

TOP NEWS OF J&K

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BRIEFLY

Unauthorised absence from duties: Incharge AEE RTIC Jammu suspended

JAMMU, Jul 11 (Agencies): The Public Works (R&B) Department has placed S Punit Pal Singh, Incharge Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Mechanical, RTIC Jammu, under suspension for his alleged unauthorised absence from the duties.

Restore Statehood, hold Assembly elections at the earliest: Sajad Lone urges GoI



SRINAGAR, Jul 11 (Agencies): J&K Peoples Conference President Sajad Lone emphasized today the urgent need for the restoration of statehood and conducting timely assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Taking on the micro-blogging website 'X', Lone stated, "It is imperative that Assembly elections are held on time. I honestly believe that only an administration accountable to the people of J&K has the right to rule and administer."

Lone expressed his preference for a locally elected government, even if led by his political rivals, asserting, "Let my worst electoral rival be elected. I would prefer that government a million times over an alien government which falsely claims to be stakeholders with political and social sanctity. They don't and never will. A non-resident government would be unacceptable here or in any part of India. Would those in charge accept non-resident governments in their own states?"

He further urged the GoI to stop acting as individuals and start acting as an institution, "A humble appeal to the GoI: End this pain. First restore statehood, not out of charity but as a matter of right. Hold elections and transfer power to the new

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PM Modi arrives in Delhi after concluding two-nation visit to Russia and Austria

NEW DELHI, Jul 11 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in New Delhi on Thursday morning after concluding his two-nation visit to Russia and Austria.

After concluding his visit, PM Modi shared a post on X and thanked Austria's Chancellor, government, and people for their warm welcome and hospitality.

He also stated this visit was immensely productive and described it as 'historic.'

"My visit to Austria



has been historic and immensely productive. New vigour has been added to the friendship between our nations. I am glad to have attended diverse programmes while in Vienna. Gratitude to Chancellor @

karlnehammer, the Austrian Government and people for their hospitality and affection," PM Modi said on X.

PM Modi also attended a community event in Vienna on Wednesday and stated that this wait

has ended on a historic occasion marking 75 years of their friendship. Further, he also expressed his gratitude and delight at the enthusiastic welcome, acknowledging that it was a historic moment as an Indian Prime Minister visited Austria after a gap of 41 years.

As PM Modi arrived on the stage at a community event people welcomed him 'Modi, Modi' chant.

The community warmly welcomed PM Modi, and

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Over 4,800 pilgrims leave Jammu base camp to join Amarnath Yatra



JAMMU, Jul 11 (Agencies): Amid tight security arrangements, more than 4,800 pilgrims left Jammu city in the early hours of Thursday for the twin base camps in Kashmir to join the annual Amarnath Yatra,

officials said. The 14th batch of 4,885 pilgrims left in 191 vehicles for twin base camps of Baltal and Palagam at 3.06 am and were escorted by CRPF security, they said.

Following the terror

attack and ongoing operations, security has been further intensified in and around Bhagwati Nagar base camp and along the yatra route.

The batch comprising 2,366 men, 1,086 women, 32 children and 163 'sadhus' and 'sadvis' left in a cavalcade of buses and light motor vehicles from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp, the officials said.

While 2,991 pilgrims took the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route for their yatra, 1,894 others opted for the shorter but steep 14-km

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Interstate security review meet: Senior BSF and Police officials meet in Kathua

JAMMU, Jul 11 (Agencies): Senior BSF and police officials gathered at a high-level interstate security review meeting in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua on Thursday, days after terrorists, who are believed to have infiltrated from across the International Border, ambushed an



army patrol. Five army person-

nel, including a Junior Commissioned Officer,

were killed and as many injured when terrorists opened fire on two army vehicles on the Machedi-Kindli-Malhar mountain road near Badnota village, about 150 km from the district headquarters of Kathua, on Monday.

The meeting was attended by Jammu and

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ED arrests another accused in JKSSB SI Exam paper leak case

JAMMU, Jul 11 (Agencies): Nearly three weeks after arresting the alleged mastermind of the 2022 JKSSB Sub-Inspector recruitment exam paper leak, the Enforcement Directorate has nabbed another absconding accused and secured a five-day custody of him from a

special court here, officials said on Thursday.

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Anil Kumar, 31, a resident of Lahroda in Mahendragarh district of Haryana, was arrested by the ED-Jammu on Wednesday under criminal sections of the

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and was produced in the court of special judge, anti-corruption (CBI cases), in Jammu this morning, officials said.

On June 24, the ED arrested 43-year-old Haryana native Yatin Yadav, the alleged

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NIA seeking death penalty for Yasin Malik, HC Judge recuses himself from hearing

NEW DELHI, Jul 11 (Agencies): Delhi High Court judge Amit Sharma on Thursday recused himself from hearing a plea by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) seeking death penalty for separatist leader Yasin Malik in a terror funding case. The matter was listed before a division bench

headed by Justice Pratibha M Singh after a change in the roster of judges dealing with such cases.

"List before another bench, of which Justice Sharma is not a member, on August 9," Justice Singh said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front chief, who is currently

-serving a life term in the case, was virtually present for the the court proceedings from the Tihar jail here.

The court directed that he will appear virtually on the next date as well.

On May 29 last year, the high court had issued a notice to Malik on the NIA's plea

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Elections in J&K should be held to prove supremacy of security forces over terrorists: Omar

SRINAGAR, Jul 11 (Agencies): National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Thursday said assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir should be held in time to prove the supremacy of security forces over terrorists, who have carried out a spate of attacks in



Jammu region recently. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of

a party function here, Abdullah said there is no normalcy in the union territory.

"There is no normalcy. But, is the situation worse than 1996? If yes, then let them not conduct the elections. If they want to bow down before these powers who are attacking, then

don't conduct the election. If you have to prove the supremacy of the militancy, rather than proving the supremacy of our armed forces and police, then don't conduct the elections," he said.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile state of J-K, said if the

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Doda Encounter: Search operation continues for 3rd consecutive day

SRINAGAR, Jul 11 (Agencies): The search operation in Doda forests continued for third consecutive day to track down the terrorists.

A senior police officer told Srinagar based news agency Kashmir Scroll that search operation is being temporarily suspended for the night and it resumes in morning to find the hiding terrorists.

He said that there was an exchange of fire terrorists and security forces for around two hours following on Tuesday afternoon following which searches were started.

He added that as of now there is no confirmation about

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EDITORIAL

Smart City
needs essential
infrastructure

Jammu, one of the oldest cities in India and the winter capital of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, has embarked on a transformative journey towards becoming a "Smart City." This initiative under the Smart Cities Mission launched by the Government of India aims to enhance the quality of life for residents through sustainable and inclusive development, leveraging technology and innovation.

Jammu, known for its rich cultural heritage and strategic importance, faces various urban challenges such as traffic congestion, inadequate infrastructure, environmental degradation, and lack of efficient public services. The Smart City Mission, launched in 2015, seeks to address these challenges by promoting smart solutions that improve urban governance, infrastructure, and overall quality of life.

The vision for Jammu Smart City is to create a vibrant and sustainable urban environment that provides economic opportunities, social inclusivity, and a high quality of life for its residents. The mission emphasizes the integration of technology and data-driven decision-making to enhance infrastructure, utilities, mobility, safety, and public services.

Jammu Smart City focuses on upgrading and expanding essential infrastructure such as roads, water supply, sanitation, and solid waste management. Projects include the development of smart roads, underground utility ducts, and efficient waste management systems to ensure a clean and sustainable environment.

Improving transportation infrastructure and promoting sustainable mobility solutions are crucial aspects of the Smart City initiative. Projects include the development of integrated multimodal transport systems, pedestrian-friendly streets, cycle tracks, and smart parking solutions to ease traffic congestion and enhance connectivity.

Leveraging technology to improve governance and service delivery is a key priority. Initiatives include the implementation of e-governance systems, citizen engagement platforms, smart city command and control centers, and digital infrastructure for efficient service delivery and public administration.

Jammu Smart City promotes environmental sustainability through initiatives like green spaces development, energy-efficient buildings, renewable energy adoption, and water conservation measures. These efforts aim to mitigate climate change impacts and enhance the city's resilience.

Preserving and promoting Jammu's rich cultural heritage is integral to the Smart City mission. Projects include heritage conservation, restoration of historical sites, development of cultural centers, and promoting tourism to showcase Jammu's cultural diversity and heritage.

The implementation of Jammu Smart City projects is overseen by the Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL), which collaborates with various stakeholders including government agencies, private sector partners, civil society organizations, and residents. The projects are implemented in a phased manner with regular monitoring and evaluation to ensure timely completion and quality standards.

Significant progress has been made across various fronts under the Smart City initiative in Jammu. Infrastructure projects such as smart road development, utility upgrades, and waste management systems have been initiated. The introduction of technology-driven solutions for governance and service delivery has enhanced efficiency and transparency.

Despite the progress, Jammu Smart City faces challenges such as funding constraints, coordination among multiple agencies, and adapting to rapid urbanization while preserving its cultural heritage. Addressing these challenges requires sustained efforts, innovative approaches, and active participation from all stakeholders.

Looking ahead, Jammu Smart City aims to accelerate the pace of implementation, expand project coverage, and improve the quality of life for all residents. Continued focus on sustainable development, technology integration, community engagement, and governance reforms will be critical to achieving the vision of a smart, inclusive, and resilient Jammu.

In conclusion, Jammu Smart City represents a transformative initiative aimed at creating a model urban environment that prioritizes sustainability, inclusivity, and technological innovation. With concerted efforts and effective implementation of projects, Jammu is poised to emerge as a leading Smart City, setting an example for urban development in India.

Changes afoot as NSA Doval team expands with key posts

By: Dilip Cherian

The National Security Council Secretariat has undergone several notable changes recently, while also maintaining some continuity. Previously secretary (west) in the external affairs ministry, Pavan Kapoor has been appointed deputy national security adviser (NSA). This move is part of a series of appointments that include Rajinder Khanna, who has been promoted from deputy NSA to the newly established role of additional NSA. Mr Khanna, a former chief of India's external intelligence agency, Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW), is stepping into a pivotal role that didn't exist before.

Another key appointment is T.V. Ravichandran, an IPS officer currently serving as special director in the Intelligence Bureau. He replaces Mr Khanna as deputy NSA. Mr Ravichandran's initial tenure is set to last until his retirement on August 31, 2024, after which he may continue on a contractual basis. This reshuffle follows the recent appointment of Vikram Misri as the next foreign secretary, effective from July 15.

These changes mean that under NSA Ajit Doval, who is now in his third term, there will be one additional NSA and three deputy NSAs. The appointments committee of the Cabinet has played a crucial role in arranging these appointments, ensuring a blend of fresh perspectives and experienced leadership within the NSCS.

The strategic nature of

these appointments might hint at potential future shifts within the NSA office itself. Delhi is currently abuzz with rumours of a major reshuffle of key secretaries and other significant positions, possibly in September. While these moves appear subtle, they could signal broader changes within India's national security framework.

WB Governor tussles with his top officials

West Bengal governor C.V. Ananda Bose has stirred up quite the controversy by writing to Union home minister Amit Shah, urging strict action against West Bengal's chief secretary Mr B.P. Gopalika and two senior police officers, Kolkata police commissioner Vineet Kumar Goyal and deputy police commissioner (central) Indira Mukherjee. These letters, sent last month, accuse the officers of serious misconduct, claiming they have blatantly violated All India Services (AIS) conduct rules and acted as "willing accomplices in the misdeeds of the ruling dispensation".

Sources have informed DKB that the Union home ministry has initiated disciplinary action against Mr Goyal and Mr Mukherjee for allegedly maligning the office of the state governor by "promoting and spreading canard".

Mr Ananda Bose's detailed notes have created quite a stir in the babu corridors of North Block. Reportedly, in his letters, Mr Ananda Bose's outlined how the officers, particularly Chief Secretary Gopalika, have openly disregarded the Constitution and conduct rules. He warned that failure to take action could

further deteriorate the integrity of the Services and harm national interests. The governor accused Mr Gopalika of aiding and abetting corruption and highlighted issues like job recruitment scandals and alleged lawlessness in the state.

Mr Ananda Bose also added allegations against Mr Goyal and Mr Mukherjee, linking them to an investigation into sexual misconduct allegations against him. These accusations seem to be part of a broader effort by Mr Ananda Bose to clear his name, as he has previously dismissed the sexual harassment claims as a "sinister plot".

Interestingly, Mr Ananda Bose's letters come amidst speculation about his potential removal from his post in Bengal. Factors such as dissent among state BJP leaders and the common practice of reshuffling Raj Bhavan after a new regime takes office in Delhi, fuel these rumours. Despite this, sources indicate that the bureaucratic follow-up on Mr Ananda Bose's letters has already begun, making his tenure's continuity less critical.

Mr Ananda Bose's time as governor, which began on November 22, 2022, has been anything but smooth. Initially welcomed warmly by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, their relationship quickly soured due to his perceived alignment with the BJP. Mr Ananda Bose has faced numerous clashes with the Trinamul Congress, which has accused him of being a central government puppet, especially after sexual harass-

ment allegations against him surfaced.

The drama continues to unfold, as it is expected that Ms Banerjee will retaliate strongly. Watch this space for updates.

Gujarat HC dismisses babu's cadre transfer plea

The Gujarat high court has just thrown out the petition of Hitesh Kumar Makwana (IAS: 1995: TN), who was seeking a transfer from Tamil Nadu to his home state of Gujarat. The court pointed out that such a change at the tail end of his career would cause a domino effect on other appointments within the cadre.

Mr Makwana has been battling this issue legally since 1996, almost right after his cadre was assigned. He argued that based on the 2:1 ratio for cadre allotment favouring outsiders and insiders, he should have been placed in Gujarat as an insider. After being denied by the Centre, he took his case to the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and then escalated it to the high court.

However, the Centre stood firm, stating that Mr Makwana had no inherent right to be placed in his home state's cadre. They emphasised that cadre allocation is an administrative matter and can only be subject to judicial review in clear cases of discrimination.

So, after years of legal wrangling, the court's decision brings this long-standing fight to a close. It's a reminder that cadre allocations, while seemingly bureaucratic, have broader implications and are not easily overturned.

Education is Changing Rapidly

By: Vijay GarG

In today's fast-moving world, a model where we graduate in our youth prepared for a lifelong career is simply no longer valid.

Technology is reshaping the world into one where ongoing training, upskilling and reskilling are a necessity - and education is transforming to cater to this. Artificial intelligence (AI), online learning and breakthrough technologies like virtual and augmented reality (AR/VR) already play an increasingly important role. They will all become more integrated into the way we study and learn over the next decade.

Immersive Virtual Learning Environments

By 2035, the distinction between the physical and digital worlds will be increasingly blurred, and this is as true in education as anywhere. While I am sure many children and teenagers will still be attending brick-and-mortar school, alternatives will be well established for those who can't, as well as for adults and lifelong learners.

VR and AR technology will be far more accessible than it is today, with lightweight and affordable devices making it easy for anyone to interact with tutors and fellow learners as if they were in the same room. Highly immersive virtual classrooms and campuses will mean we can partici-

pate in sophisticated simulations, engage in complex scientific experiments or explore ancient civilizations first-hand.

The maturing of technologies that exist today will democratize access to education for those who aren't fortunate enough to live in areas with good schools and colleges. However educators will face the challenge of balancing this with concerns such as increased social isolation and the impact of extended screen-time on developing minds

AI-Driven Adaptive Learning

AI is going to change education (and everything else) in many ways, but over the next ten years, one of the most profound effects will be the rise of personalized learning. As the number of learners in both traditional classrooms (particularly in the developing world) and online environments climbs, teachers will have access to tools that accurately assess abilities and differentiate between learning styles to create hyper-personalized curriculums tailored to individuals' requirements.

Today's AI tutoring platforms will evolve into flexible AI mentors, able to understand psychological states and behavioral patterns to determine the best teaching strategies and even provide emotional support and encouragement. Students will have access to insights derived from biometric data to help them recognize the best time to learn

and when they should rest. Adaptive gamification will challenge learners to improve themselves by dynamically engaging and assessing them throughout the education process, perhaps putting an end to the stress-inducing routine of cramming for end-of-term exams.

Personalization at this level has the potential to help us learn better and attain better educational outcomes. However, there will also be big challenges around privacy and questions over the role of human teachers as they find their role transitioning from information providers to learning facilitators. Biased data could lead to learners being inaccurately assessed, and care must be taken not to overlook the importance of human oversight and mentorship.

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Neurotechnology And Accelerated Learning - Hacking The Human Brain For Better Learning

Here's where things get very science fiction. So, brain-computer interfaces (BCIs) are in development today - the most famous example being Elon Musk's Neuralink experiments. Don't worry; we probably won't all have to have chips

implanted in our heads to benefit, though, as non-invasive forms of BCI have also been in development for some time.

The first use cases in education are likely to involve assisting students with disabilities, enabling them to control devices with thoughts. This will enhance their ability to communicate and take part in learning activities.

Within ten years, they could also be used to understand the brain's learning processes better, potentially speeding up our ability to ingest, retain and recall information. By monitoring the electrical feedback generated by the brain, researchers believe it may be possible to optimize our ability to learn information and even develop skills such as playing a musical instrument.

Will this really be mainstream within ten years? Well, a lot depends on the outcome of research that's going on today. And just as importantly, it will come down to how society is able to answer questions around the ethical and security implications of developing technology that can literally read our thoughts!

*(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)*

BOX OFFICE BUZZ

The success of Kalki 2898 AD and failure of Bade Miyan Chote Miyan underscore that mediocrity won't work at the box-office

Currently Kalki 2898 AD's success at the box-office is ringing cash registers, which forces us to look at the past six months' records of Hindi films. While many films like Fighter, Shaitaan, Crew, Munjya and Article 370 were able to pull above Rs 100-crore in worldwide gross collections, none made an impact like Kalki 2898 AD, which collected over Rs 219 crore in India alone in just 13 days since its release on June 27. We bring the box-office half-yearly report of Hindi films.

Getting it right

January opened with the release of Katrina Kaif and Vijay Sethupathi-starrer Merry Christmas, but it barely surpassed Rs 18 crore at the box-office. To recover its budget of Rs 60 crore, makers sold its streaming rights to Netflix at the same amount. There were big expectations from Pathaan director Siddharth Anand, as he brought a new onscreen pair, Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone, with his film Fighter. A Republic Day release, the film collected Rs 337.20 crore worldwide, but the amount did not match Pathaan's success. Although a hit, much more was expected of Fighter, considering it was made at a whopping budget of Rs 250 crore.

February's major hit was Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya, starring Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon, another pair seen together for the first time on screen. The first rom-com of the year, made at a budget of Rs 75 crore collected Rs 133.64 crore worldwide. Kriti Sanon has seen a successful year as her two films, the other one being Crew, are listed among top 10 grossers of 2024 so far. If Teri Baaton Mein... is placed at the fourth position, female-centric Crew is just one rank above with Rs 157.08 crore collection



worldwide. A heist comedy with catchy songs, Crew was made at a budget of Rs 75 crore.

Shaitaan, a supernatural horror thriller with a talented star cast, including Ajay Devgn, R Madhavan and Jyothika, made a profit of Rs 146 crore only in theatres. With Rs 211.06 crore worldwide collections, the film is at the number two position in highest grossers' list till June end.

Flop show

The much-anticipated Bade Miyan Chote Miyan, starring Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff, was an action film made at a cost of Rs 350 crore. Guess how much the makers could recover? Barely Rs 102 crore, making

it the biggest multi-starrer failure of the year. Ajay Devgn-starrer Maidaan (Rs 250 crores budget) released on the same day as Bade Miyan Chote Miyan only recovered Rs 68 crores at box-office.

Even biopics didn't make much impact. Films like Maidaan, Main Atal Hoon and Chandu Champion drew much traction online, but looked like people were willing to wait for them to release on OTT rather than visit the theatres. Chandu Champion, starring Kartik Aaryan (Rs 100-140 crore budget), has grossed Rs 85.64 crores so far. Much like Chandu Champion, Srikanth also was based on a differently abled-man. Starring

Rajkumar Rao in the titular role and made at a cost of Rs 45 crore, the film managed to collect Rs 62.92 crore. In other words, medium-budget films like Munjya (Rs 30 crore), Article 370 (Rs 20 crore), Madgaon Express (Rs 30 crore) and Srikanth (Rs 45 crore) turned out to be hits.

If some of the most-anticipated projects failed at the BO, then there were also a few films that performed beyond expectations. Munjya, from the makers of Stree and Bhediya, made at a cost of Rs 30 crore, earned over Rs 128.36 crore worldwide. Another sleeper hit was Kiran Rao's Laapataa Ladies, which was just made at a budget of Rs 3 crore. The film won critical acclaim and went on to mint Rs 25.26 crore in theatres worldwide!

Hear it from the expert

There wasn't any pronounced trend as such during the first half of the year. The only trend that I saw, and which one sees year after year, was that good content succeeded while weak one failed.

Films which deserved to do well, like Kalki, Article 370, Srikanth and Munjya, did well. I think our writers need to understand that mediocrity won't work. It is mediocre stuff that is failing. I have been saying from the beginning that this year, probably, the South Indian and Hollywood film industries will come to the rescue of the Hindi film world, and Kalki has proven that.

With the collections being what they are, it's going to cross Rs 250 crore, which is a huge figure for a dubbed film. Some Hollywood films are doing well, have done well, like Inside Out 2 etc. So, Hindi writers and directors need to pull up their socks. — Komal Nahta, Film Trade Analyst.

Urvashi suffers 'terrible' fracture while shooting for film, hospitalised



Actor Urvashi Rautela has reportedly suffered a fracture in Hyderabad while shooting for her upcoming film NBK 109 in Hyderabad. As per a Free Press Journal report, Urvashi was admitted to the hospital in the city after she had the injury.

Urvashi hospitalised post fracture

The report cited a press statement by Urvashi's team and said she suffered a 'terrible' fracture. Her team

added that she suffered the fracture while filming a high-octane scene and has been in pain since then. She reportedly recently flew to Hyderabad for the shoot of the film's third schedule.

Urvashi is in Hyderabad for film's shooting. The Telugu film also stars Nandamuri Balakrishna, Dulquer Salmaan and Bobby Deol. Tentatively titled NBK 109, the film went on floors in November 2023. Directed by

Bobby Kolli, the music in the film is by Thaman S. The release date of the film hasn't been released yet.

Urvashi spoke with HT recently

Recently in an interview with news agency, Urvashi spoke about working with Balakrishna. "Balakrishna is such a living legend and a cult personality, especially down south. My equation with him is one of good faith and mutual respect because we bonded well as co-actors. He was also kind enough to be a part of my birthday celebrations earlier this year on sets. I have immense respect for him," she said.

Urvashi's work in Telugu industry

Urvashi worked in Hindi films since 2013. She made her debut in Telugu cinema last year. She has featured in special numbers such as Wild Saala from Akhil Akkineni-starrer Agent, Boss Party from Chiranjeevi-starrer Waltair Veerayya, and My Dear Markendeya from Sai Dharam Tej, Pawan Kalyan-starrer Bro.

Urvashi's recent film Urvashi was last seen in JNU: Jahangir National University. She played the role of a college politician in the film. The political drama has been directed by Vinay Sharma and produced by Pratima Datta. The film also stars Siddharth Bodke, Rashami Desai, Ravi Kishan, Vijay Raaz, Piyush Mishra and Sonnalli Seygall. The film released in theatres on June 21.

After the hectic shoot schedule of Maharaj, Shalini Pandey has some time to unwind before she begins working on Prime Video's Bandwale and Netflix's Dabba Cartel

Shalini Pandey's journey through the cinematic universe has been about some highs and much happiness. From her breakout role in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Arjun Reddy to her transition into Bollywood with Jayeshbhai Jordaar and the recently released Maharaj, Shalini knew she belonged to this world even when she didn't know how she had travelled the distance from Jabalpur to Mumbai.

For Shalini, it all began with a mix of uncertainty and unwavering determination. "Leaving home to pursue acting was a leap of faith," she recalls. And this initial leap led her to a role that shaped her career. It set the stage for her breakout role in Arjun Reddy. "It was a defining moment for me," she reflects. "The movie changed everything for me and for so many of us who were newcomers. Arjun Reddy worked as a miracle for all of us. Sandeep was new, so was I... Vijay was also a relatively new face. Every technician and crew member, we all got a chance and then a validation for our efforts."



After a few Telugu films, Shalini touched another significant milestone when she got signed by Yash Raj banner. Even though Jayeshbhai Jordaar didn't do well, it was a matter of gratitude for her. "Working with

Yash Raj Films was a dream come true," she confesses.

Bonding with co-stars Her memory of Maharaj is about hectic times, where deadlines meant serious business and being safe was a priority. And when it comes to her co-actors, if she found a friend in Junaid Khan, being with JaidEEP Ahlawat was a learning experience. "Junaid and I clicked instantly," she shares. "There was a natural rapport that made working together effortless. This bond has extended beyond the screen and

I can safely say we are good friends now." About Jaideep, Shalini says, "Everybody knows he is a brilliant performer. So, when you work with such a good actor, then your own effort elevates. At the same time, you don't worry about the scene because there is this sense of confidence that everything is going in the right direction." Challenges and growth If all sounds fun, Shalini says she has had her fair share of challenges, which she has faced head-on. "I am an engineer from a small town, who knew from that

start that she wanted to be a heroine. From being a part of audition groups to finally landing my first role in a Telugu film, may look like an easy start but I really struggled with the language. I cried because I wanted to say that same thing in my language. I prepared over and over again to make it look natural. When I did get my first Hindi film, it felt so liberating to perform. When you can express in your mother tongue, it becomes so much more natural."

As the conversation draws to a close, Shalini says, "I had dreams, but I also knew the road ahead wouldn't be easy." Even though her family didn't agree to her choice back then, today, when they see their daughter has made a life for herself, she says, "They are only too happy. My mother is my pillar of strength and my father has also come around." For Shalini, it's all about looking ahead and following her passion.

Looking ahead Set to feature in Amazon Prime Video's Bandwale and Netflix's Dabba Cartel with Shabana Azmi, Shalini looks at the future with optimism and is driven by new opportunities. "I'm excited about these projects. While I can't reveal much, I just want to tell you that these are very close to my heart."

Anurag Kashyap's daughter reveals why she isn't attending Ambani wedding



Director Anurag Kashyap's daughter, Aaliyah Kashyap, has claimed that she was invited to some events of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's wedding but chose not to attend out of "self respect."

In a series of Instagram broadcast messages, Aaliyah Kashyap, 23, equated the wedding with a "circus" and claimed that the Ambani family had invited some

people for PR.

Anant Ambani is the younger son of Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani and his wife Nita Ambani. The scion of the Ambani family will marry Radhika Merchant, daughter of Encore Healthcare CEO Viren Merchant, on July 12 in Mumbai. The Ambani family has already hosted two pre-wedding events, both spanning multiple days of festivities. The first was a three-day bash in Jamnagar attended by the likes of Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg, while the second was a luxury cruise with stops across the Mediterranean.

With the wedding approaching, the Ambani family has already hosted several parties in Mumbai last week, including a garba night, a haldi ceremony and a sangeet where many Bollywood stars performed.

While the guest list for Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's wedding has been extensive, comprising film industry stalwarts,

influencers, friends, family, fellow industrialists and businessmen, Aaliyah Kashyap said she chose not to attend the events she was invited to.

"The Ambani wedding is not a wedding at this point it's become a circus," the 23-year-old wrote.

"I was invited to some events because apparently they're doing PR (???? don't ask me why) but I said no because I would like to believe I have a little more self respect than to sell myself out for someone's WEDDING," she added.

Screenshots of her broadcast messages have been widely shared online.

In other messages, Aaliyah said she was fascinated by the lives of "rich people" and had been stalking everything wedding-related on social media.

She also pointed out how the Ambani family had shut down parts of Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) for the wedding.

Alia Bhatt trained for four months for her role in Alpha

Alia Bhatt and Sharvari have teamed up for the first female-led film in the YRF spy universe. While the news was out in reports for a while, recently the makers made it all official as they announced the film with the title reveal. The film is titled Alpha and it went on floors earlier this month.

Now, we have learnt details about Alia's training for the film as she plays a secret agent. A source close to the development reveals to us, "Alia has started shooting for Alpha on July 5th. The film presents her in a never-seen-before avatar. She has trained for about four months to prepare herself to play a super agent. She has five to six major action sequences in the



film and she needs to be at her fittest best. Alia has pushed her body to a breaking point because she has to look ruthless on screen."

Apart from Alia and Sharvari, Bobby Deol is rumoured to be a part of the cast of the Shiv Rawail directorial as well. The actor will apparently play the antagonist opposite the ladies. Alpha adds a new link in the YRF spy universe which already has Salman Khan's Tiger, Hrithik Roshan's Kabir and Shah Rukh Khan's Pathaan. Till date, five films in the universe have been released, with the next two films in the pipeline being War 2 and Alpha. There are two more rumoured projects in the pipeline-Pathaan 2 and Tiger Vs Pathaan.

Residents of Jammu North protest against Kathua terrorist attack, demand befitting reply to Pak

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 11: Residents of the Jammu North Assembly segment on Thursday staged a protest against the recent terrorist attack on an army convoy in the Machedi area of district Kathua, which resulted in the martyrdom of five soldiers and injuries to five others.

The protestors, filled with anguish and patriotism, raised anti-Pakistan slogans, expressing their outrage over the incident. The streets echoed with their demands for stringent actions against terrorism and measures to safeguard the nation's



security. Speaking to reporters, Uday Chib, General Secretary of the Indian Youth Congress, said, "This barbaric attack is a stark reminder of the challenges our brave soldiers face daily to protect us. We demand that

the government should take decisive steps to counter terrorism and ensure the safety of our armed forces."

Arjun Singh, President of Shri Rastriya Rajput Kerni Sena, said, "The loss of our soldiers is a grave tragedy that

affects the entire nation. We stand in solidarity with their families and call for immediate and strong retaliatory actions against the perpetrators. It is time for Pakistan to be held accountable for harboring terrorists." The protesters

demanding justice for the martyred soldiers, urging the authorities to reinforce security measures. They pledged to continue their support for the armed forces and the fight against terrorism.

The protest saw the participation of various community members and leaders, including Surinder Kumar, Hoshiyar Singh, Anirudh Sawhney, Pummy Manhas, Joginder Sangam, Digvijay Singh, Madan Singh Chib, and Kaka Ram. Their unified presence underscored the collective grief and anger of the local populace.

Delegations from EDII Ahmedabad, Sainik Welfare Department call on LG Mishra



Top News Report

LEH, Jul 11: A delegation from Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) Ahmedabad led by its Director General, Sunil Shukla, called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. Advisor to the LG, Dr Pawan Kotwal; Commissioner/Secretary to the LG, L Franklin, IAS; Under Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Sumera Shafi, and, Executive Manager, JKEDI, Dorjay Wangchuk, were present in the meeting.

He expressed interest in establishing a centre in Ladakh. Shukla informed the LG that courses will be offered to students who enrol with EDII.

The LG inquired about the certificates provided by EDII to ensure future prospects for local youth; the infrastructure required by EDII to set up their centre in Ladakh and the finances involved. He asked Shukla to tie up with University of Ladakh so that entrepreneurship courses could be offered to students and told him to meet with the Vice-Chancellor, UoL, with the proposal.

Shukla informed the LG that EDII is an autonomous body institute which was established in 1983 and offers master's degree programmes in Entrepreneurship, a fellowship programme and several entrepreneurship training programmes. He also informed that EDII has seven regional offices in India and around seven existing and upcoming centres outside India.

The LG inquired about the possibility of revival of JKEDI in Ladakh for the benefit of Ladakhi youth along with steps taken in this regard.

Director, Sainik Welfare Department, Col Lobzang Nima (Retd) called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the LG Secretariat. Advisor to the LG, Dr Pawan Kotwal, IAS and Commissioner/

Secretary to the LG, L Franklin, IAS, were present in the meeting.

Col Nima apprised the LG of the progress of the ongoing works taken up the Sainik Welfare Department, viz. extension of the lease period of the houses of Veer Naris; construction of the community hall for ex-servicemen/Veer Naris and the construction of the Old Age Park, etc.

The LG inquired about the progress of the construction of the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) through CSR funds by SIDBI in Leh; the construction of the Sainik Welfare Office and the appointment of Zila Sainik Welfare Officer.

Col Nima informed the HLG that the STP will be funded by SIDBI under its CSR initiative and the work will commence soon. He also informed that the construction of the Sainik Welfare Department office is currently sub-judice and the final decision from the Court is still awaited. He further informed that the appointment of the Zila Sainik Welfare Officer will be done on the basis of the guidelines laid down by Government of India at the earliest.

The LG asked Col Nima to follow up the construction of STP with SIDBI. He also directed him to appoint the Zila Sainik Welfare Officer in a timeframe manner.

Samvedna Society distributes Ayushman Bharat Health, ABHA Cards



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 11: Keshav Chopra, Chairman of Samvedna Society, on Thursday organized a programme to distribute Ayushman Bharat Health Cards and ABHA Cards to beneficiaries.

Ayushman Bharat Health Cards, providing free health insurance up to five lakhs, were distributed alongside ABHA Cards, which serve as a digital health account enabling individuals to manage their medical information conveniently.

During the event, Keshav Chopra emphasized the positive impact of these initiatives on improving healthcare accessibility for the needy. He highlighted that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir UT is continuously enhancing healthcare facilities, making quality treatment more accessible across the country.

He likened the Ayushman Bharat card to an

ATM that consistently provides the benefit of free treatment annually. Similarly, the ABHA ID card was described as a comprehensive tool for managing healthcare needs efficiently.

Samvedna Society, under Keshav Chopra's leadership, has been actively involved in distributing Ayushman Bharat and ABHA Cards since the inception of the scheme. Beneficiaries at the event expressed their gratitude towards Samvedna Society for bringing these essential healthcare benefits directly to them.

Among those present at the event were Anju, Vikas Kumar, Varun Nishant, General Manager Gourav Kumar, Ritesh Peer, Sourav Gupta, Manoj Tandon, Sushil Gupta, Abhishek Gupta, Harish Gosain, Parshotam Lal, and others, who participated in and supported this initiative to enhance healthcare accessibility in the region.

Dr Pawan Kotwal leads discussion on Cloudburst, GLOF Risk Mitigation

Top News Report

LEH, Jul 11: The Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor & the Chairman of the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), UT Ladakh, Dr Pawan Kotwal chaired a significant meeting regarding the preparedness for dealing with possible Glacial Lake Outburst Flow (GLOF) and Floods due to Cloudburst hazards in the Union Territory of Ladakh, at the Civil Secretariat, Leh.

The meeting focused on comprehensive deliberations and discussions regarding vulnerable areas prone to floods due to cloud bursts affecting lakes (Tso) in Ladakh.

The Advisor reviewed detailed reports on vulnerable lakes in the Leh, Kargil, and Zaskar regions. He instructed the District Magistrates and Senior Superintendents of Police of Leh and Kargil to identify suitable locations in their respective districts to accommodate the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team. The Additional Director General of Police, Ladakh assured the NDRF team that they would be provided accommodation in existing District Police Lines.

Dr Pawan Kotwal directed the Union Territory Disaster Response Force (UTDRF) to visit identified vulnerable points to assess the risk



and enhance preparedness. He emphasized the need for the latest equipment, including solar charging panels and satellite phones, to be made available to the concerned officers.

He urged the UTDRF to provide training to the Aapda Mitr (Volunteers) and residents to ensure the safety of human lives during natural disasters. He highlighted the importance of community involvement and advanced preparedness in mitigating the impact of GLOFs in Ladakh. He emphasized the importance of proactive planning, coordination, and preparedness to mitigate the impact of such natural disasters.

The meeting focused on preparedness and response measures for potential Glacial Lake Outburst Flow (GLOF) and flood risks due to cloudburst hazards in the UT of Ladakh. The meeting resulted in strategic deliberations & discussions, and decisions aimed at enhancing Ladakh's resilience and disaster management capabilities.

The meeting was attended by the Addi-

tional Director General of Police (ADGP), Ladakh Police, UT Ladakh; the Commissioner/Secretary of the Forest Department, UT Ladakh; the Commissioner/Secretary of Planning Department, UT Ladakh; the Administrative Secretary of Department of Disaster Management Relief Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, UT Ladakh; the Administrative Secretary, RDD&PR Department, UT Ladakh; the Administrative Secretary of Power Development Department, UT Ladakh; the District Magistrate, Leh, UT Ladakh; the Senior Superintendent of Police, Leh, UT Ladakh; the Lieutenant Colonel Prateek Gupta GSO-1(OPS), HQRS Leh Sb Area; the Superintendent of Police, UTDRF, UT Ladakh; the Director of Indian Meteorological Department, UT Ladakh; the Dean Research Studies, Ladakh University, UT Ladakh; Under Secretary of Department of Disaster Management Relief Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, Ladakh; and concerned officials, while the Commandant-13 NDRF, Ludhiana Punjab; the District Magistrate, Kargil, UT Ladakh; the Senior Superintendent of Police, Kargil; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kargil and concerned officials joined the meeting virtually.

Attempt to affect party growing popularity: Sahni

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 11: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has expressed concern over the security of party state leaders in the highly sensitive Jammu-Kashmir and has accused the police department of treating them step-motherly and waiting for something untoward to happen.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that the countdown for the assembly elections in Jammu-Kashmir has begun. To affect this, the puppet terrorist organizations active in Jammu-Kashmir at the behest of Pakistan have intensified their activities.



Sahni said that being a party with a Hindu ideology, our leaders always fear something untoward during party promotion and meetings.

Many applications have been made to all the high officials including the DGP of Jammu-Kashmir Police Depart-

ment regarding the security of the party state leaders. He said that the leaders of some political parties formed overnight are given Z plus security, but no party leader including the state head of the 6 decade old Shiv Sena (UBT) has even a single PSO.

Sahni said that this

kind of working of the police towards the opposition parties forces one to think that efforts are being made to influence the publicity of the party under a well-planned strategy.

Sahni said that our voice against terrorism, narco terror and Rohingya and restaura-

tion of the rights of the sons of the soil cannot be suppressed. Advising the Jammu and Kashmir Police Department to stay away from politics, Sahni has demanded adequate security to the political parties active in the terrorism affected Jammu and Kashmir.

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