

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Ladakh sanctions promotion committee for PWD

LEH, Jul 17 (Agencies): The Union Territory administration in Ladakh has sanctioned the formation of a UT/Divisional Level Promotion Committee for the Public Works (Mechanical Engineering) Department.

This committee will consider promotion cases of eligible candidates under UT/Divisional Cadre posts in accordance with the Union Territory of Ladakh Public Works (Mechanical Engineering) Department, 2024.

### Joint Director prosecution to conduct inquiry against Sr PO SKPA Udhampur

JAMMU, Jul 17 (Agencies): The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has appointed Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Joint Director Prosecution, J&K, as the Inquiry Officer to investigate charges against Amit Parkash Sehgal, Senior Prosecuting Officer at SKPA Udhampur, under Rule 33 of the J&K Civil Service (Classification, Control, and Appeals) Rules, 1956. Anil Dev Jamwal, Chief Prosecuting Officer at APHQ, will act as the Presenting Officer. The inquiry report with recommendations is to be submitted within one month.

### Cong to launch stir against 'Growing' terror activities, unbridled powers to LG in J&K

JAMMU, Jul 17 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Congress will on Friday launch an agitation against the alleged failure of the BJP-led government to check growing terror activities and its decision to give unbridled powers to the Lt Governor ahead of the assembly polls in the Union Territory.

Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani on Wednesday said, "The agitation will start at the state level and be taken to the district and block levels in the coming days."

"We will also press for the restoration of statehood before the Supreme Court's September 30 deadline for the holding of Assembly elections," Wani told reporters here.

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## Mortal remains of two soldiers martyred in Doda encounter brought to Jaipur

Top News Report

JAIPUR, Jul 17 (Agencies): The mortal remains of two soldiers, Ajay Singh and Bijendra, who were martyred in a gunfight with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, were brought in a special plane here on Wednesday.

Rajasthan Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khinvsar, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Avinash Gehlot, Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jolly, Congress state unit chief



Govind Singh Dotsara and Army officers paid floral tributes to the martyrs after their bodies arrived

at the Jaipur airport. The mortal remains were then taken to Jhunjhunu for cremation.

Ajay Singh hailed from Bhaissawata Kalan village, while Bijendra belonged to Dumoli Kalan village in Jhunjhunu. A 'tiranga yatra' will be taken out before the funeral.

Four Army personnel, including a captain, lost their lives in a fierce gunfight with heavily armed terrorists of Pakistan-based outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in Doda district, officials said on Tuesday. The encounter took place in the dense forests of the district late Monday evening.

## Doda Encounter | 'Enemy will pay heavy price': DGP RR Swain

JAMMU, Jul 17 (Agencies): The Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police, RR Swain, said that every policeman in the force will "fight shoulder to shoulder and avenge" following a militant attack in the Doda region that claimed the lives of four Indian army personnel.

"Every single policeman of J&K Police will fight shoulder to shoulder and avenge; we will make sure the enemies pay a heavy price," Swain stated.



Swain made these remarks during an exclusive interview with CNN-News18 while discussing the current security

assessment in Jammu and Kashmir.

The comments from the J&K police chief come a day after four Army personnel, including a captain, was killed in an encounter with heavily armed terrorists of Pakistan-based banned outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in Doda district of the state.

The soldiers killed were identified as Captain Brijesh Thapa from Darjeeling, Naik Dokkari Rajesh from Andhra

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## Former AHD Incharge Deputy Director's suspension ends with retirement, case pending

JAMMU, Jul 17 (Agencies): The suspension of Dr Bikramjit Singh, former Incharge Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry Department, Jammu, who faced the Departmental action in September 2022 over accusations of attempting to

bribe the then Secretary of the Agriculture Production Department with two lakh rupees, has automatically ceased upon his retirement on November 30, 2023.

An inquiry into the matter was conducted,

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## Another batch of pilgrims leaves for Amarnath Yatra

JAMMU, Jul 17 (Agencies): A fresh batch of 3,700 pilgrims left for the Amarnath cave shrine in South Kashmir Himalayas on Wednesday amidst tight security measures.

The 20th batch of pilgrims left at 3:05 am in 127 vehicles under CRPF escort from Bhagwati Nagar base camp. The



group included 2,734

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## Militant activities in neighbouring J&K district force Himachal Pradesh to suspend Chamba-Doda bus service

SHIMLA, Jul 17 (Agencies): Amid repeated militant attacks in the neighbouring Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, the Himachal Pradesh Transport Corporation (HPTC) on Tuesday temporarily suspended bus services on the Chamba-Doda route with the safety of

passengers in mind. The bus service started on July 2.

Among the latest militant activities in Jammu and Kashmir is an attack on the Indian Army which killed four soldiers in Doda on Monday.

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## 55 J&K Secretariat employees granted quasi-permanent status

JAMMU, Jul 17 (Agencies): In accordance with Rule 3(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Temporary Service) Rules, 1961, the J&K Government has officially declared the services of 55 members of the J&K Secretariat (Subordinate) Service as Quasi-Permanent.

## Jammu and Kashmir Police a political, impartial force: ADGP Vijay Kumar

SRINAGAR, Jul 17 (Agencies): Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Law and Order, Vijay Kumar on Wednesday said that Jammu and Kashmir Police is an impartial and apolitical force.

Reacting to the statement of Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain on mainstream



politicians, the ADGP,

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## Two drug smugglers with Pakistan link arrested in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, Jul 17 (Agencies): In a major blow to the drug smuggling network with Pakistan links, Amritsar Rural Police on Wednesday said they have apprehended two suspects for possessing seven kg of heroin and arms.

Five pistols and an equal number of cartridges, besides magazines, were



recovered from them, a major achievement in disrupting trans-border drug smuggling networks. "Investigations revealed the Pakistan link", Punjab

Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav wrote on X. A first information report (FIR) has been registered under the Arms Act and Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) Act.

Two days earlier, Punjab Police arrested a drug smuggler and seized 4,100 kg poppy husk

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# MBA MOTORS

## MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

DEALS IN SALE, PURCHASE, REPAIRING AND SERVICING OF USED CARS AND ORIGINAL SPARE PARTS

NAGROTA, JAMMU (J&K) +91-9086207123

## LAHDC Leh signs agreement Army

LEH, Jul 17 (Agencies): In a historic move, a significant handing and taking over ceremony took place between LAHDC Leh and the ARMY for CTA Land (Melongthang).

The agreement was signed between LAHDC Leh led by Chairman/CEC, Tashi Gyalsen and the ARMY led by Major Gen. Ravinder Kumar, Sena Medal GOC Leh Sub area and Brig. KMS Rana Station Commander Nimoo, in the presence of DC/CEO Santosh Sukhadeve.

CEC emphasized the army's crucial role in Ladakh, highlighting their contribution to the region's socio-economic development. CEC also extended his heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble PM for bolstering border areas with vibrant village programs, leading to significant progress over the past three years and facilitating reverse migration.

GOC Sub Area highlighted that the land exchange program will yield positive impacts for

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# Former President of CCI demand investigation into CCI's election rigging

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: Addressing a press conference today, Rakesh Gupta, the former President of Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu expressed concern and raised alarm over the organized and criminal act of rigging done in the elections of Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Jammu held on April 23, 2023 last year.

Giving proofs, he exposed the modus operandi of the then Election President Shiv Partap Gupta/ Arun Gupta President CCI and Gaurav Gupta Secretary General CCI at that point of time. He said that the whole gamut came to light and was exposed after a written reply by the then Election President was given in the month of May, 2023 to a written communication/complaint by one of the senior member of the CCI Sunil Gupta of Sunil Traders, Nehru Market, Jammu alleging Non Transparent / Bias Polling Team/ Bogus Voting/ Rigged Election on April 23, 2023.

He reminded one and all that in 2020 a civil suit was filed in the Court of law by Y.V Sharma (former President) and Prithvi Raj Gupta (former Secy. General) CCI supported by Arun Gupta (President CCI now) against the CCI's team of office bearers citing procedural lapses in convening a special general meeting held in Dec 2018



that was attended by over 751 CCI members.

"Immediately thereafter four sitting office bearers including Gaurav Gupta who was then the Secretary CCI and Gaurav Gupta Secretary General CCI at that point of time. He said that the whole gamut came to light and was exposed after a written reply by the then Election President was given in the month of May, 2023 to a written communication/complaint by one of the senior member of the CCI Sunil Gupta of Sunil Traders, Nehru Market, Jammu alleging Non Transparent / Bias Polling Team/ Bogus Voting/ Rigged Election on April 23, 2023.

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retiring Secy. General Sh. Gaurav Gupta. It proves their mala fide intentions by appointing bias polling staff.

He added that the meeting of the Executive Committee is mandated under section 13(d) of the CCI,s constitution to pass the accounts but after the Election President has taken over, no such meeting can take place but it was still convened to pass all the questionable and objectionable expenditures.

He further said that, the Election President miserably failed to justify the presence of the Presidium Members in the polling area namely Romesh Chander Gupta, YV Sharma, Prithvi Raj Gupta, Ravinder Sawhney, Ravinder Goel, Anil Gupta and a senior member Yash Pal Gupta. The reply saying that Sh. Prithvi Raj Gupta was appointed the Chief Election Observer, Sh. Yash Pal Gupta expressed his desire to watch direct polling and that the others were requested by the election committee to

supervise the election are totally in contravention to CCI,s Constitution.

He added that its Election Presidents totally a blatant lie saying that he did not get any complaint of bogus voting even when the polling had to be stopped for about an hour after pre ticked ballot papers were spotted and reported on social media too.

He added that, firstly a Marker Pen was allowed to tick the ballot and later normal pens used speaks volumes of the intentions to rig the polls.

He said that, the voter list stood at 2816 members but the venue managers boosting of hosting more than 4000 members of CCI on social media again establishes the fact that many persons were allowed inside the polling venue illegally.

He mentioned that, the instructions of the Election President to the venue managers to shut down CCTV and justifying the same by saying "There were no reason to bulge the bill by asking for CCTV footage" is a criminal act and the Election President must know that CCTV Footage is Mandatory under law and always free of cost.

He stated that, refusing to preserve Ballot papers /Video Footage / Camera Clicks and saying that "we do not keep records of election material" the Election President has proved right our allegations of Rigged Election. He added that, total

denial by not providing List of Polling Agents/ Counting agents and copies of the bills of expenses incurred on Election and case stands proved that the polls were rigged.

He appealed to the LG of J&K UT Manoj Sinha to order an inquiry considering the above mentioned facts and instruct the Registrar of Societies to issue notice to the Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Jammu to explain their position in this regard.

"I am very hopeful that LG will do the needful and I also appeal that an amendment be made in the Act of Societies so that all the future elections of Registered Associations be conducted under the overall supervision of the Deputy Commissioner concerned," he said.

It shall not be out of place to mention that the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industries has taken the lead and made an amendment in their constitution which says "The Election Commission under the overall supervision of the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar shall conduct the election process in a smooth, transparent and fair manner".

He has sure that LG, who has always enforced and believed in transparency, shall issue immediate necessary instructions to uphold the democratic process and values.

# Annual Rudra Ganga Yatra commences from Kathua yesterday, flagged off from Jammu

## Chhari Mubarak will reach Chandraini Top in Dessa on Guru Purnima: Yatra Trust

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: This year's annual Yatra commenced on Tuesday from Panch Narayan Mandir Kathua and will reach its destination in Chandraini Top in Dessa area of District Doda.

Chhari Mubarak was flagged off by Dr. Dara Singh and Yudhveer Sethi, from Geeta Bhawan Jammu on Wednesday morning towards Doda.

Yatra will pass through various places and halts being at Jammu, Doda City, Brahm Ghat, Shiekly, Malan, Gramari, Chanderbhatan and Jag-

rata will also be held at Chabuni in Dessa.

Later on next day on 20th, the holy Chhari Mubarak will reach Rudra Ganga Bhawan at Chandraini Top and on the same day holy bath (snaan) will be performed. On the night of July 21, Jagrata will be performed at the Bhawan.

In a statement, Advocate Joginder Singh Thakur, Spokesperson and legal advisor of the Yatra trust said that Annual Chhari Mubarak reaches the Rudra Ganga Dham situated at Chandraini in Dessa from where Rudra Ganga originates from

three stones shaped like Rudraksh and becomes a river named commonly known as Rudra Ganga. Thakur further added that the holy bath (snaan) at Rudra Ganga is held every year on Guru Purnima in the month of July or August every year which starts from Nagri Kathua and reaches Chandraini top (Dessa) is district Doda and thousands of pilgrims join this Yatra and take holy bath every year. It is pertinent to mention here that this year, the Yatra commenced from Kathua on July 16 and will reach Chandraini Top on July 20.

# DCC Samba holds protest against terror attacks in Jammu Region

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, July 17: The District Congress Committee (DCC) Samba organized a protest against the recent terror attack in Doda district and a series of other attacks across the Jammu region that have resulted in casualties among our brave jawans.

Led by Working President Bable Gupta and Ex-Councilor PCC member, along with district and senior leaders, Congress workers expressed

solidarity with the martyrs and their families.

They raised slogans in support of the army and security forces, carrying placards that read "Shaheed Jawan Amar Rahein", "Our Forces Zindabad", and "Atankwad Bandh Karo".

The protest underscored Congress's strong denouncement of terrorism and called for immediate action to curb the rising terror activities in Jammu.

Leaders questioned the BJP government's

handling of the situation, expressing deep concern over the escalating terrorism and the loss of precious lives in recent months.

Participants in the protest included Ex-Sarpanch Tirth Ram, Bhagat Jank Raj, Raj Kumar, Manjeet Kumar, Block President Uttam Chand, Karm Chand, Tarsam Lal, Jagdave Ashok Kumar, Parstom Lal, and others, who echoed the sentiments of the people in demanding decisive measures against terrorism.

# Free health check up camp organised at Central University of Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: A day-long free medical camp was organized by the Health Centre, Central University of Jammu (CUJ) in association with MMM hospital, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu for the benefit of students, scholars and employees of the University under the patronage of Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

The camp was attended by Dr Neeraj Mahajan, Senior Medical Officer, Central University of Jammu thanked the team of MMM hospital, Jammu for making the medical camp successful. He welcomed the team of Dr. Neeraj Mahajan and thanked them for the noble cause. The visiting team of MMM hospital, Jammu was honored



by presenting a memento. The camp prioritised the diagnosis of prevalent health concerns such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. Dr. Neeraj also took the initiative to educate participants about the importance of routine body profiling and adopting healthy dietary habits to effectively manage weight and blood sugar levels.

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# Pregnant Woman's Death: Family holds protest at SDH Akhnoor, demands investigation

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, July 17: The unfortunate death of Suman Devi, a resident of Bajigar Basti Akhnoor, after receiving treatment at Sub District Hospital Akhnoor, has sparked protests by her family and local residents. The incident has prompted demands for a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding her death and for action against the responsible doctor and para-medical staff.

Suman Devi, who was pregnant, passed away following her treatment at the hospital, leading to grievances expressed by her family members and community members present at the hospital premises.

They urged authorities for transparency and accountability in determining the causes that led to her demise.

In response to the protest, the team led by Police Station In-Charge Tariq Ahmed intervened to defuse tensions and maintain order at the hospital.

He made efforts to calm the situation and facilitate dialogue between the aggrieved parties and hospital authorities.

The incident has raised concerns among the local populace about healthcare standards and the treatment provided at the hospital, prompting calls for swift and fair action in the investigation process.

# Apni Party organises service camp for mourners on Youm-e-Ashura

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, July 17: Apni Party organised a day-long service camp at Zadibal in Alamgari Bazar Srinagar for the mourners on the occasion of Youm-e-Ashura today.

On this sacred day, volunteers, primarily party workers, provided refreshments including mineral water, juices, and

sharbat to the mourners and participants of the procession. The camp was conducted under the supervision of the party's Provincial Secretary, Najeab Naqvi.

Later, on the directions of the party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, the senior party leaders including the party's State Secretary and Chief Spokesperson

Muntazir Mohiuddin, District President Srinagar Noor Mohammad Sheikh, Senior Vice President district Srinagar and in-charge for the Habba Kadal Constituency Jee-lani Hamid Kumar, District Secretary Srinagar Peer Wajahat, and others visited the camp and expressed their solidarity with the participants of the procession.

address the issue until alternative arrangements are established.

The meeting emphasized the importance of promoting cleanliness and hygiene in the workplace, aimed at ensuring long-term benefits for both locals and tourists alike.

# Chairman/CEC LAHDC Leh reviews relocation, beautification of existing meat shops

Top News Report

LEH, July 17: Chairman/CEC LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson convened a meeting today regarding the relocation and beautification of existing meat shops in Leh area.

The meeting was attended by Dy. Chair-

man LAHDC Leh, Tsering Anchuk; DC/CEO Leh, Santosh Suhadeve; ADDC Leh, Sonam Norbu; AD, FCS&CA; Assistant Commissioner Food Safety; Administrator of Municipal Committee Leh and other representatives from Meat Seller Association Leh.

During the meeting, there was a discussion about future plans to relocate the shops to a more developed area. In the meantime, H'CEC instructed that the facade of the meat shops be thoroughly cleaned and that suitable glass coverings be installed to

NORTHERN RAILWAY						
E-Tender Notice						
Sr DEE/GFZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.irps.gov.in) against below listed Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.						
Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (in Rs.)	Estimate Money (in Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website particulars
251-Elect-T-27/2024-25	Electrical work in c/w Provision of covered shed over existing line and other allied works at BDM on BAHL-BRM section.	1,43,19,470.11	2,21,800.00	05 Months	07.08.2024 after 15.00 Hrs.	www.irps.gov.in
251-Elect-T-26/2024-25	Electrical work in c/w Improvement in infra structure of 10 nos Existing SPL class L-sings under SSE/PIAT & SSE/PIPTK & Upgrade and Modification of existing RPF barracks complex for provision of 40 bedded Female barracks accommodation for RPF Staff at Pathankot & Provision of Divyangjan Taluka, entry path 50 mtr COP and Drinking water booth for divyangjana under SSE/PIPTK.	33,25,551.07	86,500.00	05 Months	06.08.2024 after 15.00 Hrs.	www.irps.gov.in
251-Elect/T. Notice No. 26-Elect/2024-25 Dated:- 16.07.2024						
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE						

**Department of Wildlife Protection J&K Government**  
**Office of the Wildlife Warden, Jammu**  
Manda Hills, Near Hotel Ashok Jammu.  
Email: [wluwjammu@gmail.com](mailto:wluwjammu@gmail.com)

**TENDERING**

**Tender Notice : e-NIT No.:- 19/WLWJ of 2024-25 dated: 13-07-2024**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. /Central Govt.

Organizations for the following works:

Name of work	Adv. Cost (in lacs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Receiving/Opening Authority
Repair and Renovation of Veterinary Hospital at Manda	10.00 lacs	D	600	60 days	Tender opening committee

**EMD (2% of advertised amount):- Rs 20,000/-**  
The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental Website:- <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

AATS No. & Date	38 of 2024-25 (RWLWJ) dated 01-07-2024
Position of Funds	Approved under CAMP A

Publishing Date	13-07-2024
Download Start Date	14-07-2024
Bid Submission Start Date	14-07-2024
Bid submission End Date	31-07-2024 up to 02:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid	01-08-2024 at 12:00 PM (In the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu, Manda Hills, Jammu)
Date of opening of Financial Bid.	01-08-2024

Bid documents can be seen at and download from the website: - <https://jktenders.gov.in>. Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.

DIP/J-2968/24

(Vijay Kumar, SFS)  
Wildlife Warden  
Jammu

No.: WLWJ/ Dated: 13-07-2024

## EDITORIAL

## COMPETITIVE EXAMS

Competitive exams play a pivotal role in shaping academic and professional careers, serving as benchmarks for assessing knowledge, skills, and aptitude across various domains. These exams are designed to select candidates for admission into educational institutions or for employment opportunities based on meritocracy and standardized testing principles. Here's a comprehensive overview of competitive exams:

These include exams like SAT, ACT, GRE, GMAT, and various national-level exams conducted for admission into universities and colleges.

Examples include JEE (Joint Entrance Examination) for engineering, NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) for medical courses, CLAT (Common Law Admission Test) for law schools, etc.

Such as UPSC Civil Services Examination, which recruits for administrative services. Like IBPS PO, SBI PO, for recruitment in public sector banks conducted by Staff Selection Commission for various Group B and C posts.

Railway Recruitment Exams conducted by Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) for various technical and non-technical posts. Merit-based scholarships often require competitive exams as part of their selection process.

Research Fellowships Exams like CSIR NET, UGC NET, and GATE are used for admission into research programs and to award fellowships.

Exams cover a wide range of subjects including Mathematics, Science, Social Sciences, Language Proficiency, and General Knowledge depending on the specific exam.

Most competitive exams have a structured format with multiple-choice questions (MCQs), descriptive questions, or a combination of both. Some exams also include skill-based tests like essays, case studies, or practical demonstrations.

Each exam has its own marking scheme and criteria for evaluation. Negative marking is common in many exams to discourage guessing.

Effective time management is crucial due to the vast syllabus and competitive nature of these exams. Creating a study schedule and adhering to it helps in covering all topics systematically.

Understanding fundamental concepts and theories is essential. Regular practice through mock tests and previous years' papers enhances familiarity with the exam pattern and improves speed and accuracy.

Regular revision consolidates learning, and taking mock tests simulates exam conditions, helping identify strengths and weaknesses.

Competitive exams promote meritocracy by providing equal opportunities to all candidates based on their performance rather than other factors.

The competitive nature of these exams often leads to high levels of stress among candidates. Proper stress management techniques and mental well-being are important during preparation.

Success in competitive exams can significantly impact social mobility and career prospects, influencing societal perceptions of success and achievement.

Competitive exams are integral to educational systems worldwide, acting as gateways to higher education, prestigious careers, and opportunities for professional growth. While they pose challenges, they also foster academic excellence, critical thinking, and preparation for real-world challenges. Effective preparation, along with a balanced approach to mental and emotional well-being, ensures candidates are well-equipped to navigate these exams successfully and contribute meaningfully to society.

## Operational doctrine needed to defeat proxy war

Maj Gen GG Dwivedi  
(Retd)

(Former Assistant Chief,  
Integrated Defence Staff)

SINCE April this year, there has been a spike in terror attacks in the Jammu region. In reference to these encounters, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) DGP RR Swain said, "A war has been imposed upon us but every terrorist in J&K will be killed." However, this war has now gone on unabated for over three decades, orchestrated by Pakistan as part of its national doctrine. India has been dealing with this menace as state-sponsored terrorism from across the border.

It was in the early 1980s that Pakistan began to fuel militancy in Punjab to bleed India, having successively failed in conventional wars. The Pakistan army arranged a safe haven for the militants, providing training, arms and financial support. The decade-long militancy was ultimately defeated due to extensive coordinated operations by the security forces, coupled with a favourable groundswell. Victory came at a heavy price, both by way of bloodshed and in financial terms. Punjab was devastated and is yet to fully recover.

Given the success in Punjab, the Pakistan military top brass was convinced that its sacred mission to wrest Kashmir could be achieved through 'non-state actors'. The success of jihadis in defeating a superpower in Afghanistan reinforced the belief. Accordingly, Pakistan's 'Deep State' launched the proxy war in J&K in 1989-90, contemplating a local uprising, an exodus of minorities, rendering the

civil apparatus defunct and defeating the security forces through irregular warfare.

Though terrorists initially gained the upper hand, by the mid-1990s, the Indian Army was able to stabilise the situation. While normalcy was a far cry, the danger of the Kashmir valley slipping away had been averted. In the initial stages, the foreign outfits — mainly Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) — were the mainstay of the proxy war, the Valley being the main focus. Even around early 2000, when I was commanding a formation in the Valley, foreign terrorists had a viable presence in Baramulla and south Kashmir.

In September 1998, although India and Pakistan agreed to hold a composite dialogue which included issues such as terrorism and narcotics, Gen Pervez Musharraf, the then Chief of Army Staff, had different plans. Pakistan continued to use the jihadi groups to undertake calibrated operations, often changing the modus operandi. India's response remained largely defensive, with no concrete measures to target terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan. A nexus between local politicians, terrorists and Pakistan's ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) remained intact.

Following the 'Ceasefire Agreement' (CFA) on the Line of Control (LoC) in 2003, it became easier for Pakistani handlers to infiltrate terrorists into J&K. There was also a shift in Pakistan's strategy to lend a local touch to the proxy war by involving groups like the Hizbul Mujahideen. Given its nuclear capability, Pakistan has succeeded in significantly constraining India's conventional options. The Pakistan perception was reinforced during

the 1999 Kargil conflict as India's response was rather measured.

India's approach to cross-border terrorism remained reactive, marked by restraint, although public opinion was often for strong military action against Pakistan, especially after the terror attacks at Parliament in 2001 and Mumbai in 2008. The Pakistan army has been able to regulate the proxy war and keep the Indian security forces engaged while imposing substantial costs, knowing that India lacks effective deterrence. The Pakistan assumption did get challenged when India undertook surgical strikes across the LoC in 2016 and the air strike at Balakot in 2019. Thereon, Pakistan's approach has been to avoid major actions so as to obviate retaliation.

With the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 and reorganising of J&K into two union territories, the situation in the Valley has shown a marked improvement. Consequently, Pakistan changed its strategy by shifting the operations from the Kashmir valley to the south of the Pir Panjal — the Jammu region — after almost two decades. Over the last three years, the Rajouri-Poonch region has witnessed a series of terror strikes, with the security forces suffering significant losses. The recent incidents in Reasi, Doda, Kulgam and Kathua are the handiwork of the LeT and JeM, with the Resistance Force and Kashmir Tigers being the respective front faces of these outfits. The continued proxy war underscores the fragility of the situation in the region.

For Pakistan, the proxy war against India is a lucrative option. It offers high returns at a minimal cost. Rawalpindi has shown flexibility to exploit vulnerabili-

ties across the Indian borders and the hinterland. Hence, India must accept this reality and shed the notion of perceiving it to be just cross-border terrorism. Further, it must stop dealing with the situation in piecemeal binaries — North-South of the Pir Panjal and LoC-IB sectors — as also the notion that the Pakistani designs can be defeated by reactive tactical operations.

It is imperative for India's security planners to formulate a national strategy encompassing politico-diplomatic-economic measures to make it cost-prohibitive for Islamabad to continue with the misadventure. The collusion between Pakistan and China needs to be factored in as the latter is now a stakeholder in the game. Alongside, there is an immediate requirement to formulate an integrated 'counter-proxy war doctrine', which should be multi-dimensional, encompassing operations across the LoC to destroy terrorists' launch pads and target Pakistani posts assisting infiltration at the LoC, to create a conducive environment and favourable ecosystem. The CFA needs to be abrogated as it provides immunity to the Pakistan army against punitive actions by the Indian security forces.

In J&K, since 1990, around 6,480 security personnel have lost their lives and about 38,720 civilians have been killed (including an unspecified number of terrorists). Evidently, India has paid a heavy price. It is time to replace the existing format with a prudent strategy and operational doctrine to defeat the Pakistan-sponsored proxy war. Else, we are destined to continue to suffer the *fait accompli*.

## Decreasing Physical Exertion, increasing Diseases

By: Vijay Garg

Health and illness in a country are not necessarily related only to the facilities for treatment and the number of hospitals and doctors available in comparison to the population. People suffer from many diseases because their daily routine is not according to the health related rules and people adopt such a daily routine, due to which their chances of falling sick increases manifold. There have been many studies and surveys which show that with the increase in wealth in our country, people are changing their daily routine and have become more careless about health. One such study has recently been published in the journal 'The Lancet Global Health'. It has been claimed that Indians are far behind the citizens of many other countries in terms of physical activity. The objective of this study, conducted in 2019 in 197 countries of the world between 2000 and 2022, was to measure the share and level of physical activity in the daily routine of adult citizens of different countries. The study assessed 507 surveys from 163 out of 197 countries, which represent 93 percent of the total world population. Of these, 167 surveys are from before 2010, 268 surveys are from 2010 to 2019 and 72 surveys are from 2020 and onwards. It has been said in the report that although there has been a decline in the physical activity of common adults all over the world, the figures in the high-income countries of Asia Pacific region are disturbing. India ranks second

in the list of countries where there are clear signs of increasing laziness among adults. According to reports today about twenty-five years ago, twenty-two percent of Indian adults were considered inactive in terms of physical activity. But it increased to 34 percent in 2010 and to about 50 percent in 2022. It can be said that in the post-Covid pandemic, the physical activity of half of the adults in India has almost come to a standstill. It is expected to reach 60 percent by 2030. Latest figures show that 42 percent of men in our country are physically inactive, while in the case of women it is said to be 57 percent. This is probably because the home role of women in work is continuously shrinking. Here physical activity means brisk walking, vigorous activity and energy-burning exercises. However, at the global level the figure of inactivity among adults was 26.4 percent in 2010, which has now increased to 31.3 percent. It can be said that the period of Covid pandemic may have played a major role in this inactivity. During the Covid pandemic, the trend of getting all the work done from home through the internet was established, which later turned into a tradition. Due to this, people go out of the house less. Even with the development of 'work from home' i.e. 'work from home' culture, the necessity of going to office has been drastically reduced. This has also increased the physical inactivity of adults. Concern is being raised about the lack of physical activity because the effect of not exercising, running or walking, is that fat starts

increasing on the body and many organs get damaged due to heavy fat and inactive lifestyle. They get buried under the burden of birth. In these conditions the human digestive system becomes weak or sick. If the energy obtained from food is not expended, it gets deposited in the body and gets stored in the form of extra flesh. This increases obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease and many problems of the digestive system. These diseases are recognized as lifestyle diseases, which are emerging as a major health crisis for the world. The World Health Organization had stated in a large study in 2017 that the inactive routine of people is behind 61 percent of non-infectious deaths in India. The daily physical routine of 19 lakh people of the world is in this report presented after studying the activity, the World Health Organization had estimated that at present the physical activity of about 140 crore people in the world is very low, but at that time it was told in this report that 24.7 percent of India's men and 43.3 percent of its women Percentage of women do not have much confidence in moving their hands and legs. This figure has now increased. But neighboring country China has launched 'Healthy China 2030' campaign. Similarly, Australia has set a target of making 15 percent of its citizens active in exercise by 2030. 203 in Britain A target has been set to connect five lakh new people with exercise by 2019, while a campaign has been launched to connect one thousand cities in America with 'free fitness'. The important thing is that this laziness is embedded in our entire

lifestyle and work culture. And so this is a warning. Therefore, understanding the seriousness of such studies, Indians need to immediately become alert about changes in their daily routine. The most important aspect of this warning is related to physical exertion, which is being largely ignored in Indian life. There are also indications of the changing lifestyle of women and not just children. The number of cars is continuously increasing and now people have started using cars even for small tasks. Not only this, thanks to e-commerce the market itself has now reached people's homes. In such a situation, maximum exercise would be for the eyes and fingers. Otherwise people remain stuck in front of the TV without moving their hands and legs. There is no pressure to move anywhere, no need. It is true that due to medical science the average human life has increased, but people have started suffering from such diseases, which are called lifestyle diseases. In the study 'Global Burden of Disease' published in 'Lancet' in 2017, it was said that people of rich countries have started understanding how important health is, hence they have started giving importance to physical labour, but in countries like India, This thing is not being understood. Therefore, people in poor and developing countries remain ill for more days than in rich countries.

(Vijay Garg Retired  
Principal Educational  
Columnist MALOUT  
Punjab)

## Shrine Board unveils new Yagyashala at Bhawan with Grand Pran Pratishtha ceremony

Top News Report

KATRA, July 17: In a momentous occasion, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) today unveiled its new Yagyashala at Bhawan designed to provide sacred space for devotees with enhanced Hawan Poojan facilities and to perform other religious rituals. The unveiling was marked by a grand ceremony of installation of Murti Sthapna of the divine idol of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji after successful completion of a sacred Yagya performed for Pran Pratishtha spanning across three day.

The ceremony was attended by Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Dr. Neelam Sareen, Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd. Judge) and Raghu K. Mehta, Members SMVDSB; Vikas Anand, SDM Bhawan; esteemed donors along with other officers and staff of the Shrine Board, besides pilgrims at large,



who participated in Purna ahuti and other religious ceremonies performed amidst chanting of vedic mantras on the occasion. A group of pandits led by Padma Shri Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri, performed the sacred rituals and offerings.

The new Yagyashala has been constructed near the old Bathing Ghat below the Atka area at main Bhawan comprising

05 Hawan Kunds, spread over an area of 1600 sq.ft. enabling 10 groups of pilgrims to avail the facility of Hawan Poojan simultaneously from only upto 03 groups at present. Besides, an approach gallery has also been created with a covered area of 1100 sq.ft. leading up to the Yagyashala which can facilitate participation of more than 100 pilgrims in the Shat Chandhi Mahay-

agya being conducted regularly during Navratra. This facility not only harmoniously blends traditional design elements with modern amenities but also features a spacious and well ventilated area for facilitating participation in collective prayers, rituals and special ceremonies.

Notably, this improved facility of new Yagyashala has been created as

per the approval accorded by the Board at its 72nd Meeting held this year on April, 3 after considering the limitation in the facilities of Hawan Poojan for the pilgrims owing to space constraints and their limited participation in the existing Yagyashala on the special occasions.

CEO expressed gratitude to everyone who contributed to the successful completion of the Yagyashala and Murti Sthapna ceremony.

He exhorted that the unveiling of new Yagyashala is a testament of the Shrine Board under the Chairmanship of Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor, JK-UT to unwavering commitment for providing the best possible facilities to the pilgrims visiting the Holy Shrine.

He underscored that the new Yagyashala will host regular Hawan Poojans and shall provide pilgrims with ample opportunities to engage in spiritual practices and seek the blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.

## Dr. Rajneesh chairs meeting with Industries Association of Ladakh

Top News Report

LADAKH, July 17: MSME-Development Nucleus Cell, Ladakh the field office of Union Ministry of MSME implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSME sector for Ladakh with jurisdiction of both districts Leh and Kargil. The activities including entrepreneurship awareness program, intellectual property rights awareness program, procurement marketing support scheme awareness program, PM-Vishwakarma seminar, PM-Vishwakarma awareness workshop, entrepreneurship & skill development program, management development program, reimbursement of bar code expenditure, reimbursement of stall charges, to and from charges, advertising expenditure for participating in various exhibitions conducted in all parts of the country.

Dr. Rajneesh, Additional Secretary of Union



Ministry of MSME visited Ladakh and chaired a meeting with Industries Association of Ladakh including Chamber of Industries & Commerce, Ladakh, Wood Carving & Carpentry Association, Leh, Solar Industries Association, Ladakh and representative of District Industries Centre at MSME DNC, Leh. Dr. Rajneesh highlighted the schemes of the Union Ministry and requested the industries Associations to educate their members to avail the schemes. He has given details about the Cluster Development Programme of the Ministry in which projects with

project cost up to 10 Crs can be approved under the Ministry with 05% beneficiary contribution and subsidy component of 95% for establishing Common Facility Centre. The association representatives have informed the issues that may need his attention like Public procurement Policy 2012 implementation, PMEGP related issues etc which have been noted for necessary action from the Ministry. Dr. Rajneesh also had a separate meeting with senior officials of the Government of Ladakh. The meetings have been co-ordinated by G.Velladurai, IEDS, Joint Director.

## One-month delay in academic session due to NTA; ABVP raises concerns

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu Kashmir highlighted their concerns regarding the delay in the commencement of the new academic session at universities and affiliated colleges due to issues with the Common Universities Entrance Test (CUET) conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA). ABVP Jammu Kashmir is deeply concerned about the delay in starting the new academic session due to the postponement of CUET results. CUET, introduced last year as a common entrance exam for undergraduate admissions, was scheduled for May with results expected by June 30th.

The delay in CUET results, caused by irregu-

larities in the exams, has disrupted the admission process across universities and colleges. The planned admission process starting from July 1st could not proceed without the declaration of results.

The revised timeline by the University Grants Commission (UGC) sets July 25th for results declaration, followed by a month-long admission process. This indicates a probable one-month delay in starting the academic session, causing stress and anxiety among students eager to begin their studies.

Akshi Billowria, State Secretary of ABVP Jammu Kashmir, urged the NTA to expedite the CUET result declaration process with transparency and fairness. She also calls upon the UGC to instruct univer-

sities to streamline their admission procedures to minimize further delays and keep applicants informed.

Sannak Shrivatsa, State Joint Secretary, emphasized the importance of a smooth start to the academic session. He highlights that a one-month delay due to mismanagement not only affects the current academic year but also jeopardizes future semesters.

ABVP Jammu Kashmir appealed to the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to ensure a swift and fair CUET result declaration process. They stress the need for a streamlined admission process at universities and colleges to reduce student anxiety and ensure the timely commencement of the new academic session.

## RBD mourns martyrdom of soldiers in Doda

Top News Report

DODA, July 17: Rashtriya Bajrang Dal (RBD) in Doda mourned the martyrdom of four soldiers, including a captain, by terrorists. Pakistan is being condemned strongly, and there were vigorous protests against Pakistan on this occasion. Rakesh Bajrangli, the State President of National Bajrang Dal, stated that continuously our soldiers are being martyred by Pakistan-trained terrorists within the Jammu province. More than 30 soldiers have been martyred so far across the country.

There is widespread anger against Pakistan. Everyone is demanding from the Indian government that action should be taken to teach Pakistan a lesson.

On this occasion, Rakesh Bajrangli said that at this time, all political parties of the country should unite and fight against terrorism. However, here political parties are only engaged in criticizing the government.

Those who are winning Lok Sabha elections in this country do not respect the Constitution of the country and talk about breaking the country. And those who are supporting jailed people are the ones inside the jails who are stone-pelters, anti-nationalists, who support terrorists. The government should first crack down on such leaders. Along with them, those traitors of the country who are providing shelter to these terrorists, who are providing all kinds of information and food, etc., should also be found and shot. Today, the entire country is demanding retaliation for the martyrdom of our soldiers. Our army is so capable that it can eliminate Pakistan within 24 hours.

Rakesh Bajrangli said that every citizen of the country is demanding from the central government that the camps of terrorists inside Pakistan, the transit camps, should be destroyed. Many activists were present on this occasion.

## JPBEF commemorates Nationalization of Banks

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: An event organized by Joint Platform of Bank Employee Federations (JPBEF) to commemorate the Nationalization of Banks on July 19, 1969.

JPBEF celebrated the Nationalization of Banks by organizing a social function at a Home for Handicapped individuals near KK Resorts Bohri. The function included entertainment and food for the inmates of the home.

The General Secretary of JPBEF, Com Arun Kumar Gupta, praised the decision to nationalize banks as historic. He

emphasized that bank nationalization ensures the safety and development of the common masses and opposed any moves towards privatization of the public sector.

During the event, JPBEF distributed reading materials, stationery, pens, and pencils to the children at the home for handicaps. They also pledged to assess and address the educational needs of these children in the future.

The event was attended by various public figures, bank officials, and members of JPBEF, including Com Tara Singh (President) and Com Ashwani

Pradhan (General Secretary of State All India Bank Officers Association), along with other notable comrades.

Com Arun Kumar Gupta expressed gratitude to the organizers of the home for their coordination in making the event successful. The federation promised to continue organizing such programs in the future.

This event reflects JPBEF's commitment to social responsibility and its belief in the positive impact of nationalized banks on society, particularly in supporting marginalized groups like the handicapped children in the home.

## CMF Phone 1, CMF Buds Pro 2, and CMF Watch Pro 2 now on sale

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: Nothing sub-brand CMF has announced the sale commencement of the highly anticipated first smartphone CMF Phone 1 with a starting price of Rs 15,999 (including offers). This is the company's cheapest smartphone to date, and it is also the most repairable, with an easily replaceable back panel held together by stainless steel screws. Along with the phone, the affordable CMF Buds Pro 2 and CMF Watch Pro 2 which will be available for purchase through CMF's official website (cmf.tech) and retail partners.

"CMF Phone 1, CMF Watch Pro 2, and CMF Buds Pro 2 showcase Nothing's unique approach to integrating creativity, practicality, and personalisation through design," said Carl Pei, CEO of Nothing. "These products further mark our commitment to injecting fun into a boring industry, and I'm very excited to see the market feedback."

Available in four colours Black, Light Green, Blue (India Only) and Orange, the CMF Phone 1 resembles any modern Android phone from the front, boasting a spacious 6.67-inch screen with a 120Hz refresh rate. It runs on the MediaTek Dimensity



7300 SoC, paired with up to 8 GB of RAM and up to 256 GB of internal storage. Additionally, the phone includes a TF card slot for expanding storage by up to 2 TB.

The CMF Phone 1 features dual rear cameras, a 50 MP primary sensor and a portrait camera and a 16 MP front camera. It shoots up to 4K video with the main camera and 1080p with the selfie camera. Running Android-14 based Nothing OS 2.6, it promises at least two major OS updates.

The CMF Watch Pro 2, the brand's second smartwatch, sports a 1.32-inch circular display in an aluminum alloy case with interchangeable bezels. It offers auto-brightness adjust-

ment, an upgraded sleep detection algorithm, built-in multi-system GPS, and supports 120 sports modes, including auto-recognition of activities like running and cycling. It boasts up to 11 days of typical usage or days of heavy usage on a single charge and is compatible with Android and iOS devices.

The Buds Pro 2 is said to be capable of delivering best-in-class audio quality with advanced features including active noise cancellation (ANC) up to 50dB, LDAC for high-resolution audio streaming, and a customisable smart dial on the case for volume adjustment and media playback control, configurable via the Nothing X app.

## BVPS Greater Kailash organizes monthly Sakranti celebration at Shiv Mandir

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: BVPS Greater Kailash organized Monthly Sakranti Celebration at Shiv Mandir. Pooja Archana/Hanuman Chalisa/Parsad Vitran Programme was celebrated with all gaiety wherein about 25-30 BVP GK

members participated actively.

Besides, Birthday of Subash Dutta and Ravinder Sharma was celebrated with healthy wishes. Marriage anniversary of Parbhat Singh and Pooja Manhas was also clapped with full fervor and a small token of love was presented.

## One Love Party to contest all 90 seats in upcoming J&K Poll

Top News Report

LONDON, July 17: Ankit Love, founder and president of One Love Party has announced that it will contest all seats in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly elections that according to a Supreme Court notice against Election Commission of India must be lawfully conducted by 30 September 2024. Love in June attended the Supreme Court of India to file the winning plea along with advocate Ajay Singh, former assistant to the late advocates couple Prof.

Bhim Singh and Jay Mala. Ankit Love who studied biology at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University, founded One Love Party in October 2015, along with a fellow dormitory mate and Cambridge graduate.

The One Love Party's first electoral contest was the London Mayoral elections in May 2016, where Ankit Love secured over 33,000 votes, (over 28,000 second choice votes and 5,000 first choice votes).

Love, in a live television broadcast of the result from City Hall, was the first to congratulate

Sadiq Khan, in his historic first win as the Mayor of London.

One Love Party subscribes to a new school of thought, the techno-progressive ideology. Techno-progressives believe in peacefully applying technological advances directly and expeditiously in resolving social, economic and nature related issues.

Ankit Love wants to develop J&K as the most advanced and developed state in the world. Love's pragmatic hope is underpinned by ensuring that revenues from the recently discovered 5.9

million tonnes of lithium found in J&K are correctly managed and invested to create world class infrastructure for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"I want to build the best and most advanced free hospitals for our people, as well as high level universities, office buildings and international airports. I want to develop ecologically friendly hotels and ski resorts to stimulate the J&K economy and job opportunities like never before. Further, and most importantly, I want to create the most developed, advanced and well

run orphanages to cater for the 220,000 conflict orphans in our state. Together we can make J&K the greatest state in the world, as it deserves." Love said.

US\$500 billion worth of lithium was recently discovered in Reasi, in the near vicinity of Bhimgarh fort an historic castle built by Love's great-great grandfather the celebrated General Zorawar Singh, the conqueror of Mount Kailash and Tibet, believed by over 1.2 billion Hindus to be the abode of Lord Shiva the first yogi on Earth.

## Turning visuals into emotions

*Script is the bible, director the captain of the ship, and DoP the chief engineer, says Mr and Mrs Mahi-fame cinematographer Anay Goswamy, who was on a flying visit to Panchkula*

In a world where crime thrillers are ruling the entertainment-landscape, noted cinematographer Anay Goswamy would rather be a part of stories of hope. In Panchkula to meet his parents before heading for a Himachal retreat, he tells us after his latest cinematic offering, Mr and Mrs Mahi, that he is ready to sign on the dotted line for yet another love story. "Good romances," he states, "are few and far between".

Going against the current comes naturally to him. Part of an industry where jo dikhta hai who bikta hai... he would not blow his trumpet, but let his work speak. If on the sets he is behind the scenes, off it too he is rather reticent, has no social media manager, doesn't give too many interviews; in short doesn't care to hog the lime-light, even as he makes many famous through his lens.

Working with superstars (Salman Khan, Ranbir Kapoor, Hrithik Roshan) is as much a part of the deal as 'it is their business to look good.' However, he remembers the late Sridevi (Mom) not as a diva but an example of, 'how far humility can take you'. If not much is written about the relationship of actors with DoPs, he thinks, the artistic contribution of a DoP 'the right hand man of the director' does not get enough credit too.

In fact, he takes umbrage to them being referred to as technicians. He also busts the perception that pretty images make for good cinematography and is no fan of pictorial camerawork. If someone tells him 'your cinema-



tography stood out in the film', he doesn't take it as a compliment. For him, like any other element of filmmaking, DoP's job is not to create breathtaking visuals but enhance the art of storytelling. Thus for Hrithik Roshan-starrer Super 30 he may not have been nominated for any awards, but the film was hailed and that was appreciation enough for him. Certainly, awards do matter. He began his career on a laudatory note and even won the Best Cinematography award in the Emerging Filmmakers section at the Cannes Film Festival. He quips, "Who doesn't like validation?" But he is not in pursuit of awards.

reasons for signing any project are multifarious; script is the starting point. And when it starts speaking to him visually, as the beautifully written The Japanese Wife and Fitoor did, and also the one he is reading currently, it's a big boon. Production house is important too. Big banners like YRF and Dharma can be overwhelming, but also a privilege

and an opportunity which translates into responsibility.

When a film gets decent reviews but does not work magic on the box-office, like Mr and Mrs Mahi, does it affect his fortunes as DoP? Before we go into the semantics of how a hit or flop impacts him, he informs that Mr and Mrs Mahi did break-even business. But even when a movie like Shamsheera turns out to be a BO debacle, he remains mighty proud of his work and dubs the film as 'one of my best'. To his filmography, comprising 12 significant films including Kai Po Che, he could have added a few more, "Only if I had opted for 40 day shooting schedules! Tiger 3, Shamsheera and Fitoor took five-and-a-half years of my life."

Choices are what defines us...and one that he would not trade for anything in this world is the FTII training, which not only equipped him technically but also expanded his vision. As for the BFA degree from the Government College of Art,

Chandigarh, where he majored in photography, it sure was a springboard. To the students of his alma mater in City Beautiful, especially those aspiring to walk in his footsteps his advice is simple — focus on what you have. "Lack of something is when you are truly inventive."

As for newer technologies like VFX effects, well, he doesn't view them as detrimental to his signature, only a necessary tool. "Since no movie, even a Mr and Mrs Mahi, is made without VFX effects," he takes keen interest in how these are integrated in his camerawork and is always hands-on with the VFX team. In his words, "DoP does play second fiddle. Script is the bible and director the captain of the ship, and DoP like chief engineer", but for him no aspect of his work is secondary. As Rachel Morrison said, "Cinematography speaks to everything that women do inherently well: It's multitasking, it's empathy, and it's channeling visuals into human emotion."

Connect with City Beautiful  
Growing up in a creative family in Chandigarh, which included his uncle, illustrious art historian late Dr B N Goswamy, artistic impulses were a given. Love for cinema was ingrained by his father. He still remembers how during his formative years, he would watch western movies at Neelam and Kiran cinema. Doordarshan was another window into the world of make-believe. The ones that stayed in his mind are Garam Hawa, Bagh Bahadur and 36 Chowringhee Lane.

## Taapsee Pannu's 'Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba' to release on August 9



The release date of Taapsee Pannu and Vikrant Massey-starrer

Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba is out. The Netflix film will start streaming

on the OTT platform from August 9.

A sequel to the 2021 release, the movie will also star Jimmy Shergill and Sunny Kaushal apart from the leads, Vikrant and Taapsee. The movie has been helmed by Jayprad Desai, and written and co-produced by Kanika Dhillon.

The official synopsis of the movie reads, "Picking up where the first film Haseen Dillruba left off, the story follows Rani Kashyap and Rishabh Saxena as they seek a fresh start in the vibrant city of Agra. With authorities on their trail and drops of blood marking their path, their quest takes a dramatic turn with the arrival of Sunny Kaushal's character, Abhimanyu, introducing a fresh layer of intrigue to the drama. The lovers find new enemies with Jimmy Shergill and many more who want to foil their plans of 'happily ever after.'"

The film will start streaming on Netflix from August 9.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Taapsee was last seen in Dunki alongside Shah Rukh Khan. Vikrant Massey last starred in the acclaimed Vidhu Vinod Chopra film, 12th Fail.

## Drake shares glimpse of his flooded mansion, makes light-hearted joke

Canadian rapper Drake is caught in the eye of the storm. He did his best to make light of a less-than-ideal situation.

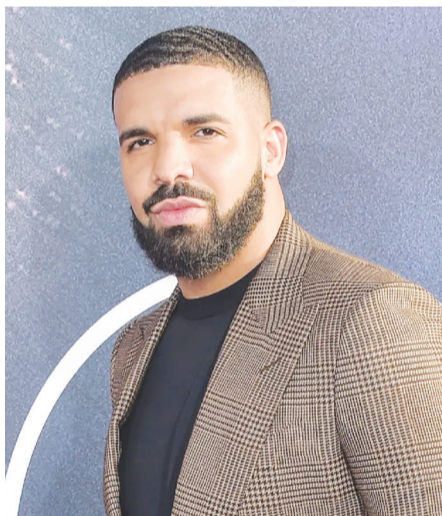
Recently, the rapper took to Instagram stories and shared a video showing his home flooded during the rainstorms in Canada, reports People magazine.

He wrote on the video, 'This better be Espresso Martini.'

In the clip, an unidentified individual wearing all-black is seen trying to close French doors as muddy flood waters rush through and begin to accumulate throughout the room of the home they are in. With only the sound of the rushing water, Drake pans the camera down to his feet, which are submerged in water up to his mid-calves.

As per People, in the video, he's holding a broom, presumably trying to direct the water away.

Although the Grammy winner did not tag his location in the video, his hometown of Toronto has been experiencing severe weather, including flooding, of late. Environment Canada (weather agency) lifted its heavy rainfall warning for Toronto and the Greater Toronto area. The announcement came after



flooding impacted the city's subway system earlier this week.

"Heavy downpours can cause flash floods and water pooling on roads," the weather agency said, as per Toronto Star. "Watch for possible washouts near rivers, creeks and culverts."

"The rain might last one more day," the newspaper added on Wednesday, with most of the unpleasant weather expected to clear out before the weekend arrives.

## Imagination gone too far...

*The First Act: A Simulated Podcast, a theatre of the absurd creation by actors of the Panjab University's Indian Theatre Department, becomes a confusing fare after a promising beginning*

Shahbaz Bajwa and his troop of actors of the Panjab University's Indian Theatre Department presented the play The First Act: A Simulated Podcast, a unique dramatised experiment, at the Tagore theatre. This simulated podcast was placed on the blurred stretch between truth and fiction, reality and illusion.

The intention was clearly to be provocative and expose the audience to their lives in a postmodern world where nothing is 'authentic'.

Drawing its essence from Baudrillard's philosophical treatise titled Simulacra and Simulation, the play ended up being a muddled



experience. Starting with simulated Batalvi talking about life as 'slow suicide', it moves onto a 'real' interaction on the nuances of a life of letters and art with renowned theatre artiste Neelam Mansingh Chowdhry.

Absurd characters follow, commenting with their glitchy language on contemporary issues such as the water

crisis in Punjab, and Punjabi musicians and their knack for rubbing shoulders and eventually getting into trouble with gangsters! All, of course, to no logical end.

Theatre of the absurd devices such as devaluation of language and irrelevance of plot were well employed.

Here, the actors are theatrical objects as we

are ideological puppets. Reality sweeps in again when a cock walks onto the stage with its refusal to be bothered by humans, it exhibits its plumage and is eventually carried away.

Perhaps, it was a healthy reminder for us to take a walk in the woods — connect with nature you spiritualists; stay skeptical ye netizens!

On came a lady with a human dog, absurd enough. The dialogue that followed too was absurd. Absurd still was the fact that the podcaster had been a closeted dog all this time. Oh, a goat also tapped in, well at least it came some inches from the left wing before it decided, just like the cock, that clueless humans both on and off stage were not worth baaa'ahing at! But by then, the protracted repetition of aforesaid devices for over two hours had disengaged the audience. What could have one done? The ideological puppets were 'trapped' in this experience; are trapped in this mediated life.

## Amitabh Bachchan holds umbrella for wife Jaya in latest picture, sets couple goals

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan and his wife Jaya Bachchan are leaving no stone unturned in setting couple goals as seen in a recent picture of the duo in which he is seen holding out an umbrella for the actor-turned-politician.

On Tuesday night, Big B took to X and dropped a picture featuring himself and Jaya along with a caption that read, 'And the rain it raineth every day .. even on set at work ..'

The image beautifully captures Amitabh sporting a white kurta pyjama. Jaya is seen holding a bowl of laddoos.

In his blog, Big B shared a series of photos and also voiced concern for those negatively impacted by the seasonal rains.

He wrote, 'and the rain it raineth all day long .. on the work too .. umbrellas galore among all the artists as they wade through the waters .. and most of them enjoying the deed .. it is the blessing after the hot summer months .. but apart from the awaited agricultural .. it brings devastation and floods, ruining the landscape and causing the pain that they who suffer go through ..



each year the scenario keeps repeating itself .. sad .. helpless .. it is difficult to describe the ruin caused .. but we pray that all gets well and in the wellness of all .. our prayers. Love care and wishes for calm ..'

Meanwhile, Amitabh Bachchan was seen in the futuristic film 'Kalki 2898 AD'.

Ever since the movie was released, fans and the film industry have been gushing over the performances of the cast.

Directed by Nag Ashwin, the post-apocalyptic film is inspired by Hindu scriptures.

## Richa Chadha shares beautiful images from maternity shoot with beau Ali Fazal



Actor Richa Chadha on Tuesday dropped some captivating images from her maternity shoot with her husband Ali Fazal.

In the photos, Richa and Ali are seen embracing the baby bump.

Richa also wrote a special note. It read, 'What can a love so pure bring forth into the world, but a beam of light?'

Thank you for being my partner on this incredible journey @alifazal9, through this lifetime and many more, through starlights and galaxies... thank you for getting genius @ridburman to shoot us in our natural habitat@gulati.kanika. May we bring forth a warrior of light, a child of compassion, empathy, healing and above all love. Ameen!'

In February, the couple took to Instagram and announced the news of their pregnancy.

They posted an image saying 1 + 1 = 3, confirming the news with a caption, 'A tiny heartbeat is the loudest sound in our world'.

Richa and Ali met on the sets of Fukrey in 2012 and soon fell in love with each other. They have been legally married since 2020, but they celebrated their union in 2022 with festivities across Delhi, Mumbai, and Lucknow.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Richa is currently receiving appreciation for her performance as Lajo in the Netflix series 'Heeramandi'.

Ali, on the other hand, was featured in 'Mirzapur' season 3.

# Supreme Court to hear on Thursday pleas seeking cancellation of NEET-UG exam

Earlier, SC had directed NTA to make full disclosure regarding the nature of paper leak

NEW DELHI, Jul 17 (Agencies): The Supreme Court is slated to hear on Thursday a batch of pleas alleging irregularities in the conduct of the NEET-UG 2024 examination and seeking its cancellation.

As per the cause list published on the website of the apex court, a bench presided over by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud will resume hearing the matter on July 18.

In the previous hearing, the Bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, decided to adjourn the hearing on the joint request of the parties, noting that the CBI has put on record the status report in relation to paper leak allegations.

In its affidavit, the Centre told the top court that the data analysis conducted by IIT-Madras



shows that there was neither any indication of mass malpractice nor a localised set of candidates being benefitted, leading to abnormal scores in NEET-UG examination held on May 5 this year.

"There is an overall increase in

the marks obtained by students, specifically in the range of 550 to 720. This increase is seen across the cities and centres. This is attributed to a 25 per cent reduction in the syllabus," said the Centre, adding that candidates obtaining such high

marks were spread across multiple cities and multiple centres, indicating very "less likelihood of malpractice".

After a comprehensive data analysis using parameters like marks distribution, city-wise and centre-wise rank distribution and candidates spread over a range, experts of IIT-Madras opined "no abnormality", the affidavit said.

Earlier, the SC had directed the NTA to make full disclosure regarding the nature of the paper leak, the places where leaks took place, and the lag of time between the occurrence of the leak and the conduct of examination.

It also asked the CBI to file a status report indicating the status of the investigation and the material collected during the course of the probe.

## CSIR's 1st woman Director-General gets 2-year extension

N Kalaisevi leads a network of 38 labs and 4,500 scientists



NEW DELHI, Jul 17 (Agencies): The first woman Director-General of India's premiere research conglomerate the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research N Kalaisevi has received a two-

year extension in the position.

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet chaired by prime minister Narendra Modi approved the extension for two years until 2026. Kalaisevi will also be

secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Born in Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu Kalaisevi made history by becoming the first woman DG of CSIR in 80 years in 2022.

She leads a network of 38 labs and 4,500 scientists.

Kalaisevi is known for her expertise in electrochemical science, particularly in lithium-ion batteries.

She is yet another top leader PM Modi has chosen to retain in his third term in office signalling continuity of policy and approach in science and research.

## 3 Hmar militants killed, several cops injured in encounter in Assam's Cachar

SILCHAR (ASSAM), Jul 17 (Agencies): At least three suspected Hmar militants were killed and several police personnel were injured in a fierce encounter in Cachar district of Assam on Wednesday, officials said.

"In an early morning operation, @cacharpolice killed 3 Hmar militants from Assam and neighbouring Manipur. Police also seized 2 AK rifles, 1 other rifle and 1 pistol," Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said in a post on X.

A senior official at Assam Police Headquarters in Guwahati

confirmed to agency that some of its personnel also sustained injuries.

"But we cannot immediately say about the nature of injuries. We are yet to receive a report from the Cachar district police," he added.

According to sources, police arrested three militants, whose affiliations are yet to be made public, from East Dholai Ganganagar on Tuesday night.

"Police seized the arms from the autorickshaw in which the militants were travelling. A police team took the

trio to Bhaban Hills area today morning in search of other rebels.

At that time, the encounter happened," they added.

According to a source, three militants were killed in the gunfight, which lasted more than an hour, while three policemen also sustained bullet injuries.

"All the injured have been admitted to Silchar Medical College and Hospital for treatment," he added.

Cachar Superintendent of Police Numal Mahatta and other senior officials rushed to the spot.

## Heavy rain continues in Kerala; IMD issues orange alert for 8 districts

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Jul 17 (Agencies): As heavy rains continued to lash Kerala, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an orange alert in eight districts of the state for Wednesday.

The heavy rains caused landslides, property damage, water logging of roads and flooding of acres of farmland with the Central Water Commission (CWC) issuing a warning about a dangerous rise in levels of various rivers in the southern state.

The IMD sounded orange alerts in Kottayam, Ernakulam, Idukki, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargod districts for the day.

It also issued a yellow alert in the remaining six districts of the



state for the day.

An orange alert means very heavy rain of 11 cm to 20 cm. A yellow alert means heavy rainfall between 6 cm and 11 cm.

The CWC issued warnings with regard to a dangerous rise in water levels of various rivers, including Achankovil in Pathanamthitta and Thodu-

puzha in Idukki districts of the state.

It cautioned people living close to the rivers to be careful.

In Ernakulam, a home was damaged in a landslide, but no one was injured and the family living there was moved to a safe location, the district administration said.

The Kottayam district administration said that 45 people were moved to camps following incessant rains there throughout Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee chief K Sudhakaran called upon party workers and members to aid in relief work where people have suffered property damage and other losses due to the heavy rains.

He also urged the Youth Congress, the Kerala Students Union to come forward and help in the relief work.

There should be a strong presence of Congress workers wherever help is needed, he said in a statement issued by the party.

## RSS-linked weekly blames tie-up with Ajit Pawar-led NCP for BJP's poor show in Lok Sabha election 2024

BJP's Lok Sabha seat tally in Maharashtra came down to 9 from 23

MUMBAI, Jul 17 (Agencies): A Marathi weekly linked to the RSS has sought to blame the NCP for the BJP's poor performance in the recent Lok Sabha elections, stating that public sentiments completely went against the saffron party after it joined hands with the Ajit Pawar-led outfit.

According to it, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) members and others it interacted with said they did not approve of the party's move of joining hands with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). It added that the unrest among the party cadre was just the "tip of the iceberg".

It also said that coordination and the importance given to party workers in decision-making and governance helped the BJP sweep the Lok Sabha polls in Madhya Pradesh.

In the Lok Sabha polls, the BJP's seat tally in Maharashtra came down to nine from 23. Its ally Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena won seven seats, while another Mahayuti constituent -- Ajit Pawar's NCP -- could just bag one. The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), comprising the Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP (SP) and Congress, performed better by together winning 30 out of the 48 seats.

The weekly, Vivek, linked to the BJP's ideological fountainhead Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), has published an article based on an informal survey of over 200 people from Mumbai, Konkan, and western Maharashtra. It states the reasons behind the BJP's loss in the Lok Sabha elections.

"Almost every person who is either in the BJP or affiliated to organisations (Sangh Parivar) cited that he does not approve of BJP allying with the NCP (led by



Ajit Pawar). Before writing this piece, we interacted with more than 200 industrialists, traders, doctors, professors and teachers. The unrest among the party cadre because the BJP allied with the NCP is the tip of the iceberg," it said.

The BJP's alliance with Shiv Sena was always perceived as natural because of the common thread of Hindutva, irrespective of some minor complaints against each other. People accepted the then MVA minister Eknath Shinde's rebellion against Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, which brought down the government. The BJP later supported Shinde, and the MLAs backed him in forming the government, making him the state chief minister, the article said.

A year later, the then leader of the opposition Ajit Pawar claimed the support of his party MLAs and workers and joined the state government as the deputy chief minister. The Election Commission of India (ECI) and legislative assembly speaker later upheld his claims.

"However, the sentiments went totally against the party (BJP)

after it joined hands with NCP. The question also arises about the future plans of the party when political arithmetic went against it because of NCP," it added.

The BJP got the image of inducting leaders from other parties, completely ignoring the organisational process of grooming leaders, which in the past existed and benefited in the form of Atal Bihari Vajpayee or at the state level with Gopinath Munde, Pramod Mahajan, Nitin Gadkari and Devendra Fadnis. All of them were humble party workers and later became leaders, and they always knew this fact, the article said.

It made an indirect reference to state BJP functionary Shweta Shalini's legal notice to YouTuber Bhau Torsekar, who propagates Hindutva ideology through his channel. In one of the recent posts, he made a critical remark against Shalini, following which she issued a legal notice to him. However, she later withdrew it.

"The opposition created a perception that original party workers will always remain humble while turncoats will get plum postings. The action of some

people against those who propagate Hindutva on social media also increased the unrest among the party workers. The workers also started wondering whether their opinions have any value within the party or not," the article said.

The weekly also underscored the limited acceptance of the Ram temple and the sacrifice of the RSS and BJP workers during the Emergency.

"There is no doubt about the sacrifice of party workers during the Emergency period as well as for the Ram temple movement. How much does it resonate with educated people under the age of 45 when it comes to voting? Even if the person is pro-Hindutva, he would not feel any connection with the incidents that took place three to four decades back," the article said.

It also credited coordination and the importance given to party workers in decision-making and governance with the BJP's success in Madhya Pradesh in the Lok Sabha elections. The BJP won all 29 Lok Sabha seats in that state.

After the Lok Sabha polls results were declared on June 4, RSS-linked magazine 'Organiser' had said the polls outcome came as a "reality check for overconfident" BJP workers and many of its leaders as they were happy in their "bubble" and enjoying the glow of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aura but not listening to the voices on the streets.

An article in the magazine also noted that though the RSS is not a "field force" of the BJP, the party leaders and workers did not reach out to its 'swayamsevaks' (volunteers) seeking their cooperation in electoral work.

## Bihar Man, His 2 Daughters, Stabbed To Death By Girl's Lover: Police

SARAN, Jul 17 (Agencies): A man and his two daughters were stabbed to death, allegedly by the deranged lover of one of the girls, in Dhanadih village in the Saran district of Bihar, police said on Wednesday.

The man's wife was sent to hospital in an injured condition.

Saran Police said that the two accused, Sudhanshu Kumar alias Roshan and Ankit Kumar from Rasulpur, murdered Tarakeshwar Singh alias Jhabar

Singh and his two minor daughters with a sharp weapon at the victims' residence on Tuesday night.

"Last night, information was received through Dial 112 that three people have been murdered with a sharp weapon on the roof of the house of Tarakeshwar Singh, alias Jhabar Singh, in Dhanadih village under Rasulpur police station," police said in a statement.

Based on statements given by Tarakeshwar Singh's wife and intel-

ligence gathered, the accused- Sudhanshu Kumar alias Roshan and Ankit Kumar were taken into custody within an hour of the crime.

The police said that the triple murder stemmed from a love affair between one of the girls and Sudhanshu Kumar. The murder weapon was recovered from the scene.

Murder weapon recovered, police said.

All the bodies have been sent to Chapra Sadar Hospital for a postmortem.

## Elderly man, wife shot dead by minor nephew in Lucknow

The couple had an argument with the mother of the accused and angered by this, the minor shot them and fled the spot. The elderly couple's son was also injured in the firing.



LUCKNOW, Jul 17 (Agencies): An elderly man and his wife were shot dead by his minor nephew after an argument, police said on Wednesday.

The couple's son was also injured in the incident that occurred in the Takrokhi area under Indira Nagar police station on Tuesday night,

they said. "Rajendra Singh (62) and his wife Saroj (56) were shot dead by his minor nephew after an argument on Tuesday night. The couple's son was injured in the incident," Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Abhijat R Shankar told reporters.

"Singh had an argu-

ment with his sister, the mother of the accused, around 10 pm on Tuesday. Angered by this, the minor shot Singh, his wife and son," the DCP said.

The three were taken to the hospital, where doctors declared Singh and his wife dead.

Their son is undergoing treatment and his condition is stated to be stable, Shankar said. He said teams have been formed to trace the minor who is on the run.

According to locals, Singh was a retired government employee. He and his family lived with his sister and her son in the same house.











# Movement Kalki pays tribute to martyrs of Doda terror attack, protests against Pakistan

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: members of Movement Kalki expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of four soldiers in the recent terror attack in Doda and held a strong protest, burning effigies of the terrorists.

The members accused the Pakistani military of conspiring to release terrorists from jail to attack India, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir.

They claimed that HizbulMujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin, Jaish-e-Mohammed founder Maulana Masood Azhar, Lashkar-e-Taiba member Shahid Asif, and Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir have released thousands of such terrorists from prisons.

These activities have been increasing for the past month, targeting our paramilitary forces.

A spokesperson for



Movement Kalki stated, "Our movement will not tolerate Pakistan's actions. The dream of Pakistan to destroy India by releasing terrorists from prison will never come true. The most wanted terrorists released by Pakistan's army and its chief have created an atmosphere of terror worldwide."

The members appealed for stringent measures against Pakistan.

The members urged the central government to take immediate and strict action against Pakistan to prevent such incidents in the future.

The spokesperson added, "Our government had previously conducted surgical strikes to destroy terrorist camps. Similar actions are needed again today. The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Defence must jointly take strict

measures against Pakistan, or it will be too late and many of our brave soldiers will achieve martyrdom."

Movement Kalki members emphasized that the government needs to be more proactive in taking steps against terrorism for the safety of India. Those who support, hide, and provide for foreign terrorists should also be identified and appropriately punished.

Movement Kalki has previously raised this issue, protesting against drug traffickers, cattle smugglers, land mafias at the border, and illegal arms traffickers who act as guides for terrorists and support terrorism. The government has not yet focused on or acted against these issues.

The protest was led by Sunny Kant Chib, Chandan Gupta (Core Committee Member), SanjeevDubey, Kushal Sharma, Pritam Sharma, Karnail Chand, Satveer Singh Manhas, AshutoshRajkumar (Kalki Board Member), Vikranth, Rohit Singh, AadeshGoswami, Kewal Sharma, Balwinder Kumar, and other colleagues.

They stated that they will not tolerate any further inaction and, if the government does not take immediate steps, Movement Kalki will plan even larger protests.

# National Movement for Old Pension Scheme holds Executive Meet at Srinagar

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, July 17: An extraordinary meeting of the central body leaders from Kashmir was conducted at Hotel Ruby, Lal Chowk, Srinagar. The marathon gathering was presided over by UT President, Mohammad Ashraf, and Chairman, Hilal Ahmed Baba. The meeting was called to review the overall functioning of the union.

In a bid to strengthen the forum, suggestions were sought from all the leaders, including the District Presidents, to further reinforce the union's workings. Furthermore, the problems faced by NPS (National Pension System) employees were discussed, and a roadmap to solve these problems was formulated.

In his unique style, the UT President impressed upon all members the importance of unity and

strengthening the forum at the grassroots level. Similarly, Hilal Ahmed Baba, UT Chairman, Syed Muneer Hussein, UT Vice President, and Muntazir Khalid, Secretary, shared their views during the meeting.

In his presidential address, the UT President, Mohammad Ashraf, emphasized that NMOPS is a disciplined organization and has been able to achieve many unthinkable targets. The union is duty-bound to alleviate the sufferings of the employees who have reposed their faith in the union. NMOPS will continue to strive for the rights of the employees of the department's as it has been doing since its inception.

The meeting discussed various strategies and issues pertaining to NPS employees. The leaders explored different approaches to strengthen the organization and

advocate for the reinstatement of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) instead of the NPS. The meeting ended on a positive note, with a consensus that the organization needs to be strengthened further to effectively advocate for the restoration of the OPS for government employees. The leaders expressed confidence that with united efforts, they would be able to achieve this goal.

President NMOPS added "NMOPS remains committed to fighting for the rights of NPS employees and will continue to hold such meetings to strategize and coordinate their efforts at both state and national levels."

Other leaders who attended the meeting include Muntazir, Ryaz Ahmed Harga, Saleem Ahmed Kawa, Peerzada Irshad, Manoj Kumar, Iqbal Mughal, Faisal Koker, Bhat Yousaf, and many others.



# Chandel's 67th birthday celebrated with enthusiasm at BJP Office

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: The Bharatiya Janata Party's Scheduled Caste Front District President, Chandrapal Chandel, marked his 67th birthday with a grand celebration at the BJP party office. The event was attended by esteemed leaders and dignitaries, including senior Hindutva BJP leader Guruji Raju Chandel, City Councillor Preeti Gupta, Party Vice President Yogendra Rajora, and Senior Vice President of the front, Deepika Chandel, among others.

Yogendra Singh Rajora, the Party District Vice President, expressed his admiration for Chandrapal Chandel, highlighting his unwavering dedication and leadership in taking the Scheduled Caste Front of the Bharatiya Janata Party to



new heights. He emphasized Chandrapal Chandel's exceptional energy and inspirational leadership, remarking that his contributions have set a benchmark for leadership within the district.

Raju Chandel, in his remarks, lauded Chandrapal Chandel's commitment and agility, noting his early morning routine and tireless efforts in party activities.

He praised Chandrapal Chandel's continuous efforts over the past 15 years in mobilizing party workers and spreading awareness about the BJP's vision and agenda.

The celebration underscored Chandrapal Chandel's pivotal role in strengthening the party and inspiring others through his exemplary dedication and leadership qualities.

# President IHRC J&K urges unity, commitment to principles on Youm-e-Ashura

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: Youth Ambassador-IYS, President of International Human Rights Commission for Jammu and Kashmir Fahar Manzoor Baba has said that Hazrat Imam Hussain and his companions wrote a new history by sacrificing their lives for a noble purpose while the incident of Karbala reminds us of the invaluable sacrifices.

In a message on Youm-e-Ashura here, the Fahar Baba said the sacrifices of the martyrs of Karbala were worth following for us. Hazrat Imam Hussain and his companions did not surrender before the falsehood and sacrificed their lives.

This was not an incident of martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain but a part of the blessed life of Hazrat Muhammad, he said. The martyrs live in the annals of history but the legacy of the falsehood does not survive, he continued.

Hazrat Imam Hussain and his companions had given a strong message of not surrendering before the falsehood by



sacrificing their lives and this incident had enlivened the golden principles of Islam forever.

There is a growing need to follow the golden principles of Hazrat Imam Hussain and the nation should thwart the enemy's designs through unity, he emphasized.

Hazrat Imam Hussain gave the sacrifice for the supremacy of Islam and humanity and taught the whole world to raise the voice of truth through his strong character and action.

His struggle was an enduring message to firmly stand against oppression and 'we all should re-emphasize our commitment today to follow the golden principles of Hazrat Imam Hussain in our lives,' he concluded.

# Dimple participates in Moharram processions



Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu & Kashmir, joined the solemn Moharram processions across various parts of Jammu city, starting from Imambara Wara New Plot to Kacchi Chowni. Paying heartfelt tributes, he prayed for peace and normalcy in the region, invoking the spirit of Hazrat Imam Hussain and the martyrs of Karbala.

Highlighting the relevance of Imam Hussain's teachings in fostering communal harmony and brotherhood, Dimple emphasized the need for peace across Jammu Kashmir. He called for the

restoration of J&K statehood under Article 370, stressing its importance in maintaining regional stability.

Addressing the media, Dimple urged people of all religions to embrace the path of love and unity as shown by Imam Hussain, appealing for solidarity and peace in the region. He conveyed a message to national and international organizations, expressing the collective desire of Jammu Kashmir's people to live harmoniously.

Peer Mohammad Sameer Qureshi, President of Anjuman-e-Hedari, echoed Dimple's sentiments, advocating for peace and rejecting violence. He emphasized

the teachings of Imam Hussain as guiding principles for coexistence and fraternity within India.

The Moharram processions saw participation from people of diverse faiths, welcomed and supported across all routes. Dimple commended the security arrangements led by DG, DIG, SSP Jammu, and local police stations, ensuring a peaceful observance of the religious occasion.

Prominent leaders including Mukhtayar Hussain, Sarmat Qureshi, Ali Vice President, Sahid Hussain, and Zulfkar Ali, alongside representatives of various communities, united in their commitment to peace and harmony in Jammu & Kashmir.

# JKBS grieves demise of Santosh Kumari

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 17: Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha at a condolence meet held here today, condoled the sad, sudden and untimely demise of Santosh Kumari who hailed from Village Chohala.

Strange are the ways of God. Nobody knows what happens next, said JKBS members, adding that Santosh Kumari had all the qualities of head, heart and soul that's why God called her back so soon.

While JKBS' General Secretary R.L. Kaith said, Santosh Kumari was the most respected woman and the superhero. In every step, she supported and encouraged her husband Janak Raj Lakhotra. Whether day or night she was always there for him no matter

what the condition was. Furthermore, her every work, persistence, devotion, dedication and conduct was an inspiration for him, added Kaith.

May God rest her noble soul in peace and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this immeasurable loss boldly, prayed all JKBS members.

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