his participation in the World Cup is concerned.

Rahul had undergone a thigh surgery, while Iyer had a surgery on his lower back to cure stress fracture.

The last BCCI update didn't specify their date of return of the duo as they were seen slowly building on their workload as far as 'Return to Play' is

concerned.

"It is unlikely that both Rahul and Shreyas would be match fit for 50-over cricket in Sri Lanka. But BCCI medical team feels that Rahul can at least get fit before the three-match series against Australia before the World Cup," a BCCI source told agency on conditions of anonymity.

"In case of Iyer, he has also started skills training but World Cup for him will be touch and go if Indian management thinks of putting a 100 percent fit Iyer back on the park. T20 is an easier vehicle for comeback unlike 50-over cricket. We are keeping fingers crossed," the source added.

Rahul has already started his keeping drills. But keeping for 50 overs with recovering hamstring will be a bit too much, considering India's Asia Cup campaign starts early next month.

Rahul's fitness is very important in larger context as he will also bat at No.5 and is expected to play a big role in the middle overs.

The Indian team management is desperate to have at least one of the two fit and available for the World Cup.



## Dozens join Shiv Sena, gear up for Panchayat elections

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 3: Dozens local women joined the Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit in a programme organized at village Finder in RS Pura, impressed by raising their voice on the issues of common people.

In a program organized here, State Chief Manish Sahni has instructed the Shiv Sainiks to go among the public and raise their voice on



public issues and gear up for the upcoming Panchayat elections. On this occasion,

about a dozen women, influenced by the policies and ideas of the party, joined the party.

Sahni has announced the Vandana Singh as the women's block president and Geeta Devi as

the general secretary. Present on the occasion Women President Meenakshi Chhibber welcomed the members with Shiv Bandhan and party symbol.

The villagers apprised about common problems like water drainage, dilapidated roads, raw drains and electricity and water.

Sahni said that public tax money is being wasted in the name of smart cities, whereas the villages have been deprived of even basic amenities.

## Everyone must plant 10 trees in their life to keep coming generations safe: Braham Jyot

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 3: Braham Jyot Satti (Senior leader and Incharge BJP OBC Morcha JK-UT) started plantation drive at New Plot, here.

The program was organized by Rakesh Mandal (Mandal President BJP OBC Morcha Amphala).

Parveen Badyal (district Vice President OBC Morcha) Ram Saran, Ankush Kumar, Pawan Kumar, Narinder Kumar

resulting in an increase in oxygen supply.

Braham Jyot said trees are best friends and saviours of humans. The plantation process makes surroundings rich and healthy.

He said everyone must plant 10 trees in their life to keep the coming generations safe.

Trees give us clean air to breathe, shade and food to humans, animals and plants. They provide habitats for numerous species of fauna and flora,



were present on the occasion.

They planted saplings of locally available plants in their respective area and briefed the importance of trees.

They briefed benefits of trees and said plantation drives combat many environmental issues like deforestation, erosion of soil, desertification in semi-arid areas, global warming and hence enhancing the beauty and balance of the environment.

Trees absorb harmful gases and emit oxygen

firewood for cooking and heat, materials for buildings and places of spiritual, cultural and recreational importance.

He said trees are a natural source of Oxygen. They not just release oxygen they also absorb carbon dioxide and other pollutants.

He said for development projects unfortunately administration has cut a number of trees but every where BJP is organising plantation drive and planting number of trees.

## Uday, Rajni Bala protests against Govt's move on Smart Meters, Property Tax



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 3: Uday Bhanu Chib along with Rajni Bala Corporator Ward No 60 organized a protest on Thursday against the recent decision of the government to switch from Smart Electricity Meters to Prepaid Meters and imposition of property tax in Jammu.

In this regard, senior Congress leaders Hari Singh Chib, President DDC Rural, Yogesh Sawhney, President DCC Urban and former Minister, Uday Chib, President J&KPYC, Rajni Bala, Councillor Ward 60 and senior Congress leader along with workers and supporters assembled in Jammu North Assembly segment and staged vigorous Massive protest against the government.

Talking to reporters, Yogesh Sawhney, President of DDC Jammu Urban and former minister, expressed his disappointment with the BJP's failure to meet the aspirations of the J&K people. He highlighted the current state of dissatisfaction and distress among the citizens, stating that there is a hue and cry everywhere.

Hari Singh Chib highlighted the failure of the present government in fulfilling the aspirations of the J&K people.

He voiced his concerns about the government's actions, stating that they are working against the wishes and aspirations of the general public.

Hari Singh Chib criticized the Mayor of Jammu for misleading the people with false information regarding the government's purchase of power at Rs 9 per unit. Chib revealed that the actual price at which the government is purchasing power is Rs 3.75 per unit. He emphasized the need for integrity in high-ranking officials, such as the Mayor, and urged him to refrain from making misleading statements.

Rajni Bala, Councillor of Ward No 60 and senior Congress leader, criticized the government's decision to impose property tax on the people of Jammu. She pointed out that the government did not even bother to consult elected representatives before imposing this tax in the state. Bala emphasized the importance of inclusive decision-making and urged the government to consider the views of those who represent the people.

Uday Chib, President of J&K Pradesh Youth Congress, shed light on the challenges faced by the youth as a result of hollow policies implemented by the BJP government at

the Centre. He shared that nearly eight lakhs youth are unemployed in J&K alone, which is a matter of serious concern. Chib expressed his disappointment with the lack of comprehensive policies for the youth and urged the people to support and strengthen the Congress party to rid themselves of the hollow policies of BJP misrule.

The protesting Congress leaders asked the government to reconsider its decisions and prioritize the welfare of the J&K people. They urged the general public to support and strengthen the Congress party to bring about meaningful change and alleviate the challenges faced by the community.

Among those who joined the protest include Som Nath Sharma President BCC Pata Paloura, Om Parkash, Anirudh Sawhney, Shahbaj Khan, Dev Raj, HS Baghi, Surinder, Rishiv Kumar, Pummy Manhas, Dr Chander Mohan Sharma, Dr Raj Pal Hans, Tarun Vaid, Virender Mehta, Shinda, Parveen Akhtar, Raj Bibi, Ch Afiz, Harjeet Singh, Capt Khushi Ram, Jung Bahadur Singh, Kamal Singh, Billal, Veena Devi, Poli Devi, Darshna Devi, Mamta Gupta, Madan Singh Chib, Sonu and Rahul Padha.

## HDO Dansal holds Kisan Sampark Abhiyan under HADP at Panjgrain



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 3: An Kisan Sampark Abhiyan under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) was organized by the Horticulture Department at Panjgrain in Block Dansal Nagrota, here today.

Horticulture Development Officer Dansal, Sandeep Sharma along with other officials were present during the camp.

Speaking on the occasion, Sandeep Sharma threw light on the importance of farming in the modern world and focused on adopting modern techniques. He also discussed different welfare schemes of the department and the

importance of establishing fruit orchards.

During the camp, Sandeep Sharma acquainted the participants with the centrally sponsored schemes meant for the upliftment of farmers and orchardists.

During the interaction with the farmers, Sandeep Sharma briefed them about the recently launched Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) providing incentives/ assistance for the welfare of the farming community.

He discussed in detail about the HADP and sensitize the gathering about the main components of the programme viz: DAKSH- Learning Management System

related to skill development, SATHI- Dashboard to apply online for different Govt. schemes, etc.

Sandeep Sharma urged the farmers to come forward, associate with the horticulture department and avail the benefits on different components viz: Protected cultivation, Water harvesting tanks, Drip irrigation, Custom Hiring Centres, Vermicompost units, Strawberry plantation, Tools / implements etc. for upliftment of their socio-economic status.

He assured all farmers that the Department will leave no stone unturned to solve their issues.

The camp was attended by prominent persons and a large number of farmers.

## Chandel appeals to 'Shankaracharya Dharmacharyas to call a meeting of Parliament of Religions soon

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 3: Hinduist BJP leader Raju Chandel, while talking to reporters in Jammu, today said that all the Shankaracharya Dharmacharyas of the country should soon call a meeting of World Parliament of Religions in Kashi Mathura or Haridwar.



Chandel said that today the country needs

to convene a Dharma Sansad otherwise it will be too late and before calling this Dharma Sansad first, the Pandits of the temples of all the rural areas of the country issue orders to the priests not to stop the entry of any Dalit in all their temples because this has been happening for centuries.

## CWS GDC Kathua organizes poster making competition



### Top News Report

KATHUA, Aug 3: In an effort to spread awareness among the students about audio-visual aids, Centre for Women Studies (CWS) GDC Kathua, organised a poster making competition in the college campus. More than thirty five students took part in the competition.

The programme was organised under the supervision of Dr Rachna, Director CWS Govt Degree College Kathua.

Prof. Seema Mir, Principal, GDC Kathua, was the Chief Guest in this workshop. In her address she congratulated the students and applauded the efforts of students for taking

part in this event and also motivation the students to spread this knowledge among the students who want to choose teaching as a profession.

She also appreciated the working of CWS for organizing such program in the college campus. In her address she also give stress to organise such type of workshops more and more and also touch the various issues that students may be able to express their views in the shape of posters as well as lectures.

Dr Rachna welcomed the Principal for sparing her valuable time for this workshop.

She also welcomed the judges of the event, Prof. Dr Shub Kumar,

HOD Sanskrit, Dr. Kamaldeep Singh, HOD Punjabi, Dr.Natasha Dept of English.

Dr. Rachna also described about the aim of organizing such workshop for the students which will help the students to choose teaching as a profession and make it more interesting and effective with the help of new methods and teaching devices. Participants were acknowledged with participation certificate.

Participants were also directed to share their posters for awareness on their social accounts. Senior Faculty members Prof. Raj Kiran HOD Physics, Prof. Rakesh Singh, HOD Chemistry was also present in the workshop.

## LG's Admin pushing BJP agenda at the cost of Public Exchequer: Rattan Lal

## Keep property tax in abeyance until there's popular Govt

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 3: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) has expressed deep concerns regarding the alleged involvement of the LG-led administration in pushing the agenda of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the cost of the public exchequer in Jammu and Kashmir.

This was stated by Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of JKNC Jammu, while addressing a meeting of Party workers of Samba district in connection with the upcoming ULB polls at Sher-e Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu. The Samba District consists of Samba, Vijaypur, Ramgarh and Bari Brahmana Municipal Committees.

The Provincial President raised his apprehensions

about the administration's concerns, which they believe are serving the interests of the BJP rather than prioritizing the welfare of the public. He raised questions about the usage of public funds and the potential implications it may have on the overall development and well-being of the region.

At the outset of the meeting, Sudagar Gupta, District President of JKNC Samba district, highlighted the hardships faced by the people of district Samba, including the lack of basic amenities such as regular water and electricity supply.

Addressing the party workers, Rattan Lal Gupta expressed dissatisfaction over the administration's apparent disregard for elected representatives while making decisions on public issues, citing



the imposition of property tax in J&K as an example where elected representatives of Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils and Municipalities were sidelined. He stressed that the implementation of the illegally imposed property tax should be kept in abeyance until a democratically elected government is in place in Jammu and Kashmir.

The senior NC leader also raised serious concerns about the effectiveness of the Back to Villag-

es program's, stating that it has failed to address the issues raised during its implementation. He termed it as futile attempt in wasting the hard earned money of public while carrying out such wasteful exercises which serves no purposes.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, the Provincial Secretary of JKNC Jammu, urged party workers to gear up for the upcoming ULB polls and ensure the victory of the National Conference.

Satwant Kour Dogra Provincial President Women Wing Jammu Province asserted that the National Conference stands firm in its commitment to safeguard the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and pledged to work tirelessly to address the grievances faced by the general

public.

Among those who were present include: Master Noor Hussain Ex-MLC, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary, Vijay Lochan P.P SC Cell, Surjit Singh Manhas Joint Secretary Jammu Province, Mohinder Singh Sr. Vice President Central Zone, Chander Udhay Singh, Ashok Kumar Attri, Nar Singh P.P Labour Wing, Joginder Kumar Block President Vijaypur, Sat paul Block President Ramgarh, Swaran Singh Block President Bari Brahmana, Bua Ditta Block President Samba, Bharat Bhusan, Rajeshwer Singh, Ravi Sharma, Prabh Dayal, Rahul Attri, Ajay Sharma, Mohinder Kumar, Kewal Kumar, Krishan Dutt, Darshan, Bahadur Singh, Yashpal, Ravinder Singh, Ram Lal Verma and others.