

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-206 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

**LG Manoj Sinha expresses grief over loss of lives in Anantnag road accident**

SRINAGAR, July 27 (Agencies): The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, has expressed grief over the tragic road accident in Daksum, Anantnag.

In a condolence message, the Lt Governor has said: "I am deeply saddened to learn about the loss of precious lives in an unfortunate road accident in Daksum, Anantnag today. My thoughts and prayers are with bereaved family members during this hour of grief. I have issued instructions to the District Administration to provide all necessary assistance to the affected family".

**Ladakh admin forms new committees to oversee PMMVY scheme**

LEH, July 27 (Agencies): The Union Territory administration in Ladakh has accorded sanction for the establishment of State/UT, District, and Block Level PMMVY Committees to oversee the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) scheme. These committees will review and monitor the scheme's progress, enhancing coordination and convergence among relevant departments.

**Police booked notorious drug smuggler under PIT NDPS Act in Baramulla**

SRINAGAR, July 27 (Agencies): Acting tough against drug peddlers and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police booked notorious drug smuggler under PIT NDPS Act in Baramulla after obtaining formal detention order from competent authority.

A police spokesman said that notorious drug smuggler namely Wazir Ahmad Chack @ Wazir Joo son of Ali Mohammad Chack resident of

## Soldier martyred, Captain among 4 injured as Army foils BAT attack along LoC in Kupwara

NEW DELHI/SRI-NAGAR, July 27 (Agencies): An Army personnel was martyred and four others, including a captain, were injured as the Indian Army on Saturday foiled an attack by Pakistan's Border Action Team (BAT) in Kamakari sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, military sources said.

A Pakistani intruder was also killed in the exchange of fire, they added.

The BAT generally comprises special forces personnel of the Pakistan Army and terrorists.



"Action by Border Action Team has been foiled by alert Indian Army troops on Saturday morning in Kamakari sector," one of the sources said.

"One Pakistani intruder has been killed," he

added.

Two intruders managed to return to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) amid the intense gunfight that lasted for hours, the sources said.

They said the group of three intruders hurled

a grenade and opened fire on a forward post near the Kumkadi post in Trehgam sector of the north Kashmir district.

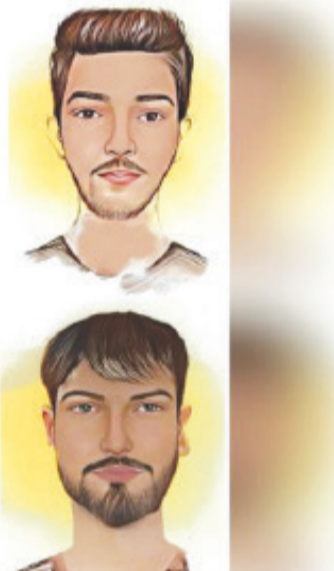
The troops retaliated, triggering a gunfight between the two sides, the sources said, adding that five soldiers were injured in the encounter and one of them later succumbed to his injuries.

They said the injured Army personnel, including a captain, were evacuated to a base hospital.

The condition of one of the injured soldiers was

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## Police release sketches of 3 terrorists involved in Doda attack, announce cash reward



JAMMU, July 27 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday released sketches of the three terrorists responsible for the recent killing of four soldiers, including a captain in Doda district,

and announced a cash reward of Rs 15 lakh on their heads.

Doda in Jammu region has been rocked by several terror incidents since June, which is being seen by security agencies as an attempt

by Pakistan-based terror handlers to revive terrorism in the hilly district.

Releasing the sketches of three terrorists, a police spokesman in Doda said they are moving in the upper

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## Five children, Policeman Among 8 Dead in Kokarnag Accident

ANANTNAG, July 27 (Agencies): Eight people including a policeman and five children died in a road accident on Sinthan-Kokarnag route.

Sub District Magistrate (SDM) Kokarnag, Suneel Ahmad Lone said a policeman along with five children and two ladies died in an accident near Arashan Daksum.

He said the vehicle they were travelling in was coming from Madwa Kishtwar, adding that postmortem is being conducted at SDH Kokarnag.

## Govt moves over 2,000 BSF personnel from Odisha to terror-hit Jammu



NEW DELHI, July 27 (Agencies): The government has ordered the extraction of two BSF battalions, comprising more than 2,000 personnel, from Odisha to beef up security in the terror-hit Jammu region along the India-Pakistan border, official sources said on Saturday.

The decision to "immediately" move the two

units from the anti-Naxal operations grid to Jammu was taken in the wake of the recent spate of terror attacks in the region, the sources said.

Officials in the security establishment said the two Border Security Force (BSF) units were meant to be deployed as the "second line" of defence behind the first tier of its units deployed

along the international border in the Jammu area to check infiltration of terrorists from across the frontier, apart from attacks by these elements in the hinterland.

The troops of these two units are expected to be based in Samba and near the Jammu-Punjab border, the sources said.

"Two recent meetings, one in Delhi and one in Jammu, of the top security brass necessitated bolstering BSF deployment in Jammu," said a senior officer, requesting anonymity.

"There was a proposal to move two BSF battalions from Odisha to Chhattisgarh to intensify anti-Naxal operations there but these units are now being sent to Jammu, given the

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## J&K opposition Parties' August 7 meeting postponed

SRINAGAR, July 27 (Agencies): A meeting of Jammu and Kashmir's opposition parties next month to discuss several issues concerning the Union Territory, including the delegation of more powers to the lieutenant governor, was postponed on Saturday, senior CPI(M) leader MY Tarigami said.

No fresh date for the meeting, originally scheduled for August 7, has been finalised.



Tarigami said the meeting was postponed after National Conference president Farooq Abdullah expressed his inability to attend the meeting.

"National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah expressed his inability to attend the meeting scheduled for August 7 in Jammu and suggested its postponement. As such, this meeting is postponed," Tarigami said.

The meeting was called to discuss issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir, including the amendments to the Transaction of Business of the

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## Govt school teacher held for molesting minor student in Uri

URI, July 27 (Agencies): Police have arrested a government school teacher for allegedly molesting a minor student in Uri area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

"We have arrested and registered an FIR against the accused under relevant sections of law and further investigation is going on," a police official said.

The incident was reported by the mother of a third-grade student to Uri police.

She alleged that her daughter was molested by the teacher after school hours on Friday, reports said.

# MBA MOTORS

## MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

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# Shiv Sena releases poster to stay away from drugs

## Top News Report

JAMMU, July 27: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir released a poster on the birthday of party chief Uddhav Thackeray and gave the message to the youth to stay away from drugs and distributed food among the poor and needy people. In a program organized at the party's state central office, party state chief Manish Sahni released a poster calling drugs the gateway to destruction and appealed to the youth to stay away from it. He said that drugs harm not only the individual but also his family, society and entire the



nation. Sahni said that the statistics of drug smuggling and drug addiction in Jammu-Kashmir are horrifying. In the last three years, there has been a 1500% increase in the use of drugs. Out of the total 13 million population of the Union Territory of Jammu-Kashmir, an estimated 10 lakh people have become victims of drug addiction. Jammu and Kashmir is becoming a hub of drug addiction. There are about 6 lakh youth addicts here, out of which 90 percent are in the age group of 17-33.

# Congress Manifesto Committee holds meeting



## Top News Report

He said that youth is the strength of our nation. The country whose youth is healthy, no one can stop that country from becoming Vishwa Guru (world leader) and moving on the path of progress. On this occasion, food packets were distributed among the poor and helpless people. Shiv Sana prayed for the better health and long life of their party chief. On this occasion President Mehila Wing Meenakshi Chhibber, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, President Kamhar wing Raj Singh, Vice president Balwant Singh, Sanjeev Kohli, Pawan Singh were present.

JAMMU, July 27: A meeting of the Manifesto Committee was held at the PCC Office in Jammu, led by Co-Chairman Former MLC Naresh Gupta. This meeting was focused on formulating key initiatives aimed at the development and welfare of the Doda-Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency. Members present included Adv. Fairuz Khan, Former National President NSUI and Former Youth Congress Working President J&K; Narinder Kajuaria; Dr. Mulkh Raj Bhamagi; Kajal Rajput; and Dr. Pardeep Kumar. The meeting commenced with an introductory briefing by Naresh Gupta, who outlined the

committee's formation, objectives, and the strategic steps for the coming days. The committee is tasked with delivering comprehensive suggestions within the next 10 days, focusing on several key areas. The action plan includes undertaking visits to all districts within the Doda-Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency, which encompasses Ramban, Doda, Kathua, Udhampur, Kishtwar, and Reasi. These visits are aimed at gaining a deep understanding of local needs and issues. Additionally, the committee will engage with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), market associations, and various public groups to ensure a broad and inclu-

sive perspective. Naresh Gupta emphasized the importance of community-focused development and the need for recommendations that will enhance the welfare and progress of local communities. The committee is dedicated to addressing the unique challenges and opportunities within the constituency to promote sustainable and equitable growth. In this regard, the general public is encouraged to contribute their suggestions, either by email or in person at the PCC Office in Jammu. This public participation will help ensure that the committee's recommendations are comprehensive and reflective of the community's diverse needs.

# Chairperson DDC Ramban conducts tour of Sub Division Ramsoo; review developmental scenario

## Top News Report

RAMBAN, July 27: Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Ramban, Dr. Shamshad Shan, conducted an extensive tour in various remotest panchayats to review the developmental scenario and address the concerns of the local populace in inaccessible areas of the Sub Division Ramsoo. The Chairperson was accompanied by the BDO Ramsoo, BDO Ukhral, and various other officers from the concerned departments. The visit included stops at Dargali Khowra and Panchayat Sujmanta-A,



where the Chairperson inspected the functioning of local schools and reviewed the Mid-Day Meal program provided to the students. During the visit, local residents presented their grievances and key demands, which included the need to provide road connectivity and drainage systems for Dardahi- Sujmatna, and the deployment of staff in the New Type Primary Health Center (NTPHC) and local schools. The Chairperson addressed various concerns promptly, issuing on-the-spot directions to the relevant departments to resolve all genuine issues. She encouraged the locals to take advantage of job and beneficiary-oriented schemes offered by different departments, emphasizing the importance of community participation in developmental initiatives. Assuring the community of her commitment to addressing their issues, Dr. Shan urged the residents to provide land

for the construction of public interest projects, particularly the proposed road project for the area, which is expected to significantly improve connectivity and access. During her tour, the Chairperson also inspected various ongoing developmental works and the functioning of different departments in the area. She emphasized the importance of efficient implementation of developmental schemes and projects like JIM and augmentation of power infrastructure to ensure the overall growth and progress of the region.

# Zone Rainawari Inter-School Tournament 2024 concludes

## Top News Report

RAINAWARI, July 27: The Zone Rainawari Inter-School (Zonal Level) Girls Under 19 Volleyball & Kho-Kho Tournament 2024 successfully concluded at GHSS Rainawari, with over 100 athletes from various government and private institutions participating. GHSS Rainawari emerged victorious in both the Volleyball and Kho-Kho tournaments, securing the titles against Greenland School and Legends School respectively. Muzamil Dar, Zone Incharge Rainawari, presented mementos to the winner and

runner-up teams in the presence of all Field Staff of Zone Rainawari. He congratulated all participants and commended the dedication shown by the field staff for conducting the tournaments despite the hot and humid weather. He also extended his gratitude to the principal of GHSS Rainawari and its Physical Education staff for their unwavering support and cooperation, which played a crucial role in the success of these events. The tournament was organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports Zone Rainawari.

# NSS, NCC Units of Dogra Law College pay tribute at Balidan Stambh on Kargil Vijay Diwas

## Top News Report

SAMBA, July 27: In a heartfelt tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of the Indian armed forces, the NSS volunteers and NCC cadets of Dogra Law College visited Balidan Stambh on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas. This visit aimed to honor the heroes of the Kargil War and to instill a sense of patriotism among the students. The contingent of students and faculty members departed from Dogra Law College at 10 a.m. The journey to Balidan Stambh was filled with anticipation and reverence as the participants reflected on the significance of the day. They reached the solemn monument at around 11 a.m., where they were warmly welcomed by an army Personnel. Upon arrival, the students were given an informative briefing by the army Personnel, who shared insights about the historical importance of



Balidan Stambh and the valor displayed by Indian soldiers during the Kargil War. The commemoration focused on remembering the valour of distinguished soldiers who were awarded the Param Vir Chakra, Ashoka Chakra, and Kirti Chakra for their exceptional courage and sacrifice during the Kargil War. The visit was a profoundly moving experience for the students and faculty. They paid their respects by observing 2 minutes of silence in honor of the martyrs. Many students expressed their gratitude and admiration for the armed forces, reflecting on the importance of duty, bravery, and patriotism. The visit not only educated the students about the historical events but also stirred a deep sense of pride and respect for the armed forces. The faculty members appreciated the initiative and emphasized the importance of such experiences in shaping the character and values of the students. Dogra Law College is always committed to fostering a sense of national pride and respect for the armed forces among its students. This visit to Balidan Stambh on Kargil Vijay Diwas was a step in that direction, providing students with a profound understanding of the sacrifices made by the soldiers and the importance of national integrity.

# Joint Camps held by Labour and FCS&CA Department for issuance of ration cards to E-Shram registrants

## Top News Report

RAMBAN, July 27: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, and Labour Commissioner J&K, the Department of Labour and FCS&CA conducted joint camps at various places in district Ramban in order to make e-shram workers aware about their rights and identifying those e-shram worker who do not have ration cards or they have not been added to existing family ration card. Today the camps were



held at Block Rajgarh, Ramsoo, Khari and TSO office Ramban. Officials of Labour Department along with Concerned TSOs and Storekeepers of food

e shram registrants who had been found without ration card as per data on e-shram portal for district Ramban. ALC Ramban has requested all these e-shram registrants to visit the office of concerned TSO, or AD, FCS&CA or ALC office Ramban or may call at the given contact number in the district website, with regard to the issuance of ration card. The said list of e shram registrants has been uploaded on district administration Website. Department have attended camps and almost 36 e-shram registrants have been identified in these camps who already had ration cards and there are still about 834

**ENIT NO. 15OF 2024-25 DATED 24-07-2024**  
**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION UDHAMPUR**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
**E-NIT JSPHEMUDHR/15 OF 2024-25 DATED 24-07-2024**

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur, on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered firms who have sufficient experience in the relevant field of electro-mechanical/ electrical works.

Sl.	Name of the work	Qty	Name of Division	Cost of Tender Document / Tender Fee (In Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Bid validity
1	Design, fabrication, installation, testing and commissioning of 110 ampere LT control panel with allied works at pumping station Sounthian stage-0	01 job	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	Rs. 200.00 (Non-refundable in shape of treasury challan in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur)	(Rs. 3500.00) 2% (in case of non-registered firms) Or (Rs. 1750.00) 1% (in case of firms registered with DIC / SSI / MSME)	90 days
2	Design, fabrication, installation, testing and commissioning of 70 ampere LT control panel with allied works at pumping station Jaganoo stage-1 <sup>st</sup>	01 job	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	Rs. 200.00 (Non-refundable in shape of treasury challan in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur)	(Rs. 4000.00) 2% (in case of non-registered firms) Or (Rs. 2000.00) 1% (in case of firms registered with DIC / SSI / MSME)	90 days
3	Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of 150 KVA voltage stabilizer alongwith allied works at pumping station Sounthian stage-0	01 job	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	Rs. 200.00 (Non-refundable in shape of treasury challan in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur)	(Rs. 7000.00) 2% (in case of non-registered firms) Or (Rs. 3500.00) 1% (in case of firms registered with DIC / SSI / MSME)	90 days

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from **24-07-2024 (18:00 Hrs.)**
- The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from **24-07-2024 (18:30 Hrs.) to 03-08-2024 (3:00 PM)**.
- After opening tender only successful bidder shall be asked for submitting the hard copies of documents with CDR and tender fee
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The technical bid will be opened on line on **05-08-2024 at 11.00 A.M** or any other subsequent date in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Udhampur.
- The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Udhampur after evaluation of technical bids. The date shall be communicated separately.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 5 & 6 of the table (and for DIC/SSI/MSME registered firms as per Industrial Policy of J&K govt.) payable at Udhampur pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur.
- Bid security will have to be in form of CDR / FDR / BG of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for one year or more after last date of receipt of Bid. The cost of downloaded tender documents shall be in form of Treasury Challan / e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur payable at Udhampur.
- Firms who will fulfill the following parameters are eligible to participate.
  - Average Annual financial turnover during the last 3 years, ending 31 March of the previous financial year, should be at least 30% of this estimated cost.

**ENIT NO. 15OF 2024-25 DATED 24-07-2024**

- Experience of having successfully completed similar works during last 07 years ending last day of month previous to the one in which applications are invited should be either of the following:-
  - Three similar completed works costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of the estimated cost
  - Two similar completed works costing not less than the amount equal to 50% of the estimate cost.
  - One similar completed work costing not less than the amount equal to 80% of the estimated cost.
- Definition of "similar work" should be clearly defined.

- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening bids. If any bidder / tenderer withdraws his bid / tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited.
- The tenderers are advised to visit the site of work before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact site conditions.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>

NO. JSPHEMUDHR/2024-25/1473-76  
 Dated:-24-07-2024

**DIP/J-3435/24**

Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer  
 Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division  
 Udhampur

## EDITORIAL

## Unemployment: A Growing Challenge

Unemployment is a pervasive issue affecting economies worldwide, and its implications extend beyond mere statistics. It represents a fundamental problem that impacts economic stability, social cohesion, and individual well-being. As we delve into the nuances of unemployment, it's essential to understand its causes, effects, and potential solutions.

Unemployment can arise from a variety of factors, each contributing to the complex nature of this issue. One major cause is **cyclical unemployment**, which occurs due to economic downturns. During recessions, businesses experience reduced demand for goods and services, leading to layoffs and reduced hiring. The global financial crisis of 2008 and the COVID-19 pandemic are prime examples where economic contractions led to significant job losses.

Structural unemployment is another key factor. This type of unemployment arises when there is a mismatch between the skills of the workforce and the needs of employers. Technological advancements and globalization have accelerated this mismatch, as industries evolve and certain skills become obsolete. For instance, the decline of manufacturing jobs in developed countries due to automation has left many workers without the necessary skills for the emerging job market.

Frictional unemployment, although often less concerning, also plays a role. This type occurs when individuals are temporarily unemployed while transitioning between jobs or entering the labor market for the first time. While frictional unemployment is a natural part of a dynamic economy, it can be exacerbated by factors such as inefficient job search processes or geographic mobility issues.

The consequences of unemployment are profound and multifaceted. On an economic level, high unemployment rates can lead to reduced consumer spending, which further exacerbates economic downturns. When people are out of work, they have less income to spend on goods and services, leading to decreased demand and, consequently, lower business revenues. This can create a vicious cycle where businesses cut costs, often through layoffs, which in turn increases unemployment.

On a social level, unemployment can lead to increased poverty and inequality. Without a stable income, unemployed individuals and their families may struggle to meet basic needs, such as housing, food, and healthcare. This economic strain can lead to heightened stress, mental health issues, and social instability. Unemployment can also contribute to higher crime rates as individuals facing economic hardship may resort to illegal activities out of desperation.

Additionally, long-term unemployment can erode an individual's skills and employability. Extended periods without work can result in a loss of professional skills, making it even harder for individuals to find new employment. This phenomenon, known as "skill atrophy," can create long-lasting barriers to re-entering the job market.

Addressing unemployment requires a multifaceted approach involving both short-term and long-term strategies. On a macroeconomic level, governments can implement **stimulus measures** to boost economic activity and job creation. This might include investing in infrastructure projects, providing incentives for businesses to hire, and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that are often significant job creators.

Educational and vocational training programs are crucial for tackling structural unemployment. By aligning educational curricula with market needs and offering reskilling opportunities, governments and institutions can help workers transition into emerging fields. Partnerships between educational institutions and industries can also facilitate the development of relevant skills.

Support for entrepreneurship is another important strategy. Encouraging and supporting new business ventures can create job opportunities and stimulate economic growth. Governments can provide financial support, mentorship, and resources to aspiring entrepreneurs, particularly in areas with high unemployment rates.

On a microeconomic level, improving job search services and career counseling can help reduce frictional unemployment. Providing individuals with tools and resources to effectively navigate the job market can shorten the duration of unemployment spells and improve overall employment outcomes.

Unemployment remains a significant and complex challenge with far-reaching implications. Its causes are diverse, ranging from economic cycles and technological changes to skill mismatches and job transitions. The effects of unemployment impact not only the individuals directly affected but also the broader economy and society. Addressing this issue requires a comprehensive approach, combining economic stimulus, educational reform, support for entrepreneurship, and enhanced job search services. By tackling unemployment through these multifaceted strategies, we can work towards creating a more stable, equitable, and prosperous society.

## Go all out to end Pakistan's low-intensity war in J&amp;K

By: Lt Gen Harbhajan Singh (Retd)

(Former Signal Officer-in-Chief)

PAKISTAN has not come to terms with the fact that Jammu and Kashmir did not join it after India gained Independence in August 1947 and was partitioned, in spite of an invasion launched by our neighbour just two months after it came into being. Wars launched in 1947-48, 1965 and 1971 to attain the goal by force of arms also failed. So, in 1989, Pakistan's ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) began a separatist, jihadist, anti-minority and armed insurgency in J&K to achieve this end.

In spite of the legal accession of J&K to India in 1947, besides the conduct of elections, the grant of considerable aid and development projects, there exists a tendency among some Kashmiri brethren to lean towards Muslim-majority Pakistan, even though it is a failed and unstable state.

The true colours of the separatist movement must be seen in the light of the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits in 1990-91, the community's exodus from the Kashmir valley and the inaction of the Indian state. There was no dispute among Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims in J&K; all of them had imbibed Kashmiriyat for centuries, irrespective of their religion. Then why did this horrific cleansing take place in the

Valley?

India's policy has been to block the infiltration of terrorists along the International Border (IB)/Line of Control (LoC). In 2004, a fence was constructed to that end. Terrorists who still manage to infiltrate are hunted down by the security forces — comprising Rashtriya Rifles and Central Armed Police Forces personnel — based on the intelligence gained from local informers and other means. Action is also taken against terrorist sympathisers and sleeper cells. But since the intruders enjoy some local support, they manage to carry out some attacks.

The Indian authorities are fully aware that terrorism or insurgency cannot sustain without local support. Persistent efforts have been made to win over the hearts of locals and create an intelligence network. Considerable development has taken place in the region, and tourism is booming.

However, Pakistan has dared to transform the armed insurgency/terrorist movement into a low-intensity war — ambushing and killing soldiers, attacking military units and headquarters, including the strategic Pathankot Air Force base in Punjab and targeting civilians. If this is not war, what is it? However, India still deals with it as terrorism, not a war.

No war, whether it is a low-intensity or full-scale one, can be won by defensive actions.

This is a basic principle of war and geopolitics. Top decision-makers, both civil and military, need to realise this. In case what Pakistan is doing in J&K is considered to be just terrorism and not a low-intensity war, the paramilitary forces should handle it under the Minister of Home. And the Army should do its primary job of guarding the IB/LoC. But if the realisation dawns that a low-intensity war is indeed being waged, the Army should be directed to take the action necessary in the event of a war. This is the kind of directive that has to be issued by the Cabinet Committee on Security.

The following policy measures are recommended to deter Pakistan from continuing with attacks in J&K:

Declare the terror acts perpetrated in J&K by Pakistan-sponsored armed intruders as low-intensity warfare and modify the whole approach to counter it.

The life of every person residing, working or doing business in J&K should be considered precious.

Announce a policy of zero tolerance to attacks. Do the people of J&K have to live in fear and get killed for generations just because they were born or posted there and the country failed to feel their pain and protect them? If others call us a soft state, are they wrong?

Go for a step-by-step escalation across the IB/LoC in J&K through security personnel,

firepower and other means in response to further attacks.

A mutually agreed ceasefire has been in force in J&K since 2003. This needs to be ended. Pakistan is misusing it by sending intruders, arms and equipment across the border.

In case Pakistan-sponsored terrorist attacks still persist, take stronger and more visible steps against more important targets, possibly with the use of air power.

Some people start talking about both countries being nuclear powers the moment there is a mention of cross-LoC actions. But nuclear weapons were also there when we fought and won the Kargil War in 1999.

Pakistan must be made to understand that it will have to pay a price for every armed act in J&K and adjoining areas and that there will be retaliation.

Pakistan will mend its ways once it realises that India means business. Pakistanis, including the ISI top brass, are troublesome only as long as they do not feel the pain. Their tolerance to bear punishment is limited.

At the same time, operations should continue in the Pir Panjal and Doda areas to hunt down terrorists and their sympathisers. However, temporary relief as a result of the massive actions being taken currently should not lull us into complacency. Pakistan will bide its time and start attacks in some other area, unless we carry the fight across the IB/LoC in J&K.

India and Pakistan have to share a boundary for ages, and it is in the latter's interest to have peaceful borders. The Awam of Pakistan deserve a better life, for which a peaceful atmosphere is essential.

## Accelerate Your Career In Tech With Skill-Based Mentorship

By: Vijay GarG

Power comes from the knowledge shared and not from knowledge kept. And honestly, it's quite relevant for today's workspaces to enable healthy relationships among employees and leaders, where there is a culture of shaping the growth of individuals. We see the term employee-centric or people-centric organisation making the headlines. While it might sound like just another buzzword or a trend, it is here to stay because candidates today are much more aware and want to work with leaders who they can see as mentors, who can nurture them, and guide them through the right path. It stands true for every sector, and the tech industry isn't an exception.

Management plays a crucial role in how employees feel about their work, and leaders make the management, but great mentors are the foundation of great management. So, leaders have the power to create a mentorship working environment where employees receive timely and constructive feedback, guidance and support that can further help them to improve their day-to-day skills, develop new skills, build confidence, achieve their career goals, and grow professionally. When leaders embrace mentorship roles and model mentorship behavior, it becomes a trickle down effect that is passed on from higher levels to others in positions of

power and knowledge.

Role of a Mentor in Advancing a Career

A lot depends on your mentor when you are planning to build or advance your career in any field. A mentor can provide insight into your decisions about the profession, help you think of a bigger picture, offer advice during challenging work-related situations, and guide you toward the relevant training and skills needed for your next step.

For example, suppose you're already in database administration but are considering transitioning to programming. In that case, your mentor will point you in the right direction regarding what languages to learn and which management classes may benefit you most.

The mentor could also provide feedback on work, helping you to identify areas for improvement and offering suggestions for how to enhance your skills.

The mentor could also provide feedback on your work, assisting you in identifying areas for development and suggesting ways to improve your skills. Mentoring relationships offer invaluable expertise for professionals pursuing a career in technology — and one must leverage it.

Importance of Skill-Based Mentorship

Employees can learn, grow, and improve if mentor-mentee relationships are fostered in the company. If the managers and peers in the company are not providing feedback to their

employees, it's eliminating the company's chances to innovate and defer employee growth. Timely feedback to an employee can help them polish their skills and add value to the company in more ways than one.

Modern workplaces require leaders to emphasize learning through doing. Leaders should foster a problem-solving attitude among their employees to enable them to use their knowledge and skills effectively. And it is quite possible with skill-based mentorship. A measurable and outcome-based mentorship style aims to coach and support mentees in developing skills to advance their careers. It can be a one-hour session or a long-term commitment, either in learning to code or practicing communication skills. Conducting a mentorship program has excellent potential for skill development and career growth. It's particularly beneficial when navigating non-linear paths in technology fields.

Mentoring is a long-term, mutually beneficial relationship between mentor and mentee designed for the latter's growth and development. Tech mentors play a crucial role in narrowing the skills gap, ensuring individuals are equipped with the necessary knowledge and experience to pursue opportunities in their desired fields. The range of learning depends upon the relationship between the mentor and the mentee. Once the goals are mutually decided, working on a roadmap for skill-building

is essential. There is a range of soft skills and hard skills you can work on with your mentee. While training for soft skills, you can work on improving creativity, persuasion, collaboration, adaptability and emotional intelligence. On the other hand, focusing on hard skills, learning about the myriad of new technologies ranging from blockchain and cloud computing to analytical reasoning and artificial intelligence is vital. But you must decide what you need to learn from your mentor based on your career goals.

Conclusion

Staying updated and learning new practices is essential in the fast-paced tech industry. Therefore, having a good mentor is crucial for success in tech, but seeking one out actively is important. With the job market constantly evolving, staying relevant is key. Besides the ones who are advancing their tech careers, mentors can also shape the younger generation - our future workforce - into responsible and innovative leaders across industries, including tech. Mentors can encourage STEM studies and instill responsibility and innovation in them. Investing in STEM education early on can better equip young people to make informed decisions about their future.

(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational  
columnist Malout)

## Nikon new Z6III camera revolutionizes imaging with introduction of world's first partially-stacked sensor

Top News Report

LUDHIANA, July 27: Nikon India Private Limited, a 100% subsidiary of Nikon Corporation, introduced the highly anticipated Z6III at Ludhiana on Friday.

Nikon India reinforces its commitment to a full-frame mirrorless camera portfolio that is set to redefine the art of videography as well as photography.

Inheriting features from the Z9 and Z8 models like in-camera RAW and N-Log videos and EXPEED 7 processor delivering high-performance and industry leading specifications.

Z6III is equipped with the world's first-ever partially-stacked CMOS

sensor and superior Auto Focus capability for exceptional performance and is ready to outperform.

Commenting on the occasion, Sajjan Kumar, Managing Director of Nikon India Pvt. Ltd. said "We are thrilled to introduce the Z6III, a high-performance full-frame mid-segment camera that inherits the spirit of innovation from our esteemed Z8 and Z9 models.

With its exceptional features and unrivaled performance, the Z6III is ready to redefine the videography and photography realm for professionals and enthusiasts. This compact sized professional camera features the world's first-ever partially stacked sensor,



making it one of the best inventions in imaging technology. Additionally, we have introduced the industry's first brightest Electronic View Finder (EVF) with a staggering resolution of 5.7M. The camera also offers superior video resolutions of up to 6K/60p, Full HD 240p, along with in-built N-Log and N-RAW support for high-quality video

production.

The new Nikon Z6III will become an integral tool for the creator community with its autofocus precision and the ability to freeze fleeting moments with blazing-fast 120fps Pre-Release Capture and an impressive 20fps continuous shooting rate."

The participants who attended the event got hands-on experience with the new Nikon Z6III. This event gave them the opportunity to further explore the features of the product and try the product while focussing on Live Experience Zones depicting Wedding, Fashion and Action genres present during the event.

The Nikon Z6III empowers you to capture fleeting moments with precision

and clarity, thanks to the groundbreaking lightning-fast EXPEED 7 processing engine. Inheriting superior performance and functionality from Nikon's top-tier models, the Z6III boasts of superior performance in low-light conditions and backlit scenes. It can detect up to 9 subject types and not only offers improved autofocus performance but also takes AF accuracy up a notch than its predecessors. With superior low-light performance and exciting new functions that expand your creative horizons, the Z6III is the perfect partner for photographers and videographers who are ready to push boundaries and tell their stories with stunning visuals.

## Mohd Amin nominated as District President Jammu Kashmir Teachers forum Doda

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 27: Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF) nominated senior trade union leader Mohd Amin as District President for Doda.

This decision, made by Mohammad Ashraf with the Consent of Chairman Teachers Forum & Vice President AISTF M. Amin Khan comes as a strategic move to reinforce JKTF's presence and address the evolving challenges faced by teachers in the region.

Amin a seasoned Senior Leader, will now assume the responsibilities of District President for Doda.

This decision aims to fortify JKTF's position in the Doda and to strengthen the Teachers



Forum at all levels, Amin is having vast experience as trade union leader as well as a good academician.

The official announcement was made through a press release issued today by UT Secretary JKTF Ram Krishan Singh.

Chairman Mohammad Amin Khan and President Mohammad Ashraf, Provincial President

Jammu Sanjeet Sharma emphasized the importance of Amin leadership in strengthening the JKTF's stance in Doda.

"In order to strengthen JKTF in Doda and make it more robust in dealing with the emerging challenges confronting teachers, Senior Trade Union Leader Mr Mohd Amin is appointed as the District President Doda with immediate effect," the official order stated.

This strategic move reflects the commitment of JKTF to enhance its capabilities and effectiveness in serving the educational community. Mohd Amin extensive experience and leadership qualities are expected to contribute significantly to the Forum's objectives in the Jammu region.

## Rotary Club Jammu Helping Hands holds planting drive at KC International School



Top News Report

JAMMU July 27: In line with the "Van Mahotsav" campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi "Ek Pad Maa Ke Naam", the Rotary Club Jammu Helping Hands took a commendable initiative in planting trees at KC International School, Jammu.

Over 300 saplings were planted with enthusiastic participation from the school children, marking

a significant aspect of this campaign.

Rotary Club Jammu Helping Hands President, Rtn. Jaswinder Singh Kuku, along with Rtn. Karuna Gupta, Rtn. Dr. Rohit Gupta, Rtn. Dr. Prem Sharma, Rtn. Sunny Gupta, Rtn. Mengi, Rtn. Arun Gupta, Rtn. Gunet Singh, and other Rotary members, actively arranged the plants for the plantation drive, ensuring the campaign's success.

Rtn. Karuna Gupta informed the students about the critical need for tree plantation in the context of ongoing global warming and stressed the urgent measures required to combat environmental degradation.

The school management and Principal Anupama Sinha expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Rotary Club Jammu Helping Hands for their invaluable contribution to this cause.

## Inter Zonal District Level Subroto Cup Football gets underway

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 27: Inter Zonal District Level Subroto Cup Football U-15 & 17 Yrs Boys, Department of Youth Services and Sports District Jammu continued on 2nd day on Saturday at Synthetic Turf Parade Ground Jammu.

The tournament are being organised under the patronage of Director Youth Services and Sports JK UT Subhash Chander Chibber under the guidance of Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu Ved Parkash and the overall supervision of DYSSO Jammu and in charge DYSSO Jammu Harvinder Kour.



The main aim of these competitions is to select the best players/teams for the next level of competitions.

The competitions are being conducted by experts including Ajay Kumar (Convenor), Tarun Paul Singh, Jyoti Devi, Rohit Gupta, Meenakshi, Varinder Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Vijenderpal Kour and other technical officials of the department.

Today's Results: U-15 Boys:-Doon International beat Birla Open Minds School U-15: JK Public School beat Jodhamal Pub. School (Semi-Final). U-17: Jodhamal Public School beat RM Public School Jodhamal; Doon International School beat JK Public School; APS Rakhmuti beat Birla Open Minds School; Jammu Cantt beat Jammu Sanskriti School; Doon International School beat Jammu Cantt (Semi-Final).

## Lecturers' Forum Calls on Sunil Sharma, former Minister

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, July 27: A high power delegation of All J&K +2 Lecturers' Forum led by District President, Pardeep Koul, had a long meet with Sunil Sharma, former Cabinet Minister and a popular & very powerful political face.

The forum comprising of Pardeep Koul, Suresh Mattoo and Daleep Badyal had a significant and result-oriented meet with Sharma with special focus and emphasis on regularisation of Incharge lecturers, Adjustment of unadjusted I/C lecturers and grant of ACP.

Koul said that after the grant of one-time exemption order in permissions by former Administrative Secretary, Piyush Singla, there is an urgent need of sustained and continuous efforts at the highest level to put a full stop to these long pending issues of the lecturer fraternity.

The forum leaders said that Alok Kumar, Administrative Secretary SED, has been approached by the top leadership of the forum for regularisation



as he has indepth knowledge of the main issues of the lecturer fraternity.

The forum leaders explained to the former Minister that though Kumar is expected to resolve the issues, particularly the issue of regularisation but delay in the submission of one-time exemption files from DSEJ to Administrative Department, has been hampering the process of early convening of DPC of Incharge lecturers for regularisation.

Sunil Sharma, responding to the burning demands raised by the Forum leaders said that he knew the matter well and he would call on LG,

Manoj Sinha to expedite the regularisation process without going into unnecessary formalities. He further said that Alok Kumar was an upright officer who has all the capabilities to resolve these pending issues.

Sharma said that he would ensure that justice is delivered to the lecturer fraternity on priority so that they could deliver better for the society and the nation. He said Modi Govt. at the centre is committed to fast track justice delivery system.

Koul thanked the former Minister for his support and being at the forefront to address the issues of the lecturer fraternity.

## Wildlife Protection Department organizes Plantation Drive

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 27: Department of Wildlife Protection, J&K organised a Mega Plantation Drive at Lakkar Mandi on Saturday in Compartment 1/P of Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary. During the plantation drive 130 tress of species of Ficus religiosa (Peepal), Ficus glomerata (Fig) and Ficus benghalensis (Bhargad) are planted in Co. 1/P of Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary under CAMPA 2024-25 on the theme of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, GOI "Ek Pad Maa Ke Naam".

People Foundation For Save Peepal, Manda Morning Walkers Association, NGO (Himalayan Avian Society) Govt. Degree College Parade, Crescent Public School Janipur along with other sister organisation of Forest Department such as Territorial Forests, Social Forestry, Forest Protection Force, Ecology, Department of Environment & Remote Sensing, J&K Forest Research Institute, Forest Development Corporation are participated in the plantation drive.

On the occasion of planation drive of Ficus species particular concept of creating "Peepal Van" is an initiative of

Department of Wildlife Protection under the guidance of Sh. Sarvesh Rai, IFS, Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)/ Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K and under the supervision of Dr. Kumar M.K, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests / Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu.

Sarvesh Rai, IFS, Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)/ Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K during the occasion brief about the concept of creating "Peepal Van" for habitat improvement for wildlife, as most of species of ficus are keystone species which provide shelter, food to birds and wildlife animals.

Further Vishav Murti Shastri (Retd. Vice Chalencer Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyalaya, a Padam Shree Awardee also emphasise on religious and spiritual importance of Peepal (Ficus benghalensis) provide mental stability.

Later on Suresh Kumar Gupta, IFS, Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, J&K also participated in the plantation drive.

Other Senior Officers of Forest Department present during the plantation drive are Senthil Kumar, IFS, APCCF, Nodal Officer FCA, K Romesh Kumar, IFS, CCF-Jammu, S. Rakesh Kumar,

IFS, Director, DEER, Dr. Kumar M.K, IFS, CCF/ Regional Wildlife Warden Jammu.

Bishan Dass Thakur, Chief General Manager, Forest Development Corporation, Ifit Ara, DCF Wildlife (HQ), Meeraj-ul-din, Joint Director, PFF, Vijay Kumar, Wildlife Warden Jammu, Harpreet Kaur, DFO-Resreach Jammu, Pankaj Raina, DFO, ETF Jammu, Anil Kumar Attri, Additional Director Jammu Zoo, Saleem-ul-Haq, Technical Officer to Regional Wildlife Warden Jammu.

## TBA Jammu requests FM to extend IT Return filing date upto August 31

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 27: Tax Bar Association (TBA), Jammu, an apex body representing tax lawyers for over 60 years, submitted the letter to Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister Government of India, requesting an extension of the Income Tax Return filing deadline from July 31, 2024 to August 31, 2024.

"This request arises due to several issues currently affecting taxpayers and professionals using the Income Tax Department's portal," the letter stated.

"Since June 2024, there have been persistent

technical issues with the Income Tax Portal, including difficulties accessing Form 26AS, AIS, TIS, and other critical documents. For the past 20 days, users have faced login issues, and new assesses have struggled to register due to system overload. Additionally, the generation of One-Time Passwords (OTPs) for e-verification has been problematic, causing delays in return filings. There are also instances where taxes paid via UPI are not credited to the taxpayer's PAN despite being debited from bank accounts. These disruptions have significantly hampered the

filing process," it stated.

It added, "The Income Tax Portal's responses have led to confusion regarding the application of increased rebate limits under both tax regimes. The higher turnover limits under sections 44AD and 44AB, combined with other provisions like TDS, GST, and new reporting requirements under section 43B(h), have increased the complexity of return preparation. Discrepancies between AIS/TIS and Form 26AS further complicate filings, often resulting in errors and rectification notices."

"The deadline for filing Income Tax Returns for

non-auditable cases and salary returns coincides with the due date for TDS returns on 31st July and the last date for GSTR-3B under GST. Additionally, it aligns with the deadline for GST appeal filings. This overlap strains taxpayers and professionals who must manage multiple compliance requirements simultaneously," the letter further stated.

It added, "The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is experiencing increased militant activity, particularly in Reasi, Kathua, Doda, and Kashmir. These disturbances have hindered the collection of necessary informa-

tion from banks and other sources, further complicating the return filing process."

"In light of these challenges, we humbly request your intervention to extend the Income Tax Return filing deadline to August 31, 2024. This extension would significantly alleviate the difficulties faced by taxpayers and professionals, fostering a more efficient and supportive environment for tax compliance," it stated and added, "We appreciate your consideration of this matter and kindly request prompt action to address these issues."

## DC Leh convenes meeting to discuss 'Stop Diarrhoea' Campaign

Top News Report

LEH, July 27: Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, convened a meeting to discuss the Stop Diarrhoea Campaign and National Deworming Day, initiatives by the Health Department of Leh.

Dr Rinchen Angmo, State Consultant/Nodal Officer MCH Ladakh, presented the overview on Stop Diarrhoea Campaign, titled "Diarrhoea ki Roktham, Safai aur ORS se rakhen Apna Dyaan." The campaign will last for two months from 1st July to 31st August 2024.



The purpose of this meeting is to form a District level committee for monitoring these initiatives.

She highlighted childhood diarrhoea is preventable and there should

be no death due to diarrhoea. Goal, objectives, pre-campaign planning, and IEC activities were discussed, stressing multi-sectoral involvement like various depart-

ments like Women and Child, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Urban Development/Municipalities, and Education dept also play vital role in diarrhoea control program and for

successful implementation of the Campaign.

Dr. Angmo also gave an overview of the National Deworming Day, which is conducted bi-annually in Leh Ladakh in the month of March and September, differing from other states due to the local school calendar.

Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, directed the concerned departments to collaborate effectively and emphasized the crucial role of IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) activities in spreading awareness. He urged

for extensive dissemination of these materials to maximize the campaign's reach and impact.

The meeting was attended by key officials including the Chief Medical Officer Leh, Chief Education Officer Leh; District Social Welfare Officer Leh; Dy. CMO Leh; District panchayat Officer RDD Leh; AD (P) RDD Leh; State Consultant/Nodal Officer MCH Ladakh; Child Development Project Officer ICDS Leh; Executive Engineer PHE Department Leh; Other concerned officials and officers.

## Jacqueline, Riddhima walk the ramp for Isha Jajodia at India Couture Week 2024

Jacqueline Fernandez and entrepreneur Riddhima Kapoor Sahni turned muses for Isha Jajodia's latest collection 'Roseroom, which she showcased on the second day of the Hyundai FDCI India Couture Week in New Delhi.

The collection was filled with intricate designs and ranged from sarees to gowns, depicting miniature embroidery, rhinestones and floral work.

Inspired by the grandeur of French architectural landmarks with a blend of modern feminine strength, the designer managed to bring the essence of



the same in the attires. Fernandez, 38, took to the runway in a black embroidered mermaid gown adorned with a black veil stretching behind. She completed the look with a massive stone necklace and a high bun.

Sharing her experience of walking for Jajodia, she said, "I love her work. I've been wearing her beautiful dresses, sarees, and gowns for a very long time. I'm a fan of hers."

Sahni, 43, walked in an ivory lehenga with a

floral design and pearl beads on it. "It was surreal and the most amazing experience. Isha's (Jajodia) is a friend and when she asked me to walk for her, I was just over-excited and I knew she would put me in something that is very

down my street."

Meanwhile, designer Suneet Varma made a stunning impact on the second day as his collection, Nazm, left a lasting impression. T

he show began with a nazm, recited by Varma's mother, Indira Varma, setting a poetic tone for the evening. The collection drew inspiration from the music of the seventies and eighties, an era close to Varma's heart.

"It's actually inspired by music from the seventies and eighties in particular since that's the era I grew up in and have always loved," Varma said.

## Shweta Tiwari plays the 'IT' girl on Aapka Apna Zakir



Popular comedian Zakir Khan is all set to entertain audiences with his new show Aapka Apna Zakir. Set to air soon on Sony Entertainment Television, the show promises to be a delightful blend of humour and heartfelt life lessons. Along with Zakir, the show boasts a talented crew, including Shweta Tiwari.

Shweta is all set to play the 'IT' girl on the show, who is always one step ahead of the game.

Shweta shared, "I am excited to do a show like this after a long time, wherein viewers will get to see a new side of me. Comedy is currently evolving as a genre and I've always enjoyed being at the epicentre of change.

When I was approached for Aapka Apna Zakir, I instantly said yes. Each episode will feature Zakir's signature storytelling style, where he shares anecdotes from his own life and the lives of people he encounters. These stories are filled with wit.

## Diljit Dosanjh says his track Muhammad Ali celebrates resilience

Punjabi superstar Diljit Dosanjh, who has released his latest track, Muhammad Ali, has said it celebrated resilience and empowerment. For his latest song, Diljit has joined forces with rapper NLE Choppa.

The track is touted to be an urban pop anthem, designed to be both invigorating and motivational. It encourages listeners to dance, dream, and defy the odds, while the music video blends cultures with an infectious rhythm.

About the collaboration, Diljit said, "Muhammad Ali celebrates the spirit of resilience and empowerment. Collaborating with NLE Choppa on this anthem has been incredibly inspiring. I'm thrilled to share another vibrant Punjabi sound with the world." Diljit has been instrumental in bringing Indian and Punjabi culture to the international stage. Earlier, he made Ed Sheeran sing in Pun-



jabi during the latter's tour in Mumbai.

Recently, he had a sold-out Dil-Luminati Tour spanning the US and Canada. His recent appearance on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon further solidified his international stature.

NLE Choppa, at just 21, has already made a significant impact on the music scene. About the track, he shared, "This

collaboration with Diljit on Muhammad Ali has been great. Combining our styles to honour such an iconic figure has been a memorable journey. I'm eager for our Indian fans to make this track their own." The track pays homage to the legendary boxer Muhammad Ali's power and charisma. Muhammad Ali is available on all major audio streaming platforms.

## At an event in the national capital, young actress Sanya Malhotra underlined the importance of balancing stardom and wellness

Actress Sanya Malhotra, best known for her roles in Dangal and Jawan, is making waves in both the entertainment and wellness industries. Recently named the ambassador of Human Mobile Devices (HMD), she is also preparing for the screening of her film Mrs at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2024, which will take place from August 15 to 25. Despite her busy schedule, Malhotra remains committed to her health.

Sanya, who prioritises health alongside her thriving acting career, attended the launch of Yakult's new Light Mango flavour in the national capital. Dressed in a butter-yellow outfit that matched the theme of the new flavour, she charmed attendees with her radiant smile. Addressing the audience, Sanya expressed concern over rising lifestyle disorders. "There



is great concern about the increasing rise in

lifestyle disorders due to erratic schedules, poor

nutrition, stress, lack of adequate sleep, pollution, and generally poor gut health," she said. Sanya also talked about her personal health routine, "I take my daily dose of probiotics to keep my gut healthy.

Beyond brand endorsements, Sanya's acting career is also thriving. Her film Mrs, directed by Arati Kadav, is set to be a highlight at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2024 (IFFM). Both Malhotra and Kadav are expected to attend the festival.

Mrs explores the intricate life of a woman, portrayed by Sanya, who is a trained dancer and teacher.

The film delves into her journey of self-expression amidst societal expectations imposed on her marital life.

It is the Hindi remake of the critically acclaimed Malayalam film The Great Indian Kitchen, featuring Kanwaljit Singh and Nishant

Dahiya in pivotal roles. Presented by Jio Studios in association with Baweja Studios, Mrs is produced by Jyoti Deshpande, Pammi Baweja and Harman Baweja. Sanya has previously won the Best Actress award for the film at the New York Indian Film Festival and been nominated for Best Actress at IFFM 2024.

The actress is also set to make a special appearance in the upcoming film Baby John, where she will star alongside Varun Dhawan and Jackie Shroff.

Baby John is a Hindi action film directed by Kalees and produced by Atlee, Murad Khetani, and Jyoti Deshpande under Jio Studios, Cine1 Studios, and A for Apple Productions.

With a perfect blend of career achievements and a focus on health, Sanya continues to inspire her fans, both on and off the screen.

## The young cast of the show Mishri promises a fresh blend of emotions and entertainment from the lanes of Mathura

It's a love triangle, where the hero is forced to marry a girl against his wishes. Right, so what's new? Isn't the idiot box replete with dramas based around the same premise? Yet, Colors' show Mishri, which took off earlier this month, has something fresh to offer. For one, the sizzling chemistry between the lead stars — Namish Taneja as Raghav and Meghna Chakraborty as Vaani. Another, the performance of young star Shruti Bhisht, who essays the role of Mishri.

Set in the holy city of Mathura, the plot revolves around the pleasant presence of Mishri who brings happiness and fortune to others, while struggling with her own set of misfortunes. Hailing from Garhwal, young artiste Shruti Bhisht, who essays the role of Mishri, has worked in the famous OTT show Family Man, and is well-known for her characters in television shows like Baal Veer, Ek Nayi Choti Si Zindagi and Hitler Didi. She says, "There are a lot of similarities



between my real-life persona and the character of Mishri. Like her, I do not like confrontations and avoid unnecessary arguments, yet I speak my mind and make sure that my opinion is heard. Also, both are really hard working and have been through the grind. So, this similarity helped me essay the role with

relative comfort. Shooting the show in Mathura was a whole new experience and a memory for a lifetime."

Namish Taneja, who has been a part of the television industry from a very young age and seen in shows like Swaragini, Ikyawann, Vidya, Main Maike Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte

Rahiyo, among others, has earned a name through his versatile performances. About this show, he says, "The story of Mishri is what attracted me and the most interesting part was that we were actually made to go to Mathura to understand the lifestyle of the people there! I always try to improve

my performance with each project and had a great time essaying this role. Meghna and I have been in this industry for some time and share a great bond, whereas Shruti reminds me of times when I started my career. We all are having great fun shooting for this show."

Meghna Chakraborty agrees, "Indeed the vibe on the sets is amazing. We are all giving it our best and hope the audiences like our characters." Having started her career with Bengali show Joto Hashi Tato Ranna, she next bagged the protagonist's role in the film Desert Tears, which portrayed persecution of women in rural India. Meghna, whose Hindi credits include Badi Devrani, Imlie, Krishna Chali London, and others, adds, "It's not just a love triangle, but much beyond that. All three of us essay characters that are based on family values. The sisterhood of Vaani and Mishri will be really fun to watch. Also, Mathura was amazing to explore."

This young brigade is sure out to prove a point!

## Shekhar Kapur reflects on 'filmmaking losing its innocence', hopes 'Masoom' touches hearts



Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur reminisced about his directorial debut 'Masoom', questioning whether filmmaking has lost its 'innocence'.

Reflecting on his journey, he expressed his desire to retain humility and emotional creativity as he embarks on the production of 'Masoom - The Next Generation'.

Shekhar took to Instagram and shared a throwback picture of actor Jugal Hansraj from 'Masoom' and penned a heartfelt note.

He wrote, 'Has filmmaking lost its innocence? My relationship is with my audience. Masoom was my first film. I had not studied film, nor trained, nor assisted anyone. I had no experience... Yet no one questioned me. No one but my editors and my creative team asked me a single question. And so Masoom was born of pure instinct... of pure emotionality... pure story telling... And of innocence, as innocent as @

thejugalhansraj is in the still above from Masoom. And of naivety. And of 'not knowing'.'

He continued, 'Of searching for emotional answers to shots as they were being conceived... scenes as they are being conceived... as they are being shot... Films evolve as they take shape. They are not manufactured... they are created from the heart... they are created by pain and laughter and tears from the heart... of the actors, of the director, and films that touch the audience heart are born of humility... from the acceptance of 'not knowing'. When all of this comes together... you get a film that lasts decades. That still moves audiences three generations later...'

"As I now move into production of Masoom-the next generations, pray for me. Pray that I can find humility, pray that I can be emotionally and creatively naive, pray that my heart still can reach out to you. Pray that I have not become too arrogant by success... pray that the modern new ways of film making and does not interfere with what I call the 'heart instinct'.'

"For I am told by many of my filmmaker friends today is that there is too much 'mind instinct' that is being inflicted upon them in the process of production of their films! The best films are from the heart... I need your blessings," added Kapur.

The 1983 movie 'Masoom' is an adaptation of the 1980 Erich Segal novel 'Man, Woman and Child'.

The film stars Naseeruddin Shah and Shabana Azmi in lead roles.

It also features Tanuja, Supriya Pathak and Saeed Jaffrey in pivotal roles, while Jugal Hansraj, Aradhana and Urmila Matondkar were the child actors.

## Viksit Bharat by 2047 ambition of every Indian, states can play active role to achieve this aim: PM Modi at NITI Aayog meet

Modi is chairing the 9th Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog

NEW DELHI, Jul 27 (Agencies): Making India a developed nation by 2047 is an ambition of every Indian, and states can play an active role in achieving this aim as they are directly connected with the people, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday.

Modi is chairing the 9th Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog.

"Viksit Bharat @ 2047 is ambition of every Indian. States can play an active role to achieve this aim as they are directly connected with the people," NITI Aayog said in a post on X quoting Modi.

Modi further said this decade



is of technological and geopolitical changes, and also of opportunities.

"India should grab these opportunities and make our policies conducive for international investments. This is the

stepping stone for progress to make India a developed nation," he added.

The meeting focuses on making India a developed nation by 2047. It aims to foster participative governance and col-

laboration between the Centre and state governments, enhancing the quality of life for both rural and urban populations by strengthening the delivery mechanisms of government interventions.

The council, the apex body of NITI Aayog, includes all state chief ministers, lieutenant governors of Union Territories, and several Union ministers. Prime Minister Modi is the chairman of NITI Aayog.

The meeting also focusses on recommendations of the 3rd National Conference of Chief Secretaries held in December last year.

## Bengaluru paying guest murder case: Accused arrested in Bhopal



BENGALURU, Jul 27 (Agencies): The Bengaluru police have arrested the prime suspect in the murder of a 24-year-old woman at a Paying Guest (PG) accommodation here on July 23.

Abhishek was arrested in Bhopal where he fled after committing the gruesome murder of Kriti Kumari.

"Yes, he has been arrested," a senior police officer said on Saturday.

Addressing reporters, Bengaluru Police Com-

missioner B Dayananda said the accused has been identified and picked up from Madhya Pradesh.

He is being brought to Bengaluru on a transit remand.

To a query about the motive behind the murder, he said, "We don't know it yet. He has to be brought here and then we have to take his police custody and thorough investigation and interrogation has to be conducted... only then further details can be shared."

On Friday, the video of the chilling incident went viral.

According to police, Abhishek had sneaked into the PG accommodation and killed Kriti from Bihar.

In the video, the man is seen walking into the corridor of the paying guest accommodation holding a polythene bag. He then knocks on the door and, later, drags a woman out. The victim resists the attack, but is soon overpowered by the murderer, who slits her throat and runs away.

Upon hearing the loud noise, other women in the building rush to the spot, but could not save her.

Kriti was working in a private firm in the city, they added.

## West Bengal ex-minister Biswanath Chowdhury dies at 82

KOLKATA, Jul 27 (Agencies): Former West Bengal minister Biswanath Chowdhury died at a state-run hospital in Kolkata on Saturday morning, officials said.

Chowdhury, who was an eight-term MLA, was battling cancer. He was 82.

"He was admitted to the SSKM Hospital last week, and he breathed his last at 6.42 am today," an official said.

Chowdhury, a leader of the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP), was the MLA of Balurghat in Dakshin Dinajpur district.

He was the minister for jails and social welfare from 1987 to 2011.

Expressing grief, CM Mamata Banerjee announced a half-day holiday in all state government offices as a mark of respect for the former minister.



"I am saddened by the demise of former state minister Biswanath Chowdhury. Although he was a leader in the opposition party, we had a very good relationship. On hearing about his illness, we admitted him to SSKM Hospital and arranged for treatment. But none of the efforts worked. My sincere condolences to his family, friends and colleagues on this sad day," she posted on X.

"As a tribute to the

memory of the former minister, there will be a half-day holiday today in all state government offices, corporations, etc, which are open," she said.

Banerjee is at present in New Delhi to participate in the NITI Aayog meeting.

RSP's general secretary Manoj Bhattacharya said Chowdhury's mortal remains would be taken to his hometown of Balurghat for final rites.

## 3 dead after 4-storey building collapses in Navi Mumbai; 2 rescued from under rubble

MUMBAI, Jul 27 (Agencies): Three persons were killed and two others injured after a four-storey residential building collapsed in Navi Mumbai's CBD Belapur area early on Saturday, officials said.

The two injured persons were pulled out alive from under the rubble after the incident that occurred at 4.50 am in Shahbaz village, they said, adding that the scale of the tragedy could have been bigger had 52 other residents of the building not been evacuated in time after cracks were noticed in it in the wee hours.

"The four-storey building with 13 residential units and three shops collapsed early this morning. A man and a woman who were trapped under the rubble were rescued and admitted to a hos-



pital," Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) Commissioner Kailas Shinde said.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the personnel of the civic body's fire brigade launched a rescue operation. Around noon, the body of a man was recovered from under the debris, while the bodies of two others were recovered hours later, a civic official said.

The deceased were

identified as Mohammad Miraj Altaf Hussain (30), Miraj Saif Ansari (24) and Safique Ahmed Rahmat Ali Ansari (28). Their bodies were sent to a government hospital for post-mortem, he said.

According to the municipal commissioner, the collapsed building was 10 years old. A probe will be conducted into the cause of the crash.

Talking to agency, NMMC's divisional fire

officer Purushottam Jadhav said, "In the wee hours, some residents noticed cracks in the building and alerted the authorities about it. The fire brigade team reached the spot and evacuated 52 residents, including 13 children, from the building. The structure collapsed sometime after that."

Two persons - Lal Mohammad (22) and Rukhsana (21) - were rescued from under the rubble around 6 am. The authorities later learnt that one person was feared trapped under the debris and the rescue teams tried to call him on his mobile, but in vain. Later on, they came to know that two of his friends were also with him at that time, he said.

A dog squad also assisted the rescue teams, the NDRF offi-

cial said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who was in Delhi for Niti Aayog's governing council meeting, spoke to the Navi Mumbai municipal commissioner and directed him that necessary assistance be provided to the injured and affected persons, an official release by the Thane district administration said.

The NDRF said final search is being carried out and the work of removing the debris is underway.

Earlier this week, heavy and incessant rains lashed Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane, Raigad and parts of the Maharashtra capital metropolitan region. However, the showers have taken a break in the past two days.

## Boy rapes younger sister after watching porn, kills her; mother, 2 sisters help in cover-up

REWA (MP), Jul 27 (Agencies): Police probing the April 24 rape and murder of a 9-year-old girl in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa, have found that her teenage brother sexually assaulted her after watching a pornographic video on mobile and then killed her, following which his mother and his two elder sisters helped in the cover-up, an official said.

The police cracked the case and detained the victim's 13-year-old brother, their mother and sisters aged 17 and 18 after interrogation of 50 people, intense questioning of the accused persons and

on the basis of technical evidence, he said on Saturday.

Providing details of the case, Superintendent of Police Vivek Singh said, "A nine-year-old girl was raped and strangled to death under Jawa police station limits on April 24, following which the police had registered a case and started a probe."

"The body of the victim was recovered from the courtyard of her house where she was sleeping at the time of the incident," he said.

After the intense interrogation of the family members, it came to light that the victim's

13-year-old brother had slept beside her at night. It was found that the teenage boy raped his sister after watching obscene videos on the mobile phone, he said.

When the victim threatened to tell this to their father, the boy strangled her and later woke up his mother and confided in his mother. She then found that the victim was still alive. On seeing that, the accused again strangled her, Singh said.

In the meantime, his two elder sisters also woke up and all of them changed the spot of their bed before informing the police to mislead

the probe.

However, they finally admitted to their crime after being repeatedly interrogated, he said.

Further legal steps are being taken after detaining the boy, his two sisters and their mother, the official said.

"The police received information on April 24 morning that the body of the girl was lying in the courtyard of the house. Evidence relating to rape and murder were found in the post-mortem report and an SIT team was constituted for the probe," Singh said.

In order to mislead the investigators, the family members had told the

police that the girl died after being bitten by a poisonous insect, he said.

The probe revealed that there was no sign of anybody entering the house, and family members also denied hearing any sound during the night, he said.

"After collecting technical evidence and interrogation of 50 people, police found repeated changes in the statements of the family members.

On the basis of suspicion, they were intensely interrogated, following which they admitted the crime," the SP said.

## 'My mic was muted as I spoke in NITI meet', alleges Mamata Banerjee; govt issues fact check



NEW DELHI, Jul 27 (Agencies): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the only Opposition CM to take part in the NITI Aayog meeting under-

way here under the presidency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, walked out of the meeting after her microphone was allegedly switched off abruptly when she was in the middle of saying something.

"I have walked out of the meeting. I am boycotting it. I shall never attend a NITI Aayog meeting in future," Banerjee told reporters after emerging from the meeting.

Banerjee said when asked to speak at the meeting, she said, "The union government must not discriminate between states".

"A government cannot be run like this. It must treat all states as equal,"

Banerjee said.

Banerjee said her microphone was switched off as soon as she raised the issue of discrimination.

"Chief Ministers of BJP ruled states and of states ruled by parties having alliance with the BJP were allowed to speak for 15 to 20 minutes without any interruption," Banerjee said.

She said Chief Ministers of Assam and Chhattisgarh were allowed to speak for 10 to 15 minutes. Chandrababu Naidu, CM of Andhra Pradesh, spoke for 20 minutes.

"I was the only CM from an Opposition party present in the meeting. They ought to have been happy about it and allowed me to speak," Banerjee said.

Banerjee said the treatment meted out to her was "an insult to all regional parties".

Opposition parties earlier alleged that the Budget allocations were tilted in favour of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar since the BJP government in Delhi is dependent on the support of the ruling parties of these two states.

Congress also issued a statement saying Chief Ministers of Congress ruled states would not be attending the NITI Aayog meeting to protest against the discriminatory nature of the latest Union Budget.

Meanwhile, the government has issued a rebuttal over the West Bengal Chief Minister allegations.

BJP MP and spokesperson of the party's West Bengal unit Shamik Bhattacharya described Banerjee's leaving the NITI Aayog meeting on Saturday in a huff as a "drama based on a weak script".

CPI(M) MP Bikas Ranjan Bhattacharya also described Mamata Banerjee's abrupt exit from the meeting as "theatrics".

"All the Opposition CMs are boycotting the meeting. What was the compulsion of Mamata Banerjee's to attend it?," he asked.

## Uttarakhand rains: Mother, daughter buried alive in Tehri Garhwal landslide

DEHRADUN, Jul 27 (Agencies): The incessant heavy rainfall in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand for the past three days has led to a series of landslides, with the latest incident occurring in Toli village, Bhilangana block, Tehri district.

A mother and daughter were crushed to death in their sleep as their house was buried under the debris of a landslide that struck late on Friday night. Other family members managed to escape with their lives by fleeing the scene in the dead

of night.

Following the landslide incident, teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), police, and revenue police have rushed to Toli village to carry out rescue operations.

Meanwhile, all schools in Bhilangana block have been closed due to heavy rainfall. The administration has also appealed to villagers in sensitive areas to remain vigilant and exercise caution.

Speaking to agency, Ramesh

Jirwal, the head of Toli village, recounted the events of the tragic incident: "Last night, around 2:30 am, heavy rainfall pounded the area. During this time, the house of local resident Veerendra Lal was hit by a landslide. The wall of the house was damaged due to the landslide, which occurred behind the building. Veerendra's wife, Sarita Devi, 36, and their 15-year-old daughter, Ankita, were buried alive under the debris while they were sleeping inside."

Inspector Kavindra Sajwan of SDRF told this newspaper, "After a grueling search and rescue operation that lasted for an hour and a half, the SDRF team recovered the bodies of the two missing women."

According to sources in the Disaster Management Department, the junior high school building in Tingarh village has been completely damaged due to the landslide. Additionally, the pedestrian bridge connecting Vishan village to Dala village has been washed away.

## Kamala Harris officially declares her candidature for US presidential elections

*Harris took to social media X, and emphasised that in November, her people-powered campaign will win*

WASHINGTON, Jul 27 (Agencies): US Vice President Kamala Harris signed the forms, officially declaring her candidature for the US presidential elections, assuring that her people's-powered campaign will win in November.

Harris took to social media X, and emphasised that in November, her people-powered campaign will win.

She further reiterated that she would work hard to earn every vote.

"Today, I signed the forms officially declaring my candidacy for President of the United States. I will work hard to earn every vote. And in November, our people-powered campaign will win," Kamala Harris said in her post.

The upcoming US presidential election on November 5 will see Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee, follow-



ing Biden's endorsement.

Earlier on Friday, former US President Barack Obama publicly endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris for the US presidential post after Joe Biden exited the race recently.

Obama said he and former US First Lady Michelle Obama will do everything they can to make

sure Harris wins the presidential election in November.

In a post on X, Barack Obama said, "Earlier this week, Michelle and I called our friend @KamalaHarris. We told her we think she'll make a fantastic President of the United States, and that she has our full support. At this critical moment for our country,

we're going to do everything we can to make sure she wins in November. We hope you'll join us." Earlier on Wednesday, Actor and prominent Democratic fundraiser George Clooney publicly endorsed Harris for the US Presidential post.

While addressing the nation from the Oval Office earlier this week, US President Joe Biden thanked Kamala Harris, calling her a "great vice president." "She's experienced. She's tough, and she's capable. She's been an incredible partner to me and a leader for our country. Now the choice is up to you, the American people," Biden said.

Moreover, White House Press Secretary, Karine Jean Pierre emphasised that no one is more qualified to step in as the Democratic Party's presidential nominee than US Vice President Kamala Harris.

## Israel orders evacuation of area designated as humanitarian zone in Gaza

KHAN YOUNIS (GAZA STRIP), Jul 27 (Agencies): Israel's military ordered the evacuation Saturday of a crowded part of Gaza designated as a humanitarian zone, saying it is planning an operation against Hamas militants in Khan Younis, including parts of Muwasi, a makeshift tent camp where thousands are seeking refuge.

The order comes in response to rocket fire that Israel says originates from the area. It's the second evacuation issued in a week in an area designated for Palestinians fleeing other parts of Gaza. Many Palestinians have been uprooted multiple times in search of safety during Israel's punishing air and

ground campaign.

On Monday, after the evacuation order, multiple Israeli airstrikes hit around Khan Younis, killing at least 70 people, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, citing figures from Nasser Hospital.

The area is part of a 60-square-kilometer (roughly 20-square-mile) "humanitarian zone" to which Israel has been telling Palestinians to flee to throughout the war.

Much of the area is blanketed with tent camps that lack sanitation and medical facilities and have limited access to aid, United Nations and humanitarian groups say. About 1.8 million Palestinians are sheltering there, according to Israel's estimates. That's more

than half Gaza's pre-war population of 2.3 million.

The war in Gaza has killed more than 39,100 Palestinians, according to the territory's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count. The UN estimated in February that some 17,000 children in the territory are now unaccompanied, and the number is likely to have grown since.

The war began with an assault by Hamas militants on southern Israel on October 7 that killed 1,200 people, most of them civilians, and took about 250 hostages. About 115 are still in Gaza, about a third of them believed to be dead, according to Israeli authorities.

## Kim Jong Un calls for 'people's paradise' on Korean War anniversary

SEOUL, Jul 27 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for the building of a "people's paradise", as Pyongyang marked the anniversary of the end of the Korean War on Saturday.

The three-year Korean War ended 71 years ago on July 27, 1953 with a ceasefire that has never been replaced by a peace treaty.

Pyongyang regards the conflict as a victory, and the anniversary as a public holiday.

Kim said that it was the "sacred mission and duty of our generation" to "reliably defend our ideology and social system" and "build a



people's paradise", according to Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency.

The North Korean leader also hailed China's support during the war and said the "friendship established as the ties of kindred would be firmly carried forward".

He visited memorials honouring the veterans of the war, including

the Tower of Friendship commemorating the Chinese People's Liberation Army soldiers who fought alongside North Korean forces, KCNA said.

Pyongyang's state media also said young North Koreans celebrated the anniversary, vowing to "inherit the soul of the victorious wartime generation".

## The Philippines says a cargo of oil has started to leak from a tanker that sank in Manila Bay

MANILA, Jul 27 (Agencies): The cargo of industrial fuel oil on a tanker that sank in stormy weather in Manila Bay has started to leak in small amounts, the Philippine coast guard said Saturday.

Authorities were scrambling to start a delicate undersea operation to siphon off the highly toxic shipment from the sunken vessel, which has remained intact, to avert a major environmental crisis.

The 65-meter (213-foot) tanker Terra Nova sank was carrying about 1.4 million liters (370,000 gallons) of industrial fuel oil stored in watertight tanks when it got lashed by huge waves, apparently developed engine trouble then took on water after leaving Bataan province west of Manila for a domestic trip.

The crew struggled to steer the tanker back to port but it sank early Thursday. Sixteen crewmembers were rescued but one drowned, coast guard

spokesperson Rear Adm. Armando Bailio said.

Divers have reached the tanker, which the coast guard earlier said is lying at a relatively shallow depth of 34 meters (111 feet), and saw small amounts of the cargo leaking out of a valve of one of a number of separate compartments, although the tanks were intact.

An oil slick near the rough waters where the tanker sank off Bataan province's Limay town has now lengthened to 12-14 kilometers (7-9 miles), Bailio said, citing an aerial inspection. But, he added, the slick is not highly viscous and not deeply black in color, indicating there is still no major leak.

The leaking oil may have come both from the small tank that powered the ship's engine and from the tanker's cargo, he said.

"It's really an oil spill now," Bailio said. "The amount is minimal and manageable and,

hopefully, it will stay that way until we can start the siphoning."

The oil spill was being carried by sea currents toward towns in the provinces of Batangas and Cavite, south of Manila, which were advised to prepare to contain any oil that may reach their shores.

A town in Bataan province has indefinitely banned fishing in waters which could have been contaminated by the leak, the coast guard said.

The sunken tanker's owner has contracted a private company to siphon the cargo, an operation that could start on Sunday and take a week to complete, Bailio said.

Three coast guard ships with personnel and equipment for oil spill containment have been deployed and have started laying floating booms in the affected waters.

Bailio compared the magnitude of the possible oil spill to

another caused by the sinking of another Philippine oil tanker, the MT Princess Empress, which was carrying much less fuel oil cargo, in February last year off Oriental Mindoro province south of Manila. That spill took about three months to contain, caused massive damage to coral reefs and mangroves in a region known for its rich biodiversity, and affected tens of thousands of fishermen and beach resorts.

Manila's shoreline is a major tourism and business hub, where the main seaport, a historic public park, the U.S. Embassy, upscale hotels and restaurants and huge shopping malls are located. Land reclamation projects are also underway in the bay for upscale entertainment and tourism complexes with casinos.

The bay for years has been notorious for its pollution but famous for its picturesque sunsets.

## Japan's Sado gold mine gains UNESCO status after Tokyo pledges to exhibit dark WWII history

TOKYO, Jul 27 (Agencies): The UNESCO World Heritage committee on Saturday decided to register Japan's controversial Sado gold mine as a cultural heritage site after the country agreed to include it in an exhibit of its dark history of abusing Korean laborers during World War II.

The decision signals an improvement in ties between Tokyo and Seoul.

The mine on an island off the coast of Niigata in northern Japan operated for nearly 400 years and was once the world's largest gold producer before closing in 1989. It was also linked to Japan's wartime abuse of Korean laborers.

Committee members, including South Korea, gave unanimous support to the listing at Saturday's annual meeting in New Delhi, India. They said Japan provided additional information, made all necessary amendments to the plan and consulted with South Korea over the mine's wartime history.

The Japanese delegate told the meeting that Japan has installed new exhibition material "to explain the severe conditions of (Korean

laborers) work and remember their hardship."

Japan acknowledged that Koreans were put to more dangerous tasks in the mine shaft, which caused some to die. Many of them were also given meager food rations and nearly no days off.

A memorial service for all the workers at the Sado Island gold mines will be held annually at the site, Japanese officials said.

Japan's Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa said in a statement that she was "truly delighted" by Sado island's designation, underscoring its "extraordinary value as an exceptional cultural heritage." But the minister avoided referring to the mine's history.

The South Korean delegation said the country expects Japan to keep its pledge to be truthful to history and to show "both the bright and dark side" of the Sado mine in order to help improve relations over the long term.

In Seoul, South Korea's foreign ministry called on Japan to continue living up to its promises on the mine and take additional steps to sustain the momentum in improv-

ing bilateral ties.

Japan had to demonstrate a commitment to face its wartime atrocities in order to gain support from South Korea, which had opposed the UNESCO bid because of the wartime abuse of Korean laborers. Such disputes over history that have consistently strained bilateral ties.

Seoul has said some Koreans brought to Japan during its 1910-1945 colonization of the Korean Peninsula were put to forced labor at the mine.

Historians say Japan used hundreds of thousands of Korean laborers, including those forcibly brought from the Korean Peninsula, at Japanese mines and factories to make up for labor shortages, as most working-age men were sent to battlefronts across Asia and the Pacific. Sado was among them.

Japan's government has long been criticized for its reluctance to discuss wartime atrocities, including the sexual abuse of Asian women known as "comfort women" and Korean forced laborers.

Japanese authorities have hailed the Sado Island mine for advancements in mining

technology before and after industrialization but made no mention of its connection to the abuse of Korean laborers during WWII.

Japan initially hoped to get the Sado Island mine listed as a World Heritage site last year but filed documents were deemed insufficient and needed more information.

The International Council on Monuments and Sites, which advises the UNESCO committee, in June called on Japan to give a fuller account of the Sado mines. However, the requested information mostly pertained to technical details, though it recommended that the site to reflect the full history of the mine.

Another controversial Japanese site was granted UNESCO recognition in 2015. Gunkanjima, or Battleship Island, in Nagasaki prefecture, was a former coal mine site recognized as important to the Meiji Industrial Revolution in Japan. South Korea protested that the site omitted mention of Koreans toiling on the island, which triggered a UNESCO decision urging Japan to present a more balanced history.

## US Secretary of State Antony Blinken set for talks with Chinese foreign minister in Laos

VIENTIANE, Jul 27 (Agencies): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Laos on Saturday, where he will attend a regional meeting and hold talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, part of a multi-nation Asia visit aimed at reinforcing regional ties in the face of an increasingly assertive Beijing.

The top US diplomat is due to meet his Chinese counterpart on the sidelines of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) foreign ministers meeting being held in Vientiane.

Blinken has prioritised promoting a "free and open" Asia-Pacific region -- a thinly veiled criticism of China's regional economic, strategic and territorial ambitions.

During a series of ASEAN meetings, "the Secretary's conversations will continue to build upon the unprecedented deepening and expansion of US-ASEAN ties", the State Department said in a statement shortly before Blinken touched down in Vientiane.

This is Blinken's 18th visit to Asia since taking office more than three years ago, reflecting the fierce competition

between Washington and Beijing.

He notably arrives two days after the foreign ministers of China and Russia met with the 10-nation ASEAN bloc -- and each other on the sidelines of the summit.

Wang and Sergei Lavrov had discussed "building a new security architecture for Eurasia", according to Moscow's foreign ministry.

The pair also agreed to jointly "counter any attempts by extra-regional forces to interfere in Southeast Asian affairs", it said.

China's key political and economic partnership with Russia

China has a strong political and economic partnership with Russia, with NATO members labelling Beijing as a "key facilitator" of Moscow's involvement in the war in Ukraine.

Wang and Blinken would "exchange views on issues of common concern", China's foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said.

Blinken is expected to "discuss the importance of adherence to international law in the South China Sea" at the ASEAN talks, according to the US State Department.

Stormy seas

The talks come at a time of high tensions in the South China Sea, where a series of clashes have taken place in recent months between Philippine and Chinese vessels at flashpoint reefs.

The temperature between Manila and Beijing remains high, despite a deal last week on resupplying Filipino troops stationed on a disputed reef.

"We hope China would implement the agreement. I think that would be an important step forward in diffusing tensions and hopefully lead to other areas of cooperation on the South China Sea," said the Philippine foreign secretary Enrique Manalo told reporters in Vientiane late on Friday.

Beijing claims the waterway -- through which trillions of dollars of trade passes annually -- almost in its entirety despite an international court ruling that its assertion has no legal basis.

China lashed out earlier this year after Blinken said that Washington was ready to defend the Philippines if its forces, ships or aircraft came under attack in the South China Sea.

Beijing has insisted

that the United States has "no right" to interfere in the South China Sea.

The two countries also remain at loggerheads over trade, human rights and the status of the self-ruled island of Taiwan, which China claims sovereignty over.

Blinken will visit Hanoi to offer condolences after the death of Nguyen Phu Trong.

Blinken is scheduled to travel to Hanoi on Saturday evening to extend US condolences to Vietnamese officials after the passing of communist leader Nguyen Phu Trong. The trip will see him visit Vietnam, Laos, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore and Mongolia.

ASEAN ministers are expected to issue a joint communique at the end of their three-day meeting.

One diplomatic source said that the statement is being held up by lack of consensus over the wording of paragraphs on the Myanmar conflict and disputes in the South China Sea.

Myanmar's junta has been banned from high-level ASEAN summits over its 2021 coup and crackdown on dissent but has sent two bureaucrats to represent it at the Laos talks.









25th anniversary of 'Kargil Vijay Diwas'

## Atharva Foundation donates 3 ambulances for ex-servicemen, martyred soldiers families' welfare

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 27: On the 25th anniversary of 'Kargil Vijay Diwas', Atharva Foundation president and Borivali, Mumbai MLA, Sunil Rane handed over three ambulances for the welfare of ex-servicemen.

In the presence of Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Baisji, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Army officers and Atharva Foundation Vice Chairperson Varsha Rane, three ambulances were handed over to the ex-servicemen and families of martyred soldiers of the North-Eastern states.

Atharva Foundation has also donated ambulances to the Rajiya



Sainik Boards of Manipur, Assam, Sikkim, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh in the past years.

Sunil Rane said, "We pay tribute to all the mar-

tyrs. Keeping in mind the health of our soldiers and their family members living in Mizoram, Meghalaya and Tripura, we are providing ambulances."

"Under 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign, we are also distributing laptops to our daughters to help them move ahead and excel in the field of education."

"This initiative underlines our nation's gratitude to the brave souls who have dedicated their lives to the security of the nation, and it strengthens our commitment to support the welfare of our ex-servicemen," informed Rane.

Meanwhile Atharva Foundation Educational Trust aims to provide education and training to women, children and youth under the leadership and guidance of Sunil Rane so that they can live self-reliant with dignity and respect. The foundation is also committed to work for noble initiatives like girl education in rural areas of India, helping the families of martyrs, women empowerment and promoting sports.

## Bharat Vikas Parishad celebrates Plantation Drive, Tulsi Vitran, Kargil Diwas

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 27: Bharat Vikas Parishad Trikuta Nagar held a significant and multi-faceted event at the Trikuta Nagar Sector 3 Park, located behind Wonder World School.

This event was a blend of three meaningful activities a Plantation Drive, Tulsi Vitran, and Kargil Diwas observance.

The Plantation Drive was a key highlight of our event, aimed at contributing to environmental conservation and promoting greenery in our community.

They planted numerous saplings in the park, which will not only beautify the area but also play a crucial role in improving air quality and fostering

ecological balance.

Members and volunteers actively participated in this green initiative, demonstrating our commitment to a sustainable environment.

As part of our cultural and spiritual engagement, BVS members conducted a Tulsi Vitran. Tulsi, or Holy Basil, is revered in our traditions for its medicinal and spiritual benefits. They distributed Tulsi plants to attendees, emphasizing its importance in our daily lives and its role in promoting well-being.

In commemoration of Kargil Diwas, They honored the bravery and sacrifices of our armed forces. This day is a tribute to the soldiers who laid down their lives in

the Kargil conflict, and our observance included a solemn remembrance of their valor and dedication. They paid respects and expressed gratitude to these heroes, reinforcing our patriotic spirit.

They extended thanks to the B.B. Sharma, Prant President, for his leadership and guidance and Arun Sharma, National Executive Member, for his support and coordination.

Additionally, They expressed heartfelt gratitude to all our members who attended the event and made it a success.

Vanita Kohli (President), Kalpana Chopra (Secretary) and Ritu Gupta (Treasurer) Bharat Vikas Parishad Trikuta Nagar Branch were also present.

## BSF organizes Medical Camp at Frontier Jammu for families of BSF Troops

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 27: Frontier Hospital BSF Jammu, in association with Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) Jammu and Indira Gandhi Government Dental College (IGGDC) Jammu, under the aegis of BSF Wives Welfare Association (BWWA) and the guidance of Smt. Sunita Boora, BWWA Head Jammu Frontier, organized a medical camp for the families of

BSF troops.

Specialist doctors from GMCH Jammu, including Dr. Malvika Sharma, Registrar and Ophthalmologist, and her team, as well as Dr. Iqbal Singh, Head of Public Health Dentistry at IGGDC Jammu, participated in the camp. The event highlighted BSF's commitment to the well-being of its troops' families by offering essential medical services and educational sessions on eye and dental care.

The event was overseen by DIG Medical Jammu Frontier, Dr. Sukhjinder Singh. On the occasion, he said that the Jammu frontier has always been at the forefront of organizing such medical camps, reinforcing BSF's dedication to supporting the health and welfare of those who serve our borders. He also thanked Dr. Malvika Sharma and Dr. Iqbal Singh for providing their services to the BSF troops in a professional manner.

## 'Government's big game with the SC/ST of country in 2024-25 budget'

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 27: All India Confederation of SC/ST/OBC Organisation President, R K Kalsotra flanked by Ramesh Sarmal, Dr Ramesh Kaith, Suraj Parkash Ashok Birpuri, Ratan Lal Bhagat, Hari Ram Bhagat all executive members, apprised the media persons on the recently announced Central and State Budget and said that for the first time, the Government of India has not made a

Plan. On the basis of the 2011 census in Jammu Kashmir, the population of SC and ST is about 20%, so on that basis a separate budget of Rs 8855 crore should have been kept for the special development in the overall development of these communities," Kalsotra said.

Ever since the budget is being presented, he said, the present government has for the first time removed the names of SC/ST from the budget, to make sure that neither



separate provision in the 2024-25 budget which is announced to be Rs 1.48 lakh crore without (SCP) Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP).

This is the first time that on the basis of the population which is 22.5% of SC/ST at National level, a separate budget of 33000 crores should have been kept for the exclusive development in all over development of these communities, Kalsotra said.

"This time, Rs 44278 crore has been announced in the budget of 2024-25 for UT-Jammu Kashmir, in that too no separate provision has been made for (SCP) Special Component Plan and (TSP) Tribal Sub

the bamboo remains nor the flute is played.

Kalsotra further said that earlier governments used to misuse and divert SCP and TSP funds of SC ST and opposition parties and SC ST used to protest against the government but the present government has ended this fight. Now whether the government spends some of the budget on the development of SC ST or not, no one will blame the government.

He demanded from Government to not discard the old practice of bifurcation of SCP & TSP & Govt should rectify and re-announce the share of SC/ST under SCP & TSP for their exclusive and all over development.

## DLSA organizes legal awareness program for prisoners at District Jail Bhandarwah

Top News Report

BHANDARWAH, July 27: On the directions of Justice Tashi Rabstan, the Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bhandarwah organized a legal awareness program for prisoners at the District Jail Bhandarwah here on Saturday. The program was aimed to educate the prisoners on their legal rights and bail procedures. The programme was held under the supervision of Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and under the guidance of Ramesh Lal (Sub Judge), Secretary DLSA Bhandarwah whereas on the occasion Supdt Dist Jail Habibullah Naik was also present.

Resource Person of the Programme Advocate Mohd Majid Malik Panel Lawyer DLSA, a legal expert, imparted awareness, clarifying doubts and providing valuable insights to the prisoners.

He explained the process and benefits of plea bargaining to the prisoners, enabling them to understand the option of negotiating with the prosecution.

The prisoners were made aware of their fundamental rights, including access to legal aid, medical facilities, and humane treatment.

He informed that Section 436 of the CrPC mandates the release of an indigent or poor person on bail without the requirement of surety. It allows the person to execute a bond to appear before the court without



asking for any surety. The court shall consider any person unable to provide bail within seven days from the date of their arrest as indigent or poor.

The principle is that bail, rather than jail, is the rule and depriving a person of liberty is the last resort.

Panel Lawyer also informed them about the bail provisions and the role of Under Trial Review Committees in expediting the trial process.

Resource Persons interacted with jail inmates and also discussed all the provisions pertaining to Plea Bargaining lucidly along with its practical aspects. He also explained the importance of securing the Rights of Prisoners & various bail provisions provided by the Code of Criminal Procedure in the light of recent Apex Court Judgments and also threw light on new three criminal laws which included BNS, BNSS and BSA 2023.

The rights of prisoners in India are enshrined in both the Constitution and the Code of Criminal Procedure. These rights include the right to be treated with dignity, access to legal representation, a speedy trial, medical examination to prevent torture, and the right to be present during trial proceedings, Panel

Lawyer of DLSA informed added that additionally, prisoners have the right to be informed about the grounds of their arrest, access to bail, and to be released on probation for good conduct.

The principle of bail over jail is emphasised, especially for indigent or poor prisoners. These rights of prisoners safeguard the fundamental principles of justice, fairness, and human rights, ensuring that even individuals in custody are treated with respect and due process under the law. Advocate Mohd Majid Malik said.

Advocate Mohd Majid Malik also said that Section 273 of the CrPC provides that all evidence and statements must be recorded in the presence of the accused or their lawyer and explained Section 309(1) of the CrPC which provides that in every inquiry or trial, the proceedings shall be held as expeditiously as possible.

Section 303 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) empowers prisoners to be defended by a lawyer of their choice. Section 304 of the CrPC provides that in certain cases, legal aid is to be provided at the state's expense.

He also threw light on Article 20(2) of the Constitution of India which guarantees that no person shall be prosecuted and punished for the same offence more than once.

## DPS Jammu students bag gold medals in national swimming competition

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 27: Students of Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu brought laurels to the school and their parents by winning gold medals in National Swimming Competition organized by Jammu Kashmir Swimming Association

(JKSA) held on 13th July, 2024 at K.C. Sports Club Jammu.

Musa Pervaiz Malik (IX-F) – gold medal in 50 mts. free style & gold medal in 100 mts. free style; Manha Pervaiz Malik (VI-J) – gold medal in 50 mts. free style & gold medal in 100 mts. free style.

Students have also been selected for 50th Junior National Aquatic Championship to be held from 6th to 11th August, 2024 at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

The Management DPS Jammu under the esteemed leadership of President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Dis-

tinguished Pro VC, Dr. Ritu Singh, Director, S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated the entire team members and their coach, Ravinder Deonia. Further, they also extended their best wishes to all of them for their future endeavours.

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