

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### IG BSF Visits LoC, Reviews Operational Preparedness in Bandipora

SRINAGAR, Jul 24 (Agencies): Inspector General of Border Security Force (BSF) Kashmir Ashok Yadav on Wednesday reviewed the operational preparedness of the units near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district.

IG Yadav applauded the troops for their dedication to seamless domination of LoC, BSF Kashmir posted on X. Yadav interacted with the deployed troops and praised them for their high vigil amid attempts of infiltration are being made across the border.

"IPS, IG @BSF\_Kashmir visited the forward areas of Badipora & assessed the present security situation. The IG interacted with deployed troops, reviewed the operational preparedness of the unit & applauded the troops for their dedication to seamless domination of #LoC", BSF posted on X.

### Gold prices fall by Rs 3,350, first in many years

NEW DELHI, Jul 24 (Agencies): Gold prices tumbled by Rs 3,350 to Rs 72,300 per 10 grams in the local market here on Tuesday amid subdued demand by jewellers after the government announced the customs duty cut on the yellow metal and silver to 6 per cent.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, silver prices also nosedived by Rs 3,500 or 4 per cent to Rs 87,500 per kg. In the previous session, it had closed at Rs 91,000 per kg.

The precious metal rates dropped by Rs 3,350 or 4.6 per cent to Rs 72,300 per 10 grams. On Monday, the precious metal rates had closed at Rs 75,650 per 10 grams.

In addition, gold of 99.5 per cent purity plummeted by Rs 3,350 to Rs 71,950 per 10 grams. It had settled at Rs 75,300 per 10 grams in the previous session.

Traders attributed the decline in gold prices after the government slashed customs duties on a range of products, including gold and silver, to cut input costs, increase value addition, promote export competitiveness and boost domestic manufacturing.

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## INDIA Bloc MPs protest over 'Discrimination' against opposition-ruled States in Union Budget

NEW DELHI, Jul 24 (Agencies): INDIA bloc MPs staged a protest in Parliament premises on Wednesday over the alleged discrimination against opposition-ruled states in the Union Budget, with Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi saying the budget is an "assault on the sanctity of India's federal structure".

Besides Rahul Gandhi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress Parliamentary



Party chief Sonia Gandhi, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, several MPs of the Congress,

TMC, Samajwadi Party, DMK and the Left joined the protest held on the steps leading up to the

Makar Dwar of Parliament.

Protesting against the budget, Kharge said, "This budget is anti-people, no one has got justice. They have talked about special package but special status has not been given. This is a deceptive budget and injustice to the people."

Sharing a picture of the protest on his WhatsApp channel, Rahul Gandhi said, "Today, along with INDIA janbandhan MPs,

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## Some people can't digest peace in J&K: Lieutenant Governor

SRINAGAR, Jul 24 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said that some people who can't digest bumper tourism and work to foment trouble in the UT will be dealt accordingly and in the next two to three months situation will be normal again.

"It is true that some people can't digest peace. They were dealt in the past and will be dealt accordingly. I believe in next two to three months, the situation will be normal again,"



the LG said in reply to a query on the side-lines of a function at SKICC here as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). He was replying

to a query that the budget presented in the Parliament for J&K UT covers the Tourism sector specifically but "some people

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## J&K likely to receive intermittent rain spells till Aug 3, says Met

SRINAGAR, Jul 24 (Agencies): Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Wednesday predicted brief spell of rains and thundershowers in parts of Jammu and Kashmir till August 3.

It however maintained that hot and humid weather conditions will prevail over Kashmir division till July 26.

From July 24th to 26th there is a possibility of brief spell of rain & thundershower at isolated places of Kashmir division, and light to moderate rain & thundershower at many places of Jammu division, the official said. He said from July 27th to 31st spells of intermittent light to moderate rain

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## 18 killed as plane crashes during takeoff at Kathmandu Airport

KATHMANDU, Jul 24 (Agencies): A private airlines' Pokhara-bound plane crashed during takeoff at the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) here, killing 18 of the 19 people on board.

The pilot of the Saurya Airlines plane survived the crash and was taken to hospital, officials



said.

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## Soldier martyred, terrorist killed in encounter in Kupwara

SRINAGAR, Jul 24 (Agencies): An unidentified terrorist was killed and a soldier was martyred in an overnight encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said on Wednesday.

The Army and police had launched an anti-terrorist operation in the

Lolab area of Kupwara a few days ago following information about possible terrorist movements, the officials said.

The security forces established contact with the hiding terrorists on Tuesday, leading to an encounter, they added.

"Based on specific input

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## Amarnath Yatra 2024 | 2,900 pilgrims leave Jammu for Cave Shrine

JAMMU, Jul 24 (Agencies): More than 2,900 pilgrims left Jammu for the 3,880-metre-high Amarnath cave shrine in the South Kashmir Himalayas amid tight security arrangements on Wednesday morning, officials said.

More than four lakh pilgrims have already paid obeisance at the naturally-



formed ice lingam at the

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## 49 rounds of ammunition recovered from well in Samba

JAMMU, Jul 24 (Agencies): As many as 49 rounds of live ammunition was recovered by locals from a well in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said.

While cleaning a well, locals found 49 rounds in

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## Kargil District Magistrate bans drone usage during Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations

KARGIL, Jul 24 (Agencies): In light of the upcoming Kargil Vijay Diwas 2024 and the visit of VVIPs to Drass on July 25th and 26th, the District Magistrate of Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, IAS, has imposed a ban on the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) to ensure the security of the dignitaries.

As per the Order issued by DM Kargil Whereas, in view of Kargil Vijay Diwas 2024 and the visit of VVIPs to Drass on 25th and 26th July 2024, SSP Kargil has requested this office to issue an appropriate order to impose a ban on the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) to reduce the apprehension of any risk

to the security of VVIPs. Therefore in exercise of the powers vested in me by virtue of section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Samihata, 2023, I, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, IAS, District Magistrate, Kargil, do hereby order that the whole area/revenue limits of Sub Division Drass and Tehsil

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# MBA MOTORS

## MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

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

## Over 1 crore tourists visited J&K till June this year: Govt

JAMMU, Jul 24 (Agencies): The Government on Wednesday said that over 1 crore tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir till June this year while several measures have been taken that led to significant improvement in the tourism sector.

Replying to a question of MP Dinesh Sharma, Minister of state for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, said that the tourism sector in J&K has witnessed unprecedented growth post abrogation of Article 370

He said that 34,70,834 tourists visited J&K in 2020, 1,13,14,884 in 2021 followed by 1,88,64,332 in 2022, 2,11,24,874 in 2023 and 1,08,41,009 till June this year so far.

"The government of Jammu and Kashmir has reported that several measures have been taken that led to significant improvement in the tourism including Tourism

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**UTHALA**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Ashok Gupta & Sh. Ved Parkash Gupta S/o Late Sh. Harbans Lal Gupta** who left for heavenly abode on 23-07-2024.

**UTHALA** will be performed at Gurdwara Bibi Chand Kaur Gumat, Jammu on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 (Thursday) from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Brothers & Siblings  
Smt. Sarla Gupta W/o Late Sh. Satish Chander Gupta  
Smt. Sumita Gupta & Sh. Vinod Gupta  
Dr. Rakesh & Dr. Madhu Gupta  
Sister & Brother-in-Law  
Dr. Rajinder Gupta & Smt. Sharda Gupta

Smt. Swarni Gupta (Wife)  
Daughter & Son-in-Law  
Sh. Nikhileshwari & Smt. Rajni Roshmitra  
Son & Daughter-in-Law  
Sh. Ajay Gupta & Smt. Anu Gupta  
Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-Law  
Ajay Gupta & Anshu Gupta  
Nitin & Chakraborty  
Grand Children  
Ankita Gupta, Ashish Roshmitra  
Alban Collections (Jalan Sky Shop)  
Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.  
94393 89862, 94393 90848, 95496 27728

Smt. Shashi Gupta (Wife)  
Daughter & Son-in-Law  
Sh. Navaneet Gupta & Smt. Neenu Gupta  
Sh. Sudhar Gupta & Smt. Nidhi Gupta  
Sh. Ajay Mahajan & Smt. Rachna Mahajan  
Son & Daughter-in-Law  
Sh. Sanjay Gupta & Smt. Shilpa Gupta  
Sh. Anant Gupta & Smt. Bharti Gupta  
Grand & Great Grand Children  
Ashoka Book Depot  
97976-83906, 97960-13817, 70061-81760

**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. **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 & Mohini Sharma  
Anuradha Sharma W/o Shiv Kumar Sharma

**Sh. Thoru Ram Sharma**  
Mob: 7889491277

**DHARAM SHANT / UTHALA**  
Dharamshant of our beloved **Smt. Savita Poonchi (Retd. A.M.T. School)** will be performed on 28th July 2024 (Sunday) at residence F-187 Bakshi Nagar, Jammu. **Saij Pooja** at 11.30 am followed by **Bhram Bhoj**. **Uthala** will be held at Smriti Bhavan (Lower Hall) Shree Geeta Mandir, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu on 28th July (Sunday) from 5.00 to 6.00 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Pt. Suresh Poonchi (Husband)  
Mr. Dinesh Poonchi & Manju - Beta & Bahu  
Late Anubhav Poonchi - Son  
Smt. Pushpa W/o Late Romesh Poonchi (Jethani)  
Sh. Yugal Kishore & Rekha - Devar & Devrani  
Smt. Rajni & Sh. Ashok Kumar (Retd. Lect) - Sister & Jija  
Smt. Meenaxi & Sh. Kuldeep Kumar (BOSE) - Sister & Jija  
Smt. Asha & Sh. Rajiv Amla - Bhabhi & Brother  
Smt. Savi & Sh. Sanjeev Amla - Bhabhi & Brother  
Grand Children : Prema & Divya  
Tel. No.: 871395555, 9320 546905, 9796888788

**Smt. Savita Poonchi (Retd. A.M.T. School)**

**BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sardarni Kamaljeet Kour Khurmi** W/o S. Gurcharan Singh Khurmi R/o 65 - D/C Gandhi Nagar, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 18-07-2024.

**PROGRAMME**  
**Bhobad Kirtan and Antim Ardas** will be held on 24-07-2024 at Gurudwara Baba Fateh Singh, Gandhi Nagar from 11 to 12:30 pm followed by **Guru ka Langar** 12:30 pm onwards

**SARDARNI KAMALJEET KOUR KHURMI**  
Sardarni Rampyari Khurmi W/o Late S. Mehar Singh Khurmi - Mother in Law  
S. Gurcharan Singh Khurmi - Husband  
Mrs. Romali & S. Vikrant Singh Khurmi - Son and Daughter in Law  
Simran Singh & Ravinderpal Singh - Daughter and Son in Law  
Roopa Khurmi - Daughter  
Kanya Khurmi - Grand Daughter  
Roopa Khurmi - Grand Daughter  
Ishaan Singh Khurmi - Grand Son  
Mrs. Mistry Mehar Singh Khurmi - Arms & Ammunition Manufacturer  
Mrs. G.S. Resorts Vijaypur Distt. Samba J&K  
Contact: 7889438796, 9419193462, 9149606629 9906070077

**OBITUARY / TENTH DAY KRIYA**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Brij Krishan Raina** S/o Late Shri Sarwanand Raina original resident of Chandapora Habba Kadal Srinagar Kashmir at present Village Ghat, Distt Doda J&K who left for heavenly abode on 19-07-2024. **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at their residence, on 28-07-2024 (Morning) Village Ghat, Bus Stand Near Jamia Masjid Distt Doda J&K.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt Indira Raina (Wife)  
Vijay Raina & Shailu Raina (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
Meenu Raina (Daughter)  
Chandrika Arora & Rahul Arora (Daughter & Son-in-Law)  
Smt Santosh Raina (Bhabhi)  
Smt Dura Ji Bhan W/o Late Sh Hira Lal Bhan (Sister)  
& All Nears & Dears  
Mobile No: 9906299241, 8825014437

**Brij Krishan Raina**

**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. Aatur Krishan Bhat, Originally R/o Rajhat Baramulla, Kashmir and presently residing at House number 3 Lane no.6, K B Nagar Bantala Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 16/07/2024. **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. Aatur Krishan Bhat (Husband)  
Mother in law  
Smt. Sham Rani Bhat (W/o Lt. Sh. Racha Krishan Bhat)  
(Brother in law and Sister in law)  
Sh. Mahoraj Krishan Bhat & Smt. Phooja Bhat  
Sh. Ankur Bhat (Son)  
Smt. Supriya Bhat & Sh. Deepak Thussoo (Daughter & Son in law)  
Smt. Neha Bhat & Sh. Vikranth Jaggari (Daughter and Son in law)  
Mrs. Sineha Bhat and Mr. Manishan Bhat (Daughter and Son)  
Smt. Sanvika Pandita & Sh. Rook Krishan Pandita (Sister in law & Brother in law)  
Smt. Rajni Sadhu & Sh. Sanjay Sadhu (Sister in law & Brother in law)  
Smt. Rami Pandita & Sh. Rakesh Mohan Pandita (Sister in law & Brother in law)

**Grief Stricken Malyan Sider:**  
Proful Chandra Deka & Bharu Deka (Brother and Sister in law)  
Gyanoda Das, Bharu Mohi Deka, Pratiba Deka (Sister's)  
Deeply remembered by Tonil Jaggari, Dhatri Jaggari and Aditya Thussoo (Grand Children's)

**Smt. Indira Bhat**

**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 Devsar (Kugam) and presently residing at TRT Nagrota who left for heavenly abode on 17-07-2024. **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 Dulan Bhat W/o Lt Sh Aatur Krishan Bhat  
Smt Usha Kian 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 Lalita 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

**Smt Chand Rani**  
Contact No: 8491865540, 9419403035

**SHADMOS/MASWAR**  
Six months have passed since you left for your eternal journey. Physically you are not with us, but we all feel your presence in every moment of life, your loving memories are still fresh in our hearts. Your noble, honest and graceful life will always be remembered. We pray to God for eternal peace to the noble soul. **Shadmos & Maswar** of my mother **Late Raj Kumari Koul**, W/o Ramesh Wali R/o 268-A Patoli Mangotrian Jammu will be performed on 28th & 29th of July 2024 at Jammu Yatri Bhawan Haridwar. **DEEPLY REMEMBERED & MISSED BY:-** Sh. Ramesh Wali (Husband) Pallavi & Anmol Wali (Daughter in law & Son) Smt & Sh. A.K. Kotha (Bhabhi & Brother-in-law) Smt & Sh. R.K. Kotha (Bhabhi & Brother-in-law) Smt & Sh. Sanjeev Koul (Sister & Brother-in-law) Smt Vijay Peshin (Sister) Smt & Sh. Dr. Ashwani Koul (Sister & Brother-in-law) Smt & Sh. Sanjay Thussu (Sister & Brother-in-law) **Smast Wallis, Kothas, Peshin's, Koul's, Thassu's and Munshi Families.** Mob: - 7006549539, 9149496310 and 9622226911

**Late Raj Kumari Koul**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Chanchal Gupta** W/o Sh. Kameshwar Gupta of Rainda Bhaderwah left for heavenly abode on 16-07-2024. **10th Day Kriya** on 25-07-2024 (Thursday) at Kriya Ghat Hanuman Mandir Bhaderwah at 8:00 am.

**In grief**  
Mr. Kameshwar Gupta (Husband)  
Son's and Daughter's in law:  
Mr. Tushar Mahajan and Shivani Gupta  
Mr. Sahakash Mahajan and Luxmi Gupta  
Grand Daughters and Grand Sons:  
Nitya Pushta, Gati Nishita, Pradyum Mahajan, Tashit Mahajan.  
Mobile: 9419932934, 9596935000  
CG Medical Hall Bhada rawah.  
CG Diagnostics Lab Bhaderwah.

**Smt. Chanchal Gupta**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Mehar Rani Rawal** W/o Sh. Mohan Lal Rawal, originally resident of Chitral Mahala Srinagar, at present R/o S-4/Vishwajit Apartment, Nagla Park, Kathua, 410023 on 20th July 2024. **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 28th July 2024 at Kathua Vastha. **GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Sh. Sunit Kaul - H/o Late Smt Raji Kaul (Ber) Daughters & Son-in-law  
Smt. Subash Kaul & Dr. Tej Krishan Kaul  
Smt. Kusum Rashi & Sh. Jai Krishan Rashi  
Smt. Lovely G. Rao W/o Late Sh. Gopal N. Rao  
Smt. Romy Rana & Sh. Ashwani Rana  
Brother in law & Sister in law  
Sh. Nitin Lal Rawal - H/o Late Smt Dulan Rawal  
Smt. Lalita Rawal - W/o Late Sh. Pura Lal Rawal  
Sh. Bhushan Lal Rawal & Smt. Nirmala Rawal  
Dr. Jeevan Lal Rawal & Smt. Susha Rawal  
Sister in law & Nephew  
Smt. Shyam Challa W/o Jawahar Lal Challa  
Smt. Vija Chaudhary W/o Sh. H. L. Chaudhary  
ALL RABARL'S, PANDITA, KAUITS, MAJDOO, RAZDAR, TIKULOMPORE'S & GRAND

**SMT MOHAN RANI RAWAL**

**TENTH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved **Smt. Uttama Devi** (W/o Lt. Sh. Shiv Ram Proach Ji) of Purnamda passed away peacefully on 15th of July 2024 at her residence. **The Tenth Day** shall be performed on 24th of July, 2024 Wednesday at 11:00 am at our residence, Purnamda. **The Kriya** shall be performed on Thursday 25th of July 2024, at our residence. **Uthala** shall be performed on Saturday, 27th of July 2024, at our residence at 4:00 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN (Daughter-in-law & Sons)**  
Smt. Asha Sharma & Sh. Yash Pal Sharma  
Smt. Suman Sharma & Sh. Vijay Kumar Sharma  
Smt. Manisha Sharma & Sh. Ved Prakash Sharma  
Smt. Anita Sharma & Sh. Rakesh Sharma  
Smt. Vaishno Sharma & Sh. Naresh Sharma (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Smt. Sude sh Sharma & Sh. Darshan Sharma (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Proach Family.  
Mob.: 6005039362, 7006291220, 700629207, 9796641188

**Smt. Uttama Devi**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**  
With profound grief and 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 Barri, Shankar Vihar, near Bhagwati Haqiqat School. **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education on 26-07-2024 at 7:30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Chand Rani (Wife)  
Sons and Daughter-in-laws  
Sh. Surinder Pandit & Smt. Neetu Pandit  
Sh. Sanjeev Pandit & Smt. Komal Pandit  
Sh. Venus Pandit & Smt. Sucheta Pandit  
Grand Son & Daughter in Law  
Miss Simran Pandit - Grand Daughter  
Miss Janvi Pandit - Grand Daughter  
Smt. Vijay & Sh. C.L. Raina - Daughter & Son in law  
Smt. Ranjini & Sh. M.L. Tikoo - Daughter & Son in law  
Smt. Suman & Sh. A.K. Bhat - Daughter & Son in law  
Smt. Khemlata & Sh. Chand Ji Koul - Daughter & Son in law  
Mob.: 959672260, 8492809832, 7006977430, 7061903314

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

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**  
WITH PROFOUND GRIEF IT IS TO INFORM ABOUT THE RITUAL OF TENTH DAY OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT SHEELA DHAR** W/O LT. SOOM NATH DHAR AND D/O LT. NILKANTH HANJURA PRESENTLY RESIDING AT H.NO. 8, LANE NO. 4, BASANT NAGAR EXTENSION, JAMPUR JAMMU (NEAR MARIAND SURYA BHAWAN) ON 25-07-2024 (THURSDAY) ON MUTHI GHAT (NEAR DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION) AT 8.30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
SAROJ & TEJ KRISHEN SAPRU - DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW  
SUNITA DHAR & DURGA - SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW  
RAKESH DHAR & HANSI - SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW  
DOOR, INGR - SISTER  
PRANALI & P. K. RAINA - SISTER & JUAJI  
ROMILA & VAIBHAV BAKSHI - GRAND DAUGHTER & GRAND SON-IN-LAW  
DIKSHA, BHAVESH & MAADHAV - GRAND CHILDREN  
DHARS, WATTALS, GADOOS, KAWS & GADROOS  
CELL NO. 7006694597, 9469493100 & 9419009224

**SMT SHEELA DHAR**

**BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS**  
WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **S. LAKHVEER SINGH** S/O S. GURMUKH SINGH WAZIR R/O H.NO 31, SEC 12 GURU NANAK NAGAR JAMMU WHO LEFT US ON WEDNESDAY, 17 JULY 2024. **ARAMBH SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** ON 24-07-2024, WEDNESDAY AT 9:30 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE. **BHOG SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** AT OUR RESIDENCE ON 26-7-2024, FRIDAY AT 9:30 AM. **SHABAD KIRTAN, ANTIM ARDAS** WILL BE PERFORMED AT GURDWARA SRI GURU SINGH SAGHA GURU NANAK NAGAR JAMMU FROM 10:30 AM TO 12:00 NOON. **GRIEF STRICKEN**  
SDR. AJEET KOUR W/O S. MAHJAN SINGH WAZIR (GRAND MOTHER)  
S. GURMUKH SINGH WAZIR (REVENUE DEPARTMENT) (FATHER)  
S. CHARANJEET SINGH WAZIR (UNCLE)  
S. PARAMJEET SINGH WAZIR (INS. JKP) (BROTHER)  
S. RAMANJEET SINGH WAZIR (MANAGER SRIRAM FINANCE) (BROTHER)  
S. AMARJEET SINGH WAZIR (J.E.P.D.) (BROTHER)  
S. KAWALJEET SINGH WAZIR (N.Z) (BROTHER)  
MOB: 9419183139, 6005619719

**S. LAKHVEER SINGH**

**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 Mohali) presently at H.No-52 Lane No.3 Sharika Nagar Gole Panipat Talab Tilo Jammu, passed away on 18-07-2024. **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. Kian Munshi Koul - 9419495988  
Daughter-in-law & Son  
Mrs. Summa Munshi & Manoj Munshi - 9419811860  
Daughter  
Mrs. Neelam Koiru (W/o Late Shri Ravil Koiru) - 9419109108  
Mrs. Sheela & M.L. Koul - Sister & Brother-in-Law  
Mrs. Binu Varrook - Sister-in-law  
Arun, Parth & Tanu - Grand Children  
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-  
Munshis, Ganjous, Kouis, Dhars, Rainas, Warikoos and Kotrus.

**Sh. P.L. Munshi**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**  
With profound address and deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved father, the esteemed **Karam Yogi Sh. Sri Nath Pandit (Nath Ji)**, son of late Ram Chand Pandit. He resided in Sagan, Anantnag Kashmir and later in Lower Barri, Shankar Vihar, near Bhagwati Haqiqat School. **TENTH DAY KRIYA** - Date: 26-07-2024, Time: 7:30 AM, Venue: Muthi Ghat, near Director School Education

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Smt. Chand Rani (Wife)  
(Sons and Daughters-in-law)  
Sh. Surinder Pandit & Smt. Neetu Pandit  
Sh. Sanjeev Pandit & Smt. Komal Pandit  
(Grand Son and Grand Daughter-in-law)  
Sh. Venus Pandit & Smt. Sucheta Pandit  
Miss Simran Pandit (Grand Daughter)  
Miss Janvi Pandit (Grand Daughter)  
Smt. Vijay & Sh. C.L. Raina (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Smt. Ranjini & Sh. M.L. Tikoo (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Smt. Sanvoh & Sh. C.L. Pandita (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Smt. Basanti & Sh. A.K. Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Smt. Khemlata & Sh. Chand Ji Koul (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Contact Numbers: 959672260, 8492809832, 7006977430

**Shri Sri Nath Pandit (Nath Ji)**

**TENTH DAY**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved **Smt. Usha Gupta** left for her heavenly abode on 14/07/2024. Her strength will continue to guide us and we will cherish her fond memories forever. **The TENTH DAY** will be performed on 23/07/2024 at 11 AM at Tangri Palace, Kathua followed by Uthala at 1 PM. **RASAM PAGRI** will be performed on 27-07-2024 (Saturday) at 2 PM at our residence.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Prof. R.K Gupta (Husband)  
Ms. Pooja Mahajan (Daughter)  
Mr. Arvind Mahajan (Son) & Ms. Annu Mahajan (Daughter in Law)  
Ms. Simran, Arhaan & Aanya (Grand Children)  
Spring Dales Family, All Near & Dear Ones  
Mobile Numbers: 9622215222, 9419150947, 8527845353, 9419247026

**SMT. USHA GUPTA**  
09h-31y 193to 14h-31y 2024  
SPRING DALES SCHOOL,  
KATHUA (PRINCIPAL)

**CHOUBARSI**  
Four years have passed since you left us in deep pain. Your memories are still fresh and felt everywhere. **Choubarisi** of **Sh. Anchal Dass (Rtd. S.O. Revenue Deptt)** S/o Late Sh. Sain Dass R/o. Lower Shiva Nagar, Kathua shall be performed on 25-07-2024 at 12:00 Noon.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:**  
Smt. Tripta Devi (Wife)  
Smt. Shagan Yogesh (Daughter-in-Law)  
W/o Late Sh. Anil Kumar  
Kimika & Aarika (Grand Daughters)  
Daughter & Son-in-Law  
Smt. Anita Kumar & Sh. Raj Kumar  
Brothers & Sister-in-Law  
Smt. Darshna Devi W/o Late Sh. Prem Chand  
Sh. Booh Raj & Smt. Kanta Devi  
Sh. Janak Raj  
Sh. Jaginder Paul & Smt. Manju  
Sisters & Brother-in-Law  
Smt. Shakuntla Devi W/o Late Sh. Janak Raj (Capt. Rtd.)  
Smt. Rajkumari & Sh. Mohinder Paul  
AND ALL TROYAL FAMILIES

**Sh. Anchal Dass (Rtd. S.O. Revenue Deptt)**

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# Cong intensifies protest against surge in terrorist attacks across Jammu Region

People decrying for basic amenities under BJP regime: Uday, Hari Singh

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 24 In response to the recent surge in terrorist attacks across the Jammu region, the Congress Party staged a protest today in Barnai ward no 65 in Jammu North Assembly constituency. The demonstration was headed by Uday Bhanu Chib, General Secretary of the Indian Youth Congress, who took a strong stance against the current state of security in the region.

The protesters gathered in large numbers, voicing their concerns over the rising violence and insecurity that has plagued Jammu in recent weeks. Hari Singh Chib, Vice President JKPC was also joined the protest.

Talking to reporters, Uday Chib, General Secretary of the Indian Youth Congress, strongly condemned the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Government for its handling of the deteriorating situation in the Jammu region. He criticized the BJP for its failure to deliver effective governance and adequately safeguard the lives and well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The senior Congress leader highlighted the



acute shortage of essential amenities, including power and drinking water, which has severely impacted the daily lives of residents. He said BJP's inability to address these critical issues has exacerbated the challenges faced by the people, leading to widespread dissatisfaction and hardship.

Chib asserted, "The BJP has deprived the people of Jammu and Kashmir of a democratically elected government, leaving them vulnerable to rising terrorist threats. It is high time the BJP takes responsibility for this alarming situation and acts decisively to restore peace and stability." He called for immediate intervention to rectify the situation and urged the government to prioritize the basic needs of the pop-

ulation to ensure their safety and quality of life. Hari Singh Chib, another senior Congress leader, who highlighted the urgent need for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that only a democratically elected government could effectively address the security concerns and provide the necessary support to the affected communities.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve a government that is accountable and responsive to their needs. The BJP's mismanagement has left the region in a state of turmoil. We demand the immediate restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir to ensure that the people's voices are heard and their safety is prioritized," he added.

The protesting Congress leaders called on the central government to take immediate action to address the security challenges in Jammu and restore peace to the region.

Among those who joined the protest include Ramesh Singh Manhas, Rajkumar Bhagat, Surinder Singh Bhou, Ganesh, Amit Gandhi Shivam, Parshotam Kumar, Kamla Panch, Dyal Singh Manhas, Rashpal Singh, Parshotam Verma, Koshi Devi, Surinder Bhou, Kashmir Singh, Balbir Singh Manhas Auto Union President, Brijlal, Surinder Kumar, Ranjodh Singh, Sunny Jatt, Pummy, Sunil Singh, Parshotam Singh, Arjun Chib, Vankul, Parshotam, Jung Bhadur, Ram Dhan, Kamal Singh and others.

# Congress holds protest against BJP government's 'failure' to curb terrorism in J&K

Top News Report

SAMBA, July 24: Under the leadership of Distt President Sanjeev Sharma, Congress Workers from whole Samba district held a protest rally against the BJP-led Central government's alleged failure to check terrorism in the Union Territory.

Led by Distt President Sanjeev Sharma and UT Vice President Yashpaul Kundal, the protesters raised slogans against the BJP and its government for allegedly failing to check terrorism and demanded accountability.

While addressing Sanjeev Sharma said "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 assem-



bly 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."

Protesters including women participated in the protest also raised slogans against the PDD and PHE.

While addressing, Yashpaul Kundal said that both the departments have failed to ensure

regular power as well as water supply in the locality. The agitators demanded uninterrupted and adequate water supply.

Meanwhile, irate over the scheduled and unscheduled power cuts, the residents New Plot led by Sunil Dimple also staged a protest against the Power Development Department.

Vice President Sc Department Vinod

Kumar, Anita Devi Distt President Mahala Department, Ismile Choudhary, Girdhari Lal Chairman OBC, Babbal Gupta working president, Jagdeep Singh spokesperson, Kmail Singh, Balram Kundal, Raj Khajuria, Omesh Sharma, Avinash Atri, Rashpal, Viney Bhushan, Advocate Satish Dutta, Dinesh Singh, Rakesh Sambyal, Rajesh Kumar, Janak Raj were also present.

# 16th Foundation Day of Mahrishi World Peace Movement celebrated

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 24: Mahrshi Vidya Mandir celebrated 16th Foundation Day of Mahrishi World Peace Movement and Guru Purnima with enthusiasm.

Chief Guest of the function was Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, State Chairman Indian Yoga Association and President Vichar Kranti Manch International.

National Executive Member of Bharat Vikas Parishad Arun Sharma, presided over the function.

Ashok Gupta State Vice President Bharat Vikas Parishad and Vichar Kranti Manch International and Narendra Wadhwa, President Evening Walkers Association and Sunita Gupta, State Financial Secretary Bharat Vikas Parishad were Guests of Honour.

Lighting of traditional



lamp & Guru Poojan was performed by the Chief Guest and other dignitaries.

Group Meditation was performed by Rudra Parsad Patel ji and all the members of movement.

School Principal Vishnu Govind Verma, welcomed the guests and threw light on the vision and mission of Mahrishi Vidya Mandir schools in India.

Main features of MVM schools are working under the guidance of Chairman MVM Group of Schools Brahmchari Girishji, the most blessed disciple of his holiness

Maharshi Mahesh Yogi ji Maharaj.

Main focus was to inculcate rich Vedic culture and to nurture the students with Vedic knowledge and Science, which will re-establish the concept of Guru Bhakti- a total and unquestioned devotion of disciples to their Guru for an ideal society.

It will create a new aura and energy with virtues in students own life, in their families and Society, where all citizens will lead to a healthy, happy, peaceful, joyful, and Spiritually elevated life.

Dr Jain explained

about the qualities of a characterized student as Respectful, Responsible, Discipline, Motivation. Method of Transcendental Meditation as founded by Maharshi ji, was explained.

This is based on four pillars Mental Ability Development, Health Maintenance, Excellence in social behaviour and co-operation in world peace.

He also explained about the easiest and effective way of Transcendental Meditation.

Arun Sharma, speaking in his presidential address, applauded the efforts taken by the management of MVM in spreading the Devine teachings of Mahrishiji. Ashok Gupta & Sunita Gupta also spoke on the occasion.

Seema Sharma and Mona Sharma conducted the proceedings of the program. A senior teacher Seema presented a vote of thanks.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, REW POONCH TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 32 of REW POONCH 2024-25 Dated:-20-07-2024 1<sup>st</sup> Call  
For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch, as his representative invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt/CPWD/MES for the following work under:

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Position of Funds
1	Community Compost Pits at Balnoi Lower Pyl. Balnoi Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	0.77	200	1540	20 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 02-08-2024 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded
2	Community Compost Pits at Jamal Shah Pyl. Chajla Jamal Shah Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
3	Community Compost Pits at Chajla Lower Nr. Bridge Pyl. Chajla Lower Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
4	Community Compost Pits at Chajla Upper Pyl. Chajla Upper Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
5	Community Compost Pits at Dabraj Pyl. Dabraj Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
6	Community Compost Pits at Ghani Dharati at Lehari Pyl. Ghani Dharati Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
7	Community Compost Pits at Ghani Lower Pyl. Ghani Lower Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
8	Community Compost Pits at Kasbalari Lower Pyl. Kasbalari Lower Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
9	Community compost pits at Kasbalari Upper Pyl. Kasbalari Upper Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
10	Community Compost Pits at Mankote Lower Nr. Anganwari Centre Dakka Pyl. Mankote Lower Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
11	Community Compost Pits at Mankote Upper Nr. Bridge Pyl. Mankote Upper Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
12	Community Compost Pits at Magyad Kani Pyl. Magyad Kani Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
13	Community compost pits at Sagra Moh. Bandian W.No 4 Pyl. Sagra Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	0.77	200	1540	20 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 02-08-2024 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded
14	Community Compost Pits at Centre Salani Pyl. Salani Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
15	Community Compost Pits at Topa Centre Topa Pyl. Topa Thera Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
16	Community Compost Pits at Uchhad Lower Nr. Bridge Pyl. Uchhad Lower Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
17	Community Compost Pits at Uchhad Upper Moh. Salatri Pyl. Uchhad Upper Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
18	Community Compost Pits at Chajla Lower Simkan Pyl. Chajla Lower Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
19	Community Compost Pits at Mankote Lower Nr. GMS Mankote Pyl. Mankote Lower Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
20	Community Compost Pits at Mankote Lower Moh. Behla Kashmirian Pyl. Mankote Lower Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
21	Community Compost Pits at Ghani Moh. Khajoor Dhara Pyl. Ghani Dharati Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
22	Community Compost Pits at Uchhad Moh. Ferozalan Pyl. Uchhad Lower Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
23	Community Compost Pits at Ghani Lower Nr. HSS Ghani Pyl. Ghani Lower Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
24	Community Compost Pits at Moh. Dullian Pyl. Sagra Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
25	Community Compost Pits at Moh. Tain Pyl. Mankote Upper Block Mankote Under SBM Year 2024-25		0.77	200	1540	20 days			

**NOTE:** The Contractors registered with DDC, Poonch in reference to GOVT. Order No: 238-F of 2021, Dated 07-09-2021 can participate upto an amount of Rs 3.00 Lacs, in local Panchayat works.

1. **The already defaulted contractors are not allowed to participate in any tendering work of REW Division Poonch.**

**NOTE: No PRI member shall be allowed to take part in Tendering process**

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20-07-2024.
2	Period of downloading of bidding	From 20-07-2024 to 01-08-2024, 1855 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	20-07-2024 from 1800 Hrs onwards
4	Bid Submission End Date	01-08-2024 up to 1855 Hrs

5 Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) (in case of holiday, the bid shall be opened on next day) **02-08-2024 on or after 1000 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer REW, Poonch**

6 Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (of only successful technical bidders) To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. **Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**

2. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website <https://www.jktenders.gov.in/> to acquaint bid submission process. No:- XEN/REW/P/407-14

Dated:- 20-07-2024

DIP/J-3253/24

Executive Engineer  
Rural Engineering Wing  
Poonch

## EDITORIAL

PLUG SECURITY  
LOOPHOLES

Securing systems and infrastructure against cyber threats is a critical priority in today's interconnected world. Organizations face constant challenges in plugging security loopholes to protect sensitive data, maintain operational integrity, and uphold user trust. Here, we'll explore key strategies and considerations to effectively plug security loopholes across various dimensions of cybersecurity.

Security loopholes, often exploited by malicious actors, can arise from vulnerabilities in software, misconfigurations, weak access controls, human errors, and inadequate security practices. These loopholes provide entry points for attackers to gain unauthorized access, steal data, disrupt operations, or deploy malware. Identifying and mitigating these vulnerabilities requires a systematic approach and continuous vigilance.

Begin by conducting thorough risk assessments across the organization's infrastructure, applications, and processes. Identify potential vulnerabilities and prioritize them based on their severity and potential impact on business operations.

Implement a robust patch management process to promptly apply security updates and patches released by software vendors. Regularly update operating systems, applications, and firmware to address known vulnerabilities and reduce exposure to exploits.

Ensure that all systems and applications are configured securely according to industry best practices and organizational policies. Disable unnecessary services, change default passwords, and enforce strong authentication mechanisms to reduce attack surfaces.

Implement strict access controls to limit user privileges based on the principle of least privilege. Use multi-factor authentication (MFA) for sensitive accounts and regularly review access rights to prevent unauthorized access.

Deploy firewalls, intrusion detection systems (IDS), and intrusion prevention systems (IPS) to monitor and protect network traffic. Segment networks to contain breaches and limit lateral movement by attackers within the infrastructure.

Encrypt sensitive data both at rest and in transit to protect it from unauthorized access. Implement data loss prevention (DLP) solutions to prevent accidental or malicious data leaks.

Develop and regularly test an incident response plan to quickly detect, respond to, and recover from security incidents. Define roles and responsibilities, establish communication channels, and outline steps for containment and remediation.

Educate employees about cybersecurity best practices, phishing awareness, and social engineering tactics. Foster a culture of security awareness to empower employees to recognize and report potential security threats.

Assess and monitor the cybersecurity posture of third-party vendors and partners. Ensure that contractual agreements include security requirements and obligations to protect shared data and resources.

Implement continuous security monitoring to detect suspicious activities and potential threats in real-time. Conduct regular security audits and penetration testing to identify and address new vulnerabilities proactively.

Limited budgets and resources may impact the organization's ability to implement comprehensive security measures.

Managing security across diverse IT environments, including cloud, IoT, and legacy systems, requires integrated security solutions and strategies.

Human errors, negligence, and insider threats remain significant challenges that require ongoing education, monitoring, and policy enforcement.

Rapidly evolving cyber threats, such as ransomware and zero-day exploits, necessitate adaptive security measures and proactive threat intelligence.

In conclusion, plugging security loopholes requires a multi-faceted approach encompassing proactive risk management, robust technical controls, effective governance, and continuous improvement. By prioritizing cybersecurity as a strategic imperative, organizations can mitigate risks, protect assets, and safeguard their reputation in an increasingly digital world. Embracing a culture of security and adopting a holistic security framework will enable organizations to stay resilient against evolving cyber threats and maintain trust with stakeholders. Continuous vigilance, collaboration across teams, and staying abreast of emerging threats are essential to effectively plug security loopholes and protect against cyber threats effectively.

## Sorrow of Dreams of Happiness

By: Vijay Garg

It is said that happiness and sorrow are like shadows in life. The time of both is tied. If there is sadness today, happiness will come to our door tomorrow. The one who is happy today, sadness will enter her life secretly. There are many meanings of sorrow. It could be about our health. It can take away employment, sour relationships or sadness can shatter our dreams. But one definition of happiness is the smile on the face. The man who is happy and the one who is happy is happy. Apart from this, another question comes to mind that Why does suffering arise? Perhaps for an ordinary person, one definition might be that sadness is when one does not feel like it, but the reality is that dreams of happiness give greater sadness than sadness. We weave dreams. Many times we dream of getting status and respect as per our education, but often this does not happen and we become sad. Here the definition of sadness changes, because we become sad when our dream of happiness is not fulfilled. Such people can be seen around, whose life has never been normal, but Neither are they happy today. This happiness is the happiness of their dreams coming true. Suddenly worrying about a life partner with whom one would

not be compatible with one's entire life, or giving oneself up to them, is not happiness, but fulfilling one's dreams of happiness. There is also a truth that when there was tension between the couple throughout their life, then they would not have been financially prosperous. The power institutions and fame are imagined to be, that too will not have much to do with it. But when the wheel of life turns, dreams of more happiness start coming true. Money, power and fame come closer. And Then happiness also comes into play. Perhaps this is what is called turning sorrow into happiness. In the kind of social system we live in, if a female spouse is told that the desire for her husband to be alive and healthy is done because of the fear of unnecessary suffering in her life, then it is probably in accordance with the common belief. It will happen and the female spouse will also accept it as true. Situations of dependency sometimes force one to think like this. In such matters both happiness and sorrow are equal, because a woman's dreams of happiness remain unbroken. And he has expressed his fear of suffering. There are many families in our society in which people live their lives with the dream of happiness, even if they are careless. If thought and action is taken for the relationship, then there is nothing better than this. But if it is said that

someone is taking care of the person for money, then this kind of arrogance can give a new sorrow in life. An opportunity to convert sorrow into dreams of happiness comes when the children leave their company and become busy in their own lives. The company that comes in loneliness is beyond any definition of happiness and sorrow. It happens. Here mutual need brings both together. Arrangements have to be made from food to medicine and these needs create a new definition of happiness and sorrow. We can adapt it to our definition as per our choice. If we trace the psychological reasons behind breaking of dreams of happiness, then wildest expectations are shattered and embrace death in despair. If we look at the statistics of suicide in any state of the country, we will find the most disappointed and depressed youth who find it easiest to end their lives. His life has just begun and in his life Their sorrow is not passing with good marks or not getting the job as per their wish or the loss of love due to being fed up with unemployment. This is the same situation where dreams of happiness, not sorrow, have always made this generation unhappy. In such a situation, father's hand on the back and mother's caress can save them from such sorrow. Here one should also be able to differentiate between sadness and

despair. When grief comes, it can be cured, but there is no cure for despair. Today in the society, young minds are getting torn between high dreams and broken dreams. There is an old folk tale in which a father and son They leave the market and the son gets upset after seeing the elephant. The poor father asks the price of the elephant, because an elephant worth two paise seems expensive to him. After a few years, the same scene is repeated and when the father again asks the price of the elephant, he is told two thousand rupees. The father happily buys an elephant for his son. The son questions the father that he had refused to buy an elephant worth two paise and today you are taking an elephant worth Rs 2,000. Father explained in one line that at that time even two paise was equal to two thousand for us. This is the way of life and B and the suffering continues.

(Vijay Garg  
Retired Principal  
Educational  
Columnist Malout  
Punjab)

## Biden out, but Trump may still win

By: Shyam Saran

(Former Foreign  
Secretary)

US President Joe Biden announced on July 21 that he was dropping out of the presidential elections due in November. After his poor showing in the one-to-one TV debate with Donald Trump on June 27, there had been a rising crescendo of influential voices in the Democratic Party calling upon Biden to stand down as a candidate and allow a younger nominee to face Trump, the Republican candidate, in the elections. It has taken a precious three weeks since the debate for Biden to yield to pressure from within his party to finally stand down. There will be limited time available for party managers to home in on a credible candidate for endorsement at the Democratic Party convention scheduled to start on August 19. Although Biden has endorsed Vice-President Kamala Harris as the candidate he supports and has urged the party to rally behind her, there are indications that key figures like former President Barack Obama and former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi may prefer another candidate. Any contestation at this late stage can only diminish any raised hopes which may have been generated by Biden's announcement.

Trump's close brush with death is likely to galvanise his supporters to come out in large numbers to vote for him.

Assuming Harris does get the party's endorsement at the party convention next month, how do her chances stack up against Trump?

Harris has both Black and Asian

credentials and should be able to mobilise the non-White constituency. She is a strong champion of women's rights and has been vocal in opposing anti-abortion laws. As a potential first woman President of the US, she may appeal to the large female constituency across the racial divide. She has taken a strong position on the Gaza war, calling for an immediate ceasefire, which contrasts with Biden's continuing though reluctant support to Israel. This may be a nuanced difference with her boss but may make her more congenial to the pro-Palestinian Arab-Americans and a large section of the US youth. While these may be her assets, the downside would be the very limited time she has to mobilise support for her candidacy within the party in the less than four weeks available to her. She cannot afford to have a contested candidacy at the party convention. A quick and consensus endorsement by the party immediately in advance of the convention will free her to concentrate on campaigning against Trump rather than her possible contenders within the party. Even if she wins a contested candidacy at the party convention, legitimacy as a presidential contender will be contrasted with the overwhelming endorsement Trump has already received as the Republican nominee. And Trump would already have a head start in the campaign much before Harris gets her act together. Campaign finance may also be an issue. Some large contributors to the Democratic Party had held back on their contributions after Biden's poor showing at the June debate with Trump. Will they open their purse strings for Harris? There are many doubts on this score. Trump has no problem

at all on the finance front. Taking all these factors into account, Biden stepping down and Harris being inducted into the race at this late stage is unlikely to improve the Democrats' chances significantly.

If not Harris, who? None of the possible contenders has the name recognition that Harris has and would have even less time to pose a serious and credible challenge to Trump. The best bet for the party is Harris, but a lack of a broad consensus over her candidature will diminish any positive outcome from Biden's exit from the race.

Trump has a solid base of support, perhaps as much as 40 per cent of the voting population. The assassination attempt against him has given him the benefit of the inevitable sympathy factor. But more than that, his close brush with death is likely to galvanise his supporters to come out in large numbers to vote for him. There is no comparable galvanising factor on the Democratic side. Enthusiasm among Democratic supporters may be of a lesser order. At this stage of the political game, therefore, Trump appears to have a head start over any Democratic rival.

It is likely that Trump will heighten US contention with China, and not only on the trade issue. He has said that he will end the Ukraine war but not how. The large financial and military support the US has extended to Ukraine might be more easily suspended or significantly reduced. The European countries are unlikely to be able to make up for reduced US support. This may lead to Ukraine agreeing to a ceasefire along the existing battlelines. This will be a plus for Russia though it is not expected that sanctions against Russia will be eased.

A transactional Trump may seek a quid pro quo for that.

The worst affected, potentially, could be Europe. The pressure on European allies in NATO to do more for their own security will mount and tariffs against European products may increase. There may be less pressure on allies in the Indo-Pacific given the China factor.

It is not clear whether Trump will force an end to hostilities in the Gaza war as he intends to do with Ukraine. The support to Israel is unquestioned and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu may feel encouraged to further escalate the war. But even Trump may not want to get embroiled in a wider regional war involving Hezbollah in Lebanon and Iran. It would be interesting to see how Trump handles these contradictory aims in West Asia. His instinct would be to focus on the Indo-Pacific without distractions elsewhere. This should be welcome to India.

There should be reasonable confidence in the Modi government on navigating a Trump 2.0 presidency with the experience gained in its earlier incarnation. Relations with India have enjoyed bipartisan support in the US. This is likely to continue. For the Modi government, on balance, a Trump presidency may appear more congenial. The two leaders enjoyed good chemistry during the previous Trump administration. That would be an asset if Trump comes back. There may also be expectations of less US focus on human rights and minority issues. What may be more difficult to navigate is an even more fluid and disruptive international geopolitical terrain which Trump will inevitably foist on the world.

## J&K Budget falls short of common people's expectations: Rattan Lal

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 24: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), has vehemently criticized the J&K Budget 2024-25, presented in Parliament, for its failure to meet the expectations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a strongly worded statement issued today, the senior NC leader lambasted the Budget for offering nothing new and falling drastically short of addressing the pressing issues faced by the Union Territory. He lamented that J&K is enduring its most challenging phase under the BJP-led Central Government.

"People had high hopes for significant fund allocations and innovative schemes," he said. "However, this Budget lacks the vision and measures needed to tackle the urgent problems of unemployment, tourism, trade, education, the industrial sector, agriculture, and other essential civic issues. What was anticipated to be a transformative Budget



has instead turned out to be a monumental disappointment."

Describing the J&K Budget 2024-25 as a "cruel joke," the senior NC leader criticized it as a mere "jugglery of words" meant to create an illusion of progress. "In reality, the Budget ensures that the poor become poorer while the rich get richer, a bitter irony for the people of J&K," he asserted.

The Provincial President highlighted several shortcomings in the Budget, including its failure to provide significant relief measures for farmers, initiatives to combat rising unemployment among the youth, and exemptions or relief on electricity tariffs. He

also pointed out the absence of concrete plans to raise paramilitary forces on the border, a commitment made by the BJP government itself. Additionally, he criticized the lack of provisions for addressing the issues of daily wagers and other employees working on a contractual and ad hoc basis, the neglect of critical public undertakings and pilot projects, and the absence of revival plans for the sick industrial units of J&K, including two cement units that have left 400 families in distress.

The senior NC leader urgently called on the Central Government to reassess the Budget and introduce substantial measures to address the genuine needs and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Welcoming the long-overdue allocation of funds for the Shahpurkandi project in the Budget 2024, Rattan Lal Gupta said that the concept of the Shahpurkandi dam traces back to a landmark 1979 agreement between Chief Ministers Parkash Singh Badal of Punjab and Sheikh Abdullah of

J&K. Designed to capture and store rainwater for irrigation, this visionary project aims to benefit approximately 37,000 hectares—5,000 hectares in Punjab and 32,000 hectares in Jammu & Kashmir. This monumental undertaking will positively impact nearly 76 villages in the adjoining areas. This was the dream pilot project of Sheikh Abdullah.

Rattan Lal said that this project also includes a 206 MW powerhouse dedicated to power generation, with J&K poised to receive 20 percent of the hydroelectricity produced. Despite its transformative potential, this project has languished due to insufficient funding from the Central Government. He emphasized that this initiative was a dream project of Sheikh Abdullah, and the National Conference leadership has persistently advocated for it with the central authorities from time to time. He expressed hope that the Central Government will now take decisive steps to bring this visionary project to fruition.

## Residents of Village Khargund anguished over use of Sub-standard material under MGNERGA



Top News Report

KULGAM, July 24: The inhabitants of Village Khargund in Devsar Constituency in the Jurisdiction of South Kashmir's Kulgam are on protest against use of sub standard material by RDD.

Sources told that the hundreds of people of Hajam Mohalla Khargund of Tehsil Devsar District Kulgam expressed their anguish over the use of Sub-standard material used by contractors while

construction of Khargund Main to Hajam Mohalla Road which is being constructed under MGNREGA by block Devsar of Rural Development Department.

The people alleged that they were rebuked by the concerned contractor when asked about the use of such material.

A senior citizen told our correspondent that the said work is being done by some contractors who are having a nexus with the block level officials.

The people appealed

higher ups of RDD to look into the matter and set it right. In an angry mode people told that they will sweep off the material of said road aside as it has been a hurdle to pedestrians and vehicles for having only crusher bolders (Khak Bajri) spread over the road. Although, the people expressed their trust over BDO Devsar for timely redressal of the issue and demanded strong lawful action against the officials involved in the nexus.

## Advisor Ladakh reviews upgradation on EOC Ladakh



Top News Report

LEH, July 24: Advisor Ladakh Dr Pawan Kotwal, also the Chairman State Disaster Management Authority, UT Ladakh held a meeting to discuss the upgradation of the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC), Ladakh.

The consultant team of Disaster Management, Relief Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) Ladakh, presented a detailed report on the proposed upgrade, including strengthening of manpower, equipment upgradation and technology advances to upgrade

the EOC to an Integrated Command and Control System, with a flawless response and communication system.

Discussions were held on identifying sensitive locations, kinds of calamities that are most prone in Ladakh and the solutions most viable in the expanse and terrain of Ladakh.

Advisor Dr Kotwal stated that calamity-prone areas, including Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) lakes and landslide-prone areas, must be identified for instrumentation and the entire project must be

workable, actionable, and doable.

He also stated that the existing infrastructure and equipment must be incorporated in the upgradation and a committee be formed to ensure synchrony between the departments of Home, DMRRR, Indian Meteorological Department, and the executing department.

Administrative Secretary, DMRRR Amit Sharma, DC Leh Santosh Sukhdeve, Director IMD Sonam Lotus and other concerned officials were present during the meeting.

## Chandel advocates for elimination of caste system in India

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 24: Senior Hindu Sanatani BJP leader, Raju Chandel in Jammu advocate for the elimination of caste divisions within Hindu society in India.

He asserted that the caste system, which he attributes to the influences of historical invaders like the Mughals and British, continues to divide Hindus and perpetuate inequality.

Chandel called for legislation to dismantle these caste distinctions, advocating for unity among all Hindus, including Scheduled Castes, Tribes, and other backward classes, under the umbrella of Sanatan Dharma (Hinduism).

He emphasized that unless caste barriers are removed and all Hindus are treated equally, the dream of making India a Hindu nation cannot be

realized.

He urged support from prominent spiritual leaders and political figures, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to unite Hindus across caste lines and ensure equal access to temples and



religious practices for all.

Chandel's perspective reflects a desire for social reform within Hinduism, aiming to achieve unity and equality among all Hindus regardless of caste, towards the larger goal of strengthening the nation.

## DEO Ramban conducts Orientation Program for BLOs on SSR of Photo Electoral Roll



Top News Report

RAMBAN, July 24: The District Election Officer (DEO), Ramban, under the leadership of District Election Officer, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, on Wednesday conducted a one-day orientation program for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) on the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of the Photo Electoral Roll with respect to July 1, 2024, as the qualifying date.

The program aimed to familiarize BLOs with the procedures and guidelines for the revision process, ensuring accurate and comprehensive updates to the electoral roll. It was informed that

special camps at all polling stations have been planned by Chief Electoral Officer J&K, on every Saturday and Sunday henceforth upto August, 4, 2024.

During the camps on upcoming Saturdays and Sundays, Supervisors and BLOs shall remain present on the booths along with Farm 6, 7, 8 and other related documents to receive the claims for error free Photo Electoral Rolls.

Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, in his message has emphasized the importance of the revision process in ensuring the integrity of the elec-

toral roll.

He reiterated that BLOs have a crucial role to play in the revision process and preparing error free Electoral Rolls, which is prerequisite for healthy and inclusive democracy.

The program covered topics such as verification of electoral rolls, identification and removal of duplicate entries, and inclusion of eligible voters.

The orientation program was chaired by Dy District Election Officer Ramban, Abdul Jabar, and attended by District Information Officer Ramban Mohammad Ashraf Wani, Election Naib Tehsildar Mohan Lal, Master Trainers and all the BLOs.

## Gurmeet demands restoration of statehood to J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 24: Gurmeet Singh, General Secretary of JKPC and President of Beopar Mandal, on Wednesday strongly advocated for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, condemning the BJP government for what he perceives as neglect and failures in governance. In a recent address, he highlighted several issues and criticisms:

Singh emphasized that the BJP government's decision to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's statehood has had severe repercussions.

He argued that without statehood, the region lacks a democratically elected government capable of addressing local issues effectively.

He asserted that restoring statehood is crucial for upholding democratic principles and allowing people to exercise their political rights.

Singh criticized the BJP for allegedly using public funds for self-promotion rather than delivering tangible benefits to the people.

He accused the BJP of betraying promises made to protect local jobs and land, claiming that these

assurances have been disregarded with policies allowing outsiders to purchase land in Jammu and Kashmir.

He highlighted economic exploitation through toll plazas and taxes, as well as the detrimental impact on infrastructure and basic civic amenities such as power and water supply.

Singh argued that the economic situation has worsened under BJP rule, adversely affecting artisans, hoteliers, traders, and agriculturalists.

Singh accused the BJP of neglecting regional development priorities and focusing more on national issues, such as inflation and the handling of the pandemic, which he claimed were mis-handled.

He affirmed that the Congress party would continue to raise awareness about these issues and advocate for the restoration of statehood until it is achieved.

He criticized what he described as the BJP's failure to fulfill promises of development and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir, contrasting it with the original vision of "Naya Kashmir" which he claimed remains unrealized.

## BLSKS presents Nukad Natak "Nashe Cha Bacho"

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 24: To continue the Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS), in coordination with Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, Social Welfare Deptt. J&K Govt. and Sangam Tru Art Production presented its 444th Regular Series Dohri Musical Play "Nashe Cha Bacho" at Reheral Hall, Durga Bhawan, Janipur Jammu on Wednesday under the overall Direction of Dr.M.L.Dogra.

A pledge was also taken by more than 100 peoples which was recited by Chahat Chadha.

The program was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Anju Dogra, Health Department Jammu.

Among the Guest of Honors present were Vansh Raina, Megha Raina, Ram, Sidharth Manhas, Mukesh Singh Prominent Persons of the Area.

The day commemorated as well with sole aim of rejuvenating the traditional, Primitive Folk, Art, Culture of J&K Region.

The Chief Guest said the risk of addictions lurks for everyone. Adolescents and young adults are more likely to getting addicted to sub-



stances Type of Drug used drugs like cocaine and heroin have severely painful withdrawal symptoms and so are much more addictive than alcohol Method of use Drugs that are smoked or injected into your body tend to be more addictive as they directly go to the bloodstream and brain than those that you swallow where passing through liver can lead to some filtration Mental Illness.

A person who is mentally ill is more prone to addictions and a person who is addicted are more likely to develop a mental illness or experience worsening of already existing symptoms.

The efforts of the organizers in making such awareness programmes colourful and effective.

The artists of BLSKS presented theme based songs which were written by Dr. M.L. Dogra. The program was also recorded and uploaded online on Social Media

for benefit of the peoples. Welcome speech was given by Dr. M.L. Dogra, Chairman BLSKS said drugs withdrawal symptoms are a combination of physical and mental side effects a person experiences while trying to either stop or reduce the use of the substance they have been using or are addicted to.

These are usually unpleasant experiences which make it difficult to reduce or quit the substance. Some of the common withdrawal symptoms are nausea, vomiting, restlessness, tremors, disturbance in mood (irritability, depression, anxiety), lack of sleep, body pains, craving for the substance, running nose etc. Awareness regarding right of vote was also discussed through group discussion.

A lot of people want to vote, but many are not aware of its need and how to cast it. This is

where voting awareness comes into play. The idea of voting awareness is to help people understand the importance of voting. Voting is an important way for voters to control their government. It is a method for citizens to express what they want from their leaders by raising awareness about voting.

This will lead to better governance and what everyone wants – a democracy that is free, fair and representative. Voting helps citizens become more involved in their government and keep it accountable.

Usha Raina, Troupe In charge BLSKS said our volunteers and outreach workers of these organizations have gone from door to door, and nearby localities of Jammu city to educate the people about the ill effects of drug abuse and have assisted the rehabilitation of victims of substance abuse.

The singers, musician and actors who performed were K K Joshi, M C Kotwal, Chahat Chadha, Zulekha Bano, Rajni Gupta, Naiya Digra, Renu Bala, Ruder Partap Sharma, Taniya Gupta, Deepak Kumar Dogra, Programe Incharge, presented vote of thanks for successful conduction of the program.

## 'Harassment to pensioners will not accepted'

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 24: In a meeting held under the Chairmanship of I.D. Soni, it was resolved to approach the Govt. for reversal of this order.

"Strange it may sound, but it is a fact that by issuing such circular by Director General Accounts and Treasuries regarding personnel appearance before the concerned Treasury officer is nothing more than a cruel joke with the retirees as already such practice of pension disbursement continues for the last ten years and Banks collect life certificates themselves from the concerned retirees. What makes the Director General Accounts and Treasuries to issue such instructions of personnel parade before the concerned Treasury Officers for physical verifications is beyond our imagination. Does the D.G. Accounts doubt the Pension disbursement authorities that they are submitting false Life certificates to the Govt. Should this be ascertained that the one circular of Life Certificate already issued by the Govt. stands withdrawn before issue of this circular," I.D. Soni said.

"If the Director General Accounts and Treasuries

is adamant to apply this circular, he should arrange to keep one Gentleman of Treasury in each Branch temporarily for verification, as at present there is a crowd of retirees in Treasuries and there are only two persons to attend to these retirees. If the PPO of some retirees is lost, who is responsible as they refuse to give receipt of the PPO," I.D. Soni added.

"In light of the above, I would request the Govt. to arrange for the reversal of the circular and allow Pensioners to continue to submit Life Certificate to the concerned disbursing authorities as already in vogue," he said.

Further reiterating, he added, "In the circular it is also mentioned that the Senior Citizens above 80 years of age need not to visit Treasury and the Govt. will make arrangements for sending a Govt. Official at their residences for verification which is impossible as some of these category people are residing at higher hills /some of them have gone to their children and so on."

"I would as such request you to reverse your decision giving relief to the aging Pensioners," soni said.

## Zeenat Aman opens up about being 'undervalued' by brands, collaborators

Veteran actor Zeenat Aman opened up about feeling 'undervalued', sharing that she has held her own in the industry for over half a century and believes she is worth far more than the price of a designer handbag or high-heeled shoe.

The beauty pageant winner, who began her acting career in 1970 with the movie 'The Evil Within', took to Instagram and shared some mesmerising snaps from her recent photo-shoot.

In the photos, the actress is wearing a red outfit and accessorising with black sunglasses.

In the caption, Zeenat penned a long note, stating, 'Thank you, but no thank you. I can't tell you my precise worth, but I do know when I'm being undervalued. Amid the barrage of collaboration and appearance requests that materialise in my inbox each day, there are some that stand out for unpleasant reasons. Last-minute invitations that the organiser forgot to edit (and which are addressed to another celebrity who must have declined) are mildly insulting.'

The actress continued, 'Impolite emails with minimal details and brusque "share commercials" are infuriating. And shady proposals to post stories or



comments without the paid partnership tag are distasteful. Yet none of these compare to the impudence of multimillion dollar brands that expect my endorsement in exchange for 'brand association' and a ludicrously low fee. Such luxury brands pay an eye watering penny to their

ambassadors (one of whom beautifully reprised a role I originally played), and sell even their most basic item for multiple lakhs of rupees.'

The actress added, 'In their outreach to me, they do not fail to express their admiration, with generous terms such as

'icon' and 'fashion inspiration'. But when it comes to actually compensating me for my time, energy, reputation, and reach... the well runs dry. I am over 70 years old, and I have held my own in this industry for over half a century. I work with what I know to be an unusual professionalism. I have a social media audience that is not only entirely organic, but so beautifully engaged. I have immense respect for myself, and for you who follow my page.'

'I am certainly worth more than the price of a designer handbag or high-heel shoe. Your turn. Tell me your story of being undervalued or standing your ground against it,' concluded Zeenat.

Actress Manisha Koirala dropped clapping emojis in the comment section, while Sushant Divgikr commented, 'an icon'.

Actor Abhay Deol wrote in the comment section, 'Perfectly summed up these 'Luxury brands!'

Actress Sumona Chakravarti wrote, 'Thank you so much for writing about this'.

Bhagyashree shared, 'You are indeed an icon and will remain for years beyond.. let not these imbeciles ruffle your plume... you are an inspiration @thezeenataman.'

## Chris Brown sued for \$50 million over alleged backstage assault of 4 Texas concertgoers



Singer and songwriter Chris Brown has been slapped with a legal action for his alleged misdemeanour.

He has been sued for \$50 million in connection with an incident that took place backstage at one of his concerts, reports Variety.

Larry Parker, Joseph

Lewis, Charles Bush and Da Marcus Powell filed the suit in Harris County, Texas, against Brown as well as his tour promoter Live Nation, Sinko Ceej, Hood Boss and Yella Beezy.

In addition to the payment, the four plaintiffs are asking for a temporary restraining order

against all defendants. According to the complaint, which was first reported by TMZ and accessed by Variety, Brown and his crew severely beat the plaintiffs following the singer's performance as part of his 11:11 Tour at Dickies Arena in Fort Worth, Texas.

As per Variety, the four men were invited backstage to meet Brown, who showed up 30 minutes later than anticipated.

Before leaving, Bush approached Brown to congratulate him on the show, prompting a member of the singer's entourage to remind Brown that the two previously had issues. Brown allegedly said, 'Oh yeah, we were. What's up, n\*\*\*? I don't forget shit.'

The suit states that Brown and seven to 10 members of his entourage proceeded to assault Bush and punch him in the chest, and claims that Hood Boss picked up a chair and threw it at Bush's head.

## Akshay Kumar says he is more 'mindful' of the films he chooses now

Akshay Kumar is one of the most prolific actors in the industry right now, having no less than 4 releases in a year. The actor, who is yet to see box office success this year, talked to Forbes India, and shared that he has definitely become 'more mindful' of the roles he chooses to do because audience has evolved a lot since the pandemic.

During the interview, when Akshay was asked about whether there has been any change in how he selects his films, the actor replied: "The pandemic has undoubtedly changed the dynamics of the film industry. With audiences being more selective about their cinema outings, it has become crucial to choose projects that offer something completely entertaining and unique. I've become more mindful of the content, ensuring that it resonates with the current times and provides an experience that justifies a trip to the theatre. It's about finding stories that not only entertain but also connect deeply with the audience."



'I sleep, eat and work at a particular time'

The actor also shared how he keeps himself motivated even after decades of work in the industry. "My biggest strength has been my discipline and work ethic. I literally work on a time-table... I sleep, eat and work at a particular time, and shoot for a specific number of hours. I have followed this for years. Staying fit—both mentally and physically—has also played a crucial role in my longevity in the industry. The motivation comes from a genuine love for what I do and to continue making films on which so many livelihoods depend. Also, the

support and love from my fans fuel my passion and commitment in this journey," he added.

Akshay was last seen in Sarfira, which was the Hindi remake of Soorara Potru, featuring Suriya. It is inspired by events from the life of Air Deccan Founder Captain GR Gopinath. He also had Bade Miyan Chote Miyan with Tiger Shroff, which released in April.

Akshay will be seen next in the comedy film Khel Khel Mein, which also stars Taapsee Pannu, Fardeen Khan, Vaani Kapoor, Ammy Virk, Aditya Seal and Pragya Jaiswal. It releases in theatres on August 15.

## Falaq Naazz reacts to her cryptic 'death' post: I asked questions that we avoid

Falaq Naazz recently shared a thought-provoking post on her Instagram handle, talking about death and people feeling her absence after she is gone, leaving fans concerned for her. "What if I am no longer here tomorrow? Would you feel my absence? Perhaps you would dedicate a post or a story for me, sharing all the wonderful memories we've shared together. Unfortunately, I won't be able to witness those tributes, as I will have passed away. Material things like posts and stories won't bring me joy in the afterlife. Life is fragile and uncertain, a gentle nudge for everyone to show love and appreciation to their loved ones while they are still with us. Let's promote positivity and love," she wrote.

While talking to us about the same, the actor tells us, "I just asked the questions that we try to avoid. It's a fact but we try not to hear it. We don't talk about facts anymore, it's all about an ideal life and aaj kal social media par bas vahi chal raha



hai. It's all about my own thoughts that I wrote on Instagram," adding that there wasn't any trigger behind the write-up. "Baarish horahi thi and aise sad thoughts

ajaate hain kabhi kabhi, it wasn't triggered because of anyone, but I think people found it relatable. Maine apne upar hi likhdiya isliye kuch fans darr bhi gaye.

But, I am okay. People even focused on it because I wrote something like that varna padhke aage nikal jaayen and pata bhi na lage. It is important to put out that imagination, the truth can't be hidden by closing our eyes. Jitni uparwaale ne life likhi hai utni ache se jeeyo, nothing serious!"

The Bigg Boss OTT fame says that she wants people to stay in touch instead of giving tributes on social media after the person passes away. "I felt that if something happens to me then this will only happen. That's what happens, when a human being is alive, koi usse baat nahi karta, jab vo chala jaata hai toh sab jaag jaate hain need se, everyone gets active on social media. They give tributes and share memories, but the person that you are posting it for is no more, then what's the point. I was personally feeling the same for myself," emphasises Naaz and continues, "For example, if a so and so friend is not keeping in touch with me but I am wanting to talk, then don't fake

anything after I'm gone. I want people to celebrate me while I am alive, not after I am dead. I don't want those posts for me even if something happens to me."

It wasn't a sudden thought that crossed her mind but she just thought of expressing it out loud now. "I was feeling and realising the same for quite a while now. I have seen it happen, that if someone passes away, people who haven't even been in touch with them start putting posts saying 'Hum unke bahut close the', aise thodi na hota hai yaar. Only for social media or publicity, people do this. It's a bitter fact of our lives. It's high time that people should celebrate life and each other," further elaborates the actor.

"Kisi ko jeete jee inspiration deni hai toh aap desakte ho, but jo chala gaya hai vo aapke posts aake nahi padh raha hai. Instead of expressing your feelings after they are gone, express it while they are still alive so that they also feel good. Be expressive about your feelings, good or bad!" Naazz signs off.

## Rashami Desai: It's the beginning of my film career, has been a difficult journey

Actor Rashami Desai has been a household name in the television industry after her role in the show Uttaran. However, not many people know but she also made her Bollywood debut years ago with Yeh Lamhe Judaai Ke (2004). The actor, who was last seen in the film Jahangir National University - JNU, alongside Urvashi Rautela, says that her career in the Bollywood industry never took off at that time and she continued with television shows but its picking up pace now.

"I have always believed in the saying that good things take time and patience. Over the

years, I have developed that conviction and faith in myself where I can be patient till the time I want things to unfold. Sometimes, in order to accelerate a little more in life, you need to actually take reverse first and then move at a brisk pace," she says, adding that JNU will be that beginning of her career in Bollywood.

"For me, this was all about that. JNU has been a good beginning to that interest which you spoke of and I am glad, a lot of fans and critics have appreciated the work that has taken place there. So yes the beginning has certainly taken place but certainly there's a long way to go

and I am all up for it."

Ask her if featuring in television shows for a long time could have been a barrier for Desai and she answers, "I feel it's more about how you look at it instead of labeling it as an obstacle on its face. Yes certainly, when you have been doing TV for a long time, there's a certain acceptance that has already taken place by the audience of that medium and hence, to break away from your comfort zone into an unknown territory is always difficult and a brave call."

However, the actor doesn't hesitate in admitting that it has been a rocky ride. "It is difficult but nothing is



really impossible if you have complete conviction and faith in yourself

and you are aware about what you are doing. If you have clarity about

your approach and how you are trying to go ahead with things, eventually things work in your favour and I would say the beginning of my film career is certainly a positive testimony to that. I am now looking forward to working harder and all the way more motivated to do even better work in cinema," Desai emphasises.

Furthermore, she reveals that there are multiple Bollywood as well as OTT projects in the pipeline but she is not in liberty to talk about them yet. "Yes certainly, there's quite a lot that's happening in the pipeline. While some projects are finalised, some are in the middle of dis-

cussions. Obviously, I am not in a position to talk about any of it till the official announcements take place. But yes, there's a lot happening and I am really excited about this phase as an actor," tells the 38-year-old.

Meanwhile, Desai also shared a post on her social media with pictures from her meeting with the Transport and Road Minister Nitin Gadhkar in Delhi recently. "Well, it went quite well and was smooth to be honest. He is one of the best and most reputed leaders of our country and the great work that he has done can be seen by one and all. We need more won-

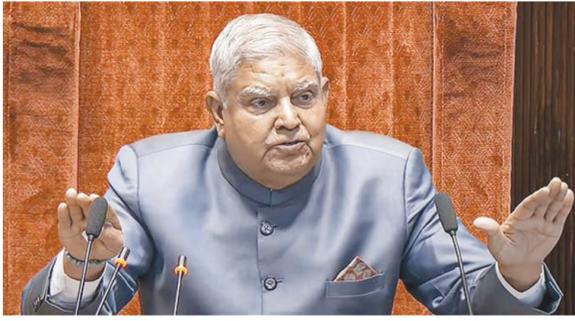
derful people like him. It was an honour and privilege to meet him. He is extremely cordial and humble and has no air about himself," she tells us, without revealing much about her visit.

"I am not sure if I am supposed to reveal too much about it in public or not. But yes, being in Delhi, this was certainly on the cards. Efforts were being made for quite a long time and finally it worked out. God blessed me with good luck and the right set of people who helped me with this and all that I want to think of is the positivity that I have taken with me after the meeting with him," the actor concludes.

## Giving notices under Rule 267 has been reduced to 'farfical exercise', says Jagdeep Dhankhar in Rajya Sabha

*He emphasises that leaders of political parties need to take a call on the issue*

NEW DELHI, Jul 24 (Agencies): Stating that giving notices under Rule 267 has been reduced to a "farfical exercise", Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday urged leaders of political parties to take a call on this issue. "Honourable Members, this is regarding Rule 267. For your benefit, my observations on Rule 267 have been uploaded today for your consideration. I call upon you and strongly urge you to seriously bestow your attention on the same," Dhankhar told the House. Emphasising that leaders of political parties need to take a call on the issue, Dhankhar said it is becoming "a routine daily affair in every sitting of the



House". He said that in the last 36 years, this mechanism has been allowed only on six occasions. Notices under Rule 267 asking for suspension of all listed businesses to discuss a particular

issue is admitted only in exceptional circumstances, Dhankhar added. He said the notices filed today do not conform to the directives imparted by the Chair earlier in this connection and thus not

admitted. In more than three decades, Rule 267 has been availed only for half a dozen occasions, Dhankhar said. "It is being taken as a routine exercise, as a habit. It has reduced itself to a farfical exercise", the Chairman said. Dhankhar added since attention has not been paid to observations made by him in this regard on Tuesday, he has again uploaded his directives on the members' portal. The Opposition parties have been for long sending notices to the Chairman under Rule 267 to discuss important issues. Dhankhar has not admitted any of these notices thus far during his tenure.

## Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman counters Congress on Budget face-off; Opposition walks out of Rajya Sabha



NEW DELHI, Jul 24 (Agencies): In first reaction to the opposition allegations of discrimination in the Union Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman challenged the Congress to reveal whether it mentioned every state of the country in the several budgets its finance ministers presented. "This is an outrageous allegation, a deliberate attempt of the Congress-led opposition to give an impression to the people that other states (barring Andhra Pradesh and Bihar) have not got anything. I challenge the Congress to say whether they named all states in the many budgets they presented," Nirmala said in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

She was speaking after Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge accused the government of neglecting non-BJP states in the budget and walked out. Answering the allegations, Nirmala said in every budget one doesn't have an opportunity to name every state of the country. "Between vote of account in February and full budget yesterday I have not named very many states. Between the vote on account and yesterday I have not named Maharashtra also. But the union Cabinet under PM Narendra Modi passed a very important decision to build a major port in Maharashtra costing Rs 76,000 crore. Does it mean we have ignored Maharashtra?" the FM

asked. She said if the budget speech doesn't mention the name of a particular state, that does that mean that the particular state does not get government schemes. "These things go to states as per routine. This (discrimination allegations) is a deliberate attempt of the opposition parties to give an impression that nothing has been given to all states. I challenge the Congress whether they named all states or the country in their budget session. This is an outrageous allegation," the FM said, adding that Kharge's allegations "are not acceptable". She said while the opposition TMC has been questioning the budget, the fact is that it has refused to implement several schemes of the Centre in the state. "Several schemes given by the PM in the last 10 years have not been implemented by West Bengal and you have the audacity to ask me today that nothing has been given," Sitharaman said countering the opposition.

## Woman, 2 granddaughters killed as 3-storey building collapses in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD, Jul 24 (Agencies): An elderly woman and her two granddaughters were killed as a dilapidated three-storey building collapsed in Jam Khambhalia town in Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district amid heavy rain in the state's Saurashtra region, police said on Wednesday. The incident occurred on Tuesday evening in Gagwani Fali locality of the town and bodies of the three victims were brought out after a nearly six-hour-long rescue operation that

continued till midnight, and five people were rescued, they said. Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), police and the fire department removed debris that fell on the victims after the building collapsed as a result of heavy rain that continued to batter the region, the police said. The victims were identified as Kesharben Kanjarja (65), Pritiben Kanjarja (15) and Payalben Kanjarja (18). Five others who were trapped in the debris were rescued by the locals,

the police said, adding that the bodies of the deceased were sent to a government hospital for post-mortem. Saurashtra and south Gujarat districts continued to receive heavy rain, inundating low-lying areas as dams overflowed and monsoon rivers swelled beyond their danger marks, officials said. In the 24 hours ending 6 am on Wednesday, Umarpada taluka in Surat district received 276 mm rainfall. Heavy rain also bat-

tered Navsari, Junagadh, Devbhumi Dwarka, Kutch, Dangs and Tapi districts, causing flooding in low-lying areas, they said. Administrations in the affected districts issued an advisory for people, asking them not to step out unless necessary and not to try crossing overflowing causeways. The Navsari collector has ordered the educational institutes in the district to remain shut on Wednesday in view of heavy rain.

## Kharge recalls 'groundbreaking' 1991 budget, says there's pressing need for meaningful reforms

NEW DELHI, Jul 24 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday said his party takes immense pride in the groundbreaking achievement of the Liberalisation Budget of 1991 and asserted that there is a pressing need once again for meaningful and robust second-generation reforms. In a post on X, Kharge said July 1991 marked a watershed moment in India's history as the Liberalisation Budget, spearheaded by then Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, ushered in a new era of economic reforms. This visionary move revolutionised the country, empowering the middle class and uplifting millions from poverty and marginalisation, he said.



"The Congress party takes immense pride in this groundbreaking achievement, which catalysed India's growth trajectory and continues to inspire progress and prosperity," Kharge said. "Today, once again, there is a pressing need for meaningful, robust second generation reforms, which help both the middle class and the deprived," he said. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said that today, 33 years ago, then

Finance Minister Manmohan Singh presented his first Budget that took India into a whole new world. "Today, 33 years ago, was also the day when the New Industrial Policy was unveiled, which catalysed the economic transformation of India anchored in the philosophy of Continuity with Change. I have written of the events of July 24th 1991 and the background to them in To the Brink and Back: India's 1991 Story," Ramesh said in a post on X.

## Supreme Court Advises "Neutral Umpire" For Shambhu Border Blockade Fix

NEW DELHI, Jul 24 (Agencies): There is a trust deficit between farmers protesting at the Punjab-Haryana border and the government, and the latter must take steps to reach out, the Supreme Court said today. The court was hearing matters related to the farmers' protest and the blockade at Shambhu border. "You have to take some steps to reach out to farmers. Why would they otherwise want to come to Delhi? You are sending ministers from here and despite their best intentions, there is a trust deficit. They will think you are only talking about self-interest and ignoring local issues. Why don't you send a neutral umpire?" the bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan asked. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Haryana gov-



ernment, said the state has no problem with the farmers' march to Delhi. "But coming with tanks, JCBs (excavators) causes friction. Earlier, it was on the pretext of farm laws," he said, referring to the farmers' protest in 2020-21 that forced the Centre to roll back three farm laws. The Haryana government has challenged in the Supreme Court a high court order to remove barricades at Shambhu border within a week. The barricades were put in place this February after sev-

eral farmers' outfits announced a march to Delhi to press for several demands, including a legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price for crops. The border crossing also saw clashes between the protesting farmers and security personnel blocking their way. The Supreme Court said the highway cannot remain blocked for days. The Solicitor General said he is only seeking a pause on the high court direction to Haryana. "Even as a welfare state, we cannot afford

untoward things when dealing with sensitive matters. These are prohibited only on national highway. No Act permits. MV (Motor Vehicles) Act prohibits," he said. When the court asked if there is a prohibition on excavators and tractors crossing the border, the Solicitor General replied, "JCBs are converted into virtual war tanks. I am saying this with a sense of responsibility. Armoured vehicles, we have photographs." Punjab's Attorney General Gurminder Singh said the highway blockade has huge ramifications for the state's economy. The Supreme Court then proposed a committee to reach out to the farmers and build consensus between them, Haryana government and the Centre. The committee, the court said, is to "get their viewpoints, know and

tell them where they are right and wrong". "We do not want a fight between Punjab and Haryana," the court said. In its order, the bench wrote, "We have impressed upon them to have instructions re: constitution of some independent committee comprising such eminent persons who can reach out to farmers and other stakeholders in order to find out viable solution to their demands that can be fair, just and in the interests of one and all." The court directed that appropriate instructions be taken within a week and asked all parties to maintain a status quo till then to prevent any flare-up. "Both the States will also discuss on and take steps to remove the barricades in a phased manner so as not to inconvenience the public," the order added.

## Hundreds relocated as heavy rains batter south, central Gujarat districts; trains affected

AHMEDABAD, Jul 24 (Agencies): Hundreds of people were evacuated after swollen rivers and overflowing dams cut off several villages and inundated low-lying areas in many parts of Gujarat amid torrential downpours on Wednesday, officials said. Normal life was thrown out of gear as heavy rains pounded the south and central Gujarat districts like Surat, Bharuch and Anand since morning, prompting the authorities to declare a holiday for schools and colleges in some places, they said. Train services were also affected in some areas. The administration in the rain-battered dis-

tricts deployed personnel from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and local fire teams to rescue people from flooded areas and relocate them to safe places. Borsad taluka in Anand district received 314 mm of rainfall in just 4 hours since 8 am, State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) data showed. Around 400 persons were shifted to safer places after low-lying areas were flooded, officials said. Anand Collector Praveen Chaudhary said an NDRF team was pressed into service and the administration was working to rescue

stranded people. Heavy rains that hit Surat on Tuesday flooded the city and cut off several villages, necessitating relocation of around 200 persons, officials said. The administration in Bharuch and Navsari announced a holiday for educational institutes due to heavy rains. A team of NDRF personnel rushed to Limbada in Mangrol taluka of Surat district to rescue stranded people, an official said. As many as 132 roads in the district were blocked as a precautionary measure. Umarpada (276 mm), Palsana (250), Kamej (208) and Bardoli (202) in the Surat district were worst affected in

24 hours ending at 6 am on Wednesday, SEOC data showed. "Since 4 am, Bharuch district received very heavy rainfall, especially in talukas of Hansot, Jhagadia, Valia and Netrang, and Ankleshwar. After 8 am also, Jambusar in the district received very heavy rainfall," Bharuch Collector Tushar Sumera said. Due to heavy rains, he said, the district administration has declared a holiday for all educational institutions. "Our teams are keeping a close eye on waterlogging in Bharuch city... By and large, the situation is under control," he said. The administration in

## "Rs 10 Lakh Fine, Prison Term": Bihar Assembly Passes Anti-Paper Leak Bill



PATNA, Jul 24 (Agencies): The Bihar assembly on Wednesday passed a bill aimed at curbing the scourge of question paper leaks and other malpractices in government recruitment examinations in the state. The Bihar Public Examinations (PE) (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, was tabled by state Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary and passed with voice vote amidst a

walkout by the opposition. The new legislation aims at curbing malpractices in competitive examinations, including the leak of question papers, in the state which, incidentally, has been at the centre of the NEET 2024 question paper leak controversy. The Bill stipulates severe punishment for those involved in such malpractices, including a prison term of three to five years and a fine of 10 lakh.

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## Bangladesh partially restores telecom services after deadly job quota protests

DHAKA, Jul 24 (Agencies): Bangladesh partially restored telecommunication services on Wednesday although internet connection was slow and social media remained suspended, days after deadly protests against reservations for government jobs killed almost 150 people.

The country has mostly been calm since Sunday when the Supreme Court scaled down reservations for various categories to 7%, overruling a high court verdict reinstating a 56% quota in government jobs that had been scrapped in 2018.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government said on Tuesday that it would heed the Supreme Court ruling.

As demonstrations against the quotas - which included a 30%



reservation for family members of freedom fighters from the 1971 war of independence from Pakistan - tapered off, the government started easing the curfew imposed last week.

Restrictions will be relaxed for seven hours on Wednesday and offices will also be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., officials said.

Residents of the capital Dhaka could be seen

out on the streets on Wednesday morning as they made their way to their offices, with public buses also plying in some places - in sharp contrast to the violent clashes in the city last week.

Protesting students have given the government a fresh 48-hour ultimatum to fulfil four other conditions of an eight-point list of demands, and said they will announce next

steps once that ends on Thursday.

"We want the government to meet our four-point demand, including restoration of internet, withdrawal of police from campuses, and opening universities (which have been closed for a week)," protest coordinator Nahid Islam said.

The South Asian nation of 170 million was rocked by protests since the high court verdict last month, which

left less than half of state jobs open on merit in a country where about 32 million young people are out of work or education.

Demonstrations intensified after Hasina refused to meet the protesters' demands and instead labelled them "razakar" - a term used for those who collaborated with the Pakistani army during the war.

Hasina this week blamed her political opponents for the violence and said the curfew would be lifted "whenever the situation gets better".

The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party has denied any role in the violence.

Several countries in the region have evacuated citizens from the violence-hit nation over the last few days, including India and Malaysia.

## Russia, Kyrgyzstan ink radioactive decontamination deal



BISHKEK, Jul 24 (Agencies): Kyrgyzstan ratified an agreement with Russia on Wednesday for the mass decontamination of radioactive areas that pose a threat to the local population.

The mountainous central Asian country, a former Soviet republic, is still suffering the environment consequences of uranium and other heavy

metals mining during the Soviet era.

Ninety-two sites contain more than 300 million cubic metres (10.5 billion cubic feet) of toxic and radioactive waste.

"The agreement between the Kyrgyz and Russian governments to cooperate in the rehabilitation of territories in Kyrgyzstan affected by uranium extraction and

the mining industry has been ratified," President Sadyr Japarov's office said in a statement.

The agreement aims to "ensure the safety of the population living in areas where there is waste from former uranium mines."

Without decontamination, natural disasters like landslides -- which are frequent in the region -- could send the waste spilling into rivers that traverse the entire Central Asian region, potentially contaminating millions.

Russian state-run nuclear giant Rosatom is also running nuclear waste decontamination efforts in neighbouring ex-Soviet countries Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, while the EU and World Bank have allocated funds to help restoration efforts.

## Elon Musk's Starlink satellite internet service activated at Gaza hospital

DUBAI, Jul 24 (Agencies): Elon Musk's Starlink satellite internet service has been activated in a hospital in the Gaza Strip with the help of the United Arab Emirates and Israel, the SpaceX chief executive said.

The Gulf Arab state's foreign minister, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, thanked the billionaire entrepreneur for supporting the UAE field hospital in Gaza, where many medical facilities have been destroyed in over nine months of war.

"Starlink is now active in a Gaza hospital with the support of @UAE-mediaoffice and @Israel," Musk posted on X, more than five months after the Israeli government approved Starlink's use in the hospital in the southern Gaza city of Rafah.

The high-speed internet will enable potentially life-saving medical consultations via real-time video calling, the



UAE foreign ministry said in February.

Internet connectivity in Gaza is poor because of the lack of power and fuel to operate provider centres.

This makes it harder for medical staff and rescue teams to work, and restricts hospital services and the health ministry's centralised system.

The UAE, an oil producer and regional financier and tourism hub, signed a deal normalising ties with Israel in 2020 along with

Bahrain and Morocco. Sudan later also sealed a normalisation agreement with Israel.

The Gaza war began when Hamas-led fighters attacked Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking over 250 hostages back to the Palestinian enclave, according to Israeli tallies.

Israel responded with an offensive that has killed more than 39,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry, and devastated much of the coastal territory.

## China FM Wang hosts Ukraine counterpart Kuleba; discusses peace plans

BEIJING, Jul 24 (Agencies): Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi hosted his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba in southern China on Wednesday, with both sides calling for peace as Russia's war grinds on against its neighbour.

China presents itself as a neutral party in the war and says it is not sending lethal assistance to either side, unlike the United States and other Western nations.

But China is a close political and economic ally of Russia, and NATO members have branded Beijing a "decisive enabler" of the war.

Beijing's foreign ministry said the pair held talks in the city of Guangzhou, with spokeswoman Mao Ning telling journalists they "exchanged views on the Ukraine crisis".

"Although the conditions and timing are not yet mature, we support all efforts that contrib-



ute to peace and are willing to continue to play a constructive role for a ceasefire and the resumption of peace talks," she said.

"China has always been firmly committed to promoting a political solution to the crisis," she added.

In a statement, Kuleba said Ukraine "also wants to follow the path of peace, recovery, and development".

"I am convinced that these are the strategic priorities that we share," he said, adding "Russian aggression has destroyed peace and slowed down development".

Kuleba is the first

senior Ukrainian official to visit China since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

His trip is scheduled to last until Friday.

"Political settlement" China has sought to paint itself as a mediator in the war, sending envoy Li Hui to Europe on multiple rounds of "shuttle diplomacy".

President Xi Jinping told Hungary's Viktor Orban this month that world powers should help Russia and Ukraine restart direct negotiations.

Orban's visit to Beijing was branded as a "peace mission". China also released a paper last year calling for a

"political settlement" to the conflict.

However, it was criticised by Western countries for enabling Russia to retain much of the territory it has seized in Ukraine.

Beijing has rebuffed claims it is supporting Russia's war effort, insisting last week that its position was "open and above board" and accusing the West of fuelling the conflict through arms shipments to Kyiv.

China did not attend a peace summit in Switzerland last month in protest against Moscow not being invited.

"Extract a price" Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called during that summit for Beijing to engage seriously with developing peace proposals.

Kuleba said on arrival in China Tuesday that "we must avoid competition between peace plans."

And he urged China

to "look at relations with our country through the prism of its strategic relations with Europe".

Alexander Gabuev, director of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center, told AFP that Kyiv was likely to seek this week to "convince China that it should participate in a second peace summit".

"Beijing can try to extract a price, even for sending somebody like special envoy ambassador Li Hui," he said.

China has offered a critical lifeline to Russia's isolated economy since the conflict began. But that economic partnership has come under close scrutiny from the West in recent months, with Washington vowing to go after financial institutions that facilitate Moscow's war effort.

The United States and Europe have also accused China of selling components and equipment necessary to keep Russia's military production afloat.

## New Zealand to apologise after enquiry finds children, adults abused in care

WELLINGTON, Jul 24 (Agencies): New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon expressed regret on Wednesday after a public enquiry found some 200,000 children, young people and vulnerable adults were abused in state and religious care over the last 70 years.

Nearly one in three children and vulnerable adults in care from 1950 to 2019 experienced some form of abuse, the report found, a finding that could leave the government facing billions of dollars in fresh compensation claims.

"This is a dark and sorrowful day in New Zealand's history as a society and as a state, we should have done better, and I am determined that we will do so," Luxon told a news conference.

An official apology will follow on November 12, he added.

The inquiry detailed a litany of abuses in state and faith-based care, including rape, sterilisation and electric shocks, which peaked in the 1970s.

Those from the Indigenous Maori community were especially vulnerable to abuse, the report found, as well as those with mental or physical disabilities.

Civil and faith leaders fought to cover up abuse by moving abusers to other locations and denying culpability, with many victims dying before seeing justice, the report added.

"It is a national disgrace that hundreds of thousands of children, young people and adults were abused and neglected in the care of the State and faith-based institutions," the report said.

It made 138 recommendations, including calling for public apologies from New Zealand's government, as well as the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury, heads of the Catholic and Anglican churches respectively, who have



previously condemned child abuse.

It also called for the government to set up a Care Safe Agency responsible for overseeing the industry, as well new legislation including mandatory reporting of suspected abuse, including admissions made during religious confession.

The report estimated the average lifetime cost to an abuse survivor, that is what New Zealanders would consider normal, day-to-day activities, was estimated in 2020 to be approximately NZ\$857,000 (\$511,200.50) per person, though the report did not make clear the amount of compensation available for survivors.

Luxon said he believed

the total compensation due to survivors could run into billions of dollars.

"We're opening up the redress conversations and we're going through that work with survivor groups," he said.

The inquiry also recommended payments to families who have been cared for by survivors of abuse due to the intergenerational trauma they suffered, as well as review of compensation paid in previous child abuse cases including at the state-run Lake Alice adolescent unit.

"The most important element is to recognise and acknowledge the survivors for the reality and the truth of their lives," said Tracey McIntosh, a sociologist at the University of Auckland.

## Trash dropped by North Korean balloon falls on South Korea's presidential compound

SEOUL, Jul 24 (Agencies): Trash from at least one North Korean balloon fell on the South Korean presidential compound on Wednesday, raising worries about the security of key South Korean facilities from North Korean provocations.

The rubbish that fell on the ground at the compound in central Seoul contained no dangerous material and no one was hurt, South Korea's presidential security service said in a statement. But experts say South Korea needs to shoot incoming North Korean balloons at border areas next time, as it's not clear whether North Korea would put in hazardous items in future campaigns.

North Korea's latest balloon launches came days after South Korea booted its frontline broadcasts of K-pop songs and propaganda messages across the rivals' heavily armed border. Their tit-for-tat cold war-style campaigns are inflaming tensions, with the rivals



threatening stronger steps and warning of grave consequences.

Seoul officials earlier said North Korea had used the direction of winds to fly balloons toward South Korea, but some of the past balloons had timers that were likely meant to pop the bags of trash mid-air. The security service gave no further details about the rubbish found at the presidential compound, like whether balloons were discovered along with the trash.

If North Korea is found to have used timers or any other device to deliberately dump trash on key South Korean facilities like the presidential office, it would certainly invite strong response by South

Korea. But experts say dropping balloons at ground targets is extremely sophisticated technology and that North Korea would certainly lack such an ability.

The security service refused to disclose whether President Yoon Suk Yeol was in the office at the time. Yoon's office earlier said he has no official schedule on Wednesday.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said earlier on Wednesday that North Korean balloons were flying north of Seoul after crossing the border and had urged people to be alert for falling objects.

It was North Korea's 10th such launch since late May. More than

2,000 huge balloons so far have dropped waste-paper, scraps of cloth, cigarette butts and even manure on South Korea. North Korea has said it was responding to South Korean activists scattering political leaflets across the border via their own balloons.

Experts say North Korea considers South Korean civilian leafletting activities a major threat to its efforts to stop the inflow of foreign news and maintain its authoritarian rule. In furious responses to past South Korean leafletting, North Korea destroyed an empty South Korean-built liaison office in its territory in 2020 and fired at incoming balloons in 2014.

The North's balloons haven't caused major damage but have raised security jitters among people worried North Korea could use such balloons to drop more hazardous materials like chemical and biological agents.

## Many youth join JD(U)

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, July 24: Janata Dal (United) State President G M Shaheen & State General Secretary Vivek Bali said we are pleased to announce that numerous enthusiastic and dedicated youth have officially joined the Janata Dal (United) party. This significant event marks a milestone in our continued efforts to involve young, dynamic individuals in shaping the future of our region and country.

The youth, driven by a shared vision of progress and development, have chosen to align themselves with the JD(U), recognizing our



commitment to inclusive growth, social justice, and transparent governance. Their decision to join our ranks is a testament to the trust and confidence they place in our leadership and our vision for a better tomorrow.

Our party president, G M Shaheen & Party General Secretary Vivek Bali, welcomed the new members with

open arms, expressing his optimism about the fresh energy and innovative ideas they bring. He emphasized the importance of youth involvement in politics and governance, highlighting that their active participation is crucial for the sustainable development of our society.

"We are thrilled to see so many young individu-

als stepping forward to be a part of our journey. Their enthusiasm and fresh perspectives will undoubtedly strengthen our party and help us achieve our goals for the people of Jammu and Kashmir," said G M Shaheen.

The joining program was held with great enthusiasm, and it was heartening to witness the passion and com-

mitment of these young members towards serving the community and contributing to the welfare of the state.

The JD(U) party continues to stand for the principles of democracy, equity, and progress. We believe that with the support and active participation of the youth, we can drive significant positive change and work towards a brighter future for all.

Those present in the joining are Party President G M Shaheen, Party General Secretary Vivek Bali, State General Secretary Dr Ayub mattoo, Youth President Amjid Rizvi, Sr leader Gulshan Sanotra & other leaders.

## All Party Action Committee formed, will stage protest on August 3

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 24: A protest will be held in Jammu on August 3 under the banner of All Party United Front demanding restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir along with rolling back the amendments under section 55 of the Reorganization Act, 2019.

With this, a core and action committee was unanimously formed in the all-party meetings held in Jammu on Wednesday.

Sheikh Abdul Rehman was appointed as Chairman while ID Khajuria and Shiv Sena (UBT) State Chief Manish Sahni were appointed as Convenors while Narendra Gupta (Congress), Varinder Singh (PDP), Vijay Lochan (NC), Shahid Salim (Peace Alliance), Sunny Kant Chimb (HRC), Nirmal Mahana (AAP), Naren-



dra Singh Khalsa, Comrade Sukhdev, Subhash Mehta (CPI-M), RK Kalsotra, Sanjeev Kohli were appointed as Co-Convenors.

Addressing the media persons after the meeting, Manish Sahni said that the definition of democracy has been changed during the BJP rule.

BJP's greed for power is proving fatal for the identity of Jammu and Kashmir and the democratic rights of the people. Sahni said that the amendments issued on July 12 under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act are a violation of our democratic rights.

He said that even before the formation of the Legislative Assembly, the jurisdiction of the nominated Lieutenant Governor is being increased by reducing the jurisdiction of the Legislative Assembly which is not in the interest of any democratic country or state.

Sahni said that the movement will be started from August 3 regarding the above demands.

Today's meeting was attended by Mohan Lal Raina, Shivraj Singh Samayal, Safir Chaudhary, Prof. GK Mujhu, Kuldeep Singh, Narendra Khajuria, Gitan Singh along with members of the core committee.

## All Women Motorbike Rally on Kargil Vijay Diwas

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, July 24: The 1999 Kargil War was one of the valiant wars fought by the Indian Armed Forces in extremely inhospitable high altitude terrain of Jammu & Kashmir. The bravery of our Armed Forces against extreme odds and the sacrifices made by them continue to serve as a source of inspiration to the Nation as a whole even today. This decisive victory is celebrated as the Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26 July every year to rekindle the pride and valour of the soldiers who took part in Op Vijay against Pakistan. This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Kargil War and a host of events have been planned as a run up to the main event of Rajat Mahotsav of Kargil Vijay

Diwas to be celebrated on 26th July 2024.

One such event organised under the aegis of Headquarters Uniform Force was an 'All Women Motorbike Rally' planned from Leh to Kargil through the challenging terrain of Ladakh across Khardung La and Umling La, world's two highest motorable passes. This has been a befitting tribute to the indomitable spirit of the Indian Soldier and a salute to the Nari Shakti, which has broken the stereotypes of male domination in adventure activities and has showcased the unparalleled determination, fearlessness, valour, commitment & devotion of women in the Indian Armed Forces.

The Rally team comprised of 25 experienced women riders on pan India basis mainly consisting of Military Spous-

es, Serving Women Officers and Other Ranks. The rally was conducted over a period of 16 days commencing from Leh War Memorial and culminated at Kargil War Memorial. Reroute, the riders paid homage to bravehearts at five major memorials in Ladakh viz Hall of Fame (Leh), Siachen War Memorial, Rezang La War Memorial (Chushul), Trishul War Memorial (Karu) and Kargil War Memorial. In addition, the women riders also had the opportunity of crossing Khardung La (18,380 feet) and Culming La (19,300 feet) being world's two highest motor able passes. Various civil agencies joined hands with Indian Army in organising the bike rally showcasing their unparalleled reverence for the brave hearts of Kargil War.

## GDC R S PURA inagaurates week long celebrations of Kargil Vijay Diwas 2024

Top News Report

R S PURA, July 24: On eve of week long celebration of Kargil Vijay Diwas 2024, the NCC cadets of inaugurated series of events under the guidance of Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour and coordinated under ANO Boys Dr. Rakesh Choudhary and Girls Dr. Roopali Slathia of the college.

The series of events started with the screening of Indo-Pak Kargil Vijay Diwas Documentary in the college to observe India's victory over Pakistan in the Kargil War in which the Pakistani forces were ousted from the occupied mountain peaks of northern Kargil Distt. in Ladakh in 1999.

This programme was organised under the banner of IQAC of the college. The college also organised "Unity Run" to commemorate the Vijay Diwas on account of fallen heroes of the land. In this Unity-Run, 50 cadets (both Boys & Girls) participated along with faculty members.

The Unity-Run was flagged off by Principal, Prof.(Dr.) Preetpal Kour and motivated the cadets to join arm forces and contribute towards the Nation.

The other faculty members who were present Dr. Savtanter Kour, Dr. Kiran Pathania, Prof. Jugal Kishore, Prof. Shelly Kalsi, Prof. Neelam Kumar, Prof. Meeshu Pandita, Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch and Dr. Rakesh Kalotra.

## Strength of BJP lies in its workers : Manhas

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 24: Former Member Parliament (Rajya Sabha) & Ex State President, Bharatiya Janata Party Jammu and Kashmir Shamsheer Singh Manhas said "fundamental strength of the BJP is its workers" and urged party workers belonging to the party to take work towards solving social problems in their respective areas. Manhas said "A worker is a party post (in BJP) who always remains with us."

Manhas underlined importance of "collective responsibility" for the development of villages and districts in our country. "We believe in organisa-

tion, we believe in values, we believe in dedication and we move forward with collective responsibility with the values of collectiveness and continuously increasing our ability and our skills for the responsibility given to us. Development should happen both at the individual and the region level," the former MP stated.

Suraj Padha said PM Modi has "changed the political culture within the party and also the politics of India. Today, people are working with the feeling that how the person standing at the last rung of the society can get strength and how we can serve them". Sukhdev Singh Jamwal

said we should reach out to marginalised sections without worrying about votes — with only couple of months to go for the assembly election.

Bimla Padha said BJP is not just a political movement anymore since it has evolved into a social movement. "Every moment of our life and every ounce of our hard work should be spent serving the people."

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion were Brij Sharma, Hans Raj Manhas, Swarn Singh, Kuldeep Chib, Mohinder Bhagat, Ved Parkash, Kewal Sharma, Dian Singh, Sushma Manhas, Darshna Devi and Rekha Manhas.

## FROM PAGE 1

### INDIA Bloc MPs protest over 'Discrimination' against opposition-ruled States in Union Budget

protested against NDA's 'Kursi Bachao Budget' in Parliament House premises.

"This budget is an assault on the sanctity of India's federal structure — in the greed for power, other states of the country have been neglected and discriminated against. INDIA bloc will continue to raise its voice to provide equal justice to every state of India," Gandhi said in his post on WhatsApp channel in Hindi.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav said his state Uttar Pradesh has been discriminated against. They snatched away jobs and are now talking of apprenticeships, he said.

Congress MP Sonia Gandhi with Jaya Bachchan during an Opposition's protest inside Parliament premises claiming discrimination in Union Budget 2024 during the Monsoon session, in New Delhi

SP MP Jaya Bachchan also slammed the budget, saying youth have been given false promises.

The protesting MPs raised placards such as 'We want India budget not NDA budget' and 'NDA betrays India in Budget'.

"Yesterday, through the budget, the government of India violated all the principles to keep the federal system," Congress general secretary, organisation, K C Venugopal, said.

"The aim of the budget was to protect the government. Giving so many sops to just two states. We are not against giving funds to Andhra Pradesh and Bihar but other states should also get justice. That is why we are agitating today. Even the people are agitated with this," he said.

The decision to protest had been taken at a meeting of floor leaders of INDIA bloc parties at the 10 Rajaji Marg residence of the Congress president on Tuesday evening.

Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Congress' deputy leader in Rajya Sabha Pramod Tiwari, Congress' deputy leader in Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi, NCP (SCP) chief Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut, TMC leaders Derek O'Brien and Kalyan Banerjee, DMK's T R Baalu, JMM's Mahua Maji, AAP's Raghav Chadha and Sanjay Singh, and CPI(M)'s John Brittas, among others, had attended the meeting.

"The concept of a budget has already been destroyed by this year's Union Budget. They have completely discriminated against most of the states. So the general sentiment of the INDIA bloc meeting was that we have to protest against this," Venugopal had told reporters after the meeting.

Later, in a post on X, Venugopal had said, "The Union Budget presented today was extremely discriminatory and dangerous, which completely goes against the principles

of federalism and fairness that the Union Government must follow."

In protest, Congress chief ministers will be boycotting the NITI Aayog meeting scheduled for July 27.

"This Government's attitude is completely antithetical to Constitutional principles. We will not participate in an event that is solely designed to hide the true, discriminatory colours of this regime," he had said.

### Some people can't digest peace in J&K: Lieutenant Governor

are trying to disturb the peaceful atmosphere in J&K."

About the present tabled in the Parliament by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for J&K, LG said that the budget is holistic and covers all sectors of J&K including tourism. "It is aimed at addressing J&K's concerns and promoting organic farming to protect the environment. It also aims at opening new livelihood opportunities for Youth," he said.

### Soldier martyred, terrorist killed in encounter in Kupwara

regarding presence of terrorists in general area Kowat, Kupwara, a Joint Search Operation was launched by #IndianArmy and @JmukmrPolice on days leading up to 23 July 24," the Srinagar-based Chinar Corps posted on X.

It said suspicious movements were noticed on Tuesday and the suspects were challenged by vigilant troops. In response, the terrorists opened indiscriminate fire, leading to a gunbattle.

"In the ensuing fire fight one terrorist has been eliminated and a NCO injured. Operation is in progress," the Army added on the microblogging platform.

The officials said the injured soldier later succumbed to his injuries.

### 18 killed as plane crashes during takeoff at Kathmandu Airport

The crash took place when the aircraft veered off the runway and burst into flames.

Footage from the spot showed dramatic scenes of the plane speeding down the runway before a fire broke out with high flames and thick black smoke billowing from the wreckage.

At least 19 people, including aircrew, were aboard the private Saurya Airlines plane which met with the accident at around 11 am, sources said.

The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported that 18 bodies have been recovered from the crash site.

"The accident occurred after the Pokhara-bound flight suffered a runway excursion during takeoff," said TIA Spokesperson Subash Jha.

The Himalayan Times newspaper reported that the plane was only carrying technical staff of the airline. "There were no passengers on board but the plane was carrying few technical staff," Gyanendra Bhul, information officer at the TIA, said.

The pilot of the aircraft has been taken to a hospital, a security official deployed at the airport told PTI without giving further details.

A fire that broke out from the aircraft has been put off, he added. Police and firefighters are carrying out rescue operations at the accident site.

Authorities have shut down the TIA following the plane crash, the MyRepublica news portal reported. Dozens of international and domestic flights have been affected due to the airport closure.

### J&K likely to receive intermittent rain spells till Aug 3, says MeT

and thundershower at many places may occur.

The official said from August 1st to 3rd intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershower at many places of J&K may take place.

The official in an advisory said that intense showers for brief period with possibility of landslides, mudslides and shooting stones over few vulnerable places of Jammu division may occur.

He added that hot and humid weather conditions will prevail over Kashmir division till July 26.

### 49 rounds of ammunition recovered from well in Samba

the Bain Galad border village, they said. They informed the police and the BSF, which took custody of the ammunition and started investigation into it.

### Kargil District Magistrate bans drone usage during Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations

Kargil of District Kargil shall be "No Flying Zone" for the purpose of flying of drones and ban Unmanned Aerial Vehicles as well as declare said area to be "Red Zone" under the Drone Rules 2021, from 24" July 2024 up to 26h July 2024.

The order shall not be applicable to security agencies including police, paramilitary, and SPG as well as defense forces.

In view of the emergent situation and shortage of time, this order is being passed exparte and is being addressed to the public in general.

This order shall be promulgated throughout

the revenue limits of sub division Drass and Kargil Tehsil, through publicity by Information and Public Relations Department Kargil uploading it on the district website, through print/ digital/ Social media and by affixing copies of this order on the notice board of district, sub division Drass and Tehsil Kargil offices as well as other public places.

The Sr. Superintendent of Police, Kargil shall be responsible for the compliance of above order.

Any person found guilty of a violation shall be prosecuted and punished as per the provisions of the Law.

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### Amarnath Yatra 2024 | 2,900 pilgrims leave Jammu for Cave Shrine

cave shrine, as compared to the over 4.5 lakh last year.

The 27th batch of 2,907 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here at 3:40 am in 103 vehicles under Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) escort.

The group included 2,194 men, 598 women, 11 children and 104 sadhus and sadhvis.

Of them, 1,773 pilgrims have opted for the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route, while 1,134 have chosen the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route, the officials said.

Since June 28, when Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch of pilgrims from Jammu, a total of 1,28,404 pilgrims have embarked on the annual pilgrimage from the base camp here.

The 52-day yatra, which commenced formally on June 29 from the Baltal and Pahalgam base camps in Kashmir, is scheduled to conclude on August 19.

### Gold prices fall by Rs 3,350, first in many years

Silver declined by Rs 6,900 in the past five sessions since July 18, when it had fallen by Rs 400 to end at Rs 94,000 per kg.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures plunged Rs 3,860 or 5.31 per cent to trade at Rs 68,858 per 10 grams.

The most traded August contract hit a four-month low of Rs 68,500 per 10 grams on the MCX.

Further, silver contracts for September delivery were quoted lower by Rs 4,018 or 4.5 per cent to Rs 85,185 per kg on the exchange.

"In the budget, the FM announced a reduction on basic customs duty on gold and silver from 10 per cent to 6 per cent. Adding 5 per cent AIDC (Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess), which remains unchanged, the total import duty on gold and silver is reduced from 15 per cent to 11 per cent now.

"As a result, the price of gold reacted lower in MCX as the market prices in the lower import duty gap of 4 per cent," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst of Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said.

According to Anindya Banerjee, SVP — Head of Research of Currency, Commodity & Interest Rates at Kotak Securities, MCX gold and silver prices faced significant selling pressure following a reduction in basic customs duty from 10 per cent to 5 per cent, and a decrease in AIDC from 5 per cent to 1 per cent, resulting in a total import duty of 6 per cent.

This move has led to a sharp decline in prices, Banerjee added.

On Tuesday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also said securities transaction tax (STT) will be increased on futures and options (F&O) trade from October 1 to discourage retail investors from investing in the risky instrument.

The measure was to allay concerns about hyperactive interest in the F&O segment.

In the international markets, Comex gold was trading at USD 2,459.20 per ounce, up by USD 17.10 per ounce against the previous close.

Globally, gold remained stable due to mixed fundamentals, while traders awaited further cues on the US macro front before placing fresh bets, Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

However, silver was trading flat at USD 29.31 per ounce in New York.

According to commodity market experts, gold prices increased on Tuesday, driven by a decline in US dollar and Treasury yields as traders awaited upcoming US economic data and Federal Reserve comments for clues on interest rate cuts.

"The market is eyeing US GDP data on Thursday and Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) price index data on Friday. Traders are anticipating a rate cut by Fed in September, which would lower the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion. "Last week, gold prices reached an all-time high on increased expectations of U.S. interest rate cuts," Prathamesh Malloya, DVP-Research, Non-Agri Commodities and Currencies at Angel One, said.

In the budget 2024-25 on Tuesday, the government slashed customs duties on a range of products, including gold and silver.

The basic customs duty on coins of precious metals, gold/silver findings, and gold and silver bars was reduced to 6 per cent from 15 per cent. It was cut to 5.35 per cent from 14.35 per cent for gold and silver dore.

### Over 1 crore tourists visited J&K till June this year: Govt

Policy 2020 and status of industry to the tourism sector for availing incentives under the Jammu and Kashmir Industrial Policy 2021," he said.

## Rajat Jayanti Mahotsav on July 26: A Year-Long Tribute To Kargil Heroes

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, July 24: As the nation gears up to celebrate the Rajat Jayanti Mahotsav on 26th July 2024, marking the 25th anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Diwas, the Northern Command and its formations have been commemorating the heroic victory of the Indian Armed Forces in the Kargil War with a series of activities spanning over a year. With overwhelming participation from the people of Jammu and Kashmir, school children, civil dignitaries, and ex-servicemen, the celebrations have been a testament to the nation's gratitude towards the bravehearts who have made supreme sacrifices for the defence of the country. From environment-friendly initiatives like tree plantation drives to motivational lectures, quizzes, and painting competitions for school children, the events have aimed to inspire the present generation and also to pay tribute to the veer naris and next of kins (NOKs) of the bravehearts.

In a remarkable display of national unity and solidarity, nationwide motorcycle and car rallies were organized as part of the celebrations. The rallies, which included the Indian Army's motorcycle rally, as well as those organized



by corporate partners like Mahindra & Mahindra, Harley Davidson, and TVS Motors started from different parts of the country, including Dinjan & Kibithu (in East), Kochi & Dhanushkodi (in South), and Tanot & Dwarka (in West). The Mahindra car rally starting from different corners of the country, converged at the National War Memorial in Delhi and then proceeded to the Kargil War Memorial in Leh, symbolizing the nation's unwavering support for its brave soldiers. The Motorcycle Rallies were ceremoniously flagged off by senior military dignitaries including General Upendra Dwivedi, PVSM, AVSM then Vice Chief of Army Staff, from the National War Memorial in New Delhi, and Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, YSM\*\*, VSM GOC-in-C, Northern Command, from Udhampur. The rallies also included an all-women motorcycle rally and the Ice and Steel Cycling Expedition. The

rally participants interacted with general public enroute and collected messages for the soldiers on the frontlines, mobilizing national sentiments and reinforcing the bond between the nation and its armed forces.

The significance of this milestone is accentuated by a series of events planned to honour the bravery and sacrifice of the soldiers. The events organised at various military stations honoured the NOKs of bravehearts who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Veer naris and family members of bravehearts were special guests at various events, including the Kargil veteran interaction with school children at Shahidgarh war memorial, the Sarhad Shauryathon at Zozila war memorial and the wreath-laying ceremony. These events provided a platform for the nation to express its gratitude and solidarity with the families of the fallen heroes. The felicitation of veer naris was a poignant reminder

that the nation stands with them, and their sacrifices will never be forgotten. By involving the next of kin in these celebrations, Indian Army reaffirmed its commitment of supporting the families of its bravehearts and ensuring that their legacy lives on.

As a run-up to the grand KVD Rajat Jayanti celebrations at the Kargil War Memorial on 25th & 26th July, a series of inspirational events featured living legends of the Kargil War sharing their experiences with the young generation. Keynote speakers included General VP Malik, PVSM, AVSM (Retd), Lt Gen YK Joshi, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd), Brigadier S S Shekhawat, KC, SC, SM, VSM, and Colonel Sonam Wangchuk, MVC (Retd). The presence of Shri Girdhari Lal Batra, father of the Braveheart Capt Vikram Batra, PVC, added fervour to the event. These events aimed to inspire and motivate the younger generation by sharing the stories of courage and valour of the Kargil War heroes, ensuring that their legacy lives on.

Student outreach events were organised to engage with the younger members of society and instill a sense of patriotism. These events included drawing and poster competitions, slogan writing, athletic

events, and village volleyball competition which encouraged teamwork and camaraderie. Additionally, motivational lectures, movie screenings on Kargil War themes, and training sessions on motor mechanics and vehicle repair were conducted to inspire and empower the students. 'Run for Fun' and 'Know Your Armed Forces' events were also conducted at Model School, Sagra, to familiarize the students with the role and sacrifices of the armed forces, fostering a sense of national pride and responsibility among the future generations.

These run-up events to the grand KVD Rajat Jayanti celebrations at the Kargil War Memorial on 25th & 26th July have been a resounding success, inspiring a sense of national pride and gratitude towards the brave hearts who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation. The events have not only honoured the legacy of the Kargil War heroes but also instilled patriotism in the younger generation. As we commemorate the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting the families of our brave soldiers and ensuring that their sacrifices are never forgotten. The nation stands united in its tribute to the Kargil heroes.

## Congress Manifesto Committee invites suggestions from general public

### Committee to tour different areas to meet people: Ravinder

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 24: Congress manifesto committee for Jammu today held its first meeting and decided to seek suggestions & demands from general public and meet cross sections of the society to incorporate their views in the drafting of congress manifesto for Assembly elections.

The meeting was presided over by Ravinder Sharma, Senior Vice President and Chief spokesperson Co-chairman of the Sub-Committee and attended all members including T.S.

Bajwa(Ex-MP), Indu Pawar(Ex-MLA), Shashi Sharma, Suresh Dogra, Satish Sharma, Uday Bhanu Chib, Mohib Khan, Prof. H.R. Sharma and Iqbal Dar. Shri Yash Paul Kundal could not attend.

The meeting decided to seek the co-operation and suggestions of cross section of society in framing the report. The committee shall visit different districts and meet cross sections like farmers, labourers, traders, transporters, working women, youth, students, working class, Rehri/Phadi, temporary daily wagers, cat-

egory employees and all those who issues require special attention.

The committee shall announce the schedule to meet people in different areas in media and also fix dates for meeting delegations at PCC and District HQs.

The people are free to write on following mail id or whatsapp Nos. or meet as per schedule fixed, Ravinder Sharma said.

The congress has decided to frame people's manifesto for assembly elections, as people have lots of hopes from the congress party.

## "Kargil Vijay Diwas" documentary screening at GGM Science College enlightens NCC Cadets

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 24: In commemoration of Kargil Vijay Diwas, GGM Science College hosted a special Screening of a documentary highlighting the valor and sacrifices of our armed forces during the Kargil conflict.

The event, attended by Principal Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, Lt. Dr. Devinder Kumar Sharma, ANO and esteemed faculty Members, aimed to educate and inspire the NCC cadets about the historic significance of the 1999 KARGIL WAR.

The documentary meticulously curated to depict the bravery and determination of our soldiers, captivated the audience with its poignant narrative and gripping visuals. It offered a profound insight into the challenges faced by our armed forces and their unwavering dedication to safeguarding the nation's sovereignty.

Principal Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, emphasizing the importance of such events, remarked, "It is crucial for our youth to understand the sacrifices made by our armed forces. The Kargil conflict stands as a testament to the bravery and resilience of our soldiers, and events like this help instill a sense of patriotism and respect among our students."

The NCC cadets, deeply moved by the documentary named 'Guns and Glory' expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to learn

about the pivotal chapter in India's military history. "Watching the documentary has been a humbling experience. It has inspired us to serve our country with even greater dedication," remarked Cdt. Rajveer Singh, reflecting on the impact of the screening.

The event concluded with vote of thanks by Lt. Dr. Devinder Kumar Sharma and a tribute to the martyrs and a pledge to uphold the ideas of courage and sacrifice demonstrated during the Kargil War. Such initiatives not only honor our heroes but also reinforce the spirit of nationalism and unity among the youth.

The event ends up with slogan "Bharat Mata Ki Ja".

## Dev Raj Sharma conferred Honorary Doctorate Degree

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 24: In a noteworthy event held in New Delhi, the President of the World Culture & Environment Protection Commission conferred an Honorary Doctorate Degree upon Dev Raj Sharma, who currently serves as the National Chairman for Environment.

The ceremony, described as simple yet impressive, recognized Sharma's significant contributions towards environmental conservation and protection of Mother Earth.

Dev Raj Sharma, who previously held the position of Regional President for

the North Region, has amassed a distinguished record of initiatives aimed at safeguarding the environment. His achievements and efforts were highlighted during the ceremony, underscoring his dedication and impact in environmental advocacy.

Accompanied by his wife, Sharma graciously accepted the Doctorate degree, marking a milestone in his career dedicated to environmental stewardship. The event not only celebrated Sharma's personal achievements but also reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to honoring individuals who champion the cause of environmental sustainability.

## PM SHRI KV No. 1 Jammu organizes Regional Sports Meet 2024-25

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 24: KVS Regional Sports Meet 2024-25 started on the Wednesday in different Kendriya Vidyalayas of the Jammu region.

PM SHRI K.V No. 1 Jammu is hosting four events swimming, chess, kabaddi, and skating for u-14, u-17, and u-19 girls. The events will last for 2 days i.e., the 24th and 25th of July.

The inauguration ceremony was held in the Vidyalaya Auditorium to mark the beginning of the sports meet.

The Chief Guest on this occasion was Janab Islam Khan Assistant Commissioner KVS R.O Jammu region.

The programme started with the lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest. Venue Principal Amit Walter presented an eco-friendly green welcome to the Chief Guest Islam Khan Assistant Commissioner KVS R.O Jammu Region.

Melodies of welcome songs by the talented students of PM SHRI KV No. 1, Jammu filled the air with joy.

Islam Khan motivated and blessed the participants from different KVs with his precious words. After his inspiring address to the children, the sports meet was declared open and all the participants along with their escorts proceeded for their events.

In this grand event, about 41 participants along with 18 escorts from 12Kendriya Vidyalayas-KV AFS Awantipura, PM SHRI KVCRRPF Bantalab, PM SHRI KV Kathua, PM SHRI KV Lakhapur, PM SHRI KV1 Jammu, PM SHRI KV2 Jammu, KV Sunjwan, KV Badarwah, KV Hiranagar, KV Jyotipuran, PM SHRI KV Miranshib and KV Samba are participating. With hearts racing and spirits soaring KVS regional sports meet 2024-25 started with great enthusiasm.

## Amish Gupta of DPS Jammu excels in National Handball C'ship - 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 24: Amish Gupta (VIII-G), a student of Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu brought laurels to the institution and his parents by excelling in 38th Sub Junior National Handball Championship (Boys & Girls) 2023-24 held at Gangrar (Chittorgarh), Rajasthan from 7th to 11th, February, 2024.

The championship was



organized by Rajasthan State Handball Association supported by Handball Association India. He had also received participation certificate.

The management DPS Jammu, President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC, Dr. Singh, Director, S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated Namish Gupta and his parents and extended their best wishes for all his future endeavours.

## Manjit Singh seeks restoration of statehood

Top News Report

SAMBA, July 24: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh on Wednesday demanded restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir with all powers to an elected Govt.

As per a press release, the former Minister chaired a meeting with the locals in ward number 9, Doliyan Municipal Committee limits at Bari Brahmana in Samba.

In this meeting, the locals voiced their concern over snatching the powers of an elected Govt and granting these powers to the Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir which will make him more powerful than an elected Govt.

"The people are in anger, and they have strongly opposed the



Union Territory status. Initially, people were assured that the statehood would be restored. However, that demand was not fulfilled even as several years have passed, and the LG continues his Govt in J&K without elections for legislative assembly," said the Former Minister, expressing his anguish over the weakening of a Govt that is yet to be formed after the scheduled polls.

He said that the people are not ready to accept the UT status to the

erstwhile historic state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"J&K has a history that needs to be protected, and its statehood status should be restored. Accordingly, the powers that are granted to the LG J&K are not a justified move," he said questioning the attention of the Central Govt.

He said that the Central Govt has weakened Jammu and Kashmir by granting powers to LG that would always be considered as a stumbling block in the working of an elected Govt.

He said that the elections for legislative assembly in J&K would be meaningless unless statehood is restored and the elected Govt is made overall powerful to take decisions, and order transfers.

Meanwhile, he also expressed his anguish over the harassment of the local youth on the name of illegal mining and seizure of the tractors-trolleys in Samba District.

He demanded that the Govt should not harass the local youth, whose employment or source of earning depend upon the mining.

He also pointed out the favoritism of the administration towards the mining mafia, and allegedly facilitating the mining in the district that needs to be curbed, and the rights of the locals should be promoted.

## Awareness rally to combat drug addiction in Bhalwal in July 26: Mahant Rohit

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 24: Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Institute Trust, has announced plans for an awareness rally aimed at combating drug addiction in Bhalwal, Jammu.

Scheduled to take place on Friday, 26th July at 10 AM, the rally will commence from SD Memorial Higher Secondary School Karwanda and proceed to Government Higher Secondary School Bhalwal, he said.

He added that the primary objective of the rally is to spread awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and advocate for de-addiction within society.

In his press release, Mahant Rohit Shastri emphasized the detrimental effects of drug consumption, includ-



ing health deterioration, social issues such as crime, family breakdowns, and hindrances to children's development. He stressed the importance of large-scale awareness campaigns to effectively address the issue of drug addiction in the community.

The event is part of broader initiatives organized by the trust during Sanskrit Month, a period dedicated to promoting Sanskrit language and culture.

This year's Sanskrit Month celebrations

began with the distribution of five thousand saplings on July 23rd and will feature various significant events leading up to Shriavan Purnima on August 19th.

Notable dignitaries expected to attend the drug de-addiction awareness rally include former Minister Sham Lal Sharma, President of Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association Jammu Vikram Sharma, and SP Rural Jammu Brijesh Sharma.

Mahant Rohit Shastri's efforts reflect a proactive approach to addressing social issues while concurrently promoting cultural heritage through initiatives like Sanskrit Month celebrations.

The rally aims to mobilize community support in combating drug addiction and fostering a healthier, more resilient society in Bhalwal, Jammu.

## Singer Ashok Singh Thakur to release bhajan on Sankri Devta

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 24: Singer Ashok Singh Thakur will soon release a Bhajan 'Mela Baba Sankri De' on Kaith Biradari's tutelary deity: Sankri Dev, revealed Music Director Vicky Kaith to Kaith Biradari members today adding that this bhajan shows gratitude and love for Sankri Devta.

Biradari members Hony Captain Kamal Dass, Havildar Des Raj, Madan Raj, Naresh Kumar, Jagdish Raj and others said that they are very thankful to singer for glorifying Sankri Devta.

R.L.Kaith said, singing or listening to devotional songs removes all negativity in one's mind and fills one's heart with joy, peace and contentment. It elevates one's mood and creates inner equilibrium.

## GOLDEN ARM: Reigning champion Neeraj Chopra goes for golden double as support cast looks to shine

CHANDIGARH, Jul 24 (Agencies): Indian athletics has had its fair share of icons — those who came agonisingly close to the ultimate glory of winning a medal at the Olympics.

There was the fabled fourth-place finish of the legendary Milkha Singh at the 1960 Olympics, the 'Flying Sikh' missing out on a 400m medal despite leading the race at one point. Four years later, Gurbachan Singh Randhawa, the ultimate athlete, ended fifth in the 110m hurdles.

Then came PT Usha's phenomenal run in 1984, the 'Payoli Express' denied a 400m hurdles medal by the tiniest of margins. Long jumper Anju Bobby George's fifth-place finish in 2004 was the latest chapter in India's history of near misses.

The wait for a medal in the 'mother of all sports' seemed endless. Until a long-haired 23-year-old from Panipat, with his springy technique, catapulted Indian athletics, and javelin throw in particular, to unprecedented heights with a gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics.

A junior world champion, Neeraj Chopra was touted as a gold medal hope at Tokyo. India's sports history is replete with medal hopefuls crumbling under the weight of expectations. But Chopra proved that he was special. The gold propelled him to overnight stardom and made him a household name — a rare feat for a non-cricketer.

He followed up his Olympics conquest with other historic victories — becoming the first



Indian to win the World Championships gold and the Diamond League crown — his consistency solidifying his legacy as arguably India's greatest athlete.

High profile

Chopra's success has also helped raise the profile of Indian athletics. The direct benefit was an increase in government funding. Out of the Rs 470 crore spent on India's preparation for the Paris Games, Rs 96.08 crore were allocated for athletics. It was a substantial jump from the Rs 5.38 crore spent in the previous Olympics cycle.

The monetary help — leading to better training and more exposure on the international circuit — has reflected in the performances on the world stage. From three medals in the 2018 Commonwealth Games, the number went up to eight in 2022, the three medals in men's long jump and triple jump events coming as the biggest surprise.

Middle-distance runners Avinash Sable and Parul Chaudhary have been rising steadily. Asian Games gold medallist

Chaudhary is a national record holder in 3000m steeplechase and 5000m, qualifying in both events for Paris.

Sable, apart from being an Asian Games gold winner and a CWG silver medallist, reached the final of the steeplechase event in the last two World Championships. Having again broken his national record two weeks ago, Sable is in top form. "It will be a technical race and I am ready for that," Sable said last month.

Then there is Jyothi Yarraji, who is set to become the first Indian 100m hurdler to participate in the Olympics. After missing the qualifying mark by .01 of a second, Yarraji came through on rankings. Last year, the 24-year-old broke the national record, won the Asian Games silver and the Asian Championships gold.

All eyes will also be on the men's 4x400m relay team, which rose to prominence last year. After finishing fifth in the World Championships — also giving USA a tough fight in the

heats — the India eased to the Asian Games gold.

From 23 athletes at Tokyo, the number has risen to 29. Realistically, though, Chopra is the only medal contender. But even Chopra has not been at his best. He has participated in only two international events this year. After an 88.36m effort in the Diamond League's Doha leg in May, Chopra was troubled by an adductor niggle. Last month, he managed a below-par 85.97m at the Paavo Nurmi Games. Coach Klaus Bartonietz revealed that Chopra has recovered. "The intensity of training is high, with full throwing sessions," he said.

Chopra has a knack for producing his best on the big stage, and it will not be a surprise if he stands atop the podium once again.

Chasing glory

Apart from being an Asian Games gold winner and a CWG silver medallist, Avinash Sable reached the final of the 3000m steeplechase event in the last two World Championships

Crossing hurdles

Jyothi Yarraji is set to become the first Indian 100m hurdler to participate in the Olympics. The national record holder won the Asian Games silver and Asian Championships gold last year

Going the distance

Parul Chaudhary is a national record holder in 3000m steeplechase and 5000m, qualifying in both events for Paris. Last year, she won the 5000m gold and steeplechase silver at the Asian Games

## Equipment, coach fee, frequent travelling with wards make chess an expensive sport



CHANDIGARH, Jul 24 (Agencies): Many would think chess is not as expensive as certain other sports where one has to buy kits, follow a strict and costly diet supplements or shell out money for buying equipment. However, it's a myth.

While people would only see chess players in simple clothes, sitting on a chair and making moves, there's a lot behind the making of a chess player. In the recent chess nationals being held at the Panjab University gymnasium hall, around 325 players from across the nation were participating, and this was an age group event. "One can think of the number of participants in an open age group event. The more the number of players, the more expensive is a sport to learn. Take example of cricket, where one can find numerous coaches, but for getting the best one has to shell out a

good fee," said Anidham Gupta, a parent accompanying his ward.

On an average, a coach in India charges a minimum of Rs 500 to Rs 1,000 per hour to teach the basics of chess. And this is an estimated minimum charge. "We have a common banter among ourselves for this particular topic — the one who learns chess won't face monetary issues for the rest of his or her life. There are some coaches in the western and southern states of India, who charge even Rs 5,000 per hour to teach chess lessons. And, this is not limited to youngsters or age specific groups. There are many who are retired and are spending a good time learning chess," said Dr Vipnesh Bhardwaj, general secretary, Chandigarh Chess Association.

"Over the period, the government is also supporting the chess players by offering jobs. We have our own Chandigarh boys working in the Indian Railways (under sports quota of chess). Many companies, including the ONGC, Indian Oil, are also very open about ensuring a safe future for excellent chess players," he added. And if one adds to equipment, a chess clock costs around Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,000, barring other expenses of chess pieces, chess boards, score sheet and others.

"In individual sport events, travelling for participating in tournaments also makes a hole in the pocket. Especially during the teenage years, parents can't just leave their children to go to some other state and participate. Unlike in team games, where one remains attached to a group, the expenses in the individual sport events are much difficult to manage," said Kavitha Mangla, a parent from Telangana.

"The entry fee of the event is also high in such competitions. The ordinary entry fee is Rs 1,250 and special entry fee is Rs 6,250. And if any player fails to finish among the top 20, then he/she won't get any prize money."

## India beat Nepal by 82 runs in women's Asia Cup T20 tournament

DAMBULLA, Jul 24 (Agencies): India beat Nepal by 82 runs in their final group match of the women's Asia Cup T20 tournament in Dambulla.

Earlier, explosive opener Shafali Verma slammed a breathtaking 48-ball 81 to power India to a solid 178 for 3 against Nepal in their final group stage match. With regular skipper Harmanpreet Kaur skipping the match and India sitting pretty at the top of the group, stand-in captain Smriti Mandhana decided to shuffle the batting order to give time to the lower order in the middle.

Opening the innings, Shafali and Dayalan Hemalatha (47) gave India a flying start as the duo smashed its way to 122 in 14 overs. The openers racked up 50 in the powerplay itself.

Once the duo was back in the hut, Jemimah Rodrigues hit 28 not out off 15 balls, including three fours in

the final over, to take them close to 180-mark.

Nepal will now have to achieve the target in or under 10 overs to surpass Pakistan on net run rate and qualify for the semifinals.

While Shafali literally toyed with the bowlers, using her flicks to good use as 12 fours and a maximum flew from her blade, Hemalatha struggled a bit but chugged along with her experienced partner as the Nepalese bowlers toiled in vain.

Shafali was particularly harsh on Kabita Joshi (1/36), smashing her for five boundaries, while Sabnam Rai (0/41) too was sent across the line a couple of times.

The dashing opener smacked Rubina Chhetry (0/14) over deep mid-wicket for her first six in the seventh over before picking up another four with a slog-sweep.

She completed her 50 in 26 balls in the eighth over.

Hemalatha, who was

finding it difficult to get the middle of the bat, then clobbered Joshi for a straight six as India reached 91 for no loss at the halfway stage.

Nepal had an opportunity to break the stand in the 12th over by Sita Rana Magar (2/25) but Indu Barma (0/29) spilled a regulation catch off Hemalatha at the boundary line.

The batter, however, was caught by Rubina after a bit of a juggle off the same bowler as India lost their first wicket with the team at 122 in 14 overs.

Hemalatha struck five fours and a six in her 42-ball innings.

Shafali continued to punish the bowlers, slamming two more fours off Barma but Sita Rana finally got rid of the opener with a tossed up delivery as the keeper did the rest.

Joshi then trapped S Sajana (10) but Rodrigues swelled the innings with a little cameo.

## Once unwanted, Antim Panghal is family's pride and the country's darling in Paris

HISAR, Jul 24 (Agencies): Already parents to three daughters, when Bhagana agriculturist and kabaddi enthusiast Ram Niwas Panghal and wife Krishna Kumari were blessed with another girl child in 2004, the family named her Antim — with an ardent prayer that she would be their last girl child, and a baby boy would arrive next.

Two years later, the baby boy did arrive at last and the family now thought Antim had turned out to be lucky — sort of — for it, as it was now "complete", with four daughters and a son. That was the Haryana of early 2000s, when a girl child in a family was unwanted, and if a family had one too many, they would name her Antim (last one), Bhateri (more than enough), and so on, with a prayer for a baby boy.

Nineteen years later, as Antim sweats it out in the hot and humid multipurpose hall at



the Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University in Hisar, the entire family plus the four-member support staff is at her service round the clock. The teenager from Bhagana village in Hisar will be presenting India's challenge in the 53kg category in women's wrestling in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

"My coaches, support staff and the family have devoted all their time in my preparations. I am feeling confident about my preparations and excited about my first Olympics. Let us see how it turns out," said

Antim. While her parents and brother Arpit are completing the 'paperwork' in Delhi, the three elder sisters have their task cut out, too. Eldest sister Sarita, now a kabaddi coach and the inspiration behind Antim taking up wrestling at the Mahavir Stadium in Hisar, motivates her with pep talk and hourly rebukes. Second sister Nisha takes care of the nutrition, cooking food according to the diet chart, and ensuring that it is ready before Antim is back in hostel after training. Meenu's job is to drive her to and from hostel to the train-

ing centre. Inside the hall, she watches happily as Antim unspools her trademark Dhobi Pachhaad one after the other. "Sab kuch haath pe mil raha hai... Result to dena padega," coach Bhagat Singh says with a smile, his words laced more with veiled threat than humour.

From a state with a skewed sex ratio to a state where families are giving their all to the outstanding daughter, Haryana is reaping the rich dividends of respecting the girl child. Father Ramniwas Panghal said, "Once Antim started winning medals in the Nationals, I thought of shifting from my village to Hisar as a lot of time was wasted in commuting."

A two-time junior world champion (2022, 2023) and an 2023 Asian Games bronze medallist, Antim also won a World Championship bronze in 2023. Shining on the international stage consistently for

the last two years, Antim has made herself the prime challenger to the mighty Vinesh Phogat. In the 2022 Commonwealth Games trials, Antim narrowly lost to the reigning queen of Indian wrestling but announced her arrival. Vinesh had to shift to a lower weight category this time because Antim locked her Paris ticket in the 53kg category.

"She is young and fearless, the surprise element will be in her favour. A feisty wrestler, she does not brood over her losses," Bhagat summed up the wrestler's campaign.

In Paris, Akari Fujinami will be the hot favourite in the 53kg class — she's never been beaten in a senior wrestling bout. Antim has lost to Fujinami in the past but luckily is not in the Japanese star's half in the Olympics draw. This means the luck she brought to her parents could bring her a silver from Paris.

## Pakistan Cricket Board leaves it up to International Cricket Council to convince India to travel to Pakistan for Champions Trophy

KARACHI, Jul 24 (Agencies): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has left it up to the International Cricket Council (ICC) to convince the BCCI to send its team to Pakistan for the upcoming champions Trophy, scheduled to be held in the first quarter of next year.

According to a PCB source, while the budget for the Champions Trophy was approved at the recent ICC meetings in Colombo, the schedule and format didn't come up for discussion at all.

"The PCB now has done what was required of it as hosts of the Champions Trophy. It has submitted the draft schedule and format for the event and also submitted budget for the event," a PCB insider said.

"It is now up to the ICC how soon they circulate, discuss and finalise the schedule of the Champions Trophy.

The PCB for its part in the draft schedule has suggested hosting all of India's games in Lahore, including a semi-final (if India qualifies) and final," he said.

Another source said that the PCB has already submitted all details in its expression of interest document with the ICC as hosts of the Champions Trophy.

"The PCB for its part has given in writing to the ICC about the tax modalities, venue selections and clearance from its government for Indian team to be hosted in Pakistan for the mega event," he added.

hosting the event back in 2021 during the tenure of Ehsan Mani as chairman of the board.

The ICC awarded hosting rights in 2022 and later on when Ramiz Raja was PCB Chairman, the board submitted its final documentation for the host agreement to sign with the ICC.

The source revealed that the PCB chief, Mohsin Naqvi, didn't have any formal meeting with the BCCI secretary, Jay Shah, or any other BCCI officials on the sidelines of the ICC meetings but the exchanges between Naqvi and Shah were cordial during the meetings.

The PCB has now left it up to the ICC to finalise and announce the tournament schedule and also get confirmation from the BCCI whether the Indian team

will travel to Pakistan.

The ICC has kept supplementary expenses in its tournament budget to meet any situation where the Indian team has to play its matches outside Pakistan.

The BCCI has always steadfastly maintained that playing cricket in Pakistan is completely a government call and even the 2023 ODI Asia Cup, which was hosted by PCB, witnessed India playing all its games in Sri Lanka based on 'Hybrid Model'.

According to the draft schedule, all of India's games including a possible semi-final and final has been scheduled in Lahore.

The India vs Pakistan marquee match has been scheduled on March 1.

## Viv Richards, Carl Hooper demand apology from Brian Lara for 'misrepresenting' them in his book



CHANDIGARH, Jul 24 (Agencies): Former West Indies cricket players Viv Richards and Carl Hooper have demanded an apology from their former team mate Brian Lara for "misrepresenting" them in his book, 'Lara: The England Chronicles'.

Lara in his book has mentioned that Richards in the dressing room was intimidating and that he would make Carl Hooper cry once a week and Lara once in three weeks.

In a joint statement, Richards and Hooper have said that such was not the case; on the contrary, Richards acted as a mentor to junior players.

They have demanded that Lara apologise for painting them in bad light.

## People fed up with BJP, moving towards NC, says Sadhotra, Rattan Lal

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 24: Jeevan Sharma, retired Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) from J&K, and brother of Purnima Sharma, a senior BJP leader and former Deputy Mayor, on Wednesday joined National Conference during a function held at Party headquarters, Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu.

Jeevan Sharma joined the party in presence of former minister and additional general secretary of the J&K National Conference, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Provincial president of the party for Jammu Division, Rattan Lal Gupta, former minister and party's Central Zone president Babu Ram Paul, district president for Jammu Urban, Chandar Mohan Sharma and several other senior and middle rung leaders of the party.

Former Minister Ajay Sadhotra welcomed Jeevan Sharma into the party fold and hoped that with his support the party will be strengthened in Jammu. He emphasized the growing disillusionment of the people with the BJP's governance, stating, "The people are fed up with the BJP's unfulfilled promises and lack of concrete action.



They are now turning towards the National Conference, seeing it as the only party capable of addressing their concerns and aspirations."

Rattan Lal Gupta while welcoming Jeevan Sharma highlighted the decline in BJP's popularity in Jammu and Kashmir. "The popularity graph of the BJP is steadily declining. The voting share of the BJP has significantly come down in the recently conducted Lok Sabha polls. It is evident that people are losing faith in the BJP and are looking for a reliable alternative. The National Conference stands as the only party with a proven track record of serving the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Babu Rampal also addressed the gathering, reiterating the National Conference's commitment

ment to working for the betterment of the state. "The NC has always been at the forefront of addressing the issues faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We are dedicated to ensuring peace, stability, and development in the region."

Jeevan Sharma expressed his confidence in the leadership of the National Conference, stating, "Only the NC can bring the people of Jammu and Kashmir out of the current grim situation. I am committed to following the path shown by Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, who have always prioritized the welfare and development of the region." He pledged to work tirelessly for the upliftment of National Conference and to address the grievances of J&K people effectively.

Among those who were present include:- Among those who were present include Bimla Luthra former MLA, Bushan Lal Bhat former MLC, Pardeep Bali, Ayub Malik Provincial Secretaries Jammu, Satwant Kour Dogra Provincial President Women Wing Jammu, Ankush Abrol, Surjeet Singh Manhas Joint Secretaries Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Vijay Laxmi Datta Sr leader, Shamim Begum DDC Dansal, Ch. Rehmat Ali BDC Chairman, Rakesh Singh Raka, Rita Gupta, Rahul Mahajan Vice Presidents Central Zone, Dr. Vikas, Master Aslam Secretaries Central Zone, Anoop Sharma, Farman Ali District Secretaries, Jammu Urban, Ashok Dogra, Rashida Begum, Satpal Karlo-

## SKUAST-J organizes workshop on "Management of Post-Partum Reproductive Disorders in Farm Animals"

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 24: Under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) B. N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu), the Division of Veterinary Gynaecology and Obstetrics at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, R S Pura, organized a one-day workshop on "Updates on Management of Post-Partum Reproductive Disorders in Farm Animals."

The workshop was conducted under the NAHEP-IDP project and saw active participation from 60 undergraduate and postgraduate veterinary students.

Dr. Ashwani Kumar Singh, Professor at GADVASU, Ludhiana delivered an expert lecture on the diagnostic use of ultrasonography (USG) in postpartum reproductive problems. His session provided valuable insights into advanced diagnostic techniques and their practical applications in veterinary practice.

The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Utsav Sharma, Head of



the Division of Veterinary Gynaecology and Obstetrics. Additional expert lectures were delivered by Dr. Sanjay Agarwal and Dr. Sudhir Kumar, who shared their knowledge and expertise on topics relevant to the management of postpartum reproductive disorders.

A hands-on practice session on the application of implants for the treatment of anestrus in dairy animals was conducted by Dr. A. K. Pandey, Professor and Co-coordinator of the programme. This practical training provided students with essential skills and techniques that are critical for addressing reproductive issues in farm animals.

During the valedictory session, Prof. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST-J, emphasized the importance of updating students' knowledge through such training

programs. He highlighted the role of continuous education in enhancing the competence of future veterinarians. Dr. M.S. Bhadwal, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, underscored the significance of minimizing reproductive problems to maintain production efficiency.

He stressed how such trainings are pivotal in strengthening the knowledge and skills of graduating students.

The workshop was also attended by various heads of departments and faculty members of the veterinary faculty, who contributed to the success of the event. This initiative reflects SKUAST-J's commitment to providing high-quality education and training to its students, ensuring they are well-equipped to address the challenges in the field of veterinary sciences.

## Govt efforts to reap India's demographic dividend is visible in Union Budget: Abheek Barua

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 24: Stating that government's efforts to reap India's demographic dividend is visible in this Union Budget, Abheek Barua, Chief Economist, HDFC Bank, commented on Union Budget 2024 has added that the budget focused on employment and associated issues.

He said, "The central focus of this budget has been on employment and associated issues like skill formation. The government's efforts to reap India's demographic dividend is visible in its push towards labour intensive production, its skilling initiative, incentivising formal job creation and increasing participation of women in the workforce. The budget estimates that these measures will help create 8 million jobs per year -- which is in line with the employment requirement that has been set out in the economic survey. The change in income

tax slabs along with the direct benefit transfer to first time workers, is likely to spur consumption, particularly for small ticket items, by increasing disposable incomes. The budget's policy mix -- including continued capex, job creation, support for manufacturing, agriculture, and rural development -- is likely to be positive for India's potential growth. The government made no compromise on its capex plans despite the increased allocation to some of its allies. The commitment towards fiscal consolidation with a reduction in the fiscal deficit to 4.9% of GDP in FY25 is a positive for medium-term debt sustainability. Although markets have been disappointed with the increase in the capital gains tax, this is in line with the communication by different branches of the government and regulators to be cautious and prevent any excess build-up of risk in the system."

## EC for ASH chairs meeting on Enhancing Pashmina Sector and Progress of Pashmina Dehairing Plant



Top News Report

LEH, July 24: Executive Councillor (EC) for Animal and Sheep Husbandry (ASH), LAHDC, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, Leh, chaired a meeting at the EC Chamber, Council Secretariat, LAHDC, Leh, focused on advancing the pashmina sector and reviewing the progress of the Pashmina Dehairing Plant.

During the meeting, there was a review of the successful initiative from last year under the special development package, which subsidized approximately 1000 kid pens for the Changthang region. Feedback was discussed, and modifications were proposed to further improve the initia-

cal experts overseeing the project. Plans were discussed to establish a commission to manage and optimize operations at the plant for maximum efficiency and output.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to further strengthen the pashmina industry through strategic initiatives and effective utilization of resources. The meeting was attended by Councillor Chushul, Konchok Stanzin; Councillor, Kungyam Thinles Nurboo; Joint Director, Sheep Husbandry Dr. Iftikar Hussain; District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Tsewang Morup; Deputy Director PGF Upshi, Dr. Tundup Namgail; Block Officer Sheep Husbandry Department Durbuk, Dr. Nasreen Fatima; VAS Chumathang, Dr Padma; President ACP-GCMS Leh, Dorje Stanzin.

## Sahil Gupta distributes Saplings

Top News Report

BISHNAH, July 24: BJP LEADER and Municipal Committee Bishnah Councillor Sahil Gupta on Wednesday along with Members presented plants (saplings) at KC Morh Chowk Bishnah today which included DDC member Dharminder Kumar, SHO Bishnah Abid Bukhari, Social Worker Dr Rajiv Bhagat, ASI Naresh Digna and BJP Sr. leader Anil Gupta, Program was organized



under supervision of BJP Mandal President Gagan Bhatia.

Gupta said that all these plants are fruit bearing, Medical Plants and these plants were given to

everyone for free so that people can plant these saplings in their homes, in their lands and on the banks of the river canals so that the environment can be clean and pure.

Around 100 fruits bearing plants were distributed among the people.

SHO Bishnah Abid Bukhari, DDC Member praised the work of Sahil Gupta. They said that there is no more sacred work than keeping our environment clean, they inspired Sahil Gupta to work in the same way in future also.

Gupta along with Rakesh Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Ratan Lal, Tushar Digna, Rohit Kumar and other members were present.

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