

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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**Biden vows to fight on, says Donald 'Trump's dark vision for future is not who we are as Americans'**



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## BRIEFLY

### LG, CS condole demise of Secretary JKAACL

#### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jul 20: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed his shock and grief over the sudden demise of Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages.

In a condolence message, the Lt Governor said, "Saddened by the untimely demise of Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages. My thoughts are with his family and friends in this hour of grief. May his soul rest in peace".

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary J&K, Atal Dulloo also expressed grief over the sad demise of Bharat Singh Manhas and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family.

In his condolence message, Chief Secretary prayed for peace to the departed soul and strength to the family to bear this loss.

Bharat Singh was a serving officer of JKAS cadre, 2001 batch and previously worked in State Taxes & Excise Departments as Additional Commissioner Tax Planning, Deputy Excise Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Stamps.

### Diarrhoea outbreak in Anantnag's Srigufwara, 60 hospitalised

SRINAGAR, Jul 20 (Agencies): Over sixty people have been affected by diarrhoea epidemic in the Srigufwara area of Bijbehara in south Kashmir's Anantnag district with the health department gearing up to tackle the situation as all the affected people have been admitted in the hospital.

Officials told news agency KNO that more than 60 people in the Trail village of Srigufwara suffered loose motions and vomiting, causing panic in the locality.

"Several medical teams arrived on the spot along with ambulances and many patients have been referred to SDH Sallar and PHC Srigufwara for treatment," said an official.

He said that probably unsafe or impure

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## Will adopt Kashmir model to wipe-out terrorism in Jammu: LG Sinha

SRINAGAR, Jul 20 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday said that the security forces will adopt the "Kashmir model" to counter the efforts of revival of terrorism in Jammu region by the adversary.

"People of Jammu have never supported terrorism and instead always stood against it. J&K has gone through a huge transformation in the past four to five years. In Kashmir's ten districts, peace prevails and young boys and girls are shaping their future in innovations and other sectors including Agri-



culture etc," the LG said addressing the launch function of Hausla 2.0 and Start-ups portal at International Convention Centre on the banks of famous Dal Lake here.

He said that "our neighbour is not able to digest the peace prevailing in J&K." "Efforts are being made to revive terrorism

in the Jammu region. We will not allow revival of terrorism in Jammu at any cost and adopt the Kashmir model to wipe out terrorism in Jammu. The way security forces crushed terrorism in Kashmir, a similar strategy will be adopted in Jammu as well," the LG said, adding that "today

all terror outfits in Kashmir are headless."

He said there is a peaceful atmosphere prevailing in the Valley and one could have never thought about it some five years ago. "A series of steps were taken to shape the future of youth. We launched back to the village, my town my pride, identification of youth for skill development and entrepreneurship at Panchayat level," the LG said. LG Sinha's statement comes on a day when Army Chief General Uppendra Dwivedi is arriving in Jammu to chair a high level security review meeting in the

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## Army Chief reaches Jammu to review security situation in J&K



JAMMU, Jul 20 (Agencies): Army Chief Gen Uppendra Dwivedi on Saturday reached here to review security situation at a meeting in Jammu and Kashmir amidst growing terror activities in parts of otherwise peaceful Jammu region.

This was the second visit of the army chief to Jammu in less than

three weeks after taking charge as the 30th chief of the Indian Army on June 30.

Nine army personnel, including a captain, were killed in two separate terror attacks in remote forest belts of Machedi in Kathua and Desa forest in Doda on July 8 and July 15.

The army chief will chair a high level security

review meeting at police headquarters here which will be attended by top officers of police, army, paramilitary and intelligence, officials said.

They said senior officers of defence and Home ministry are also likely to attend the meeting.

On July 16, army said all formations of Udhampur-based northern command are committed to eliminate the scourge of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

The army said it has been conducting a series of joint and coordinated operations with J-K Police to eliminate

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### Another batch of pilgrims leaves Jammu for Amarnath Shrine

JAMMU, Jul 20 (Agencies): A fresh batch of 3,471 pilgrims, including 654 women, left a base camp here for the Amarnath shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas in the early hours of Saturday, officials said.

The 23rd batch of pilgrims, which also included 93 sadhus and 34 sadhvis, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp at 3 am in a convoy of 114 vehicles escorted by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), they said.

While 2,398 pilgrims will reach Pahalgam to

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### Captain Thapa, Who died fighting terrorists in Doda, Cremated at ancestral village in Darjeeling

DARJEELING, Jul 20 (Agencies): Captain Brijesh Thapa, who was martyred while fighting terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda, was cremated with full military honours at his ancestral village in West Bengal's Darjeeling district.

Slogans of 'Brijesh Thapa Amar Rahe' reverberated in the air as a large number of people gathered to pay their respects to the mortal remains of the officer on Friday.

Colonel Bhuwanes K Thapa (Retd) recalled that his son, a third-generation Army officer,



wanted to join the force since his childhood.

"I feel proud of my son. He did his duty," the retired Army officer told reporters.

Captain Thapa's mortal remains had reached his ancestral home at Jing Tea Estate in Lebong on Thursday.

Politicians, cutting

across party lines, and senior government and military officials were present during the cremation.

In a post on X, the Indian Army's Trishakti Corps said, "The valiant officer made the supreme sacrifice on 15th July 2024 while

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### UPSC Chairman Manoj Soni resigns citing 'Personal Reasons'

NEW DELHI, Jul 20 (Agencies): UPSC chairman Manoj Soni has resigned citing personal reasons before the expiry of his tenure in May 2029, official sources said on Saturday.

His resignation is "not in any way connected to controversies and allegations surrounding the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) after probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar issue came to the fore," they said.

"The UPSC chairman had tendered his resignation citing personal reasons over a fortnight back. It is yet to be accepted," a source



said.

Eminent educationist Soni, 59, took over as a member of the Commission on June 28, 2017. He took oath as the UPSC chairman on May 16, 2023 and his term was to end on May 15, 2029.

Sources said Soni was not keen on becoming the UPSC chairman and

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### Amid Rising Militancy, 3,000 Troops, 500 Special Forces Deployed in Jammu

NEW DELHI, Jul 20 (Agencies): In view of the infiltration of highly trained Pakistani terrorists in the Jammu region, the Indian Army is readjusting its deployments in the area as per intelligence inputs and security requirements.

The Indian Army has deployed around 500 Para Special Forces commandos in the area to hunt down the 50-55 terrorists from Pakistan who have entered the region to revive terrorism there, defence sources said.

The intelligence agencies have also bolstered their apparatus in the area and are working to take out the terrorist support infrastructure there including over-ground workers who support terrorists, they said.

The Army has already brought in troops to the area including one brigade strength of around 3,500-4000 personnel to counter Pakistan's proxy aggression here, they said.

The Army brass on the ground has been working towards strategies to search and destroy the terrorists, who are equipped with the latest weaponry and communication equipment, they added.

The Army already has an existing counter-terrorist infrastructure in the area with presence of two forces of the Rashtriya Rifles including the Romeo and Delta forces along with other regular infantry divisions in the area, they said.

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**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Vijay Gupta** W/o Sh. S. P. Gupta R/o H.No:76, Street No. 3, Shakti Nagar Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on Friday, 12th of July 2024.



**Smt. Vijay Gupta**

**Tenth Day** will be performed on Sunday, Jammu 21st of July 2024 at Shri Ram Temple Gurha Bakshi Nagar from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

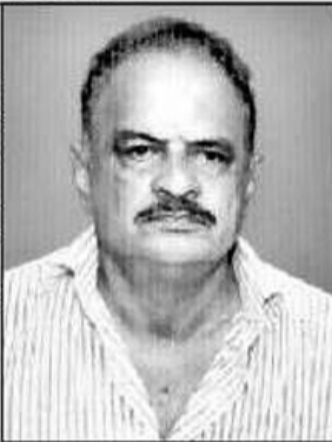
**KRIYA** will be performed on Wednesday, 24th of July at 12.30 pm at our residence 76/3 Shakti Nagar Jammu.

**Grief Stricken**  
Sh. S. P. Gupta (Husband)  
**Daughter-in-law & Son**  
Smt. Nidhi Gupta & Sh. Ajay Gupta  
**Daughters & Son - in - laws**  
Late Smt. Neeru Gupta & Sh. Ratish Gupta (CA)  
Smt. Neetu Gupta Puri & Lt. Col Rohit Puri

**Grandchildren**  
Dr. Sheryl Gupta (Grand Daughter)  
Neeruj Gupta (Grandson)  
Yuyutsu Puri (Grandson)  
Leya Gupta (Granddaughter)  
Alaina Puri (Granddaughter)  
Lehar Gupta (Granddaughter)

**TENTH DAY/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Thoru Ram Sharma** R/o Chohata Chowk, Main Bazar Samba, who left for heavenly abode on 13-07-2024.



**Sh. Thoru Ram Sharma**

**10th Day** will be performed on Sunday, 21-07-2024 at Pacci Mandi Hall Chohata Samba from 10am to 12 Noon.

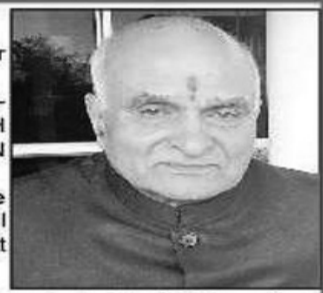
**Uthala** shall be performed at Pacci Mandi Hall on Saturday, 27-07-2024 at 4 pm.

**Grief Stricken:**  
Santosh Kumari (Wife)  
**(Son & Daughter-in-law)**  
Janeshwar Sharma & Rashi  
Sunil Kumar & Prem Lata  
Reeta Sharma W/o Ram Pal Sharma  
Davinder Kumar & Meenu Sharma  
Pawan Kumar & Anuradha Sharma  
Omkar Padha & Chanchla Padha  
Subhash Sharma & Mohni Sharma  
Anuradha Sharma W/o Shiv Kumar Sharma

**Mob: 7889491277**

**SHADMOS/ MASWAR**

Six months have passed since you left for your eternal journey. **DADY, YOUR GUIDING HAND ON OUR SHOULDERS AND YOUR LOVE WILL REMAIN WITH US FOREVER. WE MISS U MORE THAN WORDS CAN EXPRESS\*\***



**Late Sh. Krishen Ji Raina**

**Shadmos & Maswar** of our beloved Dady **Late Sh. Krishen Ji Raina** of Chowgam Qazigund will be held on 21/07/24 and 22/07/24 respectively at our Noida Residence

**Praying for your eternal peace and Mokhsa**  
**Deeply remembered & missed by:-**  
Shakuntala Raina (Wife) (9711369005)  
Rakesh Raina & Rita Raina  
Sanjay Raina & Jyoti Raina  
Sunita Pandita & R L Pandita  
Rahul Raina & Kanika Raina  
Vaishali Hangloo & Rohit Hangloo  
Reetika Raina & Dr. Gautam Raina  
Sanjana Raina  
Mstr Rovish Hangloo  
**All friends and Relatives**

**OBITUARY/TENTH DAY**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Mohan Lal Tikku** (Zaindar Mohalla Srinagar/Model Town Gangyal Jammu) who attained Nirvana on 15th of July 2024.



**Sh. Mohan Lal Tikku**

**Mourning** will take place at our residence (Faridabad)

**10TH DAY** will be performed at Upper Ganga Canal Moradabad (UP) and later

**Assembly** will be held at our residence (Sankalp Apartment Sector-64 Faridabad) on 24th July 2024 at 11:00 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Lalita Tikku - Wife  
Sh. Ramesh Tikoo & Smt. Uji Tikoo - Son & Daughter-in-law  
Sh. Rajinder Tikku & Smt. Indu Tikku - Son & Daughter-in-law  
**Grand Children :** Vedant, Ojas  
Tikku Pariwar, Raina Pariwar, Pandita Pariwar, Dhar Pariwar  
**Contact No.:** 9797278879, 9810417943, 9419206879

**CHAUVARSI**

**CHAUVARSI** OF OUR RESPECTED **LATE SH. DEVI DASS GROVER** S/O LATE SH. DES RAJ GROVER WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY THE 21ST OF JULY 2024 AT OUR RESIDENCE 27-C -GREATER KAILASH JAMMU.



**LATE SH. DEVI DASS GROVER**

**SEJ** WILL BE HELD AT 12 NOON AT RESIDENCE KINDLY HAVE **PARSAD** AT CHARAK BRADARI MANDIR GREATER KAILASH JAMMU AFTER SEJ.

**DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY**  
VEENA GROVER ----- **WIFE**  
**DAUGHTERS IN LAW AND SONS**  
SONIKA AND PAWAN GROVER  
ANADITA AND SANDEEP GROVER  
**DAUGHTER AND SON IN LAW**  
AARTI AND DEEPAK KAPOOR  
KAMLESH ARORA ----- **SISTER**  
**SISTERS IN LAW AND BROTHERS**  
LATE SMT. MADHU GROVER AND KUL BHUSHAN RAJ GROVER  
NEELAM AND SHASHI PAUL GROVER  
ANU AND DARSHAN GROVER  
NEERU AND HARI OM GROVER

**Obituary / 10th Day Kriya**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Indira Bhat** W/o Sh. Aular Krishan Bhat, Originally R/o Rajhat Baramulla, Kashmir and presently residing at House number 3 Lane no.6, K B Nagar Bantlab Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 16/07/2024.



**Smt. Indira Bhat**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** shall be performed at Muthi Ghat (near Directorate of School Education) on 25/07/2024 at 08:30 AM

**Grief Stricken:**  
Sh. Aular Krishan Bhat (Husband)  
**Mother in law**  
Smt. Sham Rani Bhat (W/o Lt. Sh. Radha Krishan Bhat)  
**(Brother in law and Sister in law)**  
Sh. Maharaaj Krishan Bhat & Smt. Phool Bhat  
Sh. Ankur Bhat (Son)  
Smt. Supriya Bhat & Sh. Deepak Thussoo (Daughter & Son in law)  
Smt. Neha Bhat & Sh. Vikrant Jaggari (Daughter and Son in law)  
Mrs. Sweha Bhat and Mr. Manishan Bhat (Daughter and Son)  
Smt. Santosh Pandita & Sh. Rupa Krishan Pandita (Sister in law & Brother in law)  
Smt. Rajni Sadhu & Sh. Sanjay Sadhu (Sister in law & Brother in law)  
Smt. Remi Pandita & Sh. Rakesh Mohan Pandita (Sister in law & Brother in law)  
**Grief Stricken Malyun Side:**  
Pratul Chandra Deka & Bharu Deka ( Brother and Sister in law)  
Gyanada Das, Bharu Mori Deka, Prativa Deka (Sister's)  
**Deeply remembered by** Tenli Jaggari, Dhatri Jaggari and Aadhya Thussoo ( Grand Children's )

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Chand Rani** W/o Lt. Sh Tara Chand Bhat originally R/o Devar (Kulgam) and presently residing at TRT Nagrota who left for heavenly abode on 17-07-2024.



**Smt Chand Rani**

**Mourning** will be observed at Durga Lakshmi Mandir Old Camp Nagrota.

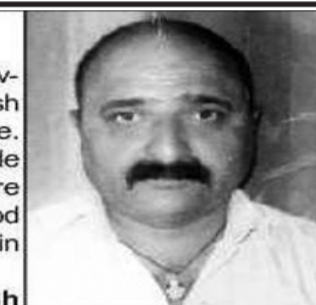
**Tenth Day Kriya** shall be performed at Muthi Ghat (near Directorate of School Education) on 26-07-2024 and **Mourning Assembly** will be held at 9 am.

**Grief Stricken:**  
**Son & Daughter-in-law's**  
Smt Dular Bhat W/o Lt Sh Aular Krishan Bhat  
Smt Usha Kishor W/o Sh Tej Krishan Bhat  
Smt Sukrita Devi (Simran) W/o Sh. Ramesh Kumar Bhat  
Mr Ayush Bhat S/o Lt Sh Ashok Kumar Bhat  
**Daughters and Son -in-laws**  
Smt Laita Koul (Sarla Ji) W/o Sh D N Koul  
Smt Usha Pandit W/o Sh Jai Krishan Pandit  
**Deeply remembered by**  
SAMAST BHAT'S, KOUL'S, PANDITA'S, DHAR'S, RAINA'S AND KHER'S

**Contact No:**  
8491865540, 9419403035

**MASVAR & VAHARVAR**

One year has passed since you left for heavenly abode but your memories are still fresh and we feel your presence everywhere. Though the pain of losing you will never fade but your memories & love are always there with us. We devotedly pray to Almighty God to grant eternal peace to your noble soul in Heaven.



**Lt. Sh Rajinder Kumar Pandita**

**Masvar & Vaharvar** of our beloved **Lt. Sh Rajinder Kumar Pandita** S/o Lt. Mohan Lal R/o Village Levedora (Qazigund) Anantnag will be performed on 20th & 21st of July 2024 at our residence H.No. 10 Vasuki Vihar Rajouri Lines behind Army Qtrs Lower Muthi Jammu.

**Deeply Missed & Remembered By :**  
Smt Sunita Pandita -Wife  
Sh Vinod K Pandita & Smt Shilpa Pandita -Brother & Bhabhi  
Soni Pandita -Sister  
Lavish & Janvi -Children  
**Mob. 9622901689**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt Jasmeet Kour Sr. Lecturer** W/o Sh Sanjeev Singh, resident of Panjtoot (Pallanwala) who left for her heavenly abode on Wednesday, 10th of July 2024.



**Smt Jasmeet Kour Sr. Lecturer**

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on Friday, 19th of July 2024 at 11 am at ND Resort Sailanwali (Panjtoot).

**KRIYA** shall be performed on Monday, 22nd of July 2024 at 10 AM at our residence Panjtoot (Pallanwala)

**GRIEF STRICKEN :-**  
Sh Sanjeev Singh (AEE) Husband  
Smt Kanta & Sh Sob Singh (Mother and Father in law)  
Shivam Singh & Vamika Singh (Son & Daughter)  
**Mobile No. 9419149831, 8492872225**

**MASWAR AND VAHARWAR**

ONE YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE YOU LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE. MEMORIES ARE STILL AFRESH AND WE FEEL YOUR PRESENCE EVERYWHERE. DEATH MAY HAVE TAKEN YOU AWAY BUT MEMORIES AND LOVE ARE THERE WITH US. MAY GOD GRANT YOU ENTERNAL PEACE AND SADGATI TO THE NOBLE SOUL.



**LATE SH. OMKAR NATH RAINA**

**MASWAR AND VAHARWAR** OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **LATE SH. OMKAR NATH RAINA** S/O LATE SH SARWANAND RAINA OF SAGAM KOKERNAG WILL BE PERFORMED ON 20 AND 21ST OF JULY 2024 AT H.NO 51, LANE NO 4(A), LAXMI VIHAR, TOMAL BOHRI JAMMU

**FONDLY REMEMBERED AND MISSED BY ALL FAMILY MEMBERS.**  
**CELL NO: 7006915172, 7889660819**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

Our beloved mother **Smt Ratna Dhar** (wife of Late Sh Raj Nath Dhar, resident of Heritage City, MG Road, Gurgaon), left for her heavenly abode on Friday the 12th of July 2024 at her summer home in Kud, J&K.



**Smt Ratna Dhar**

**The Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Devika Ghat, Udhampur on 21st of July, 2024 at 9.30 am, after which the family shall assemble at 1 Madha Mall Road, Kud at 1.00 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Urmil (Daughter)  
Sameer & Nirmal Muchate (Son-in-law & Daughter)  
Sunil & Manju Bradu (Son-in-law & Daughter)  
Abhinav & Anju Dhar (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
**Dhar's, Misri's, Ganju's, Kak's, Zaru's, Qasid's and Kaul's**  
**Phone: +91 8700317571, +91 8527322744, +91 9810609915**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Karam Yogi Sh. Sri Nath Pandit** (Nath Ji) S/o Ram Chand Pandit resident of Sagan, Anantnag Kashmir At Present Lower Bama, Shankarvihar, near Bhagwati Haqiqat School.



**Karam Yogi Sh. Sri Nath Pandit (Nath Ji)**

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education on 26-07-2024 at 7:30 A.M.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt Chand Rani (Wife)  
**Sons and Daughter-in-laws**  
Sh. Surinder Pandit & Smt Neetu Pandit  
Sh. Sarjave Pandit & Smt Kowal Pandit  
Sh. Varun Pandit & Smt Sucheta Pandit  
**Grand Son & Daughter in Law**  
Miss Simen Pandit - Grand Daughter  
Miss Janvi Pandit - Grand Daughter  
Smt Vicky & Sh. C.L. Raina - Daughter & Son in law  
Smt Parvi & Sh. M. Tikoo - Daughter & Son in law  
Smt Sarosh & Sh. C.L. Pandita - Daughter & Son in law  
Smt. Rasanli & Sh. A.K. Bhat - Daughter & Son in law  
Smt Khemta & Sh. Chand Ji Koul - Daughter & Son in law  
**Mob.: 9596722260, 8492809832, 7006977430, 7051960314**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR REVERED MOTHER **SMT. KAMLA JALALI** W/O LT. SH. OMKAR NATH JALALI ORIGINALLY FROM KRALYAR RAINAWARI SRINAGAR AT PRESENT 72-B TIRATH NAGAR, TALAB TILLO, JAMMU ON 12TH JULY 2024.



**SMT. KAMLA JALALI**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION ON 21ST JULY 2024 AT 8:30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**SONS & DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW**  
AUTAR KRISHEN & SARLA JALALI  
ANOO KUMAR & KIRAN JALALI  
LT. SH DILEEP KUMAR & RANJANAJALALI  
**DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW**  
RENUKA & BRIG. P BALI  
**GRAND SONS & GRAND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW,**  
**GRAND DAUGHTERS & GRAND SONS-IN-LAW,**  
**GREAT GRAND DAUGHTERS, GREAT GRAND SON & SAMAST PARIVAR OF JALALI'S, MATOO'S, BALI'S**  
**CONTACT NO.:** 9622074225, 9650269550

**TENTH DAY**

IT IS WITH HEAVY HEARTS THAT WE ANNOUNCE THE PEACEFUL PASSING OF OUR BELOVED **KARMYOGI SH. GOPI NATH BALI** S/O LATE SH. DAYA RAM BALI, ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF MIRGUND KRISHAMA CURRENTLY LIVING AT WARD NO. 14 HOUSE NO. 78 SAILAN TALAB UDHAMPUR ON 15TH JULY 2024.



**Karmyogi Sh. Gopi Nath Bali**

**TENTH DAY** WILL BE OBSERVED ON 24TH OF JULY 2024 AT DEVIKA GHAT UDHAMPUR.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
**(DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW AND SONS)**  
SMT. PRERNA BALI AND SH. PYARE LAL BALI  
SMT. SHASHI BALI AND SH. ASHOK KUMAR BALI  
**(DAUGHTERS AND SONS-IN-LAW)**  
SMT. VIJAYA RAINA AND SH. SURINDER RAINA  
**GRANDCHILDREN:**  
SAMVEDANA AND HIMANSHU  
MAYANK AND DEBI  
ADITYA AND LIPSI  
OJASVINI, SARTHAK AND DIKSHA  
**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:**  
**SAMAST BALI'S, PANDITA'S, RAINA'S AND BHAT'S**  
**CONTACT NO. 9419965980, 7780931530**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform our friends and relatives that our revered father **Sh. P.L. Munshi** S/o Late Sh. Rup Lal Munshi originally resident of Rang Teng Ali Kadal Srinagar (Munshi Mohalla) presently at H.No-52 Lane No.3 Sharika Nagar Gole Panjpeer Talab Tilo Jammu, passed away on 16-07-2024.



**Sh. P.L. Munshi**

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat (Near Directorate of School Education) on Thursday the 25th of July 2024 at 8:30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Son-in-law & Daughter**  
Dr. Rakesh Koul & Mrs. Rian Munshi Koul -9419495988  
**Daughter-in-law & Son**  
Mrs. Sushma Munshi & Manoj Munshi-9419811860  
**Daughter**  
Mrs. Neelam Kobra (W/o Late Shri Ravi Kobra)- 9419109108  
Mrs. Sheela & M.L. Koul-Sister & Brother-in-Law  
Mrs. Binu Marico-Sister-in-law  
Arjun, Parth & Tanish - Grand Children  
**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-**  
Munshis, Ganjus, Kouls, Dhars, Rainas, Warikoods and Kotrus.

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Shobawati Bhat** W/o Late Sh Saroop Nath Bhat R/o originally from Fatehpura Anantnag, Kashmir and presently residing at Aman Vihar Phase 2 Extension Camp Road Near Kaira Sports Club Gole Gujral, who left for her heavenly abode on 16/07/2024 (Tuesday) at 5:00 am.



**Smt. Shobawati Bhat**

**Tenth Day Kriya** shall be performed at Muthi Ghat (Near Directorate of School Education) on Thursday the 25th of July 2024 at 8:30 am.

**Mourning from the Malun side** will be observed at the same address near Kaira Sports Club Aman Vihar Phase 2, Camp Road, Gole Gujral.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Smt. Santosh Bhat (Daughter-in-law)  
Smt. Ramesh Bhat and Smt. Princy Bhat (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
Smt. Usha Ganjoo (Daughter)  
Smt. Princy Bhat & Sh. Ashok Kr. Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Sh. Vikas Bhat and Smt. Vanshi Bhat and other grandchildren  
**Deeply Remembered by Samast Bhat Parivar**  
**Contact no. 7006443768, 9622371905**

**"MASWAR AND VAHARWAR"**

One year has passed since you left for heavenly abode. Your memories are still fresh and we feel your presence everywhere. Death may have taken you away from us but your loving memories will live on, in our hearts and minds. May your noble soul attain eternal peace and sadgati. Om shanti



**Late. Shri Ram Rattan Lal Bhat**

**Maswar and Vaharwar** of our beloved father **Late. Shri Ram Rattan Lal Bhat** S/o Lt. Sh. Sarwanand Bhat of Nagam, Chadoora will be performed on 21st and 22nd July 2024 at House No.248, 249, Sector-2, Anuradhapuram, Bama, Jammu.

**FONDLY REMEMBERED AND MISSED BY :-**  
All family members  
**Phone Number:- 6005409886, 9419753232**

**10TH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Sunil Kumar** S/o Lt. Sh. Jia Lal R/o village Utri, Tehsil Kathua who left for heavenly abode on Friday 12th July 2024 at 10.30 pm.



**Sh. Sunil Kumar**

**10TH DAY** shall be performed on Sunday 21-07-2024 at our residence at village Utri Kathua.  
**KRIYA** will be performed at our residence on 22-07-2024 (Monday).  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Rajesh Kumar & Monika - Brother & Bhabhi  
Korbar Chand & Binia Devi - Taya Ji & Tai Ji  
Sat Paul H/o Late Vishnu Devi - Chacha Ji  
Manohar Lal & Tripta Devi - Chacha Ji & Chachi Ji  
Dr. Sardar Lal & Asha Devi - Chacha Ji & Chachi Ji  
Rano Devi and Harbans Lal - Bua Ji and Boyia Ji  
**All Pota Families | Relatives & Friends**  
**Ph. Nos.: 9419143391, 9796468068, 9682232715, 9419190705**

**DISCLAIMER**

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# Centre's decision rejected in all-party meeting, demand for roll back

Tribute paid to martyrs

## Top News Report

JAMMU Jul 20: In the all-party meeting held in Jammu, unanimously rejected the orders of the Centre, the demand was made to roll back the amendment under Section 55 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, (34 of 2019) and return the state status to Jammu and Kashmir before the assembly elections.

Along with this, there was a demand to deal strictly with terrorism and fulfill the promise of restoring peace.

In this all-party meeting held at Jammu Press Club, tribute was paid to the Indian soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in the terrorist incidents in Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing the media, Gulchain Singh Chadhak, Sheikh Abdul Rehman and Shiv Sena (UBT) state chief Manish Sahni jointly said that there was unanimous decision has been taken to raise voice against the dictatorial orders of the Center with unity.



He said that the government has been given an ultimatum till July 30 to roll back the amendment in the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act. Along with this, there has been a demand to announce assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir soon and to return the status of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir before the elections.

Sahni said that a core committee will also be formed and it has been decided to come to the streets and sit on a chain hunger strike if the demands are not met. In this meeting Gulchain Singh Chadhak, President Dogra Sadar, Sheikh Abdul Rehman former MP including Narendra Gupta, Congress, Vijay Lochan, NC, Varinder

Singh Sonu, PDP, Safir Chaudhary, AAP, N Dogra, Subhash Mehta CPI-ML, ID Khajuria, IDP, Saeed Chaudhary, Dalip Pandita, Lakshya Bali, Bansilal Chaudhary, Bilal, Dr. AC Bhakt, Chairman Lok Adhikar Mission, Shivraj Singh, Colonel SS Pathania, Narendra Singh Khalsa, Shiromani Akali Dal, Advocate Shahid Salim, Sardar Gyan

Singh, Narendra Khajuria, Balwinder Singh, RTI Activist, Journalist MK Bangru, Rajiv Mahajan, Ram Sena, Meenakshi Chhibber, Ashwani Kumar, Subhash Sharma Trade Union, Advocate Anna Durani, Advocate, Jitendra Singh, Comrade Sukhdev, Sanjeev Kohli and many other leaders and social workers were present.

# JPDCL boosts power supply by 16.7% to meet summer demand

Top News Report

JAMMU July 20: Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCCL) has successfully supplied an additional 2000 lac units of power to meet the increasing demand during the peak summer season. This brings the total power supply to 14000 lac units, a significant increase of 16.71% compared to the previous year's supply of 12000 lac units.

According to MD JPDCCL, Vikas Kundal, "We are committed to providing smooth and uninterrupted power to the people of Jammu. Our team has worked tirelessly to reduce the turnaround time for transformer repairs, and we are augmenting our infrastructure under RDSS to provide extra power to the people."

Kundal added, "We understand the importance of reliable power supply during the hot summer months, and we are working judiciously to minimize interruptions. The additional supply of power is a result of the synergy between various wings of JPDCCL, and we appreciate the appreciation from the people of Jammu for our efforts to ensure quality power supply."

JPDCCL's efforts have resulted in a significant reduction in power outages, with only a few instances reported. The corporation is committed to continuing its efforts to provide reliable and quality power supply to the people of Jammu.

The demand for electricity in homes and businesses increases during the summer season. This is primarily because of the need for cooling appliances such as Air Conditioners, air coolers etc.

Over the years this surge in demand has prompted the JPDCCL to strategize and invest in additional power resources to meet the energy needs of the region effectively. The move to provide extra units of power supply underscores JPDCCL's commitment to addressing the power shortages and voltage fluctuations that have plagued the region during the summer months.

According to MDJPDCCL Vikas Kundal "The two main issues JPDCCL face in the peak of summer are the use of crude gadgets especially low efficiency Air conditioners and illegal hooking. We want consumers to cooperate so that we can give our best service," they said.

"If people use electricity judiciously and pay as per the consumption then there won't be many power cuts," he maintained. Further, Executive Engineer Electric Division - Parade while clarifying his stance said that he caters to 65000 consumers and roughly 2373 Distribution Transformers the average damage rate of these DTs is one or two in a day and are replaced within Eight hours.

Executive Engineer Electric Division - Gandhi Nagar said that he caters to 170000 consumers and roughly 10000 Distribution Transformers the average damage rate of these DTs is six or seven in a day and are replaced within Eight hours.

Executive Engineer Electric Division - Janipur said that he caters to 168000 consumers and roughly 5800 Distribution Transformers the average damage rate of these DTs is six or seven in a day and are replaced within Eight hours.

Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division - II who caters to 50% of Jammu & Samba districts said that there are around 147 receiving stations with installed capacity of 1330 MVA. Other than one receiving station namely Bahu Fort which gets regular faults due to overloading.

Chief Engineer Projects JPDCCL Jammu further in his statement said that RDSS works are going on in the entire province of Jammu and due to which sometimes shut downs are needed which are publicized well in advance.

Similarly sometimes shutdowns are availed by PGCIL, NHIDCL for carrying out Infrastructure works. However, Grid constraints sometimes enforce the curtailment from their end also.

# Youth Cong protests against Centre over granting more powers to LG ahead of Assembly Polls



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 20 (Agencies): Youth Congress here on Saturday staged a protest against the BJP-led central government over its decision to grant more powers to the Lt Governor ahead of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Chanting slogans

against the BJP, the youth activists led by incharge of Pradesh Youth Congress Maan Singh Rathore assembled at Maharaja Hari Singh Park in the heart of the city and tried to take out a march to protest against growing terror activities in the region. However, they were

stopped by police and dozens of them were later detained and whisked away in a police bus. "We are holding this protest for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. You might have seen an order of the Home ministry, granting more powers to the Lt Governor ahead of the supreme court-

set deadline for holding of assembly elections before September 30 in the Union Territory. They want to turn J-K into Delhi where the LG is virtually running the government instead of the chief minister," Rathore said.

The actions of BJP shows that it does not want to restore state-

hood to J&K, he said, appealing to the people to join protests against granting more powers to LG and restoration of full statehood. He said the protest is also on the roads over the growing terror incidents, which contradicts BJP's claim of normalcy in the UT.

"The attacks depict the complete failure of this government. The government should answer about frequent casualties happening in Jammu and Kashmir," the Congress leader said.

# PAK -Terrorists bleed Jammu and Kashmir

(Terrorism is out of Kashmir. Pakistan attempts to revive its tail end but shall not succeed.)

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 20 (Agencies): The people of Kashmir have loudly rejected Pakistan's terrorism policy and opted for constitutional democracy as a means to settle the societal and political imbroglio. The robust security and intelligence echo system in place in the Valley is supportive of the political process and peace agenda consciously embraced by Kashmiris says : Ashok Bhan, a noted Supreme Court Lawyer and a prominent Kashmiri leader while delivering a key note lecture at a civil society function in New Delhi today.

He said Pakistan is continuing its offi-

cial policy of terrorism against India and promotes the proxy war as part of her misplaced and pernicious ideological mission and impose an jihadi, fundamentalist and regressive socio-cultural order on people of Jammu & Kashmir not realising that Kashmir is the cradle of civilisation. History is replete that Kashmiris as a society, no matter being -Muslim majority have rejected the bigotry and religious fundamentalism in the past and are rejecting now as well. Bhan said.

Change of tactics by the Pakistani establishment asking Jaish to go in hilly terrains of Jammu by pushing highly trained terrorists into the region is a futile aim of reviving tail



end insurgency. Bhat emphasised: Apparently they succeeded on July 15 in an incident, to inflict casualties of four soldiers of the Army, including an officer, yet the Valour of army and security forces and JK police is laudable that , a joint team of Army and police had entered the Dessa forest area, about 50km from Doda town. They were acting on a specific intelligence input about the presence of terrorists but got caught in an ambush in an open

area. The people in the area are supporting the security forces and soon situation is expected to be terrorists free in the area say the local residents.

Bhan said : spreading terror shall not succeed the patriotic people of Jammu region as always will fight back the terror ideals being promoted by radical jihadi Jaish outfits. Jammuites by their united resolve will strive to save the composite and inclusive Jammu pride and Dogra glory & Valour. Pakistan has to bite the dust and face defeat in her change of terror tactics very soon by Indian army, security forces and JK police together with the unflinching support of people of Jammu and Kashmir.

**DISTRICT HEALTH SOCIETY KATHUA**  
District Office: Q/O CMO Kathua, Ph. & Fax : 01922-294385, E-mail:- domukat@gmail.com

**Notice No 03 of 2024-25**

**Subject: Extension of tender for Hiring of Vehicles under RBSK (Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram) 2024-25**

Due to poor response of Tender Notice No 01 of 2024-25 Hiring of Vehicles under RBSK (Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram) vide letter No DPMU/NRHM/K/580 dt 28.06.2024 for notice inviting Offline Bid(s) for Finalization of Rate Contract(s) for Hiring of Vehicle(s), on Monthly basis, for Mobile Health Team(s) under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram (RBSK) in Medical Blocks of Kathua District in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The last date for submit the tender is extended for 7 days after date of publication. Those who have already applied in response to notice No 01 of 2024-25 need not apply.

All the terms & conditions as notified in the previous notification shall remain the same.

No: DPMU/NRHM/K/ 814  
Dt 16/07/2024

DIP/J-3052/24

*Vijay Raina*  
(Dr. Vijay Raina)  
**CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER HEALTH & F.W. KATHUA**

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) ELECTRIC DIVISION JAMMU**

**FRESH SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
xenpwdelecdiv.jammu@gmail.com

Fresh Short e-NIT No.EDJ/51 of 2024-2025 Dated 18-07-2024

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (₹ in lacs)	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time Allowed for complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1.	Stage Contract for Repair and Renovation of Anti Corruption Bureau Head Quarter office Jammu Electrical Works including Day to Day Maintenance of ACs and Water Cooler for the financial Year 2024-2025 w.e.f 04/2024 to 03/2025. (2 <sup>nd</sup> call)	PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	15.00	600/-	30000/-	Upto ending 31 March 2025	26-07-2024 At or after (12:00 A.N)	"A" Class Electrical Contractor

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18-07-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 19-07-2024 to 25-07-2024, 4:00 P.M
3	Bid submission Start Date	19-07-2024
4	Bid Submission End Date	25-07-2024 up to 4:00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	26-07-2024 at or after 12:00 A.N in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work and NIT No. duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favouring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, and relevant documents of 1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. at the time of allotment.

No :- EDJ/3653-61  
Dated :-18-07-2024

DIP/J-3065/24

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Electric Division  
Jammu

## EDITORIAL

## Surviving Humid Summer

As the monsoon season rolls in, transitioning from the scorching heat of summer to the dampness of humidity can present its own set of challenges. Coping effectively with the humid summer in monsoon requires a combination of practical adjustments, lifestyle changes, and mindful habits to stay comfortable and healthy. Humidity refers to the amount of moisture present in the air. During the monsoon season, humidity levels tend to rise significantly due to increased rainfall and moisture in the atmosphere. This can lead to feelings of stickiness, discomfort, and can exacerbate existing health conditions such as respiratory issues and skin problems. Hydration is crucial in humid weather. Drink plenty of water throughout the day to replenish fluids lost through sweating. Opt for electrolyte-rich drinks or coconut water to restore minerals lost due to sweating. Wear lightweight, breathable fabrics such as cotton and linen that allow your skin to breathe. Loose-fitting clothing helps in better air circulation, keeping you cooler and more comfortable. Utilize air conditioning or fans to maintain a cool indoor environment. Ensure that your home or workspace is well-ventilated to reduce humidity levels indoors. A refreshing cool shower can provide immediate relief from humidity. Use mild, hydrating shower gels or soaps to avoid drying out your skin. Consider using dehumidifiers in particularly humid areas of your home, such as basements or bathrooms. Dehumidifiers help in reducing moisture levels, creating a more comfortable indoor environment. Open windows and doors during cooler parts of the day to allow fresh air to circulate through your home. Cross-ventilation helps in reducing indoor humidity levels naturally. Limit outdoor activities during the hottest and most humid parts of the day, typically midday. Schedule outdoor tasks such as exercise or errands during cooler mornings or evenings. Opt for light, refreshing meals that are easy to digest. Include seasonal fruits and vegetables in your diet to stay hydrated and nourished. Use a hygrometer to monitor indoor humidity levels. Ideally, indoor humidity should be maintained between 40% to 60% for optimal comfort and health. Maintain a skincare routine that focuses on hydration and protection. Use a lightweight, non-comedogenic moisturizer to prevent skin dryness and irritation caused by humidity. Coping with humid summer weather during the monsoon requires a proactive approach towards maintaining comfort and health. By staying hydrated, dressing appropriately, using cooling methods effectively, and practicing mindful habits, you can navigate through the challenges of humidity with ease. Implementing these strategies will not only help you stay comfortable but also support your overall well-being during the monsoon season. Remember, adapting to the changes in humidity is key to enjoying the refreshing aspects of the monsoon while minimizing its potential drawbacks. By incorporating these coping strategies into your daily routine, you can make the most of this transitional season and stay cool, comfortable, and healthy.

## Anti-incumbency, Congress surge to test BJP's mettle in Haryana polls

By: Devesh Kumar & Harish Kumar  
(Researcher, CSDS & Professor, MDU)

THE outcome of the Lok Sabha elections in Haryana, where the ruling BJP and the Congress won five seats each, has set the stage for a tight contest in the Assembly elections later this year. As parties vie for victory, key factors in the parliamentary elections, shifting caste dynamics and the evolving political equations in the state demand close attention. Local issues took precedence over national ones in the recent Lok Sabha elections in Haryana. The 'Modi factor', which the BJP heavily relies upon, appeared less potent in mobilising the electorate. The charisma of PM Narendra Modi and the promotion of the party's state-level achievements did not resonate with many voters. The party also struggled to consolidate the vote of labharthis or beneficiaries of Central schemes. This, coupled with a decade of the BJP's rule, created strong anti-incumbency sentiments. The Congress capitalised on issues like unemployment, inflation, misconduct with women wrestlers and the Agnipath scheme. The scheme significantly impacted a section of the voters, as Haryana is a major recruitment hub for the armed forces. Moreover, discrepancies in the Parivar Pehchan Patra, a family ID card meant to streamline welfare schemes, hurt the BJP. The party also faced a backlash from farmers, who were ruthlessly deterred from entering Delhi to put forth their demand for a legal guar-

antee of MSP (minimum support price).

The caste vote indicated two important shifts. One, the traditional Congress voter base is intact and has achieved significant consolidation. Two, the Jat voter has begun to support the Congress once again. Eyeing the sizeable OBC vote and sensing anti-incumbency, the BJP had replaced Manohar Lal Khattar with Nayab Singh Saini as the CM months before the Lok Sabha elections. While Khattar registered an emphatic win in his constituency, the replacement of the CM face bore no major results. According to the Lokniti-CSDS data, one in every two OBC voters voted for the Congress, a 29 per cent increase from the 2019 General Election. This indicates a shift in the BJP's core voter base. While the party retained its upper-caste vote, including Brahmins, Punjabis and Rajputs, it lost its Scheduled Caste (SC) vote to the Congress. Traditionally, the SC vote has been split between the BJP and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). But this time, a majority of the Dalits backed the Congress. The minority vote also favoured the Congress, suggesting that the anti-BJP sentiment has coalesced into a broad social coalition for the Congress.

The Jat community, accounting for about one-fourth of Haryana's population, has historically dominated state politics. As a key social group, they hold considerable leverage. The Lokniti-CSDS data indicates that the Congress successfully mobilised Jat voters, with two in every three Jats voting for the party – a 31 per cent increase from

the 2019 elections. One strong indication of this consolidation is that the grand old party won all seats in the Jat belt, including Hisar, Sirsa, Sonapat and Rohtak. Arguably, this shift not only highlights the declining influence of regional parties like the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) and the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) – which often rely on the Jat vote – but it also shows the growing dissatisfaction with the BJP among the Jats.

A shift towards a two-party system in Haryana was evident in the Lok Sabha elections. The BJP has minimised the space for regional parties, which initially helped it gain a foothold in the state. The BJP entered Haryana politics as a lesser partner to the Lok Dal and the Haryana Vikas Party. Over time, however, the BJP built a consistent voter base, pushing these parties to the brink of oblivion. For instance, in the 2024 elections, both the INLD and the JJP suffered significant defeats, with a combined vote share below 3 per cent. It appears that Haryana, much like Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh, is moving towards a two-party system if the regional parties continue to perform poorly.

All these factors have implications for the Assembly elections. Firstly, most local issues remain unaddressed. The party that understands and addresses these issues will likely prevail in the Vidhan Sabha polls. Secondly, the Jat voter in Sirsa and Hisar – previously INLD strongholds – has favoured the Congress. It remains to be seen what manoeuvres the INLD and its offshoot, the

JJP, will use to reclaim their space in these constituencies at the Assembly level. Thirdly, despite their poor performance in the Lok Sabha elections, the INLD and the JJP have a significant presence at the Assembly level. They must engage with the electorate in ways distinct from the Congress and the BJP to remain relevant. Thirdly, this election did not witness victory margins above one lakh votes, barring Rohtak, Karnal, Sirsa and Faridabad. In other constituencies, voters did not decisively vote for a single party, and, resultantly, the votes were split. This makes room for parties like the INLD and JJP to find ways to outmanoeuvre others. Ruling out any alliance, the Aam Aadmi Party has decided to go solo and contest all 90 seats in Haryana.

The alliance between the INLD and the BSP raises questions about its effectiveness in securing its core voter base – the Jats and Dalits. It remains to be seen whether this coalition will yield dividends for the parties or if these votes will once again be divided in the Assembly elections. In a recent interview, newly elected Sirsa MP Selja Kumari hinted at infighting in the state Congress. A weak leadership at the state level could translate into losses for the party. However, one thing is crystal clear: the Congress, which managed to perform well in the Lok Sabha elections, has the potential to sustain this momentum in the Assembly polls. To do so, the party must engage in introspection, identify its shortcomings and address them effectively.

## Technical and vocational courses

By: Vijay GarG

ALL the developed countries in the world have strengthened their education system with new technology and those countries have emphasized on scientific, research, vocational and technical education but the education system of our country is far behind compared to these countries. Technical and vocational courses Every year on July 15, World Youth Skills Day is celebrated all over the world. It aims to emphasize the importance of equipping the youth with the necessary skills for employment, good work, the country and their own progress have to accept In view of the evolving technology and changing labor market dynamics in the country and the world today, it has become necessary to equip the youth with up-to-date and versatile skills. A good education system has been a major contributor behind the progress of every developed country. All the developed countries in the world have strengthened

their education system with new technology and those countries have emphasized on scientific, research, vocational and technical education but the education system of our country is notIt is far behind compared to other countries In today's fast paced life it is imperative to make education vocational. According to which short term and long term / approved courses are being conducted all over the world. If ITI in Punjab. If we consider about the vocational courses, many vocational courses are also conducted here. (ITI) Industrial Training Institute started in 1950 and it comes under Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Many technical courses are offered under ITI. In which approx Courses range from six months to two or three years in duration. Eighth pass students also have many options for vocational courses like plumber course, tractor, mechanic, wood work (wood lathe), sports goods making, leather goods making, tailoring, needle work, welder (elec-

tricity and gas). ), carpenter, foundryman and seat maker worker etc. one year courses can be done. If we talk about two-year vocational courses, courses such as wire man and painter (general) can be done. Itia also for students who have passed 10th standard Vocational courses like Stenography (English and Punjabi), Diesel Mechanic, Seat Metal Worker, Cutting Tailoring, Dress Making, Hand Compositor, Computer Hardware, Carpenter, Tractor Mechanic etc. . Similarly, after 10th standard students can also pursue two year courses like draftsman, civil or mechanical, fitter, turner, electrician, motor mechanic, surveyor, refrigerator and mechanical instrument etc. These courses are government, semi-government and non-government It is conducted by organizations. Admission fees in all government institutions are almost negligible. ITI. The students who take admission are given more practical than theory. It is very easy to get admission in an ITI institute, for which an online form

can be filled. After completing the ITI course, students can become eligible to render their services in the technical wing of the Army (eg: welder, fitter, plumber, electrician, hair cutter and dress designer etc.). Similarly, eligibility for technical posts in railways For example, students can self-assess their skills with a little knowledge and effort. The more students have hygiene and art in their hands, the better they can get employment. Similarly, students can also study polytechnics after class 10th and BTech after class 12th non-medical. Many students of Punjab are deprived of these courses due to lack of knowledge and after passing 10th they are forced to take employment without any vocational course. Many difficulties have to be faced. Many rural students miss out on these courses due to lack of proper information.

(Vijay Garg Retired  
Principal Educational  
Columnist MALOUT  
Punjab)

## Delegation from Leh Phu-Dho meets CEC Gyalson

### Top News Report

LEH, Jul 20: A delegation from Leh Phu-Dho led by BJP Mandal, President, Upper Leh, Rigzin Chubi met with Chairman/ CEC Adv Tashi Gyalson.

The delegation comprised of Chubi Yangtse Goba, Nawang Jago, Shaynam Goba, Tundup Tsering, Skara Goba, Paldan Boto, President Shyanam Stangtung Tsogspa, P. Angchuk, BJP, Mahila Morcha



President, Tsewang Dolma Jingsar, and other concerned members of Leh Phu-Dho. The delegation

expressed their heartfelt gratitude to H'CEC for his assistance in incorporating various developmental projects under

the LAHDC's Budget Plan 2024.

Major plans include upgradation of Sheynam Community Hall, the

construction of a Multi Purpose Community Hall at Skara, the development of a Link road from Kartse Zing to Council Quarter and other development initiatives.

BJP Mandal President, Rigzin Chubi conveyed appreciation on behalf of the Leh Phu-Dho community, noting that significant developmental work has taken place in Leh Phu-Dho area, which includes villages from Skara to Gangles since CEC Gyalson assumed office.

## Shiv Sena J&K UT demands free 100 units of electric tariff in Chenab valley

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jul 20: Shiv Sena President Chenab Valley, Tilak Shan requested Dr Jitendra Singh to free 100 units of electric tariff in Chenab valley.

"Our Chenab valley is hub of power projects Chenab Valley is generating thousands MW electricity and is supplied to other states of India but it is matter of great concern that the government has not supplied even a single unit of electricity has not



provided free of cost to the resident of Chenab valley. The NHPC and JKSPDC is earning crores of rupees from Dulhasti Power Projects and Baglihar Power Station but regretted that the resident of Chenab valley have not been provided any kind of benefit by the

NHPC and the JKSPDC to the public of Chenab valley which is matter of great concern," he said.

Tilak Shan urged the Dr Jitendra Singh MP to issue notification regarding the free 100 units of electric tariff in Chenab valley as the Chenab valley is the hub of power projects.

## Rehbar-e-Khel Physical Education Teachers delegation meets Jugal Kishore

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 20: A delegation of Rehbar-e-Khel Physical Education Teachers under the leadership of Harish Choudhary, met Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma and submitted a memorandum to him representing Reduction in Probation Period and Enhancement of Honorarium for Rehbar-e-Khel Physical Education Teachers in Jammu and Kashmir (UT).

A delegation highlighted the pressing issues faced by teachers in Jammu and Kashmir (UT).

They requested MP a reduction in the probation period from 7 years to 5 years, aligning with the norms applicable to Rehbar-e-Taleem teach-



ers.

"The current honorarium for Rehbar-e-Khel teachers in JKUT stands at Rs. 6000 per month. We urge an enhancement of this honorarium to Rs. 18000 per month, matching the standards set for Rehbar-e-Khel teachers in the UT of Ladakh," they said and added, "Many of our teachers hold

advanced qualifications such as B.P.Ed, M.P.Ed, M.Phil, PhD, NET/SET, and have national and international recognition as medalist players. Despite their qualifications and dedication, they receive a meager salary which does not reflect their contributions to youth services and sports development."

"Rehbar-e-Khel Physical Education Teachers play a pivotal role in promoting sports at the grassroots level. They actively participate in departmental activities, organize and supervise various competitions at zonal, district, and UT levels, and have contributed significantly during state initiatives such as LG's Rolling Trophy, YSS CUP, Back to Village, Jhan Abhiyan, Har Ghar Tirangaa, and Covid-19 relief efforts," they said.

They sought MP's intervention to alleviate the hardships faced by Rehbar-e-Khel teachers in JKUT.

Other who were part of delegation include Shambu Dutt, Jatinder Singh, Arjun Jamwal and Sanjeev Sharma.

## ABDPS Samiti's Amarnath Yatra Bhandara enters 21st Day

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 20: Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti, Jammu and Kashmir has continuously been arranging Bhandara for Baba Amarnathji Yatris since 30th June, 2024 at Railway Station, Jammu with enthusiasm and fervor. The Samiti has the mission of Public Service accomplishments which forms the core of the organization. The Langar run by the Samiti run continuously and provide pure healthy meals to pilgrims and devotees come from across the country for the darshan of Baba Amarnath.

Today on 21st day of Bhandara Parmatmanandji Maharaj inaugurated today's Bhandara in the presence of Sunil Shamra, National



Co-ordinator of the Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti. Vishwanathan ji Maharaj lauded the efforts of the volunteers of Samiti for arranging meals for the yatris coming from different states of India and abroad.

The National Co-ordinator of the Samiti Sh. Sunil Sharma informed that today on 21st day of Bhandara Large

number of yatris came from different states of India take meals and appreciated the efforts of the samiti for arranging meals day and night for such a long time for yatris with sweets and fruits on the directions and teachings of Bhrahmgyani Guruji. The pilgrims shall be served hygienic, delicious, energetic and digestive "sattvic" bhojan for all

days; besides there shall be special and exclusive arrangement for pilgrims observing "fast" on Ekadashi and other important festival dates, such arrangement is available nowhere in Jammu Transit Camps.

Raman Sharma informed that For this purpose, the Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti under the guidance of Sunil Sharma actively assisted by vishal Sharma, Amrit bhivani, Vipin Kumar and Raman Kumar have constituted a team of highly dedicated Members to serve the yatris day and night in the best possible manner.

Among Others who attended today's Bhandara namely, Arjun Kumar, Raja Mankotia Anil Kumar, Amit kumar and others.

## Refugee leader Badrinath led delegation meets Solanki Demands party's mandate to a Refugee leader from RS Pura Jammu South Assembly constituency

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 20: Congress District Jammu Rural President and prominent Refugee leader Badrinath Sharma today accused the BJP-led double engine government at the Centre of betraying refugees from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). This was stated by Sharma during his interaction with Party's incharge Bharat Singh Solanki in Jammu wherein a deputation of Refugees along with prominent persons from different sections of society from RS Pura Jammu South constituency asked party high Command to give chance to Sharma in forthcoming assembly elections from this assembly seat having mass support of refugees along with other sections of society on account of his honest and dedicated works in last thirty years of his political career. He also highlighted the issues faced by the people like shortage of basic amenities such as power,



water, roads, medical facilities, and civic amenities.

Sharma expressed deep concern over the unfulfilled commitments made to PoJK refugees by the BJP-led Central Government. He criticized the Centre for providing a meagre compensation of Rs 5 lakh per family instead of the recommended Rs 25-30 lakh per family. He emphasized the party's commitment to truth, integrity, and addressing the concerns of the people. He strongly criticized the centre and UT government for ignoring facilities to POJK, Chhamb DPs, and West Pakistan refugees, which is clear betrayal and backtracking of the promises with them by the Modi government

and BJP.

Sharma said after a long struggle of refugees of POJK, Chhamb, and West Pakistan and hot perusal by Congress, a package was worked out on the direction of Dr Manmohan Singh's government in 2014 and recommended to the centre by the state government. It comprised of 25 lakh per family as a financial package besides jobs, reservation package, and coverage of all left out DP families under land allotment and land deficiency categories. The said package was not only endorsed by the all-party joint parliamentary committee but also enhanced the relief amount to Rs 30 lakh per family, however, the Modi Govt and BJP

failed to sanction the package. Only a meager amount of Rs 5.5 lakhs was sanctioned but that too has not been disbursed to all eligible families because of various hardships in the procedure and documentation for them.

Sharma claimed that Members of the Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) refugee community should get mandate from party in J-K assembly polls from seats where it has a strong presence. He claimed that the community should exercise their voting rights "wisely". "We should not get swayed by emotions and false promises of BJP which have failed to meet the expectations of our people," he said. BJP Govt failed to empower

people displaced from PoJK politically, Sharma alleged and claimed that BJP has never taken steps to ensure people from the community get elected to the assembly or Parliament. In the last 10 years, the BJP-led Centre has neglected people displaced from PoJK, he alleged and added that the "double engine" government of the BJP in Jammu and Kashmir has written a dark chapter of destruction of PoJK people. "There is strong resentment among the refugees and we are left with no options but to start a mass agitation to get our legitimate rights," Sharma said.

Solanki asked Sharma to continue hard work and ensured that Party High Command will give mandate on merit and deserving candidates having potential to win will never be ignored as whosoever is given mandate will be decided by Central Screening Committee and proper survey will be done at gross root level before deciding candidates for the forthcoming assembly elections.

## Summer Camp begins at GDC Darhal

### Top News Report

DARHAL, Jul 20: The Government Degree College (GDC) Darhal, has commenced its annual Summer Camp, offering a wide range of engaging activities and educational experiences for the students.

The Summer Camp was inaugurated by the Principal of the college, Prof Zamir Ahmed Mirza, in the presence of esteemed faculty members including Dr. Ghulam Abbas, Dr. Mohd Saleem Wani, Dr. Taseen, Dr. Mohd Akhlaq, and Prof. Anzar Ahmed.

The event was coordinated by the college's Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and National Service

Scheme (NSS), led by Dr. M Saleem Wani and Dr. Mohd Akhlaq, respectively.

The event was also graced by the presence of Dr. Mohd Sajar and Dr. Nawaz Ahmed, who participated as special guests, sharing their expertise and insights with the attendees.

The Summer Camp is designed to provide students with a platform to explore their interests, develop new skills, and engage in creative and recreational pursuits. The program includes a diverse array of activities such as workshops, cultural performances, sports competitions, and educational excursions.

Principal Prof Zamir Ahmed Mirza expressed his enthusiasm for the

Summer Camp, stating, "We are thrilled to host this enriching Summer Camp for our students. It is an opportunity for them to step out of their regular academic routine and immerse themselves in a variety of learning experiences that will not only broaden their horizons but also foster their personal growth and development."

The Summer Camp is expected to run for ten days w.e.f 20th of July to 29th of July, 2024, offering students a chance to make the most of their summer vacation. The college administration has assured that all necessary precautions and safety measures have been put in place to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for the participants.

## Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre organises Free Health Camp

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 20: Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre, Udheywala, Jammu organised a free health camp focusing on skin and diabetes on Saturday.

Dr. Suby Kakkar, MBBS, Dermatologist, and Cosmetologist from Germany, affiliated with Vivekananda Hospital and Ankur Matrika Hospital and Dr. Maneesh Sharma, MS, DNB in Plastic Surgery, complete diabetic foot care,

trauma, burn care, and hair transplantation provided their services.

Over 100 patients benefited from the expertise of 15 doctors at this camp.

Apart from the gastroenterology and oncology camps, the participants also provided free consultations in Physician (Allopathy), Paediatric, ENT, Dental Surgeon, Orthopaedics, Eye Specialist, Gynaecologist and Physiotherapist.

In addition to these

specialized services, the health camp will offer free consultations in various other medical disciplines, including Allopathic and Ayurvedic Physicians, ENT specialists, Dental Surgeons, Orthopaedic Surgeons, Ophthalmologists, Gynaecologist, and Physiotherapists.

Distinguished guests including Major (Dr.) Shahid Hussain, State Immunisation Officer, Dr. Meera Dave, Army Captain, Dr. Siddharth Dave, Educationist,



United Nations graced the event with their presence.

Shahid Hussain commended the Centre's efforts in alignment with

Swami Vivekananda's vision and urged public support for such humanitarian initiatives.

Dr. Suby Kakkar & Dr. Maneesh Sharma

praised the Mission's commendable work and encouraged local citizens to make the most of these medical services.

Furthermore, attendees had access to a range of complimentary medical tests free haemoglobin, free blood sugar and BP Tests. Additionally, a full-body checkup consisting of 65 parameters will be available at a nominal fee of only Rs 700.

The camp also facilitated haemoglobin tests, free blood sugar tests and distributed medicines free of charge.

Swami Jaynadhara-nanda, Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission,

Jammu, highlighted the organization's commitment to the ideals of Sri Ramakrishna Dev, Maa Sarada, and Swami Vivekananda, emphasizing service to humanity as a form of divine worship. He also announced plans to organize such free camps monthly.

For other information contact us on number 9596984032. Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu provides cultural, educational and medical services following the ideals of Sri Ramakrishna Dev, Maa Sarada and Swami Vivekananda.

## With Vicky Kaushal's song Tauba Tauba creating a real buzz online, we take a look at male actors who are giving stiff competition to item girls

Bad News song Tauba Tauba has crossed 75 million views and over 2 million reels have been made by social media users already! An original number by Punjabi singer Karan Aujla, it has challenging choreography that everybody is trying to perfect. Now that male actors are giving stiff competition to the item girl phenomenon, which ruled the industry for long, it's worth looking at the emerging trend.

Before Tauba Tauba, it was Heart Throb with Ranveer Singh playing the item boy in Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani. Such poster songs often do not add to the narra-

tive of the film, but are added in between or at the end to gain traction. Seems more like an afterthought! But they serve the purpose as these songs create a real buzz.

Nidhi Kumar, dancer and digital content creator, says, "It is truly refreshing to see a male taking the lead in an item song, rather than the female. We recently saw Hrithik Roshan and Tiger Shroff doing Jai Jai Shivshankar (War). But somehow Tauba Tauba feels different because the beats of the song are quite different from anything we have seen in the past."

Tiger Shroff and



Akshay Kumar were also seen grooving together in Bade Miyan Chote Miyan in an all-male title song.

Coming back to Tauba Tauba, the choreography was by Bosco Caesar, who is known to have given the most viral hook steps known to Bollywood! This one was very new and it almost felt like it paid homage to Michael Jackson's moonwalk. Nidhi says the reason of Tauba Tauba being a success goes to Vicky Kaushal, "To see him dance like this was so refreshing and so different, hence, it became even more viral because this was never seen before."

## Aayushi Bhave talks about her role in 10:29 Ki Aakhri Dastak



Aayushi Bhave, who essays the role of Bindu in Star Bharat's show, 10:29 Ki Aakhri Dastak, is in a happy space.

"Bindu is amongst the most intriguing female characters you'll encounter. She is a captivating and beauti-

ful woman with a knack for grabbing the attention of those she desires acknowledgment from. In the series, Bindu is portrayed as someone who can easily adapt her persona, keeping her true identity mysterious," she says.

"Her equation with Abhimanyu is important for her. She craves his attention. Around Rajveer, she exhibits a distinct demeanor, showcasing her interest in him. However, Rajveer's strong personality poses a challenge for her, which promises an engaging experience. Playing Bindu allows me to delve into a whole different persona, and viewers will undoubtedly be captivated by her charm," she adds.

## 'I'm like a ball of energy right now,' says Sharvari on being part of spy universe

Actress Sharvari is not feeling the pressure as she enjoys the process of starring in the spy film 'Alpha' alongside Alia Bhatt and describes herself as a "ball of energy right now."

Talking about being a part of the same universe as Deepika Padukone, Alia Bhatt and Katrina Kaif, Sharvari, who will play a super agent, said, "It is hugely overwhelming to be a part of this massive spy universe. I'm honestly not feeling a lot of pressure because I'm truly enjoying every bit of the process."

"I'm like a ball of energy right now—too excited to have this opportunity—to be working with one of the greatest superstars of our country, Alia Bhatt."

The actress said she is looking forward to being on set, learning from Alia every day, and delivering her scenes well.

"If I let the pressure get to me, I won't have fun. I don't want that. To be part of a universe that has my cinematic idols is a dream come true. I look up to Alia, Deepika and Katrina. Just the



fact that I'm playing a super agent in this galaxy of the greatest icons of cinema is too surreal," said Sharvari. 'Alpha' is the first female-led film in the Yash Raj Films spy universe. On July 5, the production banner unveiled the title of the

film along with a special video, which dismissed the notion that only men can be alphas.

The film is helmed by Shiv Rawail. The spy universe also includes films such as 'Ek Tha Tiger', 'Tiger Zinda Hai', 'War', 'Pathaan' and 'Tiger 3'.

## Posters of Janhvi, Gulshan Devaiah-starrer Ulajh released

After releasing the intriguing trailer, makers of the highly anticipated film Ulajh, starring Janhvi Kapoor and Gulshan Devaiah, unveiled new posters on Friday. Taking to Instagram, Janhvi treated fans with new posters. The first poster features Janhvi looking intense while holding a confidential file in her hand.

The post also gave a sneak peek into each character, featuring Gulshan Devaiah, Roshan Mathew, Rajesh Tailang, and Meiyang Chang. "Every whisper is a lie. Every friend is a trap. Every clue is a betrayal," she captioned.



The makers recently unveiled the enthralling trailer of Ulajh featuring Janhvi in a pivotal role as Suhana Bhatia, a young diplomat entangled in a web of

conspiracy. Her portrayal challenges stereotypes, addressing the issue of nepotism head-on, amidst the complexities of her career-defining assignment

at the London embassy. Colleagues doubt her competence, questioning her abilities as mere nepotism, adding layers of tension to the plot.

Gulshan Devaiah joins the cast as a mysterious undercover agent, injecting further suspense into the narrative. The trailer teases a labyrinth of secrets and betrayals, hinting at an internal leak that jeopardises the lives of undercover agents and throws Suhana into a desperate struggle for survival.

The film also stars Adil Husain, Rajesh Tailang, Meiyang Chang, Rajendra Gupta, and Jitendra Joshi.

## Shahid Kapoor, Pooja Hegde's action thriller 'Deva' to release on Valentine's Day 2025

Bollywood stars Shahid Kapoor and Pooja Hegde's upcoming high-octane action thriller film 'Deva' will be released on the occasion of Valentine's Day on February 14, 2025.

Shahid took to Instagram and shared a look from the film.

In the first look, the actor looks dapper as he flaunts his muscular physique, wielding a gun and wearing a



bulletproof vest labeled 'Police'.

The actor captioned the post, 'Get ready for

a violent Valentine's Day. DEVA, releasing in theatres on February 14, 2025!'

Previously, it was reported that 'Deva' was a remake of the 2013 Malayalam film 'Mumbai Police', which featured Prithviraj Sukumaran. However, the makers later clarified that the story is different.

Directed by acclaimed Malayalam filmmaker Rosshan Andrews, and

produced by Siddharth Roy Kapur and Zee Studios, 'Deva' promises an action-packed roller-coaster ride full of thrills and drama.

Shahid plays a brilliant but defiant police officer, while Pooja is the leading lady in the role of a journalist.

The film also stars Pavai Gulati.

Other details related to the film are still under wraps.

## Pankaj Tripathi relates to his character, Kaleen Bhaiya, in Mirzapur very well



Acclaimed actor Pankaj Tripathi has drawn comparisons between himself and his iconic portrayal of Kaleen Bhaiya from Mirzapur, emphasising the importance of performers being relatable

to the characters they play on screen. Does he agree that relatability to a character is important? Pankaj replied, "Relatability and uniqueness are both important."

"If there is only relat-

ability, then there is also a problem because we have seen this in life, why should we watch it on screen? There has to be some uniqueness in the character." When asked how he relates to his iconic character of Kaleen Bhaiya, Pankaj said, "We both are soft-spoken. I also work patiently in life."

"Kaleen Bhaiya is a very patient person, very futuristic, and intelligent," he added with a laugh.

Looking forward, Pankaj will next be seen in the horror comedy Stree 2, starring Rajkumar Rao and Shraddha Kapoor. Pankaj is set to reprise his role as paranormal expert Rudra in the forthcoming film. After this, Pankaj will be seen in filmmaker Anurag Basu's Metro...In Dino.

## Selena Gomez bags Emmy nomination



Selena Gomez has secured her first Emmy nomination for best lead actress in a comedy series for her role in Hulu's Only Murders in the Building. Gomez joins a competitive category that includes Quinta Brunson from Abbott Elementary, Ayo Edebiri from The Bear, Maya Rudolph from Loot, among others.

## Mansi is happy playing a positive character in Badall Pe Paon Hai

Adding to the charm of Sony SAB's show Badall Pe Paon Hai is the talented actress Mansi Sharma, who plays Shilpa Khanna, Rajat's sister-in-law. Known for her roles in negative and grey shades, Mansi's portrayal of the positive and fun-loving Shilpa is a refreshing change. The actress, who is based out of Punjab, is particularly grateful for the show being shot in Chandigarh, allowing her to balance her passion for acting with her family time.

Mansi shared, "Being a part of Badall Pe Paon Hai is special since the show is very different for me. I have often played negative characters, but my character in this show, Shilpa, is a refreshing change as it is not negative at all, so I am quite enjoying it. In fact, there are no negative characters in the



show. It portrays what a normal family looks like

in real life and is relatable."

## NTA announces centre and city-wise results of NEET-UG after Supreme Court order

**SC had on July 18 directed the NTA to announce the results of NEET UG, which were initially announced on June 5**

NEW DELHI, Jul 20 (Agencies): The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Saturday announced the centre and city-wise results for medical entrance exam NEET-UG, which is under the scanner over alleged irregularities.

The results, which were initially announced on June 5, have been published in this format following an order of the Supreme Court, which is hearing several petitions about the alleged irregularities in the conduct of the exam, including paper leak.

The exam was conducted on May 5 at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including 14 cities abroad, for more than



24 lakh candidates.

The court had ordered that the results be announced while masking the identities of the aspirants, saying it wanted to ascertain whether candidates appearing at allegedly tainted centres secured more marks than those

writing the exam elsewhere.

The top court will resume hearing the arguments on July 22 on a batch of pleas seeking cancellation, re-test and a court-monitored probe into the allegations of malpractice in the prestigious exam.

## Defence Ministry issues request for information to procure 6 Airborne Early Warning and Control Systems for IAF

*The main purpose of the AEW&C is to provide long range radar detection*

CHANDIGARH, Jul 20 (Agencies): The Ministry of Defence has issued a request for information (RFI) to procure six Airborne Early Warning and Control Systems (AEW&C), along with associated ground equipment for the Indian Air Force.

The offer, aimed at bolstering the IAF's surveillance capability, is open only for registered Indian vendors and Indian original equipment manufacturers, according to the RFI.

The main purpose of the AEW&C is to provide long range radar detection. It is a system of systems mounted on aircraft that consists of a radar, electronic surveillance measures (ESM), communication support measures (CSM), command & control (C2), battle management system and networking through data links.



The IAF's requirement is for jet-engined aircraft with an endurance of at least hours along with air-to-air refuelling capability, operational altitude of 40,000 feet and above, latest navigation systems and cruise speed higher than Mach 0.7.

The system's primary radar should have a 360-degree coverage and the capability to detect and track large bodied aircraft to slow unmanned aerial vehicles having a low radar cross section at ranges

above 550 km and flying at heights ranging from 100 feet to 65,000 feet.

An identification friend and foe system, self-protection electronic warfare suite, data links and a mission suite to enable seamless integration of AEW&C with the IAF's command and control grid for network centric operations are among other requirements listed out in the RFI.

Vendors can offer a platform that is already customised as an AEW&C, or modify a

suitable aircraft according to specifications laid out by the IAF. A pre-owned aircraft can also be used for the purpose.

According to sources, the IAF has projected a requirement of 12 AEW&Cs, also known as 'eyes in the skies' to effectively monitor the airspace along the borders.

At present it has a fleet of three ageing Russian A-50, based on the IL-76 airframe with Israeli avionics and two Netra aircraft developed indigenously by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The DRDO is also actively pursuing an AEW&C programme and is in the process of developing a new, more advanced mission suite than the existing one in the Netra. Inducted in 2017, a Netra air-

craft was deployed in a combat situation for the first time during the Balakote operations in 2019.

Recently, the IAF also procured six Airbus A320 and one A319 passenger liners from Air India. These are expected to be modified for intelligence gathering missions and electronic warfare operations and could possibly be used as a platform for AEW&Cs.

The IAF's present fleet of five AEW&Cs is relatively small as compared to its two hostile neighbours.

China has a fleet of 20 Shaanxi KJ-500 20, four Shaanxi KJ-200 and four KJ-2000, while Pakistan has four Chinese ZDK-03 Karakoram Eagle and eight Swedish Saab 2000 Erieye platforms.

## Nudged out given current controversy: Congress on UPSC chairman resignation

NEW DELHI, Jul 20 (Agencies): With the UPSC chairman Manoj Soni resigning citing personal reasons, the Congress on Saturday said he apparently "nudged out" given the current controversy in which the UPSC is involved.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh also said the sanctity and autonomy of all Constitutional bodies have been badly damaged since 2014 -- the year Narendra Modi became prime minister.

Soni has resigned citing personal reasons before the expiry of his tenure in May 2029, official sources said on Saturday.

His resignation is "not in any way connected to controversies and allegations surrounding the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) after probationary

IAS officer Puja Khedkar issue came to the fore," they said.

Reacting to the development, Ramesh said, "The sanctity, character, autonomy, and professionalism of all Constitutional bodies have been badly damaged since 2014. But at times even the self-anointed non-biological PM is forced to say enough in enough." He added, "Mr. Modi brought in one of his favourite 'academics' from Gujarat as a UPSC member in 2017 and made him Chairman in 2023 with a six year term. But this so-called distinguished gentleman has now resigned five years before the expiry of his term.

"Whatever the reasons that may be given, it appears clear that he had to be nudged out given the current controversy in which the UPSC is involved."



Many more such characters have populated the system, he said, and wondered why the Chairman of the NTA remains untouched so far.

"The UPSC chairman had tendered his resignation citing personal reasons over a fortnight back. It is yet to be accepted," a source said.

Eminent educationist Soni, 59, took over as a member of the Commission on June 28, 2017. He took oath as the UPSC chairman on May 16, 2023 and his term was to end on May 15, 2029.

Sources said Soni was not keen on becoming the UPSC chairman and had requested to be relieved.

However, his request was not accepted then.

They said Soni has now desired to devote more time to "socio-religious activities." The development assumes significance as the UPSC on Friday said it has lodged a criminal case against Khedkar for faking her identity to fraudulently avail attempts in the civil services examination beyond eligibility, and taken steps to debar her from future selections.

## 30 women workers faint after ammonia gas leak at Tamil Nadu plant

CHENNAI, Jul 20 (Agencies): Around 30 women workers fainted following ammonia gas leakage at a private fish processing plant in Tamil Nadu's Tuticorin district on Saturday. As per initial assessment, an electrical malfunction on Friday night allegedly caused an ammonia cylinder to burst, spreading the gas inside the plant located in Pudur Pandiyapuram in Tuticorin.

Several women who were working inside the plant at the time fell sick and fainted after inhaling the gas. They experi-

enced symptoms such as eye irritation, suffocation and giddiness.

Among the 30 women workers, atleast 16 of them were guest workers from Odisha. The affected workers were immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for further treatment.

Thalamuthu Nagar police have launched an investigation into the incident to determine the exact cause of the gas leak.

Last year, in December, over 10 people were hospitalised after ammonia gas leaked from the Ennore facility

of Coromandel International Ltd, a fertiliser manufacturing company. The state government had temporarily shut down the plant following the incident.

Several residents of nearby villages such as Periyakuppam and Chinnakuppam also complained of breathlessness following the leak.

A committee constituted to probe the ammonia leak estimated that 67.638 tonnes of gas leaked from the under-sea pipeline of Coromandel International Limited.

## BSF officer, jawan die in Gujarat due to extreme heat exposure during border patrol

AHMEDABAD, Jul 20 (Agencies): A Border Security Force officer and a jawan died during patrol due to "extreme" weather exposure at the 'Harami Nallah' creek area along the India-Pakistan international front in Gujarat, the force said Saturday.

The incident, in which Assistant Commandant Vishwa Deo and Head Constable Dayal Ram are stated to have suffered a heat stroke and dehydration, took place on Friday along the border, the sources said. The officer belonged to the 59th battalion of the BSF.

Officials said the two BSF men were rushed to a health facility in Bhuj by the evening but could not be saved.

A similar incident of extreme weather and heat stroke had claimed the life of a BSF jawan posted to guard the same front along Jaisalmer (Rajasthan) in May this year.

A spokesperson for the BSF's Gandhinagar-based Gujarat frontier said the two men along with other members of the force were under-

taking a "long-range border patrol in remote and inaccessible terrain along international borders to the north of Harami Nala, known for its treacherous terrain, when they were caught in extreme weather conditions and suffered medical exigencies."

"They were immediately evacuated to nearest medical facilities but they succumbed to critical health situation," he said.

The current temperatures in the Rann of Kutch and Harami Nallah areas is ranging from 34-36 degrees with humidity levels as high as 80-82 per cent.

The spokesperson said despite their extensive training and experience, the "severity of the

situation" proved overwhelming.

The two BSF personnel exemplified the highest standards of bravery and dedication. Their commitment in safeguarding our nations sovereignty, even in the face of extreme danger, will never be forgotten, the force said in a statement.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with their families, friends, and colleagues during this incredibly difficult time," the spokesperson said.

The Gujarat Frontier of the BSF guards 826 kms of the India-Pakistan front running from Barmer in Rajasthan to the salty marshlands of the Rann of Kutch including the Sir Creek area.



## Will scrap Dharavi slum redevelopment project tender after coming to power: Uddhav Thackeray



MUMBAI, Jul 20 (Agencies): Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday said the Dharavi slum redevelopment project tender awarded to industrialist Gautam Adani's firm will be scrapped if his party comes to power in Maharashtra.

Addressing a press conference, Thackeray said his party will ensure Dharavi residents and businesses are not uprooted, adding that people staying there must be given 500 square feet houses in the locality itself.

"We will scrap Dharavi slum redevelopment project tender after coming to power. The government should give an answer as to why it should not be scrapped now itself. We will not allow Mumbai to be turned into Adani city," the former chief minister said.

Additional concessions that are not specified in the contract have been given to the Adani Group in the project to redevelop Dharavi, one of the world's densest urban sprawls, Thackeray claimed.

"We will not give additional concessions. We will see what is good for residents of Dharavi and if need arises we will issue a fresh tender," he asserted.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) is part of the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi, which also includes the Congress and the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (SP).

Maharashtra assembly polls are likely to be held in October.

## In Madhya Pradesh, Panel of IAS officers to tackle stray dog menace

BHOPAL, Jul 20 (Agencies): The Madhya Pradesh government has appointed seven senior IAS officers to manage the escalating stray dog menace across the state. The stray dog crisis has become a significant concern, not only on the streets and in residential areas but also within government premises.

The Madhya Pradesh General Administration Department has issued an order forming a committee of 15 members, including IAS officers up to the level of Additional Chief Secretary.

Over 21,000 dog bite cases have been reported in Madhya Pradesh annually. In the past five years, stray dogs have

killed five people including those who died from rabies.

In Bhopal alone, hospitals receive an average of 55 cases of dog bites daily.

On July 1, Kunal from Lalghati in Bhopal, was mauled by a dog, requiring eight stitches. Five days later, 16-year-old Ravi Sahu was attacked by stray dogs while visiting a shrine in Raisen with his family. On July 9, a man in Sethani Ghat, Hoshangabad was attacked by stray dogs, resulting in deep wounds on his leg.

While the government says the decision was driven by alarming data, the opposition claims it highlights governmental failures. "We have taken this decision after thor-

oughly examining our data. Our priority is to save lives, which is why we have formed this committee of officers," Animal husbandry minister Lakhman Patel said.

But the situation on ground is dire. While the Bhopal Municipal Corporation's shelter home is overcrowded with stray dogs, dozens of people queue up every day in hospitals to get rabies injections.

Hospital data reveals alarming figures. In 2022, over 8,124 dog bite incidents were recorded and in 2023, the number almost doubled to 16,387. In the first five months of 2024, as many as 7,728 cases of dog bites have been reported.

However, organisations working for animal welfare have welcomed the decision. "This government step is commendable. These senior officials will make good decisions and solve the problems," Swati Gaurav, President, People for Animals, said.



## Biden vows to fight on, says Donald 'Trump's dark vision for future is not who we are as Americans'

*In isolation for Covid, Joe Biden to get back on the campaign trail next week*

WASHINGTON, Jul 20 (Agencies): US President Joe Biden has said that he would continue his campaign for reelection and take on rival Donald Trump, as he deals with the fallout from his Covid-19 diagnosis and growing calls from Democrats for him to quit the race.

Biden, who tested Covid-19 positive a few days ago, is in isolation at his Delaware residence, where he is expected to spend the rest of the week.

"Donald Trump's dark vision for the future is not who we are as Americans. Together, as a party and as a country, we can and will defeat him at the ballot box," Biden, 81, said in a statement issued by his campaign on Friday, a day after Trump, 78, formally accepted his party's presidential nomination at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee.

"I look forward to getting back on the campaign trail next week to continue exposing the threat of Donald Trump's Project 2025



agenda while making the case for my own record and the vision that I have for America: one where we save our democracy, protect our rights and freedoms and create opportunity for everyone," he said.

The president also criticised Trump's Thursday night keynote speech at the Republican National Convention.

"For over 90 minutes, he focused on his own grievances,

with no plan to unite us and no plan to make life better for working people," said the president referring to Trump's speech.

"He avoided mentioning his Project 2025 agenda, but still proudly flaunted the worst of MAGA (Make America Great Again) extremism," Biden said.

Americans know exactly where he wants to take this country, Biden said.

The Biden-Harris campaign alleged that despite promising

a call for unity and toned-down rhetoric, Trump's speech was a 90-minute reel of his greatest hits: focused entirely on himself, lashing out at his enemies, laying out his grievances, and riling up his base with inflammatory extremism.

"Trump is still the same twice-impeached, 34-time convicted felon consumed by revenge and hellbent on seeking retribution in a second term. He did not turn a new leaf; he did not usher in a new era of civility; and he certainly did not change course," the campaign said.

Biden has been sidelined since Wednesday when he was diagnosed with Covid-19 moments before delivering remarks in Las Vegas. He abruptly cut his trip short and flew to his beach home.

Democrats remain split on whether Biden can beat Trump in November and on Friday at least 10 Democrats joined the chorus calling on Biden to resign.

## 50 years after Cyprus split in two, celebrations and lamentations coincide

NICOSIA, Jul 20 (Agencies): The tinny howl of air raid sirens echoed across ethnically divided Cyprus at the crack of dawn on Saturday, marking 50 years from the day that changed the island nation's history.

It's heard every year as the Greek Cypriot controlled south laments the date Turkish troops invaded in the wake of a coup by supporters of union with Greece.

In Cyprus' northern third, Turkish Cypriots are celebrating what they see as salvation from the clutches of the Greek-speaking majority after years of armed conflict over the island's fate.

It's also a celebration of the establishment of their breakaway state, which is still recognized only by Turkey. The country still maintains more than 35,000 troops there.

Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan will preside over "golden jubilee" events, replete with a military parade, a visit by Turkey's first aircraft carrier, and an airshow.

For Greek Cypriots in the south — where the internationally recognized government is seated — it's the anniversary of a catastrophe that left thousands of people dead or missing and displaced a quarter of the Greek Cypriot population. Commemorations include the unveiling of memorials to fallen heroes, church services and a

gathering at the Presidential Palace addressed — for the first time — by Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

After numerous failed rounds of United Nations-brokered talks to reunify the island as a federation of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot zones, Cypriots on both sides still hold out a glimmer of hope that some common ground can be found.

But that's proving tough since the last serious push for peace collapsed seven years ago. After the talks ended, Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots called for what essentially amounts to a two-state deal, a notion that's dismissed out of hand by Greek Cypriots.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is now mulling whether to call for another round of talks. He will base his decision on a confidential report his personal envoy, Colombia's Maria Angela Holguin Cuellar, drafted after spending six months scoping both sides out. The European Union, which Cyprus joined in 2004, urged both sides to show "genuine commitment" to a peace deal in line with the U.N.-endorsed plan for a federated island. "Too much time has been lost," an EU spokesperson said. "A forced division can never be a solution. Hope for a better future, a united Cyprus, still exists."

## 11 dead, over 30 missing as bridge collapses in northwest China; rescue operations under way

*The collapse caused some vehicles to plunge into the Jinqian River below the bridge, says a report*

BEIJING, Jul 20 (Agencies): At least 11 people were killed and more than 30 went missing when a bridge on a highway collapsed partially due to flash floods in China's Shaanxi province, authorities said on Saturday.

The bridge, located in Zhashui County in Shangluo City, collapsed on Friday evening due to a sudden downpour and flash floods, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported, quoting the provincial publicity department.

Eleven people were confirmed dead as of Saturday morning, while more than 30 went missing after the collapse, the report said.

The collapse caused



some vehicles to plunge into the Jinqian River below the bridge, it said.

The exact number of vehicles involved in the collapse is still being determined.

It added that rescue teams recovered five vehicles that had fallen into the river, and rescue operations were underway.

According to the Ministry of Emergency Management, a team

was dispatched to guide rescue efforts.

The China National Comprehensive Fire and Rescue Team sent 736 people, 76 vehicles, 18 boats and 32 drones to carry out rescue efforts, it said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping urged all-out rescue and relief efforts to "safeguard people's lives and property after the bridge's collapse," the report said.

## Donald Trump pledges to end Ukraine-Russia war during call with Volodymyr Zelenskyy

WASHINGTON, Jul 20 (Agencies): Donald Trump has pledged to end Ukraine's war with Russia after its President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reached out to the former US president to congratulate him on his Republican presidential nomination.

"President Zelenskyy of Ukraine and I had a very good phone call earlier today. He congratulated me on a very successful Republican National Convention and becoming the Republican nominee for President of the United States," Trump said in a post on Truth Social, a social media post.

The call gains significance as this is his first conversation with a foreign leader after officially becoming the Republican Party's presidential nominee. It also reflects the growing realisation among the international community of his electoral chances in the November 5 elections.

"I appreciate President Zelenskyy for reaching out because I, as your next President of the



United States, will bring peace to the world and end the war that has cost so many lives and devastated countless innocent families. Both sides will be able to come together and negotiate a deal that ends the violence and paves a path forward to prosperity," Trump wrote.

Trump said during the call Zelenskyy condemned the heinous assassination attempt on him last Saturday and remarked about the American people

coming together in the spirit of Unity during these times.

In his post on X, Zelenskyy said that he spoke with Trump to congratulate him on the Republican nomination and condemn the shocking assassination attempt in Pennsylvania.

"I wished him strength and absolute safety in the future. I noted the vital bipartisan and bicameral American support for protecting our nation's freedom and independence," he said.

"Ukraine will always be grateful to the United States for its help in strengthening our ability to resist Russian terror. Russian attacks on our cities and villages continue every day. We agreed with President Trump to discuss at a personal meeting what steps can make peace fair and truly lasting," Zelenskyy wrote.

The 78-year-old former US president has spoken with many foreign leaders as he seeks the presidency, but his call with Zelenskyy is especially significant because of the election's implications for US policy toward Ukraine and Russia.

A Trump victory could herald an abrupt change in the transatlantic support for Kyiv that President Joe Biden established.

Just days ago, Trump announced Ohio Senator J D Vance as his running mate in November's vote.

The 39-year-old has in the past said "he doesn't care what happens to Ukraine one way or the other".

## Myanmar's civil war has seen devastating increase in attacks on schools: Researchers

BANGKOK, Jul 20 (Agencies): An intensification of fighting in Myanmar's civil war has brought a sharp increase in destructive attacks on schools, a group that monitors armed conflict in the Southeast Asian nation said in a report Saturday.

Myanmar Witness said the attacks have further strained Myanmar's already fractured school system, taking away education for millions of children who have also been forced to flee their homes, miss vaccinations and suffer from inadequate nutrition.

The group, a project of the United Kingdom-based Center for Information Resilience, identified a total of 174 attacks on Myanmar schools and universities since the military seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi three years ago. It said the count came from evidence in social media and news reports.

Other groups have suggested higher num-

bers of attacks. The Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, an advocacy group based in New York, counted over 245 reports of attacks on schools and 190 reports of military use of educational facilities in 2022-23.

The 2021 military takeover was met with widespread nonviolent demonstrations for democracy, but those were crushed with lethal force. Many opponents of military rule then took up arms, and large parts of the country are now embroiled in conflict. The military government is estimated to control less than half the country.

"Education underpinned the democratic movement in Myanmar, but today Myanmar's youth are witnessing their schools — and life opportunities — reduced to rubble," said Matt Lawrence, project director at Myanmar Witness. "If education is not protected throughout Myanmar, the next generation's view of the

world risks being driven by factionalism and war, rather than hope and reason."

Student enrollment in Myanmar dropped 80% from the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 through 2022, a year after the army's takeover, according to the humanitarian group Save the Children. By mid-2022, about half the country's children, or 7.8 million, were not attending schools, it said.

Myanmar Witness said it documented reports of 64 fatalities and 106 injuries associated with the 176 attacks on schools, though most could not be verified.

Myanmar's shadow National Unity Government, which leads the pro-democracy struggle against military rule, estimated in January that more than 570 children under age 18 had been killed in various circumstances by security forces. Upwards of 8,000 civilians have been killed in the conflict, according to the multinational Armed Conflict Location &

Event Data Project.

Myanmar Witness put most of the responsibility for the destruction of schools on airstrikes conducted by the Myanmar military. Air attacks have become more frequent as pro-democracy forces and ethnic minority armed groups allied with them have made gains on the battlefield.

The military "has had to resort to more and more airstrikes, often with less and less appropriate aircraft, as they lose effective access to the ground" as a result of offensives by the resistance, Lawrence told The Associated Press.

The military government has consistently denied targeting civilians or using disproportionate force.

The report said resistance forces also have attacked schools, but much less frequently and less destructively, often using drones with small explosive loads.

Education is also being disrupted by other factors. Many young people, including older

students, have taken a greater role in the resistance. Thousands of teachers left their jobs after the army seized power and joined a civil disobedience movement aimed at disabling military control over government institutions. And the conflict's shifting front lines make it difficult for teachers to provide lessons on a reliable basis.

Some teachers have established or joined schools outside the reach of the military's control.

"What we see is almost a dual system that's developing in Myanmar, where there are state-sponsored schools and then schools sponsored by other parties and retribution for participating in either system," said Lisa Chung Bender, executive director of the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack.

"It puts children and educators in an impossible position where they have to go through checkpoints and say where they're going,

and if it's determined that they're going to an enemy school, whichever enemy that is, they can be harassed, detained, or physically punished," she said.

The lack of proper access to education is only part of a deepening humanitarian crisis in Myanmar.

More than 3 million people have been displaced from their homes by fighting, most since the military's seizure of power in 2021, and the country suffers from a deepening economic crisis.

A report in June by the United Nations Children's Fund on global child food poverty said 35% of Myanmar's children live in food poverty, defined as having access to half or fewer of the eight food groups children need daily for healthy growth and development.

According to the U.N. Development Program, over half of Myanmar's children now live in poverty as the country's nascent middle class has disappeared.

## 2 killed in Ukraine's Kharkiv as Russian missiles target energy facilities

KYIV, Jul 20 (Agencies): Russian drones and missiles struck overnight in Ukraine, killing two civilians and hitting energy facilities and railway infrastructure across the country, officials said on Saturday.

Oleh Syniehubov, regional governor for the Kharkiv region, said Iskander missiles targeted an infrastructure facility in the small town of Barvinkove in the northeast, killing two people and injuring three more.

He gave no details about the facility, but said on the Telegram messaging app that more than 50 residential houses and administrative and commercial buildings were also damaged in the strike.

The Ukrainian air force said Russian forces launched four ballistic Iskander missiles in the overnight attack. The Ukrainian air defence failed to shoot them down.

The air defence shot down 13 of 17 Russian drones over five regions in the east, north, and centre of the country, the air force said.

Ukrenergo, the national grid operator, said the drones attacked electricity distribution facilities in the central Poltava region, in the Sumy region in northeast and in the northern Chernihiv region.

Ukrenergo imposed emergency power cuts for industrial and residential consumers in Poltava and Chernihiv regions, it said on the Telegram messaging app.

Russian forces have stepped up missile and drone attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure since March, knocking out about half of the available energy generation and forcing extended blackouts for millions.

The Ukrainian Railways said the overnight attacks damaged railway infrastructure in some parts of Kharkiv region and briefly delayed some passenger trains.



# Modi government is working for equitable development of all regions of J&K: Dr Jitendra

## Top News Report

DODA, Jul 20: Addressing a public rally here today before holding a general "Public Durbar" lasting over three hours, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh reaffirmed the revival of Village Defence Guards (VDGs).

"The security agencies have a strategy in place to control the security situation in district Doda and its adjoining areas in view of the recent incidents of terror, but such strategies are not discussed in public", said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel,

Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh here today.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that Village Defence Guards (VDGs) are being revived in the militancy-infested areas with an objective to empower them to fight terrorists. "The government has also decided that if and wherever needed, VDGs will be deployed as part of the multi-pronged strategy to confront the challenge posed by terrorists", he further informed. He also announced that weapons, including SLR rifles, may be provided to the VDGs so that they can negotiate the challenge



effectively.

The Minister made a fervent appeal to all the communities to put up a united front against terrorism. He recalled that Doda did not succumb to terrorism even during the 1990s when it was at its peak. "As inhabitants faced the menace tooth and nail, they were successful in preventing

migration of the people from here", the Minister highlighted.

Talking about infrastructure development of Doda, Dr Jitendra Singh stated that in the last ten years of the government, a network of highways has been created in order to improve connectivity to remote areas, reduce travel

time and enhance passengers' comfort.

"When completed, the strategically important Lakhampur-Basohli-Bani-Bhaderwah-Doda National Highway will reduce distance on this route by more than 100 Kilometres", he said, adding that this will also create job opportunities for the local youth and

boost tourism in the area. In the same way, the all-weather under-construction Khellani Tunnel will cut travelling time for the inhabitants of the districts of Doda and Kishtwar both to Srinagar and Jammu, Dr Singh said.

The Union Minister stated that the government has been working tirelessly to ensure equitable development of all regions of Jammu and Kashmir. "Modi government overcome the shortcomings of the previous regime and completed the unfinished and delayed infrastructure projects in J&K", he underlined. The Minister also emphasised that the

government provided LPG connections and built houses under PM AWAS, without taking into consideration caste, creed or religion of beneficiaries, as it is driven by the motto of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas.

Dr Jitendra Singh stressed the need to create awareness about welfare schemes of the government. "Workshops should be organised to make the youth and their parents aware about the benefits of various welfare schemes", he urged the local administration.

Later, the Union Minister held a "Public Durbar" lasting over three hours in which the district

administration led by the Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh was present for on-the-spot redressal of people's issues.

During the Public Durbar, issues of public interest also came up, with the local people raising their demands and seeking redressal of their grievances.

After listening to the people's demands, Dr Jitendra Singh instructed the administration to ensure speedy and timely resolution of matters of public concern. He directed that all possible measures must be taken to improve the delivery of public services in a time-bound manner.

# Randhawa asks LG admin to allow const, sale, purchase of private 'Gair Mumkin Khads'

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 20: Asking the LG administration to remove the nomenclature of 'Gair Mumkin Khad' and to lift the ban on the use of those 'Private lands' to construct, take loans and sale, purchase, Ch. Vikram Randhawa asked the LG Manoj Sinha to open the use of such lands on the pattern of government constructions.

Ch. Vikram Randhawa, former MLC, accompanied by Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, BJP Media Incharge, Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Additional Office Secretary, and Kulbeer Charak, co-Convenor Sanskriti Cell, was addressing a Press Conference at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Ch. Vikram Randhawa, while addressing the media persons, asked the administration when the 'Gair Mumkin Khads' can be used by the government and the JDA for the construction of its



offices and colonies, why the same permissions cannot be given to the masses.

"The administration is applying double standards in dealing with the public. On the one hand, permission for Khad lands/ change of nomenclature of Khad lands is allowed for government or JDA uses and not for the use of common masses. Isn't it a violation of fundamental rights? Why such separate yardsticks and discrimination",

said Randhawa.

"All Gair Mumkin Khads' lands are not state lands. There are a large number of private lands that are recorded as 'Gair Mumkin Khads'. Restriction of the sale and purchase of Khad lands has resulted in the loss of state exchequer in thousands of crore rupees. Restriction of building permissions has also added to further loss of state exchequer", said Randhawa.

Randhawa said that this irra-

tional decision has added to the plight of the common person in need of money who wants to sell land or take a loan to meet the emergencies like medical treatment, higher studies, marriages of wards, etc. This has also resulted into the distress sale of prime lands, he added.

He pointed out that the sale purchase of lands is not allowed over lands adjoining huge Nallahs already channelized by ERA Municipality and said that the people of Jammu, Samba, and Kathua belt are the worst sufferers.

Randhawa said that permitting construction over Khad lands will not only strengthen the state exchequer but also add to the development of areas and strengthen economic activities as there will be engagement of construction workers leading to employment and will increase the utilization of construction materials like cement, sand, bricks and other materials.

# Baru calls on JMC Commissioner Rahul Yadav, discussed delayed development projects and street lights issues

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 20: Representing the long pending demand of the residents of Talab Tillo area of Jammu West Assembly constituency, BJP senior leader and former JMC Councillor Sanjay Kumar Baru, called on Rahul Yadav, JMC Commissioner, at his office, town hall Jammu.

During the meeting Sanjay Baru discussed various development and local issues of Talab Tillo, Bohri and Camp Gole Gujral area with JMC Commissioner, who is also CEO of Jammu Smart City Project.

Sanjay Baru said that the Jammu Municipal Corporation have taken many steps for the

development, beautification and proper sanitation of Jammu city, especially by enhancing the basic infrastructure and starting "door to door" garbage collection and by installing thousands of street lights across all the wards of Jammu City, he added.

Baru further said that after JMC had dissolved few months back, now there is lack of coordination between the departments which is causing so many problems among the people. Development projects like footpath/ widening of main Talab Tillo road and construction of nallah in Durga Nagar near Akhnoor main road under Jammu Smart City Projects are delayed due to non-

seriousness of contractors and JMC electricians and helpers are not visiting regularly in their respective wards, which are causing blackout like situation in the nights because the maximum streetlights are not working properly.

Baru asked JMC Commissioner Rahul Yadav to pay an early visit in Talab Tillo locality for the inspection of the delayed development projects and listen the public grievances on the spot.

The JMC Commissioner gave a patient hearing, accepted invitation to visit Talab Tillo area and also passed instructions to the concerned departments for early redressal of all the issues.

# NDS expresses grief over demise of Secretary JKAACL

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 20: The Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) held a meeting of its Executive Body and expressed shock and grief over the untimely and sad demise of Shri Bharat Singh Manhas JKAS, Secretary of JKAACL.

NDS commended his professional commitment and exceptional services in promoting art, culture, and languages in Jammu and Kashmir.

It was noted in the meeting that under his leadership, the Academy was thriving with cultural and literary activities, and he personally made efforts to engage

every writer and artist in the vibrant literary and cultural environment he had fostered.

NDS Executive offers prayers for his soul to rest in peace and for his family members to find the strength to bear this irreparable loss. The meeting was attended by Prof. Anupama Sharma, Patron of Nami Dogri Sanstha; Advocate Dogra; Harish Kaila, President of NDS; Yash Pal Yash, General Secretary; Capt Lalit Sharma IFS, Convener; Dr. Chanchal Sharma, Organising Secretary of NDS; Dr. Sushil Bhola, Executive Member; and Narinder Singh Chib, Life Member of NDS, among others.

# JKPSA condemns statement of JKBOSE officials

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 20: Members of central body of the Jammu & Kashmir Private Schools Association (JKPSA), Jammu condemned the statement issued by the officials of the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE).

Members present in the meeting have shown online status of their schools in their laptops.

They said that they have uploaded their files in the portals designed by the departments of School Education Department for the approval of their managing committee, recognition and affiliation before the expiry of their essential documents which are needed for the affiliation / recognition.

They said till date the status of their schools has been placed in the de-affiliated/ pending category by the JKBOSE. All officials in the JKBOSE are misleading the government, Private schools and the

parents.

Initially, in 2022 and 2023 officials in the JKBOSE tagged the most of the students of class 9th to 12th of private schools which are even constructed in the proprietary land with the nearby government school despite of uploading all formalities. JKBOSE has failed to hold in time affiliation meetings.

Such type of draconian act by JKBOSE for the schools are functioning for more than three decades on own land or in rented building highly condemnable.

Above all JKBOSE has circulated notification of migration / eligibility on 07/06/2024 vide notification F (Acad-C) ISM-Eligibility/E-7486349/2024 with a normal fee till July 10, 2024.

Due to the non availability of online access to the schools authorities, they are hapless to upload or to approve migration/ eligibility of all such students who

want to migrate or who want to seek admission in other schools.

General Secretary Sat Paul Mansotra said that government has granted recognition to the school till ending March 2027, 2028, 2029 but JKBOSE is reluctant to grant affiliation on the basis of recognition.

Ajay Gupta on behalf all such schools whose portal are still closed by the JKBOSE without any fault at their part appealed to the Lieutenant Governor to intervene to save this venture from harassment and exploitation.

Those who spoke in the press conference included Deepak Handa (Sr. Vice President), Ajay Singh, Sanjeev Luthra, Gaurav Charak, Dr. Madan Mohan, Vineet Gupta, Vishal Singh, Rajat Kesar, Deep Dayal, Shabir Malik, Naresh Kumar, Romesh Gupta, Both Raj, Rajeev Jasrotia, Vishal Jamwal, Thomas Omman etc.

# Terror attacks in Jammu division proof of gov't failure: Dr. Preeti Bhagat



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 20: Social activist Dr. Preeti Bhagat has expressed concern over the increasing terrorist attacks in Jammu division and has demanded the government to take serious steps to stop these incidents.

She said that while abolishing Article 370 and demonetisation, the government had claimed that the back

of terrorism in Kashmir would be broken and terrorist incidents would be curbed, but even after so many years, neither the back of the terrorists was broken nor Only then the attacks stopped.

Earlier, terrorist attacks used to happen only in Kashmir, but in the last few years, most of the attacks are happening in Jammu division.

The government should take responsibility as to what are the reasons behind these attacks. She said that whatever step the government takes against terrorism will get the support of every citizen of the country, but it is necessary to introspect after any attack.

## FROM PAGE 1

# Will adopt Kashmir model to wipe-out terrorism in Jammu: LG Sinha

wake of surge in terrorist attacks on army, especially the killing of four soldiers including the captain rank officer in the terrorist ambush at Doda district on July 16. In the past 32 months 48 soldiers were killed in action in J&K.

The LG said that at present, 540 boys and girls are becoming entrepreneurs on a daily basis in J&K. "A total of 840 start-ups have come up in J&K of which 265 are run by young women," he said.

With peace, the LG said, in the past four to five years, J&K has seen transparency in the government recruitment process. "Not a single person was appointed on the basis of any sort of influence. Children of cart pullers, vegetable vendors and street vendors have got government jobs for the first time," he said.

# Army Chief reaches Jammu to review security situation in J&K

foreign terrorists who have infiltrated from

across the border and are moving in the upper reaches of Udhampur, Doda and Kishtwar districts in Jammu region and thereafter to Kashmir.

On July 3, the chief of army staff visited border district of Poonch and also chaired a meeting in Jammu and reviewed the security situation.

# Another batch of pilgrims leaves Jammu for Amarnath Shrine

undertake the annual pilgrimage through the traditional 48-km route in Anantnag district, 1,073 have opted for the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

More than 3.75 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the naturally-formed ice lingam at the cave shrine so far this year. More than 4.5 lakh pilgrims paid obeisance at the shrine last year.

The yatra commenced on June 29 and is scheduled to conclude on August 19.

# Captain Thapa, Who died fighting terrorists in

# Doda, Cremated at ancestral village in Darjeeling

bravely fighting terrorists in Doda. Various Army and Civil dignitaries have paid their respects to the brave officer. Indian Army ensured full military honours to the departed soul."

Four army personnel, including the captain, died after being injured in a gunfight with heavily armed terrorists in Doda. Captain Thapa was 27 years old and had joined the Army five years back.

# UPSC Chairman Manoj Soni resigns citing 'Personal Reasons'

had requested to be relieved. However, his request was not accepted then, the sources said.

They said Soni has now desired to devote more time to "socio-religious activities."

The development assumes significance as the UPSC on Friday said it has lodged a criminal case against Khedkar for faking her identity to fraudulently avail attempts in the civil services examination beyond eligibility, and taken steps to debar her from

future selections.

Since Khedkar's case of misusing power and privileges came to fore, social media is abuzz with claims and counter-claims on use of fake certificates by serving Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) officers, among others.

Social media users have shared names, pictures and other details of a few IAS and IPS officers, claiming they used bogus certificates to claim benefits available for those belonging to Other Backward Class (non-creamy layer) and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).

Prior to his appointment in the UPSC, Soni had served three terms as Vice-Chancellor.

These include two consecutive terms from August 1, 2009 to July 31, 2015 as VC of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU), Gujarat; and one term as VC of The Maharaja Sayajirao University (MSU) of Baroda from April 2005 to April 2008.

At the time of joining the MSU, Soni was the youngest ever Vice-Chancellor in India.

A scholar of political science with specialisation in international relations, Soni taught international relations at Sardar Patel University (SPU), Vallabh Vidyanagar between

1991 and 2016, except for the period when he served as Vice-Chancellor of the two universities.

Soni has earned a number of recognitions and awards and has significant number of publications to his credit.

The UPSC is headed by a chairman and can have a maximum of ten members. At present, there are seven members in the UPSC, three less than its sanctioned strength.

# Diarrhoea outbreak in Anantnag's Srigufwara, 60 hospitalised

drinking water could be the cause, but tests will be done today to ascertain the facts. Block Medical Officer (BMO), Sallar, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad, told KNO that teams were immediately dispatched to the area during the night and all the affected people have been admitted to health facilities. He said more than 60 people have been admitted so far. When asked about the reason behind the outbreak, he said that tests will be conducted today as all teams were busy during the night. "Awareness will be conducted today in the village. There is no need to panic; everything is under control."

## Dr. Jitendra presides over Public Darbar at Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jul 20: Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space, presided over a significant public Darbar at Dak Banglow during his visit to Kishtwar today.

The event commenced with MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh visiting the Rural Haat, where he inaugurated FIEM Foundation's Sanitary Pads Unit sponsored under the CSR for Lakhpati Didis/SHG members of JKNRLM in presence of DC Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav IAS and other prominent persons, a significant development for women's health and sanitation.

In a gesture of support for local entrepreneurship, Dr. Singh also distributed sewing machines to SHG members on the occasion. He emphasized the importance of the sanitary pad unit and sewing machine, not only for improving women's health but also for providing livelihood opportunities to Lakhpati Didis.

The event was also marked by a welcome address from Lakhpati Didis/SHG Members of JKRLM Kishtwar, highlighting the importance of the initiative. Dr. Singh also inspected the Rural Haat Canteen and enjoyed a special tea prepared by Lakhpati Didi.



The public Darbar commenced with a warm welcome address by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, IAS.

Various public representatives, including former Member of Legislative Assembly Sunil Sharma besides others presented the demands and aspirations of the people. Their speeches highlighted the pressing issues and needs of the region, seeking the Minister's intervention for swift resolution.

Meanwhile MD, CVPP Ramesh Mukhia presented the status of the ongoing Hydroelectric Power Projects in the district Kishtwar.

Addressing the enthusiastic gathering, Hon'ble MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed his gratitude to the people of Kishtwar for their continued trust and support, which has led to his election for a consecutive third term. He took this opportunity to recount the numerous milestones achieved by the central government in the region since 2014. These achievements include pro-people initiatives and the strategic utilization of the Himalayan resources such

as water, medicinal plants, and agriculture, Horticulture significantly contributing to the region's development.

Dr. Singh highlighted several key developmental initiatives undertaken by the union government. These include the functionalization of the District Hospital and the establishment of colleges under the Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Roads under PMGSY, alongside various self-employment schemes aimed at empowering the educated youth of the region. He observed that these initiatives have markedly transformed the nation improving the quality of life and economic opportunities for its residents.

A significant portion of Dr. Singh's address focused on the ongoing hydroelectric power projects in the region. He underscored the impartial employment opportunities provided to the local skilled youth and the promise of Kishtwar becoming a national hub of power generation with an impressive 8000 MW HEP generation capacity. Projects such as the Ratle Hydroelectric Power Project,

DUL Hasti HEP Phase 2, Kwar, and Keru HEP were cited as exemplary developments executed by joint ventures like CVPP, setting a new benchmark for regional growth.

Responding to the demands presented by the public representatives, Dr. Singh assured that the central government is dedicated to addressing these issues in a timely manner.

He emphasized the government's direct engagement with the district administration to ensure the smooth execution of projects.

Dr. Singh reiterated his commitment to sustaining the developmental momentum in the district and the broader region. He praised the Union government's continuous efforts under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister to foster sustainable development.

Training programs, capacity-building schemes, and credit-linked/subsidy linked employment generation schemes for youth and Women were highlighted as key initiatives driving progress and empowerment.

He urged the people to actively participate in the effective implementation of these initiatives and schemes, ensuring maximum benefit and inclusive growth.

Dr. Singh's visit to Kishtwar underscored the central government's unwavering commitment to the region's progress. The event highlighted significant achievements, ongoing projects, and future plans, promising a brighter and more prosperous future for Kishtwar and its people.

## SKIMS signs MoU with CCRUM for Joint Research collaboration

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jul 20: Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Science recorded a significant moment as SKIMS and Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) Ministry of Ayush, Government of India signed MOU (Memorandum of understanding) for joint research collaboration in presence of Director SKIMS, Dr. M Ashraf Ganie and Dr. N Zaheer Director General CCRUM, Dean Medical Faculty SKIMS Prof. Shariq R. Masoodi, Medical Superintendent SKIMS Dr. Farooq A Jan, Designate Nodal Officer for collaboration at SKIMS, Prof. Muzaffar Maqsood wani from the Department of Nephrology SKIMS and many other faculty members and senior officers from SKIMS & CCRUM.

Director SKIMS Dr. M Ashraf Ganie welcomed the D.G, CCRUM Dr. N. Zaheer and other dignitaries.

He expressed gratitude to D.G CCRUM Dr. N Zaheer for reaching at the SKIMS for a joint collaboration to work in crucial area of research indigenous medicine integrated into allopathy.

Dr. Ashraf while remarking on contribution of Dr. Zaheer as a luminary in his field said this new initiative of integrative program where allopathic & traditional medical practices will supplement each other will also explore strength & weaknesses of each field for very positive outcomes.

He said the joint collaboration will work on a defined mechanism through Steering Committee and Core committee on various areas outlined in MOU, including Joint projects, educative programs and other exchange programs. Besides, the significant focus on areas of chronic diseases such as migraine, epilepsy, spondylosis and many more where allopathic practice are not successful to explore better interventions.

He further added that the event has a added significance as the two key Institutions are coming together for efficient convergence of two different streams of medicine. A herbal garden of medicinal plants will soon be reality in SKIMS, for that land has been identified, he added.

Dr. N Zaheer DG, CCRUM said the joint collaboration will undoubtedly yield positive results to benefit public health.

He said the collaboration will help in optimum utilization of resources and expertise and prove beneficial and strengthen the integration of Ayush with mainstream medicine in areas of research, education and awareness at tertiary care. SKIMS being the premier tertiary care Institute will play a significant role through this collaboration, he added.

While mapping the role of Integrative medicine in future he said this collaborative program at SKIMS will frame a bigger role in

integrating Ayush with mainstream medicine. He assured all the support to the SKIMS for exploring new areas and defining treatment modalities under the integrative program including funding some important projects.

Dr. Shariq R. Masoodi, Dean of the Medical Faculty at SKIMS, remarked that integrating AYUSH with modern medicine at SKIMS Srinagar has the potential to offer valuable opportunities for patient care and research.

However, there is need of addressing the challenges of standardization, regulation, and integration are crucial for successful implementation.

Commenting on the MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) between SKIMS and CCRUM, Dr. Masoodi said the collaboration would be beneficial and provide an opportunity to learn from each other's strengths and weaknesses.

The faculty from the SKIMS recorded their valuable suggestions and inputs to lead this collaboration successfully and congratulated Director SKIMS for this fruitful venture for greater contribution in public health.

It is pertinent to mention that CCRUM as the apex government organization for research in Unani Medicine has been engaged in conducting scientific research on the applied as well as fundamental aspects of Unani system of medicine.

## RDPR Dept conducts 1-Day Workshop on GPDP & MGNREGA Convergence

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Jul 20: The Departments of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RDPR) on Saturday organized a one-day district-level workshop on the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and MGNREGA Convergence. The event, spearheaded by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Ramban Roshan Lal, was held in the Conference Hall, Administrative Complex, Maitra.

The workshop saw vibrant discussions, with Additional District Development Commissioner Roshan Lal, presiding over the interaction session. Thorough deliberations were held on the formulation and implementation of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP), aiming to achieve all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets set by the United Nations.

The GPDP is significant as it provides a structured framework for rural development and addresses challenges of poverty in the society, ensuring that the specific needs of each Panchayat are addressed. By involv-



ing local stakeholders in the planning process, GPDP fosters community participation, accountability, and transparency, leading to more sustainable and inclusive development.

The ADC emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in achieving the SDGs and encouraged all participants to actively contribute to the development plans of their respective departments and blocks. Participants included representatives from various departments including Officers and officials, and other stakeholders were provided a platform for sharing insights and strategies to enhance rural development and ensure effective implementa-

tion of GPDP in convergence with MGNREGA in the district.

He stressed on conduct of effective Gram Sabhas, Bal Sabhas and Mahila Sabhas besides ensuring participation of the general public. He also directed all the departments to ensure their participation at Gram Sabhas.

ACD, Srinath Suman highlighted the critical need for convergence between Panchayat Development Plans and MGNREGA to foster holistic development and achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in rural areas.

Various officers, including ACR, Harpal Singh; CPO, Shakib Ahmed; ACP Ashfaq

Khanji; CMO, Kamal Zadu; BDO Headquarter Shalini Chandail, and various other delivered a presentation on the convergent plan under MGNREGA presenting their insights through PowerPoint presentations on GPDP, Convergence, MGNREGA, and other topics. The main focus was on the formulation and implementation of the Convergence Plan to achieve the targets by completing development works in different sectors.

Departments were asked to work in close coordination with 22 other departments to achieve the goals outlined under GPDP in the district.

This collaborative approach is expected to

enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of development initiatives, ensuring that the benefits reach the grassroots level.

Earlier, Thematic Expert, Department of Panchayati Raj, J&K Nida Rafiq, provided an overview of the process for preparing thematic area-wise GPDPs. She elaborated on the issues, challenges, and strategies in preparing convergent GPDPs in the Union Territory (UT), along with the expectations from the line departments to facilitate the formation of integrated GPDPs.

The event concluded with a commitment to work towards the holistic development of rural areas in Ramban.

## Inter-Village Cross-Country Championship held

Top News Report

KUPWARA, July 20: On the momentous occasion of Kargil Vijay Divas: Rajat Jayanti Mahotsav, the Indian Army, a steadfast beacon guiding the youth towards positive engagement and motivation in various sports activities, organized an Inter-Village Cross-Country Championship at Vilgam Army Camp.

This event, emphasizing the joy of the journey over the finish line, aimed to expose the youth of Kashmir to diverse co-curricular and sporting activities.

The championship, conducted for senior boys and girls from classes 8 to 12, saw enthusiastic participation from the villages of Kakrosa, Magam, Gushi, Haphruda, Jaba, and Vilgam block.

Initial screening of participants was carried out at the school level, with



teachers registering the participants at nearby army camps, leading up to the main event at Vilgam Army Camp.

Today's event witnessed a vibrant turnout with 360 boys, 106 girls, and 28 teachers. The boys and girls showcased their vigor in 8 km and 5 km runs, respectively. The winners were awarded medals and cash prizes to encourage their efforts. In each category, the following prizes were distributed: First Prize Rs. 4000 -Second Prize: Rs. 2000 -Consolation Prizes: Rs. 500 each, along with a medal and cer-

tificate to the top 10 runners in each category.

The event concluded with refreshments provided to all participants and teachers. The local sarpanches and teachers expressed their appreciation and requested the continuation of such events, recognizing their role in motivating students and fostering a spirit of sportsmanship among the youth.

This initiative by the Indian Army not only underscores its commitment to the nation's youth but also enhances community spirit and encourages a healthy, active lifestyle.

## Seminar on Longevity Secrets enlightens attendees at VKMI event

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 20: Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI) hosted a compelling seminar on the secrets of longevity at the Sunday Yoga Centre, attracting a diverse audience eager to learn about enhancing health and vitality.

Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, esteemed State Yoga Commissioner and Chairman of the Indian Yoga Association, led the enlightening discussion.

Dr. Jain elucidated how lifestyle adjustments can influence chromosome health, a critical factor in longevity.



Attendees were advised on conscientious living, fostering strong social connections, and adopting a Mediterranean diet for optimal health benefits.

The seminar emphasized the importance of spiritual practices, stress management, and forgiveness in promoting overall well-

being. The event coincided with the 73rd birthday celebration of Ashok Gupta, Vice President of VKMI and Bharat Vikas Parishad, highlighting his dedicated leadership in promoting holistic health practices.

BB Sharma, State President of Bharat

Vikas Parishad, and other esteemed dignitaries graced the occasion, reinforcing the seminar's significance in promoting health and wellness.

Vichar Kranti Manch International is committed to advancing knowledge and practices that enhance physical, mental, and spiritual health through events and seminars.

## Women's Asia Cup: India start with a walk in the Pak

### Begin title defence with 7-wicket victory against arch-rivals Pakistan

DAMBULLA, Jul 20 (Agencies): Contenders India started their Women's T20 Asia Cup title defence on a rousing note, demolishing arch-foes Pakistan by seven wickets here. India bundled out Pakistan for a below-par 108 after being asked to bowl and then chased down the target with as many as 35 balls remaining.

Chasing 109, Indian openers Shafali Verma (40) and Smriti Mandhana (45) were at their best as they toyed with the Pakistani attack from the word go. It was an aggressive display of batting from both the Indian openers as they mostly dealt in fours and sixes. The duo of Mandhana and Shafali hit two fours and a six off Tuba Hassan to collect 15 runs in the sixth over.

The seventh over bowled by Hassan yielded 21 runs with Mandhana hitting the bowler for five boundaries. Pakistan finally tasted success in the 10th over in the form of Mandhana who was caught by Aliya Riaz at mid-



wicket off the bowling of Syeda Aroob Shah. Shafali departed in the 12th over, but by then, she and Mandhana had already done the damage. Dayalan Hemalatha (14) didn't last long, caught by Hassan off Nashra Sandhu. Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues then ensured a comfortable win for the title holders.

Earlier, India dished out a fine effort led by experienced off-spinner Deepti Sharma (3/20). India, after being asked to bowl first, tasted their first success in the second over itself when

pacer Pooja Vastrakar (2/31) dismissed Gulleroza, caught by skipper Harmanpreet at mid-on.

Vastrakar struck again, dismissing the other Pakistan opener Muneeba Ali with a short-pitched delivery, caught by Rodrigues at cover, reducing Pakistan to 26/2 after four overs.

The Indians didn't allow Pakistani batters to settle down as off-spinner Shreyanka Patil (2/14) packed off Riaz, caught by Rodrigues at mid-wicket.

The Pakistani batters struggled to score runs, let alone

build partnerships as Indian bowlers continued to pick up wickets at regular intervals to derail their opponents.

The next to depart was Pakistan skipper Nida Dar who holed out to Hemalatha at long-on off the bowling of Deepti as the batter went for her customary heave over the straight boundary.

It was raining wickets for India as pacer Renuka Singh (2/14) struck twice off the last two deliveries of her spell.

Renuka first accounted for Sidra Amin (25) and then trapped Iram Javed leg before to reduce Pakistan to 61/6 in 13 overs. Thereafter, Tuba Hassan (22) and Fatima Sana (22 not out) stitched together a valuable 31-run stand for the seventh wicket.

Brief scores: Pakistan: 108 all out in 19.2 overs (Amin 25, Sana 22\*; Deepti 3/20, Renuka 2/14, Shreyanka 2/14, Vastrakar 2/31); India: 109/3 in 14.1 overs (Mandhana 45, Verma 40).

## Indian badminton star Lakshya Sen working on net game



MUMBAI, Jul 20 (Agencies): Indian badminton star Lakshya Sen said that he has worked on his net game and the recent trait of conceding points late in a contest as he prepares in Marseille, France, for the Paris Olympics starting next week. The world No. 19 has been drawn in Group L along with Indonesian rival Jonatan Christie (world No. 3), Guatemala's Kevin Cordon (No. 41) and Belgium's Julien Carragi (No. 52).

“We have focused a lot on overall improving the game and we had a good time for the last 6-7 weeks where I could really work on all the areas of the game,” Sen said.

“From defence to attack and overall, we have tried to get better at everything, and at the same time, worked a lot on the areas (in) which I was not really good at (and) maybe give extra time on the net game, the defence and also closing stages.”

“It is important to be sharp and be aggres-

sive. (In the) last few days, we are still trying to get good match practice here, play short games and also have a good match practice session so that I am sharp towards the end of the game,” Sen said.

The 22-year-old said adjusting to shuttle movement in a place near to the sea is different and he expects similar conditions in Paris, where he will travel to on July 22.

“I'll be training here (for) next two-three days and then (on July) 22nd afternoon, I move into the village. It's a three-hour journey to Paris,” he said. “We have a good team of 10 members here and we decided this (place) because this is closer to Paris and we have a setup here with Popov brothers (Christo and Boris) who are good sparring (partners) as well.

## PCB turns down NOC request from Babar, Rizwan, Shaheen to play in Global T20 League

LAHORE, Jul 20 (Agencies): The Pakistan Cricket Board has turned down requests for No Objection Certificate from senior players Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi to participate in the Global T20 League, citing the hectic international calendar.

“The PCB had received NOC requests from Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Afridi for the Global T20 event, amongst other players.

“After taking into consideration Pakistan's busy and packed cricket calendar in the period from August 2024 to March 2025, which includes nine ICC World Test Champion-

ship matches and next year's ICC Champions Trophy 2025, and following consultations with the three players as well as the national selection committee, it has been decided to decline their requests,” the board said in a statement.

The Canadian league is scheduled to be held from July 25 to August 11.

PCB said the decision was taken to manage the work load of the three players, who are expected to play a lot of cricket in the coming months.

“The three are all-format cricketers and their services are expected to be required in the upcoming eight months during which Pakistan

will play nine Tests, 14 ODIs, and nine T20Is,” the statement said.

“As such, and in line with the PCB's workload management policy, it is in the best interest of Pakistan cricket and the players that they skip the upcoming event in Canada so that they are in their best mental and physical shape for the season, which commences with the two-Test series against Bangladesh.”

The board had also declined permission to Naseem Shah for The Hundred on the same grounds.

But the PCB has approved NOCs for Asif Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Amir, and Mohammad Nawaz.

## ‘This type of cartoongiri is not good’: Mohammed Shami defends Arshdeep Singh over Inzamam-ul-Haq ball tampering remarks

NEW DELHI, Jul 20 (Agencies): Indian fast bowler Mohammed Shami has strongly defended his teammate Arshdeep Singh after former Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq questioned the young pacer's ability to generate reverse swing during the T20 World Cup 2024.

Inzamam's comments came after India's Super 8 match against Australia, where Arshdeep played a crucial role in India's 24-run victory by taking three key wickets.

Despite Rohit Sharma being named Player of the Match for his explosive batting, Arshdeep earned praise for his spell, which included the dismissals of David Warner, Tim David, and Matthew Wade. Inza-



mam expressed skepticism over Arshdeep's reverse swing, suggesting that it is unusual for a bowler to achieve such movement as early as the 14th or 15th over.

In response, Shami criticised Inzamam's claims during an interview on Shubhankar Mishra's YouTube channel. Shami, known for his expertise in reverse swing, dismissed the allegations and defend-

ed the integrity of his teammate and the sport.

“I have said in an interview that I will cut the ball and show if there is a device or not. Abhi ek aur namuna khod ke dia hai inhone. They said, ‘How can Arshdeep Singh get reverse swing?’ I want to say only one thing to Inzamam bhai. I respect him a lot. If you do the same thing, isn't it ball-tampering? Those who

do well against them, will be their target. India and Pakistan are arch-rivals,” Shami said.

Shami further urged former cricketers to refrain from making baseless accusations and to avoid misleading the public with unfounded claims. He also backed legendary Pakistani bowler Wasim Akram, who had previously dismissed the idea of tampering with the

ball to achieve reverse swing, asserting that umpires strictly regulate the condition of the ball.

“I don't expect that despite being ex-players you can say such things. Even Wasim Akram said how umpires give you the ball and it is not possible to plant any device in it. This type of cartoongiri is not good. These statements are there to fool people,” Shami added.

Arshdeep Singh was one of India's standout performers in the T20 World Cup, finishing as the second-highest wicket-taker with 17 wickets from eight matches at an economy rate of 7.61. His performances included a notable four-wicket haul against the United States.

## Rishabh Pant may leave delhi capitals, this IPL team leads race to sign him: Report

NEW DELHI, Jul 20 (Agencies): Indian cricket team wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant may leave Delhi Capitals ahead of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, according to a report by news agency. Pant is currently the most capped player as well as the leading run-scorer for the franchise. However, the report claimed that DC may not retain Pant ahead of the mega auction despite support from Director of Cricket Sourav Ganguly. The report further stated that if Pant is released by DC, his most likely destination will be Chennai Super Kings. With MS

Dhoni set to retire in the near future, CSK are on the lookout for an Indian wicket-keeper batter and they will be extremely interested in signing a talented Indian cricket team star like Rishabh Pant.

Earlier, India all-rounder Shivam Dube credited the Indian Premier League for improving his skills and gaining confidence as he made inroads in the Men in Blue side after the successful 2024 season.

Dube finished as the second-highest run-scorer for Chennai Super Kings in the season with 396 runs including three half-



centuries at a blistering strike rate of 162.29. His strong show in the cash-rich tournament earned him a coveted spot in India's highly competitive 15-member T20 World Cup squad.

The all-rounder kept his place in India's play-

ing 11 throughout the tournament and delivered in crunch situations for the side including the crucial knock of 27 runs in the final against South Africa. He built a vital 57-run partnership with Virat Kohli (76) to take the side to 176/6 in 20

overs as India defeated Proteas by six runs to add a second T20 World Cup title to their cabinet. He amassed 133 runs in eight innings while batting in the lower middle order.

“The IPL is remarkable, both for players and for the growth of cricket in India. It provides a fantastic platform for young talent to showcase their skills alongside some of the best players in the world. Personally, playing in the IPL has been a significant learning experience, helping me improve my game and gain confidence,” Dube told agency.

## Harbhajan Singh blasts Pakistan journalist for asking who is better between MS Dhoni and Rizwan



NEW DELHI, Jul 20 (Agencies): Former India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh has lambasted a Pakistan cricket fan and journalist Farid Khan for comparing Pakistan wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan with former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni and asking who is better.

In a post on X, Farid Khan, who lists himself as having worked for the Pakistan Cricket Board, Pakistan Super League, Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2024, and T10 Global League, made the comparison of Rizwan with the former India great.

“MS Dhoni or Mohammad Rizwan? Who is better? Tell me honestly,” Farid, who claims to be Pakistan's most engaging sports content creator on X, wrote in his post.

However, Harbhajan was furious with this comparison asking Farid, “What r u (sic) smoking nowadays???”

He dubbed the comparison a silly question claiming that Dhoni is the No.1 in world cricket even today and there was none better than him behind stumps.”

“What r u smoking nowadays???? What a silly question to ask. Bhaiyo isko batao (Brothers tell him). DHONI bhut aage hai RIZWAN se

(Dhoni is far ahead of Rizwan). Even if u will ask Rizwan he will give u an honest answer for this. I like Rizwan, he is good player who always plays with intent..but this comparison is wrong. DHONI No. 1 even today in world cricket. None better thn him behind stumps,” said Harbhajan in response to the post.

In 90 Tests, Dhoni has claimed 256 catches and 38 stumpings while in One-day internationals, he had taken 321 catches and made 123 stumpings in 350 matches. In 90 Tests, Dhoni scored 4,876 runs at 38.09 average, hitting six hundreds and 33 fifties.

In comparison, Rizwan has taken 78 catches and made three stumpings in 30 Test matches while in 74 ODIs, he has taken the same number of 76 catches and three stumpings. In 30 Tests, Rizwan had scored 1616 runs at a batting average of 40.4 with two centuries and nine fifties.

## “Unforgettable Experience”: Arshdeep Singh calls t20 world cup final “Favourite” match

NEW DELHI, Jul 20 (Agencies): India pacer Arshdeep Singh labelled the recent T20 World Cup title triumph as his favourite match of his career. The fast bowler played his first ICC final against South Africa in Barbados and returned with the figures of 2-20 in his four overs

as India won the match by six runs in a thrilling clash.

Arshdeep was not part of India's team that played the ODI World Cup final against Australia at Narendra Modi Stadium last year.

The 25-year-old had not played in the IPL final also but the young-

ster showed no sign of pressure during the crunch situations and delivered for the team.

He was the highest wicket-taker for India in the tournament with 17 wickets.

“For cricketers, every match is important, but my most favourite has to be the recent World

Cup final. Winning the trophy was an unforgettable experience. The atmosphere, the intensity, and the sheer joy of lifting the cup with my teammates made it incredibly special. It is a moment I'll cherish forever, knowing we made our country proud on such a grand stage,”

the Punjab pacer told agency.

In 52 T20Is, Arshdeep holds 79 wickets at an average of 18.40 including the best figures of 5/37.

He will travel with the Indian team to Sri Lanka to play three T20Is and three ODIs, starting on July 27.

## Traders Federation president, NHM contractual workers call on G M Shaheen

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jul 20: JD(U) State President G M Shaheen had a productive meeting with the President of the Traders Federation, Mohd Yaseen, and representatives of the NHM contractual workers. The discussions focused on a range of significant issues impacting both groups.

Mohd Yaseen, representing the Traders Federation, brought to attention several pressing concerns faced by traders in the region. Key topics included



challenges related to business operations, market stability, and the need for supportive policies to enhance trade activities.

G M Shaheen listened attentively and assured Yaseen of his commit-

ment to addressing these issues.

He emphasized the importance of a thriving business community for the overall economic health of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a separate discus-

sion, NHM contractual workers shared their personal and professional challenges.

They highlighted the need for job security, timely disbursement of salaries, and better working conditions.

G M Shaheen expressed his empathy and pledged to advocate for their rights and welfare. He stressed the critical role of healthcare workers in society and the necessity of ensuring their well-being.

Shaheen reiterated his dedication to supporting all sectors of society and working towards comprehensive development in Jammu and Kashmir. He promised to follow up on the issues raised and to work collaboratively with relevant authorities to find effective solutions.

## Education Festival 2024 held at Boy's Higher Secondary School Handwara



### Top News Report

HANDWARA, Jul 20: In order to provide counselling and information to the students of North Kashmir about various higher education options available in the leading colleges across India, the Indian Army in collaboration with Ministry of Education organized an "Education Fest" at Govt Boys Higher Secondary School, Handwara on Saturday.

In the event, over 30

colleges from Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Bangalore, Dehradun participated and guided the youth to select the right courses to achieve their dreams. The same has proved to be very knowledge emanating and helpful for the students of North Kashmir.

The students displayed great response to the fest and approximately 5000 students participated during the fest and took

guidance and were very excited to see so many career options which they were not aware of earlier. Such an effort of the Indian Army will help the youth to channelize their efforts towards achieving their goals by choosing the right axis in life. Kashmiri students are looking forward to more such interactive programs in the future.

The Fest was attended by various civil dignitaries to include Ayushi Sudan, DC Kupwara, Dawood Ayub, SP Handwara, Irfan Panditpuri, DDC Chairman, Suleman Mir, DDC Rajwar, Mr Khurshid, DDC Mawer, Mr Dar Chief Education Officer Kupwara and principals of all higher secondary schools in Handwara region.

## DFSS supports Yogi Adityanath's directive on Kanwar Yatra Route

### Seeks similar directives for Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage route

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 20: Under the leadership of Ashok Gupta, the workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS) organized a rally in support of the Uttar Pradesh government's directive along the Kanwar Yatra route.

This directive mandates that food shops must display name plates showing the names of the owners and employees.

The decision aims to uphold the sanctity and religious sentiments of Kanwar pilgrims.

The Kanwar Yatra is a signifi-

cant Hindu pilgrimage where devotees, known as Kanwariyas, collect holy water from the Ganga River and carry it to Shiva temples.

The directive, initially a district-level order, has now been expanded to a state-level mandate and has also been adopted in Uttarakhand along the pilgrimage route.

The directive ensures transparency and respect for the religious beliefs of Kanwariyas. It prevents misunderstandings where shops owned by non-



Hindus are named after Hindu deities, potentially misleading pilgrims.

The UP government's decision to ban halal-certified food

items on the Kanwar Yatra route is seen as a step to honor the strict dietary rules followed by Kanwariyas, maintaining the sanctity of their

spiritual journey.

Gupta announced that similar directives will be issued in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir for the Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage route. This ensures that pilgrims can practice their religious rituals in an environment that respects their beliefs.

The rally saw participation from party members including Abhishek, Geeta, Bittu, Ganesh, Bantu, Prem, Kalu, Rampal, Naresh, Ram, and several others.

## JKBS urges Govt for age relaxation, reduction in application form fee for JKPSI recruitment

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 20: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha has urged the government for age relaxation for the Jammu and Kashmir Police Sub Inspector and constable recruitment, and also for reduction in application form fee in the larger interest of financially weak people.

Extending the age limit will provide the deserving candidates who have gone overage or are on the verge of being age barred with a fair opportunity to be eligible for applying to the said posts, said the JKBS members adding further that Rs 700/- being charged as application form fee for one post, is a heavy financial burden on too many of the poor candidates.

## BOMIS celebrates Prithvi Divas in collaboration with SSB Jammu



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 20: BOMIS on Saturday celebrated Prithvi Divas in collaboration with the SSB team with great enthusiasm, marking the occasion with a series of events aimed at raising environmental awareness and promoting sustainable practices among students and the community.

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of our Chief Guest, P.S Slaria, DIG SHQ (Spl Ops), SSB Jammu, whose presence and insightful words added immense value to the occasion. Today's event is the second consecutive plantation drive with our esteemed chief guest. The celebration began with a warm welcome speech by our respected Principal, Ms. Aparana Kohli, who emphasized the importance of environmental

conservation and the role each individual plays in protecting our planet.

Following the welcome speech, P.S Slaria was felicitated with a bouquet and a token of appreciation for his valuable contribution and support towards the cause of environmental protection.

The highlight of the event included inspiring speeches by our young and enthusiastic students, Sanya from Grade III and Purvi from Grade IV, who eloquently shared their thoughts on the significance of Prithvi Divas. Adding to the spirit of the day, a vibrant Nukad Natak, performed by our talented students, captured the audience's attention.

The most important aspect of the event was the Plantation Drive, where Madam Principal along with our chief guest, students and

teachers actively participated in planting trees in the school field.

The SSB team along with BOMISIANS planted more than 150 trees within and outside the school premises. This initiative symbolizes our collective efforts to give back to Mother Earth and foster a greener future.

Speaking on the occasion, P.S Slaria, DIG SHQ (Spl Ops), SSB Jammu, expressed his appreciation for the school's efforts and encouraged everyone to continue such initiatives.

"It is heartening to see young minds so dedicated to the cause of environmental protection. Each tree planted today represents a step towards a better and healthier planet," he said. He was very glad to collaborate with the school for such a noble cause.

## NMC asks Govt to settle demands of employees, daily rated workers, pensioners

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 20: A meeting of activists of National Mazdoor Conference was held under the Chairmanship of its President Subash Shastri here today to discuss various demands of pensioners, daily rated workers and employees of JKUT. Addressing the meeting Shastri appealed to Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary Atal Dullo to settle the demands of JK UT employees and pensioners at the earliest.

He said that the Government is recovering the amount of commutation paid to pensioners at the time of retirement in 15 years along with the interest applicable. Actually the amount of commutation is recovered from the pensioners in 10 years and 8 months along with interests but Government is recovering this amount in 15 years in monthly installments which is injustice. Against 10 lakh of commuted amount Government is recovering 17 lakh in 15 years from the pensioners which is 70% above on actual amount. The excess amount recovered from the pensioners needs to be returned by the Government to all the pensioners, besides recovery of commutation be stopped after 10 years.

He said that the Government of Gujarat Finance Department have restored commuted value of pension on completion of 13 years for which they have issued orders that recovery of commutation be made only for 13 years instead of 15 years. Further Punjab High Court on a writ petition No CWP 8222 - 2024/9426 - 2023 have passed the directions that further recovery shall remain stayed. Under these circumstances the pensioners & Senior Citizens Welfare Society UT of J&K requests for the similar treatment which has been given to Pensioners of Gujarat and Punjab.

Shastri also urged Government to order enhancement of pension at the age of 65,70 and 75 years in favour of pensioners of J&K when various states have granted enhancement of pension. They demanded that the Medical Allowance be increased to Rs 1000/- at par with Central Government employees and pensioners.

The meeting also demanded issuance of senior citizens cards after age of 60 years.

## Tarun Singla meets with MD, JPDCL

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 20: A delegation from the Bari Brahmana Industries Association (BBIA), led by Tarun Singla, Senior Vice President, BBIA, met with Vikas Kundal, Managing Director, Jammu Power Development Corporation Ltd. (JPDCL), in the presence of Rajesh Jain, Secretary, BBIA, at his office chamber.

During the meeting, Tarun Singla highlighted several pressing issues affecting the industrial sector that

require immediate attention. Key issues discussed included the shortage of Junior Engineers (JEs) and linemen in the Bari Brahmana Industrial Complex, which severely impacts industrial units during faults.

Additionally, the delegation requested a waiver of the condition for creating a sub-division for industrial units with a power load of 1000 kV, the application of simple interest on outstanding power bill payments, and the timely payment to MSME units for supplying materials

to power departments.

In response to the concerns raised by BBIA, the Managing Director, JPDCL, promptly sanctioned three linemen for the Bari Brahmana Industrial Complex, a request pending for the past four years. The BBIA expressed gratitude for this swift decision.

Furthermore, Vikas Kundal assured the members that all necessary steps would be taken to address the various issues highlighted by the Senior Vice President, BBIA.

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