

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

15 officers deputed to attend workshop on implementation of RTI Act

JAMMU, July 26 (Agencies): The General Administration Department (GAD) of Jammu and Kashmir Government has deputed 15 officers from different departments to attend a one day workshop on implementation of RTI Act in the UT, at J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development in Srinagar.

Father Dies on Marriage Day of His Two Daughters in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Jul 26 (Agencies): In a heart-wrenching turn of events, Nissar Ahmad Mir, a 50-year-old businessman from Haril village in the Mawer block of Handwara, passed away on the very day his two daughters were to be married. The tragedy has cast a shadow over the celebrations, turning a day of joy into one of profound grief.

Nissar Ahmad, son of Mohammad Maqbool Mir, had been eagerly preparing for the weddings of his two daughters, which were scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. However, fate had other plans. According to local news gatherer KNT, Nissar Ahmad passed away in the early morning hours of Friday, around 4 am, leaving the family and the entire village in shock.

The sudden demise led to the immediate cancellation of the wedding ceremonies. Elders from both families were consulted, and it was unanimously decided to postpone the celebrations in light of the tragic circumstances. The family is now grappling with the profound loss of their patriarch, whose presence was central to the upcoming matrimonial ceremonies.

Nissar Ahmad Mir was a well-known businessman in the area and is survived by his four daughters. The community mourns with the family, recognizing the immense void left by his untimely departure. The importance of marriage in the fabric of family life makes this loss even more poignant, as the joyous

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PM Modi pays tribute to bravehearts on Kargil Vijay Diwas in Drass



KARGIL (Ladakh), July 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday paid tribute to bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty in the 1999 Kargil War. The Prime Minister laid a wreath at the Kargil War Memorial in Drass, Ladakh, on the occasion of the 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas. Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan and

all ranks of the armed forces also joined in remembering the supreme sacrifice made by the soldiers during the Kargil war. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh offered his tributes to the valiant bravehearts of the Kargil War at the National War Memorial in the national capital Delhi. Earlier, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said

that Kargil Vijay Diwas is a symbol of the unwavering resolve and valour of the brave soldiers of the army. "Kargil Vijay Diwas is a symbol of the unwavering resolve of the valor of the brave soldiers of the army. In the Kargil war, the brave soldiers displayed the ultimate valor in the inaccessible hills of the Himalayas and forced the enemy

army to kneel down, and made the country proud by hoisting the tricolour again in Kargil," Shah posted on X. "Today on 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' I salute the brave soldiers who protected the motherland with their courage in this war. The nation will never forget your sacrifice, dedication and sacrifice," he added.

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LG Manoj Sinha Pays tributes to Kargil War Martyrs



SRINAGAR, July 26 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday paid tributes to the martyrs of the 1999

Kargil war. "On the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, I pay my humble tributes to brave armed forces personnel, who

made the supreme sacrifice in the service of the motherland during India's victory in 'Operation Vijay'," Sinha posted on X. On July 26, 1999, the Indian Army announced the successful culmination of "Operation Vijay", declaring victory after a nearly three-month-long battle on the icy heights of Kargil in Ladakh. The day is observed as 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' to commemorate India's

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Opposition party leaders to meet in Jammu on August 7



SRINAGAR, July 26 (Agencies): The leaders of the Opposition parties are scheduled to meet

on August 07 at Hotel Raddison in Narwal area of Jammu to discuss several issues. Senior CPI (M) leader M Y Tarigami said that the meeting will discuss the issue of amendments to Transaction of Business of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Rules 2019

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Jal Shakti Dept suspends two employees, issues show-cause notice to AEE, JE over Baramulla water crisis

BARAMULLA, July 26 (Agencies): Following massive outcry over the drinking water crisis, the Jal Shakti Department has suspended two employees and issued show-cause notices to Assistant Executive Engineer and JE of Jal Shakti department Baramulla for their "failure in supplying and regulating water supply in area falling under their jurisdiction."

The Jal Shakti Department has taken disciplinary action against its employees following a massive outcry over the ongoing drinking water crisis in the Baramulla district.

The Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) of PHE Sub Division Baramulla, Imtiyaz Ahmad Syed, and Junior Engineer (JE) Er Mudassir Nayeem Rather of PHE Sub Division Pattan, have been served show-cause notices.

The notices cite their inability to address the severe water scarcity despite repeated warnings and directives.

"The public has been facing significant hardship due to the inadequate water supply, leading to protests and blockades on the national highway on two occasions."

"You are hereby directed to explain your position within two days as to why action under the J&K Govt. employee (Conduct Rules) of 1971 shall not be taken against you," reads the order issued vide number PHE/Bla/Estt-2394-2400, dated July 25, 2024.

In another order issued by the Executive Engineer of the Jal Shakti Department (PHE) Division Baramulla, two

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Avtar Singh murder case: Contractor Sharad Puri arrested

JAMMU, July 26 (Agencies): Continuing investigations into Avtar Singh murder case at Greater Kailash, the Jammu police has arrested a contractor Sharad Puri, resident of Trikuta Nagar for his alleged involvement in conspiracy that led to murder.

On May 2, seven accused including the notorious land grabber Ravinder Kumar alias



Gola Shah were arrested for their involvement in murder of a 39-year-old man, over land dispute.

FIR (39/24) under section 307/323/447/147/1PC was registered against Parshotam Singh, son of Gian Singh, resident of village Kartholi Tehsil Bari Brahmana, Samba, Ravinder Kumar alias Gola Shah, his son Rakshat, Sheikh Mehmood, son of Sheikh Ghulam Mustafa and others.

Taking action over the killing of a 39-year-old

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SIA attaches property of absconding Narco-Terrorist in Poonch



JAMMU, July 26 (Agencies): In a significant crackdown on narco-terrorism,

the State Investigative Agency (SIA) has attached the property of Mohd Liyaqat, a promi-

nent narco-terrorist currently evading arrest. The attached property, spanning 01 kanal and 9 Marlas, is situated in Khari Karmara, Poonch district.

This action follows FIR No. 69/2023 filed at P/S Poonch / SIA Jammu, under Section 83 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CRPC). The attachment order was issued by the

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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

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JKEEGA seeks filling up of vacant positions across all levels, regularization

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 26: The Jammu and Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEEGA) led by its General Secretary Sachin Tickoo, flanked by Executive Council members Gulshan Bhagat, Rajeshwar Jamwal, (Vice President's), Vishal Singh Chib, Ankush Sharma, Ankush Gupta, (Provincial Secretaries), Rohit Gupta, Vijay Sharma, Rajeev Gupta, Vipul Sharma (Organizing Secretaries), Ravi Karloopia, Sumit Sharma, Iliyias Haroon, (Secretaries), on Friday held a press conference here at Press Club Jammu.

While speaking to the media, Sachin Tickoo informed that Power Engineers of J&K state have been working tirelessly for achieving the targets set by Government in respect of revenue realization and also ensuring speedy implementation of the centrally sponsored schemes like RDSS and works under the CAPEX resulting that year on Year revenue realized increased by 17% in 2023-24 and power reliability increased considerably.

While the Government also has subsidized tariff for consumers as per the tariff petition filed before the commission and reported in sections of media also.

However the engineers have been awaiting since last so many years that their Human Resource Issues will be resolved especially the regularization and assured career progression/ time bound promotion in the Gazetted cadre. It is pertinent to mention that the current lot of all the Engineers including the Executive Director/Chief Engineer is Assistant Engineer on substantive basis and none of the Working engineers is above the grade of Assistant Engineer,



therefore all the impediments and hurdles need to be cleared in order to regularize the services of the serving/retired engineers and adhere to the State Administrative Council Decision Dated-22.10.2019 which had stipulated that the process of regularization be completed before November 2019.

Further scores of posts at all levels from Junior Engineer to Executive Director Level are lying vacant. Further since last more than six months no engineer in PDD has been promoted at any level. As far as vacancy position is concerned, there are following vacancies ED-04, CE-10, SE-13, XEN-64., AEE-104. JKEEGA appeals that the establishment committee meeting may be convened urgently to fill the vacant positions of Chief Engineer which have accrued since March 2023 and only 5 chief Engineers are managing the work load and responsibilities of not only 15 Chief Engineers but also EDS/MDs.

Further the Assistant Engineers, who had been promoted in Jan 2024, are yet to be posted against the higher posts and continue to await their postings.

The corporations of JPDC/LKPDCL/JKPTL. JKPCCL have referred

around 292 posts of Junior Engineers to the Service Selection Board vide their letter nos: 729-30 Dated: 15/07/2024 and 763-64 dated; 16/7/2024. It is enjoined upon the Service Selection Board to expedite the recruitment of the Junior Engineers—Elect. In order to provide not only employment opportunity to the youth but also their services are urgently required to undertake the mammoth 5600 Crores works earmarked under RDSS and other CSS.

JKEEGA also appealed to Additional Chief Secretary Sh. Shaleen Kabra and other members of the Sub -Committee formed by Government for issuance of SRO of Engineers for ACP which had been approved by the then State Cabinet in 2018 vide Cabinet Decision no: 109/6/12018 Dated: 11/05/2018 and well documented in the State Budget in year 2018. It is unfortunate that the assured career progression was extended to the Police and JKAS services on the basis of the same cabinet decision, but the same was withheld till date in favour of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, whereas

same is in place in other neighboring states and also in CPWD.

Further JKEEGA seeks reinstatement of the engineers who had been suspended six months back on account of lesser billing and collection efficiency. The members recalled the discussion held in the chamber of worthy Chief Secretary in the presence of Principal Secretary PDD on 15.03.2024, regarding reviewing the suspension on merits in expeditious manner. However till date despite lapse of considerable time, none of them has been reinstated causing deep mental agony to them.

JKEEGA also sought that since budget discussion is underway in Parliament, the corporations of PDD should be re-bundled as this experiment of creating water-tight cannons of different unbundled corporations in PDD has not produced any useful change for the consumers nor the 21000 strong workforce of employees. The employees on deputation to these unbundled corporations have been suffering on account of shortfalls in Grant in Aid for salaries/ and other allowances like leave salary, and children allowance, thereby deteriorating their service conditions

Rich Harvest School Honors Kargil Heroes

Top News Report



national pride.

Vice Principal Dr. Anita Sharma inspired the students with her own composition, "Ae Desh Ke Veero Jago," invoking deep patriotic fervor. Principal madam, Anita Bhatia ji delivered an emotional speech, narrating the sacrifices of soldiers' mothers and wives, and sharing the heroic story of Captain Vikram Batra, which left everyone deeply moved.

She emphasized the daily remembrance and inspiration we should draw from these martyrs.

Students penned heartfelt letters to the mothers of the martyrs, bringing tears to many eyes. The assembly concluded with two minutes of silence in honor of the fallen heroes, followed by the national anthem, leaving a profound impact on all attendees.

which in itself is a violation of Sec 133 Electricity Act 2003 . The salaries and employee expenses should be delinked from Grant in Aid mechanism. The members appealed to Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor J&K, Chief Secretary J&K, Principal Secretary, PDD to resolve the burning issues of the Engineering fraternity of Power Development Department and engineers in general at an earliest so that a renewed zeal is infused among the fraternity which is reeling under stress due to non redressal.

JAMMU, July 26: In a heartfelt morning assembly, the students, teachers, and management of Rich Harvest School paid tribute to the brave souls of Kargil on Kargil Vijay Diwas.

The solemn ceremony began with a prayer led by Preeti Rajput Ma'am, who offered a moving remembrance of the nation's martyrs.

Kanika from Class 8th recited a poignant poem, followed by a song by Parambhav of Class 6th. The students then sang the patriotic anthem "Vande Mataram," filling the atmosphere with

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 41 of 2024-25 Dated 24.07.2024

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1.	Renovation of 04 No. of Residential Quarters at Associated Hospital, GMC, Udhampur Part-B (Left over works).	14.62	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	90 Days	"B/C/D"	"Capex Budget GMC"

Position of AAA:- Accorded
Position of T.S:- Accorded
Position of Funds:- Available

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24-07-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 24-07-2024 to 30-07-2024, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting.	26-07-2024 at 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur.
4	Bid submission Start Date	25-07-2024 from 900 Hrs
5	Bid Submission End Date	30-07-2024 up to 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	31-07-2024 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan/ Bid Security/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur** as mentioned in the bid documents. The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.

No:- 4870-75
Dated:- 24-07-2024 **DIP/J-3370/24**

Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Udhampur

AESL celebrates 15 'glorious' years of ANTHE

Announces launch of ANTHE 2024, offers up to 100% scholarships for students

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 26: Marking 15 glorious years of its flagship scholarship examination ANTHE, Aakash Educational Services Limited (AeSL), the national leader in test preparatory services, proudly announces the launch of the latest edition of the highly anticipated Aakash National Talent Hunt Exam (ANTHE) 2024.

The popular and most-sought after exam offers students from Class VII-XII the chance to earn up to 100% scholarships along with significant cash awards, helping them achieve their dreams of a successful career in medicine or engineering.

This year, an exciting addition includes a 5-day all-expenses-paid trip to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA, for five outstanding students.

The John F. Kennedy Space Centre, located in Florida, is one of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) ten field centres in the United States. ANTHE scholarship recipients will benefit from Aakash's extensive coaching programs, which prepare students for exams such as NEET, JEE, State CETs and scholarships like NTSE and Olympiads.

Deepak Mehrotra, CEO and MD of Aakash Educational Services Lim-



ited (AeSL), remarked, "ANTHE has played a crucial role in bridging the gap between the aspirations and abilities of countless students. Celebrating these 15 years of ANTHE, we have worked to make our courses accessible to deserving students across the nation, regardless of their location. ANTHE enables students to prepare for NEET and IIT-JEE exams at their own pace, wherever they are. We anticipate strong participation in ANTHE 2024 and are dedicated to guiding students towards a bright future."

Celebrating its 15th successful year, ANTHE has a distinguished record of nurturing top achievers. Over the years, many of its students have excelled in prestigious examinations, including top ranks in NEET UG and JEE Advanced.

Some notable achievers who enrolled in Aakash through ANTHE and secured top ranks are: Rishi Shekhar Shukla (JEE Advanced 2024 AIR

25); Krishna Sai Shishir (JEE Advanced 2024 AIR 67); Abhishek Jain (JEE Advanced 2024 AIR 78) among others. In NEET 2023, our top scorers were Kaustav Bauri (AIR 03); Dhruv Advani (AIR 05); Surya Siddharth N (AIR 06); Aditya Neeraje (AIR 27) and Aakash Gupta (AIR 28). ANTHE 2024 will take place from October 19-27, 2024, in both online and offline modes across 26 states and union territories in India.

In addition to scholarships of up to 100%, top scorers will also receive cash awards. ANTHE offline exams will be conducted on October 20 and 27, 2024 starting 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM at all 315+ centers of Aakash Institute across the country while online exams can be taken from October 19 to 27, 2024 anytime during the exam window. Students can choose a one-hour slot convenient to them. ANTHE will be a one-hour test carrying a total of 90 marks and compris-

ing 40 multiple-choice questions based on the grade and stream aspirations of students.

For Class VII-IX students, the questions will cover subjects such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Mental Ability. For Class X students aspiring for medical education, the questions will cover Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mental Ability, while for engineering aspirants of the same class, the questions will cover Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Mental Ability. Similarly, for Class XI-XII students who aim for NEET, questions will cover Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology, while for engineering aspirants they will cover Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics.

The last date for submitting the enrolment form for ANTHE 2024 is three days before the commencement of the online exam and seven days before the offline exam.

The exam fee is INR 200 for both offline and online mode. Students can also avail a flat 50% discount on the registration fee if they register before 15th August 2024.

Results for ANTHE 2024 will be declared on November 08, 2024, for Class X students, November 13, 2024, for Class VII to IX, and November 16, 2024, for Class XI and XII students.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of The Executive Engineer Machinery Division Jammu
e-mail: mdjxen@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
E-NIT No. MDJ/Tech/e-NIT/2024-25/30 DATED: -23/07/2024 DUEON:12/08/2024.
MDJ/Tech/e-NIT/2024-25/31 DATED: -23/07/2024 DUEON:12/08/2024
MDJ/Tech/e-NIT/2024-25/32 DATED: -23/07/2024 DUEON:12/08/2024.
MDJ/Tech/e-NIT/2024-25/33 DATED: -23/07/2024 DUEON:12/08/2024.
On behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Government of Jammu & Kashmir Bids are invited by Executive Engineer Machinery Division Jammu by e-Tendering mode from reputed firms for undertaking the work as per SBD/BOQ.

S.No.	e-NIT No.	Description of work	Cost of tender (Rs.)	Time of Completion	Tender opening authority
1.	MDJ/Tech/e-NIT/2024-25/30	General repairs with replacement of defective parts of Truck No JK02AR 9817	200.00	07 days	Executive Engineer Machinery Division Jammu
2.	MDJ/Tech/e-NIT/2024-25/31	General repairs with replacement of defective parts of Truck No JK02AR 9816	200.00	07 days	Executive Engineer Machinery Division Jammu
3.	MDJ/Tech/e-NIT/2024-25/32	General repairs with replacement of defective parts of Crane No JK02CC 7991 ACE	200.00	07 days	Executive Engineer Machinery Division Jammu
4.	MDJ/Tech/e-NIT/2024-25/33	Creation of Multi-Functional Common Facilitation Centre and Cold Room along with other allied items under HADP at Village Amowal, Tehsil Vijaypur, District Samba.	1000.00	90 days	Executive Engineer Machinery Division Jammu

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, terms & conditions, bill of quantities can be seen / downloaded from J&K Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in.
All other information regarding the e-NIT can be had from the office of the undersigned on any working day during the working hours before due date.

DIP/J-3360/24

-Sd-
(Er. Sunil Gandotra)
Executive Engineer
Machinery Division

EDITORIAL

THE KARGIL
VICTORY

The Kargil War, fought between May and July 1999, stands as a monumental chapter in India's military history. The conflict, which occurred in the high-altitude terrain of the Kargil district in Jammu and Kashmir, was a defining moment that tested the valor and strategic acumen of the Indian Armed Forces. It was a stark reminder of the complexity and stakes of Indo-Pakistani relations, and the victory achieved there is celebrated every year as Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26.

The Kargil conflict emerged from a period of heightened tensions between India and Pakistan, exacerbated by the ongoing dispute over Kashmir. In the winter of 1998-1999, Pakistan's military, particularly the Northern Light Infantry, infiltrated Indian territory across the Line of Control (LoC) in the Kargil sector. The Pakistani forces occupied strategic positions on the heights overlooking the Srinagar-Leh highway, a critical supply route for Indian troops stationed in Ladakh.

The incursion was initially unnoticed due to the harsh winter weather and the high-altitude terrain, which masked the presence of Pakistani troops. By the time the Indian Army detected the intrusion, several peaks were already under Pakistani control, posing a significant threat to India's strategic and tactical positions in the region.

The Kargil War was characterized by intense fighting, involving high-altitude warfare that tested the endurance and skill of both sides. The Pakistani strategy relied on occupying high-altitude positions to force India into a protracted and costly conflict, aiming to internationalize the Kashmir issue and possibly force India into concessions.

The Indian response was swift and resolute. The Indian Army, with its superior training and equipment, launched Operation Vijay to regain control of the territory. The operation was conducted in the face of formidable challenges, including the rugged terrain, extreme weather conditions, and the well-entrenched positions of the Pakistani forces.

Indian forces faced a grueling battle, climbing steep slopes and fighting in harsh conditions at altitudes exceeding 15,000 feet. The Indian strategy involved a combination of infantry assaults and artillery support, aimed at dislodging the enemy from its positions. Key battles were fought on peaks such as Tiger Hill, Drass, and Batalik, which became symbols of the conflict's intensity.

The conflict saw the emergence of several heroes whose bravery and leadership became legends. Captain Vikram Batra, for instance, was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra, India's highest military honor, for his role in capturing Point 4875, a crucial peak in the Drass sector. His courage and sacrifice epitomized the spirit of the Indian Army during the war.

Another notable figure was Major General Ved Prakash Malik, who was the Chief of Army Staff during the conflict. His strategic vision and leadership were instrumental in the successful execution of Operation Vijay. The operation saw the deployment of thousands of troops and extensive air support, including the use of the Indian Air Force to provide logistical and combat support.

The Kargil War concluded with a decisive Indian victory on July 26, 1999, marking the end of Operation Vijay. Indian forces regained control of the territory occupied by Pakistani troops, and the conflict reaffirmed India's territorial integrity. The victory was achieved at the cost of significant casualties, with over 500 Indian soldiers laying down their lives in the conflict.

The war had far-reaching implications. It highlighted the need for robust intelligence and surveillance capabilities to detect and respond to incursions. It also underscored the importance of maintaining a high level of preparedness in the face of evolving threats. The conflict led to a reassessment of India's defense strategies and policies, including increased focus on high-altitude warfare capabilities and infrastructure development in border areas.

Kargil Vijay Diwas is commemorated annually to honor the bravery and sacrifice of the soldiers who fought in the conflict. The day serves as a reminder of the challenges faced by the Indian Armed Forces and their unwavering commitment to safeguarding the nation's sovereignty.

The Kargil War remains a significant event in India's military history, symbolizing the courage and resilience of the Indian Army. It is a testament to the dedication of soldiers who, despite facing extreme adversity, succeeded in defending the nation's territorial integrity. The conflict also strengthened India's resolve to address security challenges and reinforced its commitment to maintaining peace and stability in the region.



By: Kundan Kashmiri

In the turbulent landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, amidst ongoing militancy, terrorist attacks in ten districts of Jammu and Kashmir and economic challenges, a cautious and strategic approach is very much imperative. So the call to delay elections and withhold restoration of statehood to the Union Territory demands

thoughtful consideration, echoing concerns rooted in decades of unrest and unresolved issues.

The ongoing military engagements and cross-border tensions necessitate a steadfast approach. Until the menace of militancy is effectively curbed and stability restored across the region, the proposition to defer elections serves as a pragmatic safeguard against potential disruptions and external provocations. This stance advocates for a secure environment where civilian safety and national integrity remain non-negotiable priorities.

The cautionary plea to Prime Minister Modi, s Government at the centre reflects a collective sentiment among nationalist forces and stake-

holders in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing the need for judicious governance over impulsive decisions. History serves as a stark reminder of the repercussions of hasty policies, epitomized by the regrettable missteps of the past, including the ill-fated Article 370 imposed by them congress lead by late Nehru Ji.

Hence, the current circumstances in Jammu and Kashmir demand a cautious and well-calibrated approach. The decision to delay elections and withhold statehood restoration must be anchored in the principles of security, justice, and sustainable development. It is a call not for stagnation but for strategic consolidation, ensuring that the aspirations of all communities,

including the marginalized Kashmiri Pandit population, are addressed comprehensively. By prioritizing stability and peace, India can pave the way for a brighter, more harmonious future for Jammu and Kashmir—one built on resilience, equity, and enduring peace.

This approach not only respects the complexities of the region but also sets a precedent for responsible governance and nation-building, aligned with the aspirations of its diverse populace.

(Kundan Kashmiri)
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Adopt multi-pronged strategy to counter cross-border terrorism

By: Lt Gen Harwant
Singh (Retd)(Former Deputy Chief of
the Army Staff)

PAKISTAN has been pursuing its policy of bleeding India with a thousand cuts with unabated persistence for the past four decades. Somehow, India has neither been able to tackle this problem nor find a viable counter. Of late, terrorist activity has shifted from the Kashmir valley to south of the Pir Panjal range to areas of Poonch and Rajouri as well as Kathua in the Jammu region. During this year itself, there have been at least six major attacks, including the killing of nine pilgrims in Reasi last month.

This shift is not due to any enhanced anti-terror measures taken in the Valley, but perhaps due to an unprecedented flow of tourists, which leads to financial gains for almost all sections of society, from porters to shikara owners and hoteliers. Any terror attack in the Valley would impact the inflow of tourists, which in turn will result in financial losses to the local people and their consequent slant towards terrorists.

In addition to cross-border terror attacks, Pakistan has been pumping drugs into India, more recently using drones and other means. To

counter this, India needs to deploy anti-drone systems, besides working out a more effective system to check the smuggling of drugs both by sea and land routes.

The Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border are fenced, yet terrorists continue to sneak into Indian territory and inflict casualties on Indian troops, police and other personnel. To infiltrate into Indian territory, terrorists normally use nullahs and streams, which are not fenced, and sometimes make tunnels under the fence to send terrorists. Terror attacks on military establishments close to the border resulted in the setting up of extensive fencing and the raising of boundary walls around unit lines, thereby inducing in some manner a siege mindset among the troops. Terrorists who sneak into Indian territory are generally dealt with effectively, though often only after they succeed in inflicting casualties on military personnel and causing other damage.

Even the existing distressful state of political and economic conditions in Pakistan has not resulted in any pullback of this policy of 'a thousand cuts'. Pakistan's policy of promoting terrorism has eventually led to terror attacks on it from across its western border.

A well-evaluated policy is required to dissuade Pakistan from indulging in this game of pushing terrorists into India. This can be achieved by attempting some of the following measures.

One, deploy adequate forces and ensure effective surveillance to neutralise terrorists just as they attempt to cross into Indian territory. This may involve

shifting a certain number of troops from depth areas and redeploying them along the border. There is also a need to enhance intelligence inputs. All areas up to 200-300 metres with undergrowth on the home side of the fence should be regularly checked for any tunnel opening.

Second, take punitive action against Pakistan for every terror attack. Such a policy was adopted when we carried out the surgical strikes in 2016 and the Balakot airstrikes in 2019. Earlier, the military mobilisation consequent to the 2001 attack on Parliament ended in a fiasco. These actions did not produce the desired results. Further, there is the possibility that these actions could lead to escalation, such as border skirmishes and even a major conflict. In this regard, China factor will have to be borne in mind.

Third, build friendly relations with Pakistan so that it gives up its policy on cross-border terror attacks. Good neighbourly relations can result in open trade and cooperation in a range of areas. India could even, when required, extend financial help. It is the continued adverse relations with India that lend justification to the Pakistan army to exist in its present state. Otherwise, there is no rationale for Pakistan having a military of the size it has and the consequent unaffordable burden it imposes on the country's economy. India wants a friendly, cooperative and prosperous Pakistan. Friendly relations with India would work to a great extent in Pakistan's favour. However, the China factor has come into play; it will work to Pakistan's disadvantage and eventually

drive it into a debt trap.

If none of the above options work, India must portray Pakistan as a terrorist state at world forums. Terror activities and treaties cannot coexist, so India needs to put Pakistan on notice that, in the event of continued terror attacks, it would abrogate the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) and inform the World Bank.

In any case, this treaty, signed by the Indian Prime Minister at Karachi in 1960, is irrational and unfair to India. It gives Pakistan over 80 per cent of the waters of six rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Sutlej and Beas), with only around 19 per cent to India. Based on the 'river basin' principle, India should have got 35 per cent of the waters of these rivers and Pakistan 65 per cent.

If India is left with no option other than to terminate the IWT, as a first step, it should reconvert Salal dam into a storage dam and initiate work to construct a number of dams on these rivers to generate electricity and divert their water to irrigate vast barren lands in various valleys in the Ladakh and Jammu regions. In addition, we should divert the waters of the Chenab river (Chandrabhaga, as known in Himachal Pradesh) to the Beas river in the Kullu valley and further downstream into the Ravi river. If Pakistan continues with cross-border terror attacks even after all this, India can exercise the option to flood that country during the rainy season by opening the sluice gates of these dams and shutting them during the dry season to reduce the supply of water, which will impact Pakistan's agriculture.

Tribute to real heroes

Explore these moving audiobooks, podcasts and films on the 25th anniversary of the Kargil War

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Kargil War, we explore the stories that defined the bravery of our soldiers. With this curated listen-and-watch list, enrich your understanding of one of India's most significant military victories.

Shershaah
Platform: Prime Video
This biographical war film is inspired from the life of Captain Vikram Batra. He was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra, highest Indian military decoration, for his courage and sacrifice during the Kargil War. Batra was loved and admired by his fellow soldiers and was given the code-name 'Shershaah'. The movie Shershaah captures his contribution to the Kargil War. The roles are played by the much-loved Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani.

Lakshya
Platform: Netflix
A fictional story set



in the backdrop of the Kargil War, director Farhan Akhtar brings to you this cult classic. We see a young aimless man, Hrithik Roshan, transform into a brave soldier who goes on to lead the Army during the war. The realistic portrayal makes you feel like you are in the war zone while you secretly root for Hrithik Roshan, as he courageously fights opponents and reunites with his love interest.

Kargil: From Surprise to Victory
Platform: Audible

It is the story of the Kargil War from the man-in-charge, General V P Malik, who was the

Chief of the Indian Army at that time. He led the planning, coordination and execution of the operation. In this audiobook, the author shares his first-hand experience at Kargil, along with afterthoughts on important lessons for India's defence preparedness. This book is a testimony to the unparalleled heroism displayed by our troops.

The Kargil Girl
Platform: Audible
Written by the Kargil girl herself, Flt Lt Gunjan Saxena shares with us her nerve-racking story from the war. She was 29-year-old when called in to help in the war zone. This call came at a

time when female pilots were yet to be employed in such conflicts. From airdropping vital supplies to Indian troops in the Dras and Batalik regions to evacuating casualties in the midst of the ongoing battle to informing seniors of enemy positions, she fearlessly discharged her duties. In the book, she elaborates several incidents from the war, including one of narrowly escaping a Pakistani rocket missile during one of her sorties. Tune into her autobiography to know how Gunjan Saxena rightfully earned the sobriquet The Kargil Girl.

Gunjan Saxena: The

Kargil Girl
Platform: Netflix

There's also a film on The Kargil Girl Gunjan Saxena. Janhvi Kapoor was roped-in for the screen adaptation of Saxena's autobiography. It depicts the struggles she faced to ultimately becoming the only woman pilot from the Indian defence forces to enter the Kargil War. Directed by Sharan Sharma, the film also stars Pankaj Tripathi and Angad Bedi.

LOC Kargil
Platform: Prime Video
This is the first Hindi film to be made on the Kargil War back in 2003. Famous for making war films like Border and Paltan, director JP Dutta made this one with a huge ensemble cast, including Ajay Devgn, Saif Ali Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, Suniel Shetty and Sanjay Dutt. Through these actors, the film paid tributes to the brave martyrs of the Kargil War.

In attacking Salman Khan, you will 'script history', Lawrence Bishnoi's brother told shooter



Fire shots in such a manner that it scares film actor Salman Khan -- this was the blunt, one-line message given by jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi's younger brother Anmol to one of the gunmen involved in the shooting outside the actor's Mumbai home, police said in a chargesheet filed in the case.

The Mumbai police's crime branch, probing the firing case, earlier this month filed a 1,735-page chargesheet before the special Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) court.

The conspiracy of firing at the actor's house was hatched with the intention of establishing a strong-

hold and supremacy in the country's financial capital with the aim of getting pecuniary and other advantages for the Bishnoi gang, according to the chargesheet.

The chargesheet included various investigation papers incorporated in three volumes. One such document is the transcript of an audio chat between Anmol Bishnoi and arrested shooter Vicky-kumar Gupta.

In one of the conversations, Anmol is heard telling Gupta to carry out the firing thoughtfully and everywhere, even if it takes more than a minute and should be done in such a manner that it scares 'Bhai' (Salman), the chargesheet said.

Further, he asks Gupta if he smokes. When the latter replies in the affirmative, Anmol Bishnoi tells him to smoke while firing so that he comes across as a fearless individual in CCTV cameras installed in the area, according to the voluminous police document.

"You will create history by doing this job and your name will be there in all newspapers and other media," it said, citing their conversation.

Two motorbike-borne individuals, Gupta and Sagar Pal, had fired multiple shots outside Khan's home in Galaxy Apartments in Bandra on the morning of April 14.

The two, along with three others -- Sonukumar Bishnoi, Mohamad Rafiq Choudhary and Harpal Singh -- are currently in judicial custody in connection with the case.

Lawrence Bishnoi, Anmol and one Rawtaran Bishnoi have been shown as the wanted accused in the chargesheet.

Taha Shah turns showstopper for Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla at India Couture Week, which also featured actress Wamiqa Gabbi



Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla, the veterans of the Indian fashion industry, returned to India Couture Week with a grand opening show. The runway at the Taj Palace Hotel in Delhi was lit up with models walking the ramp in exquisite ensembles from the celebrated designer duo's younger brands, Asal and Mard.

To make their show more appealing, they added a beautiful touch of music and dance to it. Akshay and IP curated the song for the show, which was enough to enthral the audience. In fact, they both appeared on the runway and sang live, evoking a loud cheer from the audience.

There was one more surprise in store for Delhiites. The designers brought Bollywood glam to their show by making Heeramandi- fame Taha Shah Badus-

sha and actress Wamiqa Gabbi as their muses.

Wamiqa opened the show in an ivory trail lehenga from the Botanical Bloom line, featuring resham embroidery with ivory silk threads highlighted with pearls and crystals. She closed the show as a regal bride in a red lehenga from the Bridal Gota collection, handcrafted with gota, zardozi and encrusted with crystals.

With this show, Wamiqa marked her debut on the runway. Taha also equally added chaar chand to the show. Taha greeting the audience with adaab gesture was one of the beautiful highlights of his runway walk. He looked handsome in an olive silk tissue-long kurta sparkling with crystal-encrusted flying birds. It was paired with brocade flared pants that were relaxed, yet regal.

Chitrangda Singh: I have been classic when it comes to silhouettes

Grace, elegance and class—these words define the aura and fashion persona of actor Chitrangda Singh quite appropriately. Ask her how she sees it and she says, "Fashion has been slightly instinctive for me. Having an army background, I used to see my mum and all these beautiful ladies around, being very feminine, proper and classic. Those are the things that stick in your head, and they form your own style. That's why I have been very classic when it comes to my silhouettes and what I like."

The actor admits that she is "more informed" now, and "instinctively, I go for something classic and slightly understated elegant". "I like being feminine but not too sexual or trying too many fads," she says, adding that her mother is her biggest fashion critic.

The way Singh carries a saree is a sight to behold, but the 47-year-



old credits it all to the piece of clothing. She insists, "Everyone looks sexy in a saree. You put it on anyone, and it just suddenly transforms you into a very feminine, sexual, delicate

being. For my first film (Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi; 2003), I was in a saree, so that one thing kind of distinctly defined me as an actor at that time as I had minimal make up and accesso-

ries. Before me, there were Smita (Patil, actor) ji and Shabana (Azmi, actor) ji. I am not the first one, but sarees with me have been special."

While for many actors, their characters can influence their fashion sense, but for Singh, it was the other way round. "In Inkaar (2013), my character was a very strong woman, who is also feminine and not trying to be a man. The dresses that I wore were very fitted, understated, not covered yet still very structured. That's something that I wanted to do, that was my fashion sense," she reveals.

Talk about her films and Singh admits that her filmography has a lesser number of films to her credit than what she would have liked. Ask her the reason behind it and she says, "It's the lack of good offers. I am here to work but I don't want to work for the sake of it. Obviously, everyone needs money, but you don't want to com-

promise on your creative choices and how you see yourself and your potential." However, Singh adds that with the voices around, it did get difficult at times to stick her ground. "Sometimes word goes around that 'arre, ye to difficult hai', and you get all kinds of labels like 'arrogant' and 'stubborn' very easily, just because you don't want to adhere to the norms. But I found these labels very weird because I love cinema," she says.

The actor thanks her audience for keeping her always relevant. "No matter however much you work, there will only be those four or five films that people will remember you for. Today, everything has become about numbers, but eventually, the audience will remember what they have connected with and thankfully, I have done a few such roles that the audience has connected with," she says.

Janhvi Kapoor on claims of paying money for social media praise: 'Itna budget nahi hai'

Janhvi Kapoor, who made her acting debut in 2018 with Dhadak, is busy with the promotions of her upcoming film Ulajh. In a new interview with agency, the actor was told people have been saying good things about her, and she joked she was 'paying them to say it'. When asked how she has evolved as an actor, Janhvi said she cannot comment on her own performances, and it is for people to judge.

"Paise khilwa ke bulwa rahi hu"

She said, "Main khud ke baare me kaise baith kar bolu, 'Main na badi confident ho gayi hu, bade acche acche performances de rahi hu'? Main khud nahi keh sakti na (But how

can I sit and say about myself, 'I have become very confident; I am giving very good performances'? I can't say it myself)." When told that people are saying good things about her, she added 'Paise khilwa ke bulwa rahi hu (I am paying them to say it)."

'Yeh toh iska PR hoga' Addressing the social media speculation around her PR, Janhvi added, "Koi bhi main jab dekhti hu na social media par galti se koi bhi tareef kar leta hai na toh yeh bolte rehte hain ki 'Yeh toh iska PR hoga, yeh toh iska...' Main bolti hu 'Nahi itna budget nahi hai ki main logon se tareef karwaun' (Whenever I see someone praising me even by mistake on



social media, they keep saying, 'This must be her PR'). I say 'no I don't have enough budget to pay people to compliment me')."

Upcoming film Janhvi Kapoor, who was last seen in Mr & Mrs Mahi with Rajkumar Rao, is joined by Gulshan Devaiah, Roshan Mathew, Rajesh Tailang, and Adil Husain in Ulajh.

The film tells the tale of Suhana Bhatia, who tries to navigate her personal and professional life.

Ulajh is set to release in theaters on August 2, 2024.

Janhvi also has the Telugu film Devara Part 1 with Jr NTR and Saif Ali Khan as one of her upcoming projects.

Avinash Tiwary, Triptii Dimri-starrer 'Laila Majnu' to re-release in theatres in Kashmir



Actor Avinash Tiwary said that his debut film "Laila Majnu" is set to re-release next month in theatres in Kashmir on popular demand. Also starring Triptii

Dimri in the lead, the 2018 romance drama is written and presented by Imtiaz Ali and directed by his brother Sajid Ali. It is produced by Ali's former wife Preeti

and Ekta Kapoor.

"Laila Majnu", a modern-day adaptation of the classic folklore, received a lukewarm response at the box office but over the years it garnered a cult status.

"Laila Majnu" will be released in theatres in Srinagar on 2nd August," Tiwary said in a statement.

Tiwary and Dimri, who were also seen in the 2020 Netflix film, "Bulbul", have come a long way in their careers.

Tiwary is known for his performances in films like "The Girl on the Train" and "Madgaon Express", while Dimri, who is basking in the success of her recently released film, "Bad Newz", is regarded for her work in "Qala" and "Animal".

Kargil Vijay Diwas Occasion To Pay Tributes To Valour Of Armed Forces: President

Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed on July 26 every year to mark India's victory over Pakistan in the 1999 war.

NEW DELHI, Jul 26 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Friday said the Kargil Vijay Diwas is an occasion to pay tributes to the courage and extraordinary valour of the country's armed forces.

Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed on July 26 every year to mark India's victory over Pakistan in the 1999 war.

The Indian Army had launched a fierce counter-assault to push back Pakistani forces that had stealthily occupied important heights in Ladakh.

"Kargil Vijay Diwas is



an occasion for a grateful nation to pay tribute to the courage and extraordinary valour of our armed forces," Murmu said in a post in Hindi on X.

"I pay tribute to each soldier who made the supreme sacrifice while

protecting Mother India on the peaks of Kargil in 1999 and bow in reverence to their sacred memory. I am sure that all countrymen will draw inspiration from their sacrifice and valour. *Jai Hind Jai Bharat!*" she said.

All 14 crew members rescued from tugboat that went adrift off Alibag coast in Maharashtra



MUMBAI, Jul 26 (Agencies): All 14 crew members of a tugboat that had drifted in the Arabian Sea off the Alibag coast in Maharashtra's Raigad district have been rescued, a police official said on Friday.

The rescue operation of the crew from the small carrier operated by JSW Group was launched with the help of the Coast Guard, he

said. A chopper of the Coast Guard was engaged in the operation, which started around 9 am, and all 14 crew members of the tugboat were safely evacuated, said Somnath Garge, Raigad Superintendent of Police.

The Coast Guard chopper picked up the crew from the tugboat and safely dropped them at Alibag beach,

he said, adding that all its 14 members are safe.

"A small carrier vessel operated by JSW got caught in the stormy weather between Jai-garh and Salav as it drifted due to strong winds and low visibility," JSW Group had said in a statement on Thursday.

Police had said that the tugboat went adrift after its engine stopped functioning near the Kolaba fort off the Alibag coast on Thursday.

Raigad police, Coast Guard and revenue officials were on alert to launch a rescue operation for the stranded boat, but were facing difficulties due to heavy rain, high tide and strong winds, Garge said.

Supreme Court refuses to vacate stay on UP government's order to eateries to display names of owners

NEW DELHI, Jul 26 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday refused to vacate its ex-parte interim stay on the Uttar Pradesh government's directive to eateries on the Kanwar Yatra route to display the names of their owners.

Noting that it could not read the Uttar Pradesh government's affidavit filed on Thursday night and the governments of Uttarakhanda and Madhya Pradesh had sought time to file their responses, a Bench of Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Justice SVN Bhatt extended the stay order till August 5, the next date of hearing.

The Bench, however, clarified that there was no bar under its July 22 order on eateries voluntarily displaying owner or employee names during Kanwar Yatra. "We have said what needed to be said in our July 22 order. Can't force anyone to disclose names," it said.

On behalf of the Uttar Pradesh government, senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi defended its directive requiring eateries along the Kanwar Yatra route to display the names of their owners, saying the idea was to bring in transparency, avoid "potential confusion" and ensure a peaceful yatra.

Rohatgi urged the Bench to take up the matter on next Monday or Tuesday, saying "I (UP government) am suffering an ex-parte order" and the issue would become infructuous if it was delayed.

He sought to emphasise that the state government was simply enforcing a law enact-



ed by Parliament that required shop owners to display their names and that the petitioners didn't inform the court about the existence of such a law.

"Then let it be enforced all over...not only in certain states. File a counter (affidavit) showing it has been enforced all over," the Bench said.

However, the Bench posted the matter for hearing on August 5 to enable the governments of Uttarakhanda and Madhya Pradesh to file their replies. It also refused to entertain intervention applications filed on behalf of the devotees/Kanwar Yatris.

"It may be noted that the idea behind the directives is transparency and informed choice of the consumers/kanwaris regarding the food they eat during the period of the Yatra, keeping in mind their religious sentiments so that they don't, even accidentally, fall foul of their beliefs," the Uttar Pradesh government said in an affidavit filed in response to PILs challenging its directive.

On behalf of petitioners, the Association for Protection of

Civil Rights, TMC MP Mahua Moitra, Prof Apoorvanand Jha and others, challenging the validity of the directive, senior counsel AM Singhvi opposed Rohatgi's submissions.

"The temporary nature of the directives ensures that they do not inflict any permanent discrimination or hardship on the food sellers, simultaneously ensuring maintaining the sentiments of Kanwaris and their religious beliefs and practices." "So they say there is discrimination, but it is not permanent," Singhvi told the Bench.

"We deem it appropriate to pass an interim order prohibiting the enforcement of the above directives. In other words, the food sellers, hawkers etc may be required to display the kind of food they are serving to Kanwaris but they must not be forced to disclose the names of owners and staff employed," the Bench had said on July 22, staying the UP government's order.

The petitioners alleged that the UP government's directive went against secularism and was aimed at exclusion by identity.

"Impugned directives encourage discrimination on grounds of caste and religion and cannot be seen to serve any 'legitimate purpose'. These directives promote discrimination solely based on religious and caste identity, as they do not require the display of food items being served or a statement that no non-vegetarian or non-sattvik food is being served, but only the display of religious or caste identity explicit in one's name. This directly breaches Article 15 of the Constitution," one of the petitions submitted.

Maintaining that the decision was in the interest of law and order, the Uttar Pradesh government had on July 19 made it mandatory for food and beverage shops along the Kanwar Yatra routes to display the names/identity of the operators/owners of such establishments.

However, opposition political parties and Muslim organisations criticised the decision, terming it discriminatory against Muslims.

In Madhya Pradesh, a similar circular has been issued by the BJP-ruled Ujjain Municipal Corporation which has directed the shop owners in the city to display their names and mobile numbers outside their establishments. Any violation of this order will attract a fine of Rs 2,000 for the first offence and Rs 5,000 if the order is defied for the second time, the Ujjain Municipal Corporation reportedly said.

On Friday, the Bench asked Ujjain Municipal Corporation to spell out its stand.

Lucky escape for 40 students after school bus gets stuck at level crossing in Nagpur

NAGPUR, Jul 26 (Agencies): Timely intervention by a loco pilot and locals saved the lives of 40 students after the school bus they were travelling on got stuck on railway tracks at a level crossing in Nagpur, an official said on Friday.

The incident occurred at Khaparkheda around 4 pm on Thursday when the school bus driver did not stop even after seeing the red signal at the level crossing, the



police official said. When the bus was on the tracks, both gates of the level crossing closed as a train was to pass through the area, he said.

Within moments, panic and chaos prevailed at the road-rail intersection. Locals soon spilled onto the tracks in their efforts to signal the train driver to stop.

A railway official said a passenger train was going from Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh to Itwari in Nagpur at the time. Seeing the school bus in the middle of the level crossing, the gatekeeper alerted the officials through a walkie-talkie.

Sensing something was not right since many people had gathered on the tracks, the loco pilot applied the brakes and brought the train to a halt before the level

crossing, he said. Within ten minutes, the official said, the track was cleared and the bus safely crossed to the other side, he said.

Khaparkheda police station in-charge Dhanaji Zalak said the school bus driver was at fault as he drove the vehicle despite seeing the red signal and knowing the automatic gates would be closing. "On his part, the driver had moved the bus parallel to the railway tracks," he said.

Supreme Court issues notices to Centre, secretaries of Kerala, West Bengal governors on denial of assent to bills

NEW DELHI, Jul 26 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday issued notices to the Centre and the secretaries to the governors of Kerala and West Bengal on petitions filed by the two state governments against denial of assent to bills and referring those for the consideration of the President.

A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud asked the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the secretaries to the two governors to respond to the petitions after senior advocate KK Venugopal submitted on behalf of the Kerala Government that there was a need for the top court to lay down guidelines as to when a Governor can return a Bill or refer it to the President.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing the West Bengal Government, said every time the matter was listed in the Supreme Court, the governor referred bills to the President.

"Let replies be filed in three weeks and let

a joint note be submitted by the States," said the Bench - which also included Justice JB Paridwala and Justice Manoj Misra.

Venugopal said, "This a confusion in the minds of various Governors in the country as to what their powers are in regard to assenting to bills. In the present case, out of eight bills, two of them had been kept pending for 23 months. One for 15 months. Another for 13 months. And others for 10 months. Now, it is a very sad state of affairs. The Constitution itself is being rendered otiose."

He said the state was challenging the very reference of the bills to the President. While giving her assent to three bills, President Droupadi Murmu chose to withhold assent to four bills—University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021, the Kerala Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022, the University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2022, and the University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2022. The Kerala Government has also challenged the President



withholding assent for four of the seven bills referred by the Kerala Governor.

Faced with recurring instances of governors "sitting" over bills passed by state assemblies for years, the Supreme Court had on November 29, 2023 said it will consider laying down guidelines as to when the governors can refer bills to the President of India for assent.

Disapproving of Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan "sitting" for two years on bills passed by the state legislative assembly, a Bench led by CJI Chandrachud had agreed to the Kerala Government's request to clarify the legal position as to when governors can refer bills to the President.

Maintaining that the

Governor is intended to be a constitutional statesman guiding the state government on matters of constitutional concern, the Supreme Court had in November 2023 ruled that he can't veto a Bill enacted by the legislative assembly.

"The Governor, as an unelected Head of the State, is entrusted with certain constitutional powers. However, this power cannot be used to thwart the normal course of law-making by the State Legislatures," a Bench led by CJI Chandrachud had said in its November 10, 2023 verdict on Punjab Government's petition against Governor Banwarilal Purohit sitting over Bills passed by the state assembly. The verdict was made public on November 23, 2023. Interpreting Article 200

of the Constitution, the Bench said, "The Governor has three options available when a Bill which has been passed by the State Legislature is presented for assent. The Governor "shall declare" (i) either that he assents to the Bill; or (ii) that he withholds assents therefrom; or (iii) that he reserves the Bill for the consideration of the President."

However, it said, "The concluding phrase "shall not withhold assent therefrom" is a clear indicator that the exercise of the power under the first proviso is related to the withholding of the assent by the Governor to the Bill in the first instance. That is why in the concluding part, the first proviso indicates that upon the passing of the Bill by the legislature either with or without amendments, the Governor shall not withhold assent.

"The role which is ascribed by the first proviso to the Governor is recommendatory in nature and it does not bind the state legislature," the top court had clarified.

Cancer cases rising, prices of essential medicines kept in check: Health minister



NEW DELHI, Jul 26 (Agencies): The government makes all efforts to ensure affordable and accessible treatment is available for cancer patients amid a rise in cases in India, Health Minister JP Nadda said today.

Replying to supplementary questions during Question Hour in the Lok Sabha, Mr Nadda said the government made all efforts to ensure that affordable and accessible treatment was available to the patients.

"The number of cancer cases is going up, it is increasing by almost 2.5 per cent every year," Mr Nadda said.

In men, cases of oral and lung cancer

are on the up while more women are getting breast cancer, he added.

More than 15.5 lakh cancer cases are being registered every year, Mr Nadda said.

"There is a list of 131 essential cancer medicines, which are in Schedule 1, (that) are monitored and (their) pricing is decided by the government. These are the commonly used medicines," Mr Nadda said.

He said patients cumulatively saved around 294 crore due to this price control.

"There are 28 combinations, which are not in this list but the NPPA (National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority)

and the government have controlled their pricing as well," he said.

"We have tried to make cancer drugs affordable," he added.

Responding to another question on healthcare infrastructure, Mr Nadda said the government was apprised of the matter and expansion of medical colleges were happening so that there could be more doctors.

"There should be a balance in quality and quantity of medical education. We are trying to go as fast as we can but, at the same time, (we) do not want to compromise on the quality of medical doctors," he said.

Mr Nadda informed the House that the number of medical colleges had gone up from 387 in 2014 to 731 at present while the number of MBBS seats rose from 51,348 seats to 1,12,112 (1.12 lakh) during the same period.

The number of post-graduate seats for medical students has gone up from 31,185 in 2014 to 72,627 at present, he added.

Climate Change Intensifies Rainfall Patterns, Typhoons, Warn Scientists

Taiwan, the Philippines and then China were lashed by the year's most powerful typhoon this week, with schools, businesses and financial markets shut

SINGAPORE, Jul 26 (Agencies): Climate change is driving changes in rainfall patterns across the world, scientists said on Friday, which could also be intensifying typhoons and other tropical storms.

Taiwan, the Philippines and then China were lashed by the year's most powerful typhoon this week, with schools, businesses and financial markets shut as wind speeds surged up to 227 kph (141 mph). On China's eastern coast, hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated ahead of landfall on Thursday.

Stronger tropical storms are part of a wider phenomenon of weather extremes driven by higher temperatures, scientists say.

Researchers led by Zhang Wenxia at the China Academy of Sciences studied historical meteorological data and found about 75% of the world's land area had seen a rise in "precipitation variability" or wider swings between wet and dry weather.

Warming temperatures have enhanced the ability of the atmosphere to hold moisture, which is causing wider fluctuations in rainfall, the researchers



said in a paper published by the Science journal.

"(Variability) has increased in most places, including Australia, which means rainier rain periods and drier dry periods," said Steven Sherwood, a scientist at the Climate Change Research Centre at the University of New South Wales, who was not involved in the study.

"This is going to increase as global warming continues, enhancing the chances of droughts and/or floods."

FEWER, BUT MORE INTENSE, STORMS
Scientists believe that climate change is also reshaping the behaviour of tropical storms,

including typhoons, making them less frequent but more powerful.

"I believe higher water vapour in the atmosphere is the ultimate cause of all of these tendencies toward more extreme hydrological phenomena," Sherwood told agency.

Typhoon Gaemi, which first made landfall in Taiwan on Wednesday, was the strongest to hit the island in eight years.

While it is difficult to attribute individual weather events to climate change, models predict that global warming makes typhoons stronger, said Sachie Kanada, a researcher at Japan's Nagoya University.

"In general, warmer sea surface temperature is a favourable condition for tropical cyclone development," she said.

In its "blue paper" on climate change published this month, China said the number of typhoons in the Northwest Pacific and South China Sea had declined significantly since the 1990s, but they were getting stronger.

Taiwan also said in its climate change report published in May that climate change was likely to reduce the overall number of typhoons in the region while making each one more intense.

The decrease in the number of typhoons is due to the uneven pattern of ocean warming, with temperatures rising faster in the western Pacific than the east, said Feng Xiangbo, a tropical cyclone research scientist at the University of Reading.

Water vapour capacity in the lower atmosphere is expected to rise by 7% for each 1 degree Celsius increase in temperatures, with tropical cyclone rainfall in the United States surging by as much as 40% for each single degree rise, he said.

Sri Lanka's first presidential vote since unrest to be held on September 21

COLOMBO, Jul 26 (Agencies): Sri Lanka's first presidential elections since an unprecedented economic crisis spurred widespread unrest will be held in September, the election commission said Friday.

The election will be the first test of the public mood since the height of the 2022 downturn, which caused months of food, fuel and medicine shortages across the island nation.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe, 75, who took office after street protests forced his predecessor to flee the country, has strongly hinted he plans to run. He will face at least two rivals campaigning against austerity measures his government imposed to satisfy an International Monetary Fund bailout package.

The five-week campaign announced by the commission will conclude with a September 21 vote in a country still struggling with a fragile economic recovery and endemic discontent over cost of living issues.

Economic issues are expected to dominate the campaign as the country emerges from its worst-ever recession in 2022, when the GDP shrank by a record 7.8 percent.

Inflation has since returned to normal levels from its peak of 70 percent at the height of the crisis.

Wickremesinghe has also successfully negotiated a restructure of Sri Lanka's \$46 billion foreign debt with bilateral lenders including China, following a 2022 government default.

But his policies to balance the government's books by hiking taxes and withdrawing generous utility subsidies have

been deeply unpopular with the public.

While the months-long food, fuel and medicine shortages seen at the peak of the economic crisis are now a distant memory, many Sri Lankans say Wickremesinghe's austerity measures have left them struggling to make ends meet.

Opposition parties have vowed to renegotiate terms of the \$2.9 billion IMF bailout Wickremesinghe negotiated last year.

The president's main challenger so far is Sajith Premadasa, 57, a one-time party ally and current opposition leader.

Premadasa has vowed to continue with economic reforms and the IMF programme but pledged to cushion the public by reducing the tax increases Wickremesinghe imposed to shore up state revenue. A leftist party is also fielding its leader, 55-year-old former agriculture minister Anura Kumara Dissanayake, who is campaigning against plans to privatise state companies.

Wickremesinghe took office following the government default in 2022, after a huge crowd stormed predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa's compound.

Rajapaksa, who was accused of steering Sri Lanka into the crisis through economic mismanagement, temporarily fled abroad and issued his resignation from Singapore.

Local elections were due to be held last year but postponed indefinitely after the government insisted it had no money to conduct a nationwide vote.

More than 17 million Sri Lankans over the age of 18 are eligible to cast a ballot.

The election commission has allocated \$33 million (10 billion rupees) for this year's presidential poll.

France's high-speed railway hit by 'sabotage' hours before Olympics; multiple Paris-London Eurostar trains cancelled

PARIS, Jul 26 (Agencies): France's high-speed rail network was hit by arson attacks that disrupted travel for hundreds of thousands of passengers on Friday, just hours before the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics.

The operator of Eurostar has announced the cancellation of multiple Paris-London trains due to an act of sabotage on the French rail lines.

French officials described the attacks as "criminal actions" and said they were investigating whether they were linked to the Olympic Games.

The disruptions as the world's eye was turning to Paris were expected to affect a quarter of a million people alone on Friday and endure through the weekend, and possibly longer, officials said.

Transport Minister Patrice Vergriete described people fleeing from the scene of fires and the discovery of incendiary devices at the site.

"Everything indicates that these are criminal fires," he said, reported Associated Press.

A source close to the investigation told news agency the attacks were coordinated acts of "sabotage".

"This is a massive attack on a large scale to paralyse the TGV network," SNCF told agency, adding that many routes would be cancelled.

"SNCF was the victim of several simultaneous malicious acts overnight," the national train operator said, adding that the attacks affected its Atlantic, northern and eastern lines.

"Arson attacks were started to damage our facilities," it said, adding that traffic on the affected lines was "heavily disrupted" and the situation would last through the weekend as repairs are conducted.

SNCF chief executive Jean-Pierre Farandou said 800,000 passengers

were affected.

Transport Minister Patrice Vergriete called the attacks an "outrageous criminal act" that would have "very serious consequences" for rail traffic throughout the weekend.

He said connections towards northern, eastern and northwestern France would be halved.

Sports Minister Amélie Oudéa-Castera said authorities were working to "evaluate the impact on travelers, athletes, and ensure the transport of all delegations to the competition sites" for the Olympics. Speaking on BFM television, she added, "Playing against the Games is playing against France, against your own camp, against your country." She did not identify who was behind the vandalism, Associated Press reported.

SNCF said trains were being diverted to different tracks "but we will have to cancel a large number of them".

The southeastern line was not affected as "a malicious act was foiled".

SNCF urged passengers to postpone their trips and stay away from train stations.

As reported by agency, many passengers at the Gare du Nord, one of Europe's busiest train stations, were looking for answers and solutions on Friday morning. All eyes were on the central message boards as most services to northern France, Belgium and the United Kingdom were delayed.

"It's a hell of a way to start the Olympics," said Sarah Moseley, 42, as she learned that her train to London was an hour late.

"They should have more information for tourists, especially if it's a malicious attack," said Corey Grainger, a 37-year-old Australian sales manager on his way to London, as he rested on his two suitcases in the middle of the station.

Blinken to celebrate Biden legacy, reassure allies in Asia after president drops out of 2024 race

VIENTIANE, Jul 26 (Agencies): U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken will make the case for the Biden administration's expanded commitment to Asia and the Indo-Pacific region more broadly as he visits Laos, Vietnam, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore and Mongolia this week and next. The trip comes as the 2024 U.S. presidential election campaign heats up after a series of bombshell developments upended the race.

Blinken, who has already modified his travel schedule twice since the trip was announced just hours after President Joe Biden made his decision not to seek re-election, arrives in Vientiane, Laos, on Saturday for the annual ASEAN Regional Forum. The security conference gathers the foreign ministers of Association of Southeast Asian Nations and regional powers like China, Australia, Japan, Russia, South Korea and India.

All participants represent either critical U.S. allies and partners or Washington's two largest rivals - Moscow and Beijing, which have grown closer over the past two years, prompting deep concerns about their combined global influence. Just this week, U.S. and Canadian jets inter-



cepted Chinese and Russian bombers flying jointly near Alaska. The U.S. has repeatedly accused China of helping to rebuild Russia's military industrial base that allows it to wage its war in Ukraine.

Blinken is expected to meet with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Vientiane but has no plans to see Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who is also attending the ASEAN conference, according to the State Department.

Despite, or perhaps due to, its major policy differences with the U.S. over Taiwan, Tibet, Hong Kong, the South China Sea, trade and human rights, China is emerging as a potential challenger to the U.S. in international diplomatic dominance.

Beijing has recently mediated a fragile rapprochement between rival Palestinian factions, negotiated a tentative deal with the Philippines to end escalating confrontations over their competing mari-

time claims in the South China Sea, agreed to work with India on withdrawing tens of thousands of troops along their disputed Himalayan border, and hosted Ukraine's foreign minister.

Despite assertions from U.S. officials that Biden's decision to withdraw will have no impact on the administration's foreign policies for his last six months in office, questions about his priorities before he leaves the White House and the path his successor may take.

Although there was no discussion of Blinken cancelling his travel plans after Biden's announcement, his time and meetings in Laos have been cut nearly in half since the original trip announcement, and two brief stops in Vietnam and Mongolia have been added.

While the presumptive Democratic nominee, Vice President Kamala Harris, might be expected to hew closely to Biden's approach, Republican challenger

Donald Trump could bring major change, particularly regarding security commitments to America's Asian allies, notably Japan, South Korea and the Philippines.

"Foreign leaders and adversaries now are not only facing new uncertainty about the outcome of the election that seemed Trump's for the taking, but uncertainty as well about how the policies of a victorious Democratic candidate would differ from Biden," said Danny Russel, a former assistant secretary of state for East Asia and the Pacific in the Obama administration who is currently vice president of the Asia Society Policy Institute in New York.

"For China in particular, this argues for a cautious wait-and-see posture," he said.

Blinken will use the trip to reassure partners that "America is all in on the Indo-Pacific," said Dan Kritenbrink, the top U.S. diplomat for Asia. "The United States has been an Indo-Pacific power for more than a century and will remain so going forward."

"We're going to continue to do everything possible to demonstrate that commitment in coming months," Kritenbrink told reporters earlier this week. He discounted concerns about the presidential campaign but added: "We do try to

reassure allies and partners that there are certain fundamentals about America's engagement that are not going to change, that have been consistent."

Among those constants for the past six decades have been large U.S. troop deployments in Japan and South Korea and a mutual defense treaty with the Philippines. During his first term in office, Trump cast doubt on the usefulness of U.S. alliances around the world and suggested that the American military presence in Japan and South Korea be reduced or eliminated.

As part of his Asia tour, Blinken will be joined by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in Tokyo and Manila, where they will meet with their Japanese and Filipino counterparts to shore up their defense cooperation "in the face of really growing and unprecedented threats in the region," according to Kritenbrink.

And, in the view of analysts like Russel, Biden may direct his team to step up engagement. "Leaders who may have effectively counted him out are now dealing with an undistracted Joe Biden, focused on augmenting his substantial legacy and unencumbered by the heavy burden of campaigning," Russel said.

Search for people missing after Ethiopia mudslides continues as death toll rises to 257

ADDIS ABABA, Jul 26 (Agencies): Search teams were still digging at the site of deadly mudslides in southern Ethiopia on Friday, as the death toll rose to 257, according to the U.N. humanitarian office.

Heavy rain triggered deadly slides on Sunday and Monday in a remote part of the country. The U.N. humanitarian office, known as OCHA, said in an update Thursday that the death toll could rise to as many

as 500, citing local officials.

"More than 15,000 affected people need to be evacuated" from the area, it said.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is expected to visit the remote area on Friday. Mudslides there have been triggered by heavy rainfall in recent days. Abiy said earlier in the week that he was "deeply saddened by this terrible loss."

Photos from the scene show residents standing over the

shrouded bodies of mudslide victims who are being pulled, one by one, from the muddy earth. Diggers have been using hand shovels to pick through the mud.

Many people were buried in the Gofa Zone of Kencho Shacha Gozdi district on Monday, as rescue workers searched the steep terrain for survivors from mudslides the previous day.

Landslides are common

during Ethiopia's rainy season, which started in July and is expected to last until mid-September.

Deadly mudslides often occur in the wider East African region, from Uganda's mountainous east to central Kenya's highlands. In April, at least 45 people were killed in Kenya's Rift Valley region when flash floods and a landslide swept through houses and cut off a major road.

Hamas Leader Dies In Israeli Custody In West Bank

JERUSALEM, Jul 26 (Agencies): A Hamas leader in the West Bank died in Israeli custody, Palestinian authorities and the militant group said Friday.

Mustafa Muhammad Abu Ara, 63, died after being moved from a prison in southern Israel to a hospital, according to a joint statement by the Palestinian Authority's prisoners affairs body and the Palestinian Prisoners' Club watchdog. "We mourn the passing of the leader and prisoner Sheikh Mustafa Muhammad Abu Ara and hold the occupation responsible for his assassination through deliberate medical neglect," Hamas said in a statement.

Abu Ara was arrested in October while suffering severe health problems, the Palestinian body and the watchdog said.

During his detention he was subjected to torture and starvation, they added. Israel's military did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Palestinian authorities accused Israel this month of waging an abusive "war of revenge" against Palestinian detainees since the start of the Israel-Hamas war. At the time, the Israeli military said it "rejects outright allegations concerning systematic abuse of detainees", adding that it acts within international law.

ABVP Jammu University stages protest against Controller of Examination

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 26: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu University Unit organised a protest against the Controller of Examinations, Jammu University. The protest was held on behalf of the B.Sc Paramedical students from various colleges affiliated to University of Jammu, including GMC Jammu, Doda, Rajouri, and Kathua. The students of the 2020-21 batch have been facing significant issues related to their academic progression, particularly concerning the delay in the declaration of their results



and the conduct of their third-year examinations. The B.Sc Paramedical degree is designed to be completed within three years and six months, which includes an internship period. However, despite three years and three months having passed, there has been an unacceptable delay in both the announcement of

results and the scheduling of the third-year exams. This has caused widespread distress and uncertainty among students as this delay would severely impact the academic and professional future of the students. The protesting students and ABVP representatives demanded the immediate declaration of all pending

results. Furthermore, they called for prompt scheduling and conduction of the third-year examinations to ensure that the students' educational timelines are not further disrupted. State Secretary of ABVP Akshi Billowria, stated, "The students of the 2020-21 batch have been patient for far too long. The delay in declaring results is like playing with their careers. The administration must understand this situation and take immediate corrective measures". Jammu University President Sahil Choudhary said, "ABVP stands with the students and will continue

to fight for their rights. The authorities must ensure timely resolution of these issues to prevent further academic losses. The students have already suffered enough, and it is high time their concerns are addressed effectively." He said that the result should be released as soon as possible. The protest witnessed participation in large number of students and ABVP members, all united in their demand for a swift resolution to the ongoing academic crisis. The ABVP has vowed to escalate their agitation if the university administration fails to take prompt action.

Fourth edition of ethical and educational exchange programme held at Thiksey Monastery

Top News Report

LEH, July 26: The fourth edition of a weeklong Ethical and Educational Exchange programme concluded at the Shesrap Skydtsal Ling, Library & Learning Centre, Thiksey Monastery, Leh. The weeklong event, held from July 18-23, was organised in collaboration with Thiksey Gonpa School, Shachukul Gonpa School and Disket Gonpa School. The programme aimed to foster ethical values and educational development among students through a variety of enriching activities. Participants engaged in debates, meditation,



Literature studies, Reading Skills enhancement, Games, Pilgrimage and teaching workshops. The closing ceremony was graced by Dy chairman, Tsering Angchuk as chief guest and nominated Councillor, Ven. Konchok Tsephel, as guest

of honour. Alongside, representative heads from the three participating Gonpa schools, including head abbot/Chakzot, Hemis Gonpa as well as students, and other concerned members were also present.

Kaith, others welcome Baba Swarnjit Singh of Tapsthan Gurudwara Manji Sahib at Chohala

Top News Report

R.S.PURA, July 26: With Baba Swarnjit Singh of Tapsthan Gurudwara Manji Sahib, Himachal Pradesh (Gaddi Baba Wadwagh Singh Ji Maharaj) reached his native village Chohala today. Baba Ji was accorded a grand reception by R.L.Kaith, Vicky Kaith, Ramesh Chand, Janak

Raj, Rakesh Kumar, Dhian Chand and others, who were overwhelmed to have a look at their Master whom they love so dearly. Baba Ji met with each and every devotee who had come to welcome him. During the visit, Baba Ji participated in a sat-sang. While addressing, he said, Today there is a need to bring a modern change in every indi-

vidual because due to lack of change the society is heading towards downfall. He said that we definitely get associated with some Guru but are unable to understand his basic principle, therefore first we will have to understand the basic principle of the Guru and this is the only path that will take us to the door of the Supreme Father, the Almighty.

Plantation drive held at Central Library of SKUAST-J

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 26: Under the patronage of the Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu Prof. B.N. Tripathi, a plantation drive was held to develop greenzone around the Central Library, Main Campus, SKUAST-Jammu, Chatha. Director, Planning & Monitoring, Dr. Sanjay Kher, Dean, Student Welfare, Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi, Medical Officer, Dr. Anil Gupta, University Librarian, Dr. R.K Samnotra, drivers of the University namely Javed Ahmed, Rakesh Kumar,

Jugal Kishore, Barkat Ali, Usman Ali, Amit Kumar, Prem Kumar, Manjit Singh, Narinder Paul, Mohd Arfan Waza, Mohd Imran, Mohd. Salem, teaching/nonteaching staff and large number of students took part in the plantation drive. Prof. R.K. Samnotra, University Librarian also gave a message of plantation to youth by adopting a tree. The event was organised to enhance the concept of Van-Mahotsav and make people aware of the environment and the importance of green cover around in future.

Heritagean Puneesh Puri shines at 7th National Ranking Skating C'hip

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 26: Puneesh Puri, a stand-out student from Heritage School, has once again showcased his exceptional talent in roller skating by clinching two gold medals and one bronze at the 7th National Ranking Skating Championship held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Competing in the under-14 category, Puneesh secured gold in both the 1500m Road Race and

the 1000m Rink Race, while also earning a bronze in the 500+D Rink Race. This prestigious championship, organized by the Chhattisgarh Roller Skating Association under the aegis of the Roller Skating Federation of India, took place from June 6 to 9, 2024. The event saw participation from over 1200 skaters from all across India, making Puneesh's achievements all the more remarkable.

Puneesh Puri's outstanding performance adds to his already impressive tally of wins, further establishing him as a rising star in the world of roller skating. His dedication, hard work, and perseverance continue to bring pride to his school and community. The Heritage School fraternity extends its heartfelt congratulations to Puneesh on his stupendous success and wishes him good luck for his future endeavours.

Yogi calls on Relief Commissioner Migrants, discusses migrant problems

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 26: M.K.Yogi, Senior KP Leader on Friday called on Relief and Rehabilitation commissioner Migrants J&K in his office chamber to discuss and deliberate upon the important problems of migrants being faced by them in exile on day to day basis and sought their early resolution without any delay. In a press statement issued today, M.K.Yogi said that he called on Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Migrants J&K today in his office chamber and discussed with him the pertinent issues of migrants like bifurcation cases, domicile issues, addition and deletions issues, functioning of those defunct tube wells in Jagti who are non functional for want of immediate repairment for better provisions

of pure drinking water to the migrants of Jagti, internal repairment of all quarters in Camps and daily sanitation and cleanliness in all camps, repairment of defunct street lights in Jagti and other camps, renewal of weaker section certificate issues, correction issues, efficiency and effective promptness in official working system in RC office and issues of PM package employees and impressed upon Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Migrants J&K to ensure that these genuine problems raised during the meeting are addressed on priority basis so that migrants feel a sigh of relief. Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Dr.Arvind Karwani gave a patient hearing to the problems listed by leader in the meeting and assured early addressal of all issues.

GDC Budhal celebrates Kargil Vijay Diwas 2024



Top News Report

BUDHAL, July 26: To commemorate the victory of the Indian Armed Forces over Pakistan in the Kargil War of 1999, the NSS and NCC units of GDC Budhal collaboratively organized a screening of the 2004 Bollywood movie "Lakshya". Prior to the screening, Prof. Tahir Nadeem, the NSS Programme Officer, and Prof. Qumar Rabani, the NCC CTO, addressed the participants, enlightening them about the purpose of celebrating this significant day. They emphasized the importance of remembering the valor and sacrifices of the Indian Armed Forces

during the Kargil War. The screening of "Lakshya", a film depicting the transformation of an aimless and carefree youth into a dedicated soldier, had a very deep impact on all the viewers' minds, filling them with a feeling of pride and patriotism. Students and staff responded enthusiastically to the movie by actively participating in the interactive session held thereafter. Other prominent faculty members who attended the screening were Prof. Atal Bharati (HOD Physics), Prof. Qumar Rabani (HOD History), Dr. Altaf Hussain (HOD Chemistry), Prof. Tahir Mahmood (HOD Eng-

lish), Mohd Yousaf, Irfan Ahmed, Wajid Hussain, Gafoor Ahmed, Shabir Ahmed and Mushtaq Ahmed. The event ended with a vote of thanks presented by Prof. Tahir Nadeem, who expressed gratitude to all those who made this event a success. Appreciating the efforts of the organizing committee, the Principal of the college, Prof. M.A. Dar, stated that such events foster a sense of patriotism among students, which is very important for their holistic development. He praised the NSS and NCC units for their dedication in fostering national pride among the students.

FROM PAGE 1

PM Modi pays tribute to bravehearts on Kargil Vijay Diwas in Drass

On the 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas today, families of the soldiers remember the bravery and dedication of their loved ones who laid their lives during the war between India and Pakistan in icy heights in 1999. Kargil Vijay Diwas, observed annually on July 26, commemorates the success of Operation Vijay in 1999. During this conflict, Indian forces successfully reclaimed strategic positions in the Kargil sector of Jammu and Kashmir that had been infiltrated by Pakistani soldiers and terrorists. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister will carry out the first blast of the Shinkun La Tunnel Project virtually. An official release said that Shinkun La Tunnel Project consists of a 4.1 km long Twin-Tube tunnel which will be constructed at an altitude of around 15,800 feet on the Nimu - Padum - Darcha Road to provide all-weather connectivity to Leh. Once completed, it will be the highest tunnel in the world. Shinkun La tunnel will not only ensure swift and efficient move-

ment of the country's armed forces and equipment but also foster economic and social development in Ladakh.

LG Manoj Sinha Pays tributes to Kargil War Martyrs

victory over Pakistan in the war. Avtar Singh murder case: Contractor Sharad Puri arrested man in Greater Kailash, who was attacked in the presence of police over a land dispute on, SSP Jammu, Dr Vinod Kumar, had ordered the suspension of incharge Police Post (IC/PP) Greater Kailash PSI Puneet Sharma. A Special Investigations Team under the supervision of SDPO South was constituted. Pertinently, Avtar Singh, son of Balbir Singh of Kaluchak was attacked by a group of goons when he objected to forcible possession of a plot he had allegedly purchased long back. In the attack, Avtar Singh had suffered severe head injuries and he was taken

to Government Medical College hospital Jammu, where he succumbed to his injuries. Gangyal police had registered FIR (39/24) under section 307/323/447/147/I.P.C. Deceased Avtar Singh, father of 8-month old child was scheduled to return to New Zealand to join his family on May 12. He had come to Jammu to take along his parents. Avtar Singh was working with McDonald at New Zealand. A day before, he had joined his father Balbir Singh to save their plot measuring 1 kanal 3 marla land from land grabbers, when he was attacked on head. In his last statement, Avtar Singh had termed land grabbers and police responsible for attack on him. Avtar had also posted two videos on his facebook page before dying. "Corruption has deep routed into the system and so we have lost young blood and alone bread earner in the family, said Avtar's cousin. Sources informed that those who were arrested include Ravinder Kumar alias Gola Shah, Kuldeep Charak, Purshotam Singh, Suraj Singh, Vikas Singh and Former SSP Sheikh Mehmood.

of the student secretary was also organized in the presence of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Dean, Faculty of

Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. AK Das and Head, Department of Languages and Literature and Nodal Officer Hindi Cell, Dr. Anurag Kumar. Milind Shukla has been a student of mechanical engineering from the year 2020 to 2024. He has played the role of Student Secretary of Hindi Cell, General Secretary of Board for Student Publication and Coordinator in many clubs and societies. With his strong leadership, he empowered many societies and clubs. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar congratulated and praised the Hindi Cell for the publication and appreciated the effective work done by Milind Shukla and wished him a bright future.

Opposition party leaders to meet in Jammu on August 7

among others. He said that all the leaders of the Opposition parties have been requested to attend this meeting.

SIA attaches property of absconding Narco-Terrorist in Poonch

Principal Sessions Judge of Poonch. The operation was conducted by the SIA with the oversight of Tehsildar Haveli, Azhar Majid. In a statement to the media, Majid noted, "The entire process was executed under the directions of the honourable court." The seizure of Liyaqat's property is a crucial move in the ongoing battle against narco-terrorism in the region. Authorities are intensifying their search for Liyaqat and continue to investigate the networks facilitating these illegal activities. Jal Shakti Dept suspends two

employees, issues show-cause notice to AEE, JE over Baramulla water crisis

employees have been suspended for misconduct. The suspended employees are identified as Assistant Lineman Muhammad Shafi Gojar of PHE Sub Division Watergam, currently posted at the Water Supply Scheme Rohama, and Helper Mohd Yaqoob Khan Mangral of PHE Sub Division Baramulla, currently posted at the Water Supply Scheme Delina. The order concerning Muhammad Shafi states, "A fine of Rs 50,000 (Rupees Fifty Thousand) shall be imposed, subject to the condition that a committee constituted shall vet the charges labeled against the employee." Father Dies on Marriage Day of His Two Daughters in Kashmir union of two families has been overshadowed by grief.

I enjoy leadership, learnt a lot of things from different captains: Suryakumar Yadav ahead of Sri Lanka series

Suryakumar's first assignment will be the three-match T20 series against hosts Sri Lanka starting in Pallekele on Saturday

PALLEKELE (SRI LANKA), Jul 26 (Agencies): Newly-appointed Indian T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav says he has enjoyed being a leader on the field despite not donning the captain's hat, adding that he learnt the tricks of the trade from different skippers over the years.

Suryakumar was appointed India's T20 captain last week ahead of Hardik Pandya after Rohit Sharma's retirement from the format.

Suryakumar's first assignment will be the three-match T20 series against hosts Sri Lanka starting here on Saturday.

"I have always enjoyed being a leader on the field even though I was not the captain. I have always learnt a lot of things from different captains. It's a good feeling and a great responsibility," the swashbuckling middle-order batter told BCCI.TV.

Indian cricket is set to embark on a new era under Suryakumar and new head coach Gautam Gambhir.

Both Suryakumar and Gamb-



hir share a strong bond since Kolkata Knight Riders days as they played together in 2014 for the franchise.

And Suryakumar, known for his aggressive batting and innovative shots, described his relationship with Gambhir as both special and strong.

"This relationship is special

because in 2014 I played under him in KKR. It was special because from there only I got opportunities. The relationship is still strong.

"He (Gambhir) knows how I work, what is my mindset when I come to practice sessions. I also know how he tries to work as a coach. It's all about the

lovely relationship we have and very excited to see how it goes forward," the Mumbai batter said.

By his own admission, Suryakumar wants to remain humble and grounded while leading the side on the field as he looks at cricket just as a sport, not life.

"I think most important thing what I have learned from this sport is how humble you are after achieving or even after not doing well. I have learned when you do something on the ground you have to leave it on the ground," he said.

"This is not your life; this is just a part of your life. So you can't be when you are doing well you stay on the top and when you are not doing well you are underground.

"That's one thing which you shouldn't do ever as a sportsman, that's one thing which I have learned and that's what helps me create balance in my life. If you are a good person, everything happens good."

Dhiraj shines as archers secure quarters berths



PARIS, Jul 26 (Agencies): Led by the in-form Dhiraj Bommadevara and Ankita Bhakat, India's campaign at the Paris Olympics began on a positive note as the country's archers secured a direct entry into the quarterfinals of both the men's and women's team events after finishing third and fourth, respectively, in the ranking round here.

Debutants Dhiraj and Ankita produced a

spectacular show in the qualifications to help India finish in the top-four, giving them favourable draws. The top-four in the team standings directly advance to the quarterfinals, while the 5th to 12th play the Round of 16 fixtures.

The Indian men's team is seeded third, which means they will not feature in the same pool as the South Koreans in the next round.

The duo of Ankita and

Dhiraj will be seeded fifth in the mixed team Round of 16.

World Cup bronze medallist Dhiraj, who defeated Tokyo Olympics silver winner Mauro Nespoli in Antalya, lived up to the expectations by finishing fourth in the individual round. Dhiraj scored 681 points. Appearing in his fourth Olympics, Tarundeep Rai ended 14th with 674 points while Pravin Jadhav finished 39th with 658 points.

Earlier in the day, Ankita left behind seasoned campaigners like Deepika Kumari to emerge as the best-placed Indian at 11th in the women's individual qualifications. The 26-year-old shot 666 and was followed by Bhajan Kaur (22nd with 559 points) and Deepika (23rd with 658 points).

South Korea's Lim Sihyeon smashed a world record score of 694 to top the standings.

BCCI to meet with IPL teams to meet on July 31

The meeting that has been on the cards for a few months now will finally happen at the end of this month.

NEW DELHI, Jul 26 (Agencies): With the mega auction cycle coming up, the Board of Control for Cricket in India have invited the ten Indian Premier League teams for a meeting to discuss the way forward for the auction and the league on July 31 in Mumbai.

Since its inception, the IPL has seen a mega auction every three years with teams getting to retain and Right to Match (RTM) players they want. This meeting, set to happen in the new BCCI office, is to discuss how many retentions should be there and the RTM cards each team can get going forward.

The meeting that has



been on the cards for a few months now will finally happen at the end of this month. And as is often the case, different teams have expressed a different number of player options depending on their team composition. There is also the topic of how frequently the mega auction should be held.

According to multiple reports, some teams

want as many as 5-8 retentions.

In 2018, the eight teams got to keep a maximum of five players (3 retention or 3 RTMs) in the auction while in 2022, they could retain four without any RTMs.

Whether to keep the RTMs or increase the retention, it all will be discussed in detail at the meeting and the decision will be taken accordingly.

Very clear about his intent, communication: Gill on first impressions of Gautam Gambhir as head coach

PALLEKELE, Jul 26 (Agencies): India's newly appointed vice-captain, Shubman Gill, opened up on his first impression of Gautam Gambhir as a head coach, saying that the former Indian opener is very clear about his intent, communication and player roles with the team.

India's tour of Sri Lanka begins with a T20I on Saturday and consists of three T20Is and three ODIs each. Gill will be the deputy to Suryakumar Yadav and Rohit Sharma in the short format and 50-overs, respectively. This is Gambhir's first assignment as head coach after being appointed to the position earlier in July after Rahul Dravid vacated the post following ICC T20 World Cup win in West Indies.

Speaking ahead of the



first T20I in Pallekele in the pre-match presser, Gill said, "We have had just two net sessions together, and this is the first time I am working with him. But whatever he has told me during these two sessions, his intent and communication have been very clear--he knows what he wants from which player, and what he thinks will work for each player." Gill also opened up on his equation with the newly-appointed T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav, saying that they are "alike".

"We think alike. I have

played under Surya bhai's captaincy in the South Africa tour," he said.

"Our communication and understanding are alike. You can see this in the upcoming games," he added.

India's tour of Sri Lanka will kick-off with a three-match T20I series, followed by a three-match ODI series. The Pallekele International Stadium will be hosting the T20I leg of the series while the R Premadasa is getting to host the 50-over matches.

The three ODIs will be held on August 2,

August 4, and August 7.

Both teams will be taking to the field with new head coaches. While legendary all-rounder Sanath Jayasuriya has been named as the interim head coach for Lankan Lions, this will also be the first assignment for former Indian opener Gautam Gambhir as the head coach, succeeding the T20 World Cup-winning coach Rahul Dravid.

India's last tour of Sri Lanka for a bilateral white-ball series came back in July 2021, with Dravid coaching the Shikhar Dhawan-led side.

India won the ODI series 2-1, while Sri Lanka secured the T20I series by the same margin.

T20I Squad for Sri Lanka series: Suryakumar Yadav (c), Shubman Gill (vc), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rinku Singh, Riyan Parag, Rishabh Pant (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Khaleel Ahmed, Mohammed Siraj.

ODI Squad for Sri Lanka series: Rohit Sharma (c), Shubman Gill (vc), Virat Kohli, KL Rahul (WK), Rishabh Pant (wk), Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Washington Sundar, Arshdeep Singh, Riyan Parag, Axar Patel, Khaleel Ahmed, Harshit Rana.

Women-dominated wrestling team 'Dangal ready' at the Paris Olympics 2024

PARIS, Jul 26 (Agencies): Indian wrestling has been making headlines for a year-and-a-half. But, it has mostly been for the matters outside the mat, not on it.

The Indian wrestlers had launched protests against the former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, accusing him of sexual harassment. From sleeping in tents and footpaths to getting dragged on the streets of the National Capital by Delhi Police. The result of the protests was witnessed in the tally of wrestlers who could make it to the Paris Olympics 2024.

After every four years, when the Olympics approach, one category on which everyone pins their hopes for glory is wrestling.

After all, India has won seven medals in the wrestling category so far at the Olympic Games, with two silvers and five bronze. The wrestlers have also had a streak of bringing a medal home since the last four Olympic Games.

The Indian wrestlers won the battle that was done off the mat, with the ouster of Brij Bhushan and a case being filed.

Now it is time for the 6-member wrestling team to focus on the fight that will be done on the mat at one of the biggest stages.

Contrary to the previous editions of the Olympic Games, which witnessed the men wrestlers dominating the charts with 6 medals, in comparison to Sakshi Malik being the sole female wrestler to win a medal at Summer Games.

The Paris 2024 Olympics will witness five women athletes and just one male athlete taking part in the freestyle event.

India's wrestling contingent

Aman Sehrawat, (men's 57kg), Vinesh Phogat (women's 50kg), Antim Panghal (women's 53kg), Anshu Malik (women's 57kg), Nisha (women's 68kg), and Reetika Hooda (women's 76kg).

Notably, only Aman

(fourth) and Antim (sixth) have been seeded from the Indian contingent.

Phogat seeks redemption

Since last year, Vinesh Phogat has fought the battle for not just her career, but her life as well. She was one of the leading protesters against the former WFI chief and turned out to be the only competing wrestler among the three leaders at the Paris Olympics 2024. Her knee surgery had forced her to miss the Asia Games and made an impeccable comeback after that.

However, she had to cut down her weight to 50kg to secure an Olympic berth. She managed to do it all despite battling with mental health issues and administrative chaos during the Tokyo Olympics 2020. She was injured on the mat during the Rio Olympics 2016 and dealt with an unsupportive system during the Tokyo Olympics. Can Vinesh finally bring home glory this time?

Phogat doesn't have

an Olympic medal yet, but she has already done so much for Indian wrestling, on and off the mat. Since Phogat is not seeded in the Paris Games, she could be in for a tough ride..

Debutant wrestlers look to make maiden podium appearance

Antim Panghal is competing in the women's 53kg category.

The youngster was the first Indian wrestler to win an Olympic quota and a result of that led to Vinesh dropping down to the 50kg category. This will be the first time that wrestling will have seedings and Panghal is currently the 4th seeded player. Her seeding gave her a good advantage as she avoided big names in the early rounds.

If she lives up to her reputation and ability, Panghal should make it to the final where she will be up against Akari Fujinami, who will be a force to be reckoned with.

The Japanese wrestler hasn't lost a bout since 2017.

Wrestler Reetika Hooda, another debutant in the Olympics, became the first Indian to qualify for the Olympics in the heavyweight (76kg) category.

A women-dominated wrestling contingent

The 2022 Under-23 World Champion, Aman, is the only male wrestler in the Indian contingent. The Tokyo 2020 Olympic medallists, Ravi Dahiya and Bajrang Punia lost the national Olympic trials in their respective categories. Aman Sehrawat, the 2023 Asian champion and the 2022 Under-23 world champion, could face Japan's Rei Higuchi or Armenia's Arsen Harutyunyan before the medal rounds begin.

Rei Higuchi is a Rio 2016 silver medallist and the 2022 world champion. He beat Aman at the Hungarian Ranking Series in June. Arsen Harutyunyan won bronze at the 2023 World Championships.

The Paris 2024 Olympic wrestling competition will get underway from August 5.

"Above my pay grade": Jasprit Bumrah's blunt take on not being considered for captaincy

NEW DELHI, Jul 26 (Agencies): Team India is ready to face Sri Lanka in a white-ball series, which will kick-start from Saturday with a three T20I matches. After the retirement of skipper Rohit Sharma from the shortest format, there was a lot of chatter regarding a perfect replacement for the captaincy.

As it appeared, all-rounder Hardik Pandya was looking like an obvious choice but the newly-appointed head coach Gautam Gambhir and chief selector Ajit Agarkar named batter Suryakumar Yadav as the captain for the T20Is against Sri Lanka.

After the announcement, some discussions are going on about star pacer Jasprit Bumrah not being considered for the position of the captain. Bumrah, who played a vital role in India's victory at the T20 World Cup 2024, opened up about the situation and gave a fiery response.

"I cannot go to the team and tell, now you have to make me captain. It is above my pay grade. I feel the bowlers are the smart people, as we have to get the batters out. We are always fighting the odds as the ground are shorter, the bats are better. I don't remember any article or technology coming to swing the ball a lot more. People enjoy the ball being thrown around and enjoy sixes being hit," Bumrah said.

"Because bowlers are doing the hard job. They are not hiding behind a bat. They are not hiding behind a flat wicket. When you lose a game, bowlers are

blamed. It is a hard job. I take a lot of pride doing that job. You have to face a lot of challenges. Because of these challengers, bowlers find new ways to succeed. Fighting the odds make you a lot braver, leadership needs you to be brave.

We have seen Pat Cummins doing really well. I have seen Wasim Akram captaining. Kapil Dev and Imran Khan have won a World Cup. Bowlers are the smart ones. Sometimes, physically it is stressful, that's why leadership goes to batters. In my opinion, bowlers are the smart ones," he added.

As per the popular belief bowlers are usually not seen as the team captains. However, Bumrah gave the example of Australia skipper Pat Cummins, who led his team to ODI World Cup and World Test Championship titles.

"Perception changes with results. I came from a perception that this bowling action will not work, but now people try to copy it. You don't try to say things; you let your results talk. Pat Cummins is a big example. I got a lot of positive results. He won the World Cup and WTC. I do not think it is a burden. When you play cricket, you want responsibility," said Bumrah.

"You do not want to hide behind and be the backbencher. You have to be of the mindset that if you give me the ball, I will make the difference. I am of the opinion that there is no better thought than having responsibility. Injuries can happen to anyone," he added.

Sham, Ashok, Vikram, Brijesh flag off de-addiction rally

Education can only eradicate evils of addiction: Sham Lal

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 26: As part of the Sanskrit month, the Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Trust organized an awareness rally for de-addiction on Friday from SD Memorial High Secondary School, Karwanda, Bhalwal, Jammu to Government High Secondary School, Bhalwal.

The rally aimed to spread the message of staying away from addiction. In observance of Kargil Vijay Diwas, plants were also planted and distributed.

The Chief Guest at the event was former minister Sham Lal Sharma, the Guest of Honour was Director of School Education Jammu Ashok Jammu, guest Vikram Sharma from the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, and Special Guest SP Rural Jammu Brijesh Sharma.

Other distinguished guests included Regional Director of Social Forestry Ravindra Singh Gorla, among others.

On this occasion, Sham Lal Sharma stated that only education can eradicate the evils of addiction.



If one must be addicted, let it be to education, as it is a powerful path to progress. He also highlighted the invaluable contribution of Mahant Rohit Shastri in promoting and developing the Sanskrit language in India. Efforts should be made to promote Sanskrit, the foundation of all languages.

Ashok Sharma praised the Trust's initiative to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drug use through the de-addiction rally. He further emphasized that efforts should be made to teach

children Sanskrit at home, and only then can we advise others to use this language.

Vikram Sharma stated that addiction is the mother of crime. It is essential for children to receive moral education. By adhering to our values and moral education, we can surely stay away from addiction. Addiction harms not only the individual but also their family and society.

Brijesh Sharma mentioned how addiction damages our physical, mental, economic, and

family life. Efforts should be made to help those trapped in addiction through strong willpower. He expressed hope that Mahant Rohit Shastri's efforts to promote Sanskrit would inspire others, and Sanskrit would once again become a prevalent language in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mahant Rohit Shastri mentioned that Sanskrit Day is celebrated every year on the full moon day of Shravan, and this year it will be celebrated on 19th August. The Trust has decided to

celebrate Sanskrit month this year as well, starting with the distribution of five thousand plants on 23rd July. Throughout the month, grand events will be held to promote the divine language, Sanskrit. The Sanskrit month will conclude on 19th August, the full moon day of Shravan.

At this event, students from SD Memorial High Secondary School, Karwanda, Bhalwal, Jammu, and Government High Secondary School, Bhalwal, along with former Sarpanch Rajdev Singh, BDC Kuldeep Kumar, Sho Garota Arjun, Rakesh Gandotra, Dilbahadur Singh Jamwal, Vijay Gupta, Uttam Chand Sharma, Nigam Gupta, Pramod Sharma, Sunil Sharma, Prof. Sharad Sharma, Naresh Raina, Vijay Seth, Ajay Sharma, Narottam Sharma, Pawan Khajuria, Happy Singh, Sunil Sharma, Rahul Salathia, former Sarpanch Pratap Singh, Bhushan Jamwal, Bobby Singh, Pandit Devdutt Shastri, Rajiv Sharma, Saurav Singh, and other Trust members were present.

GDC Udhampur commemorates war heroes on Kargil Vijay Diwas



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, July 26: NCC Cadets, 2 J&K Girls Battalion and 2 J&K Boys Battalion, of GDC Udhampur commemorated the supreme sacrifices made by our Kargil War heroes. In a series of events, including a guest lecture on the theme "Kargil Ke Veeron Ko Salaam" by Hony Capt Koshal Kumar Sharma, screening of a documentary on the Kargil War, Plantation Drive, and floral tribute to the war heroes at Dhruva Shradhangali Park, Udhampur.

The whole programme was organised under the able guidance of the worthy principal of the college, Dr. Sanjay Kumar Verma. On 25th July 2024, the lecture was delivered by retired Hony Capt Koshal Kumar Sharma.

The event began with a formal welcome of the guest, Hony Capt Koshal Kumar Sharma, by the worthy principal of the college.

During his welcome address, the principal

paid his heartfelt thanks to the speaker, and appreciated the ANO Prof Vijay Kumar, and NCC Cadets of the college. While reflecting on the Kargil War and its aftermath repercussions, the principal brought into light the courage, patriotism and sacrifices of our soldiers.

During his lecture, Capt. Sharma shared his heart wrenching lived experiences of the Kargil War. He said that it was very challenging to counter the enemies hiding at the top of steep rocks coupled with harsh weather conditions. Sometimes, stones shooting downward would take the shape of sharp weapons and wounded many Indian soldiers. Despite all the difficulties and adversities, our soldiers, including Capt. Vikram Batra, Grenadier Yogendra Yadav and many other Bravehearts led to an unprecedented victory over Pakistan.

He advised the NCC cadets to join the Indian armed forces and serve the nation with utmost honesty and sincerity.

Among faculty, Prof Babu Lal Thakur, Prof Suresh Dogra and Prof Ashok Sharma were also present on the occasion. A formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof Vijay Kumar. In another event, followed by the guest lecture, a documentary on Kargil war was screened wherein more than 70 NCC cadets and college staff were present. It was followed by a plantation drive during which more than 50 saplings were planted by the dignitaries, faculties and NCC cadets.

On 26th July 2024, NCC cadets, 2 J&K Girls Bn and 2 J&K Boys Bn, accompanied by ANO Prof Vijay Kumar, paid floral tribute to the Kargil war heroes at Dhruva Shradhanjali Park, Udhampur. The whole programme was organised under the instructions of the Commanding Officer of 2J&K Boys Bn, Col Rajesh Jasrotia and Col Munish Jasrotia, the Commanding Officer of 2J&K Girls Bn and the supervision of Prof Vijay Kumar.

Sadhotra assails BJP's Double Engine Sarkar's massive Power Crisis in Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 26: Castigating the BJP's Double Engine Sarkar for depriving the people of even the minimum basic necessities, especially during the ongoing humid and scorching monsoon across Jammu region, Former Minister and National Conference Additional General Secretary Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Friday expressed serious concern of erratic power supply and drinking water scarcity.

In a statement, he said the unscheduled and frequent power cuts have become a norm that results in breakdown in water, little water supply remains available in the Jammu City occasionally and at times after days together.

He described the laxity of the so-called Double Engine Sarkar in meeting the requirements of the people as highly deplorable and inhuman, saying the concerned departments cannot shirk their responsibilities so casually. Amidst the unbearable humidity and frequent downpours, the government's inability to



manage the power supply is causing immense hardship to the people, especially as the unscheduled power cuts have become a daily ordeal, disrupting lives, businesses, and essential services, he added.

Sadhotra referred to the vulnerability of the people, including the elderly and those with health conditions aggravated by the heat and humidity. He also referred to the statement of a senior official, asking the Power Development Department to ensure hundred percent electricity in smart metered areas and better the supply in other places and called it most insensitive diktat, amounting to

discrimination with sections of the society. How can a government think in such terms, he asked and said such administrative tantrums were unacceptable, as the people of all categories, smart metered or otherwise, are equally suffering due to callousness of the government.

On the one hand, there is acute shortage and frequent unscheduled cuts of power and on the other hand, people are being given huge electricity bills under the garb of smart meters. In view of scorching heat and humidity, proper electricity supply is ensured as scarcity of power also affects the drinking water and Irrigation water. He alleged that anti-poor policies of the Double Engine Sarkar have created hell for the poor people.

Sadhotra urged the government to realise its responsibilities and take immediate steps to resolve the power crisis. It is the government's duty to provide power and caution the concerned departments not to test the patience and resilience of the suffering masses.

KCCI & GJEPIC to forge partnership to boost Kashmir's Jewellery Industry

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, July 26: As a follow up of the recent initiative by The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) & The Gems & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPIC) to Forge Partnership to Boost Kashmir's Jewellery Industry.

The KCCI and GJEPIC moved ahead to nurture the growth of Kashmir's jewellery sector. In this context a meeting organised by the GJEPIC Regional Office in Delhi brought together industry leaders, including Mr. Anil Sankhwal, GJEPIC COA Member and Director of IIGJ-RLC and IIGJ-D and The KCCI President Javid Ahmed Tenga to explore collaboration opportunities.

The partnership aims to enhance jewellery



exports from Kashmir by providing comprehensive support, including training, market access, and industry exposure. As a result of the collaboration, the KCCI committed to participate in the upcoming India International Jewellery Show-Premiere 2024 and also expressed interest in organising outreach programs in Srinagar. Additionally, a group of aspiring jewellery designers from Kashmir will undergo training at Indian Institute of Gems & Jewellery Delhi.

This strategic alliance marks a significant step towards empowering the jewellery industry in Kashmir and unlocking its potential in global markets.

Sanjeev Bhatia, Assistant Director Northern Region, presented an overview of the GJEPIC activities, its membership strength, and details of the Council's three IJS shows. The President KCCI thanked GJEPIC for their keen interest in the development of Jewellery industry of Kashmir. The consultative meeting was also attended by the KCCI Treasurer Zubair Mahajan.

Dimple pays tribute martyrs of Kargil War

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 26: Sunil Dimple, president of the Mission Statehood, paid tribute to Captain Vikram Batra and the 530 martyrs of the Kargil War with a candlelight vigil.

He held anti-Pakistan protests, emphasizing his stance against Pakistan and its policies.

Dimple called for the integration of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK), Gilgit-Baltistan, and parts of Pakistan into India, suggesting this as a fitting tribute to the Kargil war heroes.

He urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to initiate military action to achieve this goal, including the hosting of the Indian national flag in Lahore.



He expressed concerns about rising militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the Jammu region. Dimple described the situation as worse than in 1990 and highlighted the closure of army schools due to security threats.

Dimple criticized the intelligence failures that have allegedly allowed

militants and Pakistani forces to infiltrate and operate within the region.

He demanded the government to conduct surgical strikes and military operations to eliminate militant threats and ISI modules.

An all-parties meeting is scheduled for August 5th in Jammu to address the increasing militancy and

the alleged shortcomings of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) policies.

Dimple warned against ISI and militant groups, asserting that Jammu and Kashmir will remain an integral part of India.

He appealed to the Director General of J&K Police and security forces to intensify operations against militants.

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