

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

UPSC qualifiers from J&K allocated services

JAMMU, July 31 (Agencies): Ten UPSC qualifiers from Jammu and Kashmir were allocated the services today by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

As per a notification of the DoPT, four of them were allocated the Indian Administrative Services (IAS), two got the Indian Police Services (IPS), and four others were allotted the allied services.

Among those who were allotted the IAS are Anmol Rathore, Arjun Gupta, Seerat Bajji, and Aprachita Aryan while Gh Mayadin and Harmit Sudhan got IPS, Mohammad Haris and Farhan Sen IRS and Suvan Sharma and Dinash Kumar allotted IRMS.

J&K parts likely to receive rains today, says MeT

SRINAGAR, July 31 (Agencies): Meteorological Centre Srinagar Wednesday predicted light to moderate rain and thundershower at many places of Jammu and Kashmir today.

The officials said that on July 31st there is a possibility of spell of light to moderate rain & thundershower at many places of Kashmir division, and widespread places of Jammu division.

From August 1st to 5th there will be generally cloudy with spells of intermittent light to moderate rain & thundershower at many place of Kashmir division, and most places of Jammu division, the officials said.

They also said a spell of rain & thundershower at scattered places of J&K is expected on from August 6th to 7th, while as from August 8th to 10th a spell of rain & thundershower at isolated placed of Jammu and Kashmir divisions is expected.

They added that intense showers with brief period with possibility of flashfloods, cloudbursts, landslides, mudslides and shooting stones over vulnerable places of Jammu and Kashmir, and heavy rainfall at few places of Jammu division is also expected.

Notably J&K has been gripped under intense heat wave from last few weeks, causing disruptions to normal life across.

Heavy Military fortifications near China's now-complete Pangong Lake bridge

NEW DELHI, July 31 (Agencies): China has completed the construction of a 400-metre bridge, connecting the northern and southern banks of the Pangong Tso. The high-resolution images of this bridge were first published on ndtv.com in January 2022. The new satellite images from July 22, 2024, show vehicles on the black-topped bridge and moving across the banks of Pangong Tso.

New satellite images show four structures on the northern side of the lake. The bridge lies in territory held by China since 1958 near the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh.

Khurnak Fort lies on the northern shore of Pangong Tso and has been in Chinese-held territory since 1958. Before 1958,



the boundary between India and China was considered at the Khurnak Fort but the latter has wrested control since then. The construction at Khurnak does not represent an incursion being presently held by India. The satellite image shows a

Chinese fortification along with two helipads at Khurnak Fort. During the 1962 India-China war, the Chinese used the Khurnak Fort as its forward headquarters for operations in Ladakh.

Another satellite image shows

an existing artillery site. The Chinese have also built interconnected protected trenches that run north to south.

A satellite image shows an open defensive position, a likely site of a Chinese surface-to-air missile launcher, erector and transporter. An air defence site can also be seen in the image. A road runs parallel to the bank of Pangong Lake to transport troops and equipment.

The Chinese bridge has cut the travel distance between both banks by 50-100 kilometres, or several hours in travel time.

Asked to respond to the latest developments, the External Affairs Ministry directed NDTV to a previous statement: "This bridge is being constructed in areas

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Customer service calls on hold resulted in 15 bn hours loss for Indians in 2023: Report



NEW DELHI, July 31 (Agencies): Customer service calls on hold resulted in a massive loss of 15 billion hours for Indians last year, resulting in likely \$55 billion in economic loss output, a report revealed on Wednesday.

An average person spends more than one

day each year on hold to address an issue or complaint (30.7 hours), according to new research from the AI platform Service Now.

Slow service solutions mean the average employee is spending 3.9 days to resolve each customer issue,

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Ganderbal Court issues show-cause notice to DC following 'Personal Attack'

SRINAGAR, July 31 (Agencies): In a significant legal development, the Ganderbal district court has issued a show-cause notice to Deputy Commissioner Shyambir, questioning why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against him under the Contempt of Courts Act. This move follows allegations of non-compliance with a court order and attempts to "personally attack" the presiding judge through "manipulation and fabrication."

Sub-judge Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi, presiding over the court, passed the order

against Shyambir for allegedly failing to comply with a previous court order regarding a land acquisition case. The court had directed the Deputy Commissioner to compensate petitioners whose land was acquired by the government, a decree initially issued in 2022. Despite a subsequent order in January 2024, to enforce this compensation, the Deputy Commissioner reportedly did not act on it. As a consequence, the court issued an order on June 21, to withhold the salaries of Shyambir and other officials involved.

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Amarnath Yatra breaks records with 4.71 Lakh devotees in 32 days



JAMMU, July 31 (Agencies): Over 4.71 lakh devotees had 'darshan' during the ongoing Amarnath Yatra so far breaking last year's entire Yatra record of 4.45 lakh pilgrims as another batch of 1,654 pilgrims left Jammu for

the Valley on Wednesday, said officials.

"This number is more than last year's total pilgrim number of 4.45 lakh who went to Amarnath cave shrine during the entire Yatra period. Yesterday, 5,000 devotees performed the

Yatra while a new batch of 1,654 left Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu for the Valley in two escorted convoys. Both convoys left for the Valley at 3.20 a.m.," the officials said.

"First escorted convoy of

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No restrictions for August 15 at Bakshi Stadium, says Div Com

SRINAGAR, July 31 (Agencies): Divisional Commissioner Kashmir VK Bidhuri extended an open invitation to people of Kashmir valley for 15th August celebrations at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar.

"I extend my invitation to everyone to attend the Aug 15 function which is going to be held at Bakshi Stadium Srinagar this year," Bidhuri said.

"Like January 26 this year, I again invite people to come and join the celebration of August 15. I hope you will respond and join the function," he said.

The Div Com assured

that 15th August programme at Bakshi Stadium will have no restrictions on public movement, and a valid ID card will suffice for entry.

Bidhuri said that there will be no restrictions in Kashmir and that the internet and other services would function normally on Independence Day.

Security measures are in place, with intensified arrangements in specific areas to ensure the safety of all attendees.

It has been informed that the Independence Day Function 2024 is scheduled to be held in Bakshi Stadium

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MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

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Kashmir to get 6,000 new transit quarters for Migrant Employees

SRINAGAR, July 31 (Agencies): The Administrative Council which met here under chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha approved revised administrative approval for construction of six thousand Transit Accommodations in Kashmir Valley for Kashmir Migrant Government Employees engaged under PMDP-2015 and taking up allied works at various locations of Transit Accommodations in Kashmir Valley. Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, Dr Manddeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor were present in the meeting.

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Lt Governor interacts with citizens; several cases disposed on the spot

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, July 31: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today interacted with citizens and attended to their issues, during "LG's Mulaqaat"-Live Public Grievance Hearing programme, at the Civil Secretariat.



During the interaction, the Lt Governor took appraisal of the action taken by the Administrative Secretaries, Deputy Commissioners and concerned officials on the grievances received from the citizens

The Lt Governor directed the Officials to expedite the pending resolution of grievances on fast-track basis and to ensure that the system is accountable and responsive to people's needs.

Reiterating the commitment of J&K Administration to improve the griev-

ance redressal mechanism, the Lt Governor said the initiatives like J&K SAMADHAN Portal and App which were launched recently are aimed at providing an easy way to lodge the grievance and its efficient and speedy redressal.

"We have also imparted greater transparency to the public service delivery process. Our aim is to empower citizens with special attention to the needs of the marginalised

section of the society," he said.

In today's "LG's Mulaqaat", several grievances of the complainants were redressed on the spot by the Lt Governor.

Sh Abdul Rashid Sheikh, on behalf of residents of Bamloora village of Ganderbal, expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for providing resolution to the grievance regarding irrigation water facility to their village.

Ms Ulfat Bi from Poonch

District who had applied for construction of house under PMAY scheme also thanked the Lt Governor for addressing her long pending grievance.

On the grievance of Sh Ubaid Fayaz Najar of Bandipora District pertaining to the issuance of OBC certificate, the Lt Governor instructed the concerned Department to take appropriate measures and facilitate the eligible beneficiaries in

hassle-free manner.

Responding to the complaint of Sh Rakesh Kumar from Samba, the Lt Governor directed the Health functionaries to review the functioning of oxygen plant installed at District hospital Samba as well as other Government health Institutions to ensure they are operating smoothly.

On the sidelines of the LG's Mulaqaat, the Lt Governor also reviewed the implementation of the directions passed with regard to the preparations for Independence Day Celebration.

Sh Mohammad Aijaz, Secretary, Public Grievances Department conducted the proceedings of the LG Mulaqaat.

Sh Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, HoDs and other senior officers were present during the interaction, in person and through virtual mode.

Global demand drives Kashmir handcraft exports to Rs 1100 Crores

SRINAGAR, July 31 (Agencies): Kashmir's handloom and handcraft exports have more than doubled over the past two years, with export figures surpassing Rs 1100 crores.

Artisan on work on a loom weaving Kashmir Carpet using a unique 'Zari' technology, incorporating a metallic thread and multiple colours to make the iconic craft noticeable in the International market

According to figures, exports surged from Rs 563 crore in 2021-22 to a remarkable Rs 1,162 crore in 2023-24, reflecting a robust growth trajectory.

The sharp increase highlights the rising global demand for Kashmiri craftsmanship, renowned for its intricate designs and high-quality materials.

Figures suggest that against Rs 165.98 crore in 2021-22, shawls worth Rs 424.20 crore were

exported in the last fiscal year. Similarly, against Rs 251.05 crore in 2021-22, carpets worth Rs 357.21 crore were exported in 2022-23.

Other handicrafts and handloom items also witnessed a surge in exports, especially after the government promoted and preserved their authenticity by issuing Geographic Indication (GI) tags to the prized crafts.

Artisans attribute this growth to a combination of factors: enhanced global awareness of Kashmiri crafts, improved marketing strategies, and strengthened export channels.

"Government initiatives and support have also played a crucial role in this surge. Policies aimed at promoting exports and providing incentives to the handicraft sector have contributed to the sector's expansion," said Khalid Ahmad Bhat, a Pashmina artisan.

He said the promotion and enhancement of exhibitions have contributed to the growth of handicraft sales across India as well.

"We have a good demand also. We get orders from various states, with people preferring to buy Kashmir handicrafts with GI tags. This increase in demand has boosted production as well," Bhat said.

Officials said the government has taken various initiatives to promote and market Kashmir handicrafts worldwide. "From exhibitions to promotional campaigns, the department has taken various initiatives to promote Kashmir handicrafts. The GI tag proved to be a game changer as demand increased, subsequently enhancing the exports of handicrafts to various countries. Currently, we have a good demand for handicrafts from the Gulf, Europe, and other nations," they said.

"Steep rise in temperature in Ladakh a matter of concern": Ladakh IMD Director

LEH (Ladakh), July 31 (Agencies): Ladakh India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director Sonam Lotus on Wednesday said that a steep rise in temperature in Ladakh is a matter of concern.

Notably, a maximum temperature of 30.5 degrees Celsius was recorded in Leh on July 30.

The Ladakh IMD Director noted that while high temperatures are typical during Ladakh's hottest months of July-August, he added that a steep rise in temperature, particularly in Ladakh, is indeed a matter of concern as glaciers are the region's key water source, and

their rapid melting due to intense heat poses a significant threat to the region's water supply.

"Ladakh is a cold desert area but it doesn't mean that it is always cold here. It is cold here during winters in December-January when temperatures drop to even -20 or -25 degrees Celsius in Leh. This time, it is not new to experience summers here in July-August. It happens every year. July-August is the hottest month of the year for Ladakh. Kargil experiences 2-3 degrees more than Leh. This time, Leh recorded a highest temperature of 33.5 degrees Celsius. At the same time, on 28th July, Kargil

recorded the highest temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius. These temperatures are not new. It is always hot in July-August, especially from the second week of July to mid-August, around 45 days," IMD Ladakh Director said.

"Steep rise in temperature, that too in Ladakh, is indeed a matter of concern. Glaciers are our natural resources and are very valuable. We get water from that glacier, so if the temperatures rise like this - when Ladakh's 30 degrees is like 40 degrees in the plains - the intense heat will melt the ice bodies faster," he added.

Ladakh IMD Director also issued an advisory for tourists, warning of potential flash floods in the coming days.

"Sometimes, it also rains due to the heat... The monsoon is becoming active now, so it has started becoming cloudy since yesterday which has caused light rain in a few spots... There has been no loss of life or property. We would like to tell the tourists that it is going to rain in the next week. It can take the form of a flash flood in a few areas. So, people will have to be alert these few days. Take this as an advisory. There is no need to panic," he said.

BJP Govt made historical rectification by ensuring proprietary rights to WPRs: Kavinder

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 31: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta on Wednesday said that the BJP Government led by PM Narendra Modi has ensured a fair deal for the West Pak Refugees (WPRs) by giving them the proprietary rights on State land.

In a statement issued to media persons, the BJP stalwart leader said that this step of ensuring which was due to the WPRs is another remarkable stroke by the Modi Government as earlier the community was empowered in J&K by



the same dispensation through extending the domicile and the voting rights.

He said that through this move the government has removed the long pending error which has been committed by the

successive dynastic governments that ruled the erstwhile state of J&K just to loot its resources and pound the marginalized sections of the people in one way or the other.

The senior BJP leader said that this monumental decision stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment of the government to bail out the marginalized and put an end to the injustices of the past.

He said that this landmark initiative is more than just a policy change and the same could be termed as a beacon of hope and a harbinger of a new era where every citizen, regardless of his

or her historical circumstances, has the right to thrive and prosper.

He said besides the WPRs, the government has also alleviated the gloom of displaced persons of 1965 by giving similar rights to them also.

Kavinder said that through such philanthropic steps in J&K the Modi Government has time and again proved that it is merely not a dispensation rather it is an epitome of a welfare state, for which people of all regions are longing for whether it is India or any other country, because this dispensation is discrimination free and good for all.

Central Govt disappoints Jammu as it disempowers elected Govt in J&K: Manjit Singh Seeks restoration of statehood, powers to elected bodies in erstwhile Dogra State

Top News Report

SAMBA, July 31: Continuing public outreach campaign, the Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh on Wednesday said that the people have become deeply disappointed with the Central Govt for disempowering the elected institutions/Govt in Jammu and Kashmir.



He made this statement while addressing a meeting at Sarore Adda in Bari Brahmana, Samba District.

The Former Minister was accompanied by the ST Wing J&K President, Saleem Alam.

The people in this meeting expressed their faith in the leadership of Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari and pinned their hopes in the Apni Party for the redressal of their growing concerns.

Addressing a meeting, the Former Minister held a detailed deliberation with the people from different segments of society.

During the discussion, the people expressed their dissatisfaction with the LG Govt in Jammu and Kashmir as it snatched all their hopes, and hardly fulfilled the promise of develop-

ment. "From August 5, 2019, the people were promised of overall development, end to discrimination, and employment generation programs in Jammu and Kashmir. However, the people were not ready to accept that the present Govt has adopted an anti-people policy that has given rise to unemployment," he added, after holding a threadbare discussion.

He extended his support on behalf of the Party to the people and assured that if the Party forms the Govt in Jammu and Kashmir, it will work to redress the growing concerns of the people.

He however criticized the Central Govt for disempowering the elected Govt in Jammu and Kashmir and granting more powers to the LG J&K

and termed it an act that would weaken the elected bodies.

"The elected institutions would become weak when it comes to work for the public as the LG J&K has been made more powerful," he added.

He further said that the BJP and the Central Govt has defied the people of Jammu and Kashmir with their hollow assurances that they could not fulfill.

"Instead, the people of Jammu and Kashmir were made to migrate to other states for work. Earlier, they could find work in their own erstwhile state. However, the situation since 2019 has changed, and the non-locals are being engaged in most of the sectors including the contracts or mining works," he alleged.

He demanded that Jammu and Kashmir

should be empowered again by returning the powers of an elected Govt and statehood should be restored to the erstwhile state.

"The people have emotional attachment with the historic state that was once ruled by the Dogra Rulers. Therefore, ignoring the growing concerns of the people in both the regions would not be a suitable decision of the Central Govt. It becomes important to restore the state as well as empower the elected Govt in J&K powerful as equal as the other Govts in other states of the country," he mentioned.

Meanwhile, he asked the administration to improve the basic amenities in Bari Brahmana, and ensure the discrimination is not done with the people at any cost.

Dean Students Welfare in collaboration with SPARSH organized gender sensitization activity at CLUJ

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 31: Dean Students Welfare in collaboration with the apex body of SPARSH (Sensitization, Prevention and Redressal of Sexual Harassment) organized an activity for the awareness of all stakehold-

ers regarding gender sensitization in various Schools and Colleges of Cluster University of Jammu.

Also, the SPARSH Bill Boards were prepared and distributed among the Co-ordinators of Schools and Colleges of the Cluster University of

Jammu for their further display at their respective institutions.

Dr. Monika Sharma, Dean Faculty of Arts, CLUJ was the special guest of the occasion. The event was carried out under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Raj Shree Dhar, Dean Students

Welfare in the premises of School of Humanities and Liberal Arts, CLUJ.

The event was attended by Dr. VandanaKhaJuria (Chairperson SPARSH), the faculty, Co-ordinators and students of Schools and the Constituent Colleges of CLUJ.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION GANDHI NAGAR JAMMU
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SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. DGN/27 of 2024-25 Dated 29-07-2024

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

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (₹ in Lacs)	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time Allowed for complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Improvement of Lane and Drain on road from Matto Medicate upto the House of Mohd. Zafferulla Sheikh (Retd. Range Officer) at Gali No. 4 Bathindi Morh, and Construction of Lane and Drain Hakaki Mohalla Bathindi near Grave Yard upto House of Rashid Nazir (Under Action Plan UT Road Sector of Capex Budget)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	9.78	600	19560 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1200 Hrs) on or after 06-08-2024	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class

Position of AAA :- Accorded by Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle South Jammu's Order No. 553 of 2023 dated 30-10-2023.

Position of TS :- Sanctioned by Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle South Jammu's Order No. 526 of November 2023 dated 21-11-2024.

Project Authority :- Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle South Jammu.

Major Head of Account :- Under Action Plan UT Roads Sector of Capex Budget.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	29-07-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 29-07-2024 to 05-08-2024, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	01-08-2024 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	29-07-2024
5	Bid Submission End Date	05-08-2024 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	06-08-2024 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu and upload the same i.e treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of LI to be submitted to the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu at the time of allotment.

DIP/J-3576/24

.. Sd ..
(Er. Rahat Gupta)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Gandhi Nagar

EDITORIAL

Landslides-devastating natural calamity

Landslides are sudden and often devastating natural events that occur when there is a movement of rock, soil, or debris down a slope. They are triggered by a combination of factors, including natural phenomena and human activities, and can lead to significant loss of life and property. The deaths caused by landslides can be attributed to various direct and indirect factors, all of which highlight the critical need for effective risk management and mitigation strategies.

Landslides can be triggered by natural events such as heavy rainfall, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and snowmelt. Heavy rainfall is a common cause, as prolonged precipitation can saturate the ground, reducing its stability and causing it to collapse. The water adds weight to the soil and rock, and can also erode the slope, making it more prone to sliding. In regions with intense monsoon seasons or seasonal rain patterns, landslides can be particularly deadly.

Earthquakes are another significant trigger. When seismic activity shakes the ground, it can destabilize slopes that were already precarious, causing landslides. The impact of earthquakes can be magnified in areas with loose or unstable soils, leading to more severe landslides and higher fatalities. Volcanic eruptions can also cause landslides through the rapid deposition of volcanic ash and lava flows, which can destabilize surrounding slopes.

Snowmelt contributes to landslides when melting snow and ice add water to the ground, increasing the risk of slope failure. This is particularly relevant in mountainous regions where snow accumulation is substantial.

Human activities can exacerbate the risk of landslides. Deforestation, mining, and construction work can significantly alter the natural stability of slopes. For example, removing vegetation through deforestation eliminates root systems that help stabilize the soil. Without these roots, the soil becomes more susceptible to erosion and landslides. Similarly, mining operations can remove large amounts of earth, destabilizing the surrounding area and increasing the risk of landslides.

Construction on or near steep slopes can also trigger landslides. Building roads, houses, or other structures can change the natural drainage patterns and load distribution on slopes, making them more vulnerable to failure. Improperly managed construction can exacerbate these risks, particularly if adequate measures for slope stabilization are not employed.

When landslides occur, their impact on human life can be catastrophic. The immediate threat is from the landslide itself, which can bury homes, roads, and entire communities under tons of debris. The rapid movement of soil and rock can crush structures and vehicles, leading to fatalities and severe injuries. In addition to the direct effects, landslides can also cause secondary hazards such as flooding. For instance, landslides can block rivers and streams, creating natural dams that may eventually burst, leading to downstream flooding and further casualties.

Emergency response to landslides can be challenging, especially in remote or difficult-to-access areas. The initial rescue efforts may be hampered by ongoing landslides or unstable conditions, making it difficult for rescuers to reach victims. The scale of the disaster often overwhelms local resources, requiring coordinated efforts from national and international agencies.

To reduce the risk and impact of landslides, a combination of prevention, preparedness, and response measures is essential. Early warning systems that monitor weather conditions, seismic activity, and other relevant factors can help alert communities to potential landslide threats. Additionally, proper land use planning and slope stabilization techniques, such as terracing and retaining walls, can help mitigate the risk of landslides in vulnerable areas.

Public education on landslide risks and preparedness is also crucial. Communities need to be aware of the signs of potential landslides and know how to respond in the event of a disaster. This includes having evacuation plans and understanding the safest routes to take if a landslide occurs.

In conclusion, landslides are a significant natural hazard with the potential to cause widespread loss of life and property. Addressing the various triggers and contributing factors through effective management and mitigation strategies is crucial to reducing their impact and protecting vulnerable communities.

The importance of multidisciplinary education in today's academic environment

By: Vijay GarG

(Why multidisciplinary education in today's academic environment needed)

Multidisciplinary education, which combines insights and methods from multiple fields of study, is essential in fostering the versatile and adaptive thinkers needed to tackle these multifaceted issues.

In an increasingly interconnected and complex world, traditional educational models that focus on a single discipline are no longer sufficient. The challenges of today range from global health crises and environmental sustainability to technological advancements and social inequality and a more holistic and integrative approach to learning.

Multidisciplinary education, which combines insights and methods from multiple fields of study, is essential in fostering the versatile and adaptive thinkers needed to tackle these multifaceted issues. By embracing multidisciplinary education, academic institutions can prepare students not only to understand and navigate the complexities of the modern world but also to innovate and drive progress across diverse sectors.

This approach nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration, equipping learners with the skills and perspectives necessary to excel in an ever-evolving landscape. India today in spoke to Pratik Modi, Dean, School of Management, BML Munjal University to understand of Multidisciplinary Education in Today's Academic Environment.

How do you define multidisciplinary education, and why do you believe it is essential in today's academic environment?

Multidisciplinary education integrates knowledge and methodologies from various disciplines, fostering a holistic learning approach. It encourages students to draw connections between subjects, enhancing their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. In today's rapidly evolving academic environment, this approach is essential as it prepares students to tackle complex, real-world challenges that do not fit neatly into one discipline. It promotes innovation, adaptability, and a broader

perspective, equipping graduates with the versatile skills needed to thrive in diverse professional fields and address global issues effectively.

How can institutions integrate experiential learning into their curricula without compromising on traditional academic rigor?

Institutions can integrate experiential learning into their curricula by designing programs and courses that complement traditional academic rigor rather than replacing it. This can be achieved through various methods:

Project-Based Learning: Incorporating real-world projects that require students to apply theoretical knowledge to practical scenarios.

Internships and Practicums: Partnering with industries to offer internships that provide hands-on experience while maintaining academic oversight.

Community Immersion: Integrating community immersion and engagement projects that align with course objectives, enabling students to learn and contribute to the society.

Simulations and Case Studies: Using simulations, role-plays, and case studies to mimic real-world situations within the classroom.

Collaborative Learning: Encouraging group work and interdisciplinary projects to mirror workplace dynamics and challenges.

What challenges do educators face when implementing multidisciplinary and experiential learning, and how can these be overcome?

Educators face several challenges when implementing multidisciplinary and experiential learning, including:

Curriculum Re-design: Creating a cohesive curriculum that integrates multiple disciplines and experiential elements can be complex. Overcoming this requires careful planning, collaboration amongst faculty, and ongoing assessment to ensure alignment with learning outcomes.

Resource Constraints: Experiential learning often requires additional resources, such as funding, technology, and partnerships with external organizations. Securing grants, building industry partnerships, and leveraging alumni networks can help mitigate these constraints.

Assessment Difficulties: Measuring the outcomes of experiential and multidisciplinary learning can be challenging. Developing clear rubrics, using reflective assessments, and incorporat-

ing peer evaluations can provide more comprehensive evaluation methods.

Faculty Training: Educators may need professional development to effectively facilitate these learning approaches. Offering workshops, cross-disciplinary collaborations, and support from instructional design experts can enhance faculty readiness.

Student Adaptation: Students accustomed to traditional learning methods might struggle with the self-directed nature of experiential learning. Providing clear guidance, scaffolding experiences, and fostering a growth mindset can help students adapt.

How does the approach to multidisciplinary education in international institutions compare to that of Indian institutions?

The approach to multidisciplinary education in international institutions often emphasizes flexibility, innovation, and cross-disciplinary collaboration. Key differences include:

Curriculum Flexibility: International institutions frequently offer flexible curricula, allowing students to choose courses across various disciplines, encouraging a broader educational experience. In contrast, Indian institutions traditionally have more rigid, specialised programs, though this is gradually changing.

Interdisciplinary Programs: International universities often have established interdisciplinary programs and research centres that promote collaboration across fields. Indian institutions are beginning to adopt similar models but are still in the early stages of development.

Experiential Learning Integration: Many international institutions prioritize experiential learning through internships, co-ops, and global study programs. While Indian institutions increasingly recognize the importance of experiential learning, there are often fewer structured opportunities available.

Industry Partnerships: International institutions frequently collaborate with industry and government sectors to provide practical learning experiences. Indian institutions are enhancing these partnerships but face challenges in matching the scale and depth found internationally.

Faculty Training and Development: International institutions often invest heavily in faculty development to support multidisciplinary and experien-

tial learning. Indian institutions are improving in this area but still need to expand their efforts to match international standards.

What can the Indian education system learn from international models of experiential learning to enhance its own teaching methods?

The Indian education system can draw several valuable lessons from international models of experiential learning to enhance its teaching methods:

Project-Based Learning (PBL): Emphasizing PBL can help students apply theoretical knowledge to real-world problems. Indian education can adopt structured PBL frameworks that encourage collaboration, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

Community Engagement: Many international institutions integrate community engagement with academic coursework, promoting civic responsibility and practical skills. Indian institutions can implement service-learning projects that address local community issues, fostering a sense of social responsibility among students.

Global Exposure: International models often include study abroad programs and global internships. Indian education can create partnerships with foreign universities to offer exchange programs, giving students international exposure and a broader perspective.

Use of Technology and Simulations: Leveraging technology for simulations, virtual labs, and online collaborative projects is common internationally. Indian institutions can enhance their infrastructure to incorporate these technologies, providing immersive learning experiences.

Investing in Faculty Development: Continuous professional development for educators is crucial. Indian institutions can establish robust training programs to help faculty adopt experiential learning techniques and stay updated with global best practices.

Assessment Innovation: International models often use diverse assessment methods, including reflective journals, peer reviews, and project evaluations. Indian education can adopt these innovative assessment strategies to better evaluate experiential learning outcomes.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout)

India, Pakistan must work out ways to revive trade ties

By: Ranjit Singh Ghuman

(Professor of Eminence, Guru Nanak Dev University)

NEARLY 77 years after Independence, diplomatic, political, and economic relations between India and Pakistan remain marred by enmity and hatred. They have fought two low-intensity wars (the Kashmir conflict in 1947-48 and the 1999 Kargil War) and two full-fledged ones (in 1965 and 1971). However, the contentious issues of Kashmir and cross-border terrorism remain unresolved. While political leaders from both nations have occasionally attempted to find mutually acceptable solutions, rational efforts have repeatedly been thwarted by irrational barriers. This cyclical pattern resembles a game of snakes and ladders, where progress is often undone by setbacks.

With the installation of new governments in India and Pakistan, there is a renewed glimmer of hope. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and former premier Nawaz Sharif congratulated Narendra Modi last month when he took oath as the PM for the third time. Shehbaz emphasised that peace in the region was unattainable unless the Kashmir dispute was resolved. And Nawaz called for replacing hate with hope and seizing the opportunity to shape the destiny of two billion people in South Asia. PM Modi reminded them that the people of India had always stood for peace, security and progressive ideas. However, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar reiterated that terrorism could not be a policy of a good neighbour and, hence, it needed to be curbed.

While India insists on halting cross-border terrorism first, Paki-

stan demands that the Kashmir issue be addressed on priority. Both countries, however, understand that resolving these vexed issues requires mature and sustained politico-diplomatic dialogue, which, as yet, is not coming from either side. Sharat Sabharwal, a former High Commissioner to Pakistan, suggests managing the relationship at the lowest possible levels of violence and volatility, combining dialogue with deterrence, and nudging Pakistan in the right direction. He suggests that converting the LoC (Line of Control) into an international border could be a feasible non-military solution to the Kashmir issue.

The prolonged delay in reaching a mutually acceptable and mature solution has complicated the issues further, with new factors — such as China's involvement — adding to the complexity. Both countries have incurred significant financial and human losses because of their acrimonious relations. It has impacted crucial development issues — such as education, health and poverty eradication — especially in Pakistan, which is currently facing a severe economic crisis. India had granted the most favoured nation (MFN) status to Pakistan in 1996 for trade purposes under the World Trade Organisation. But Pakistan did not reciprocate. This needs to be reviewed. Further, India revoked Pakistan's MFN status following the 2019 Pulwama attack. India should restore the neighbour's MFN status, and Pakistan should return the favour.

Notably, there is huge potential for India-Pakistan trade. According to a World Bank study, it can reach \$37 billion. If the potential is fully exploited, it would also have a positive impact on trade through the integrated check-post (ICP) at Attari. The strained relations, however, have blocked India's access to

Central Asia and beyond and hindered SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation). Of late, India has strengthened its ties with Iran and signed a 10-year agreement for the management and development of the Chabahar port, which provides access to Central Asia, including Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan. The proposed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) is also aimed at bypassing Pakistan and Afghanistan. While this would benefit Indian states near major ports, it is less advantageous for border and landlocked states like Punjab. Paradoxically, informal trade between India and Pakistan has always been through other countries, even during trade embargoes. But trade originating from and destined for Punjab and its neighbouring states becomes economically unviable as a result of the increased transport and trans-shipment costs in the absence of trade through the ICP-Attari.

Punjab suffers whenever the India-Pakistan relations deteriorate. As trade through the ICP-Attari is the first casualty, the state is the hardest hit. As the battleground of two major India-Pakistan wars, Punjab has experienced significant economic losses, exacerbated by the nine-year trade embargo from 1965 to 1974. The current trade embargo, imposed by Pakistan since August 2019, is the latest blow to stakeholders dependent on trade activities through the ICP-Attari.

Before the current trade embargo, 26 per cent (Rs 4,063 crore) of India's total trade (Rs 15,408 crore) with Pakistan happened through the ICP-Attari. Our empirical study, 'Economic Implications of Trade Curbs between India and Pakistan through Wagah Border', revealed that the stakeholders (exporters, importers, manufacturers, truck operators, porters, roadside eater-

ies, filling stations, weighing bridges, retailers and wholesalers, private schools, health clinics, repair shops, auto-dealers, liquor shops, etc) in Punjab have suffered huge losses in income and employment because of the closure of the ICP-Attari for trade.

According to our study, moderate estimates indicate that Punjab has suffered an income loss of Rs 7,013 crore over the last five years owing to the trade embargo. This does not include financial losses to manufacturers-cum-exporters and transporters whose investments have become idle, besides maintenance costs. The direct employment of nearly 12,000 workers (including 2,500 porters and 1,000 drivers and cleaners) and substantial indirect employment have been lost, thanks to trade curbs. Thousands of families have been deprived of their livelihoods. The investment deficiency in the border districts is another serious drag on development. The resulting operation of the inverse multiplier and missing linkage effects aggravates the losses.

Punjab and its neighbouring states must collectively address the issue with the Centre; MPs from these states should raise it in Parliament to persuade the Indian and Pakistani governments to initiate dialogue. Despite the alternative route through the Chabahar port and the IMEEC, the strategic significance of the land route through Pakistan and Afghanistan to Central Asia and Eurasia remains vital. This necessitates strengthening the ICP-Attari as a dry port and initiating dialogue to open the Hussainiwala (Ferozepur) border for trade. Given Punjab's location and India's national security concerns, developing its border districts and Punjab as a whole is in India's strategic interest. It is time to transcend past enmities and work towards cooperative development.

Sparkling up the stars

Be it's ostentatious, understated or classic, I believe in tailoring each look to match my client's personality, says Bollywood stylist Akshay Tyagi, who has recently worked with Zeenat Aman for her comeback film Bun Tikki

An ace fashionista glamping up Indians at the Cannes Film Festival (for three consecutive years now!), Akshay Tyagi is on the speed dial lists of most Indian celebrities. This acclaimed fashion stylist, after all, has been the creative force behind the most dapper B-town biggies, successful films, red-carpet events, brand campaigns and most innovative fashion editorials. No doubt, Bollywood stylist Akshay Tyagi has come a long way since he first styled Hrithik Roshan in *Krrish 3* in 2011.

With over 13 years in the industry, Tyagi has earned a reputation as India's top costume designer and stylist, outfitting A-listers, ranging from Ashwariya Rai Bachchan, Katrina Kaif, Deepika Padukone, Priyanka Chopra, Kiara Advani Roy to Hrithik Roshan, Aditya Roy Kapur and Varun Dhawan.

Tyagi seamlessly incorporates the Indian culture into his styling. Collaborating with emerging Indian designers like Torani, he showcases traditional Indian heritage with a modern twist, "This approach not only highlights the richness of Indian embroidery and silhouettes but also represents them on global platforms," emphasises Tyagi, who has recently worked as the stylist for Faraz Arif Ansari's much anticipated film *Bun Tikki*, starring stalwarts Zeenat Aman, Abhay Deol and Shabana Azmi. "Whether it's ostentatious, understated or classic, I believe in tailoring each look to match the client's personality," quips the stylist, who was most recently invited as a panellist at the Harvard Business School for their India Conference.

Akshay Tyagi's foray into the fashion world began with a childhood passion for dressing up his cousin sister's dolls at the tender age of five, "I've always been interested in dressing up



my cousins, friends and relatives. While growing up, I was quite fascinated by Indian wedding wear. I started sketching when I was 10—and somehow, just stuck to it," he recalls. This early interest led him to pursue a degree in in textiles and fashion at Nova Scotia College of the Art and Design University, Canada. His professional career kicked off in Canada, where he worked as a visual merchandiser and stylist for Club Monaco.

His Bollywood stint happened after moving back to India in 2011. Tyagi worked with the expert costume designer, Anaita Shroff Adajania and her banner Style Cell as an assistant in *Krrish 3*, *Bang Bang* and *Finding Fanny*. Since then, he stayed with Hrithik Roshan independently, being his personal stylist. As more and more people got to know about his incredible styling, he branched out to other

actors in the industry; independently working with South star Mahesh Babu, Varun Dhawan and Sidharth Malhotra. And there was no looking back since then.

"The biggest moment for me was when after three years of working with Hrithik, people started noticing how his appearance had changed in terms of the suits he was wearing and the looks he was pulling off. Soon, I branched out to a few more actors in the South and within Bollywood."

Today, Akshay's roster of clients remains impressive, with almost A-listers getting styled by him. So, who are his favourite celebrities to work with? "I have had quite a fortune to work with a lot of amazing people. I thoroughly enjoyed working with Gully Boy star Siddhant Chaturvedi. He is very cool,

neo-modern and someone who prefers younger silhouettes. And working with Varun is always amazing. I feel he is very athletic and loves '80s driven, vintage fashion. In actresses, I would say Tara Sutaria. It was pretty interesting to translate her hot girl image to a very simple character in *Marjaavaan*," says the pleasantly unassuming Mumbai-based stylist.

With everyone looking up to him for style advice, what does this fashion guru's own wardrobe look like? "I would like to call it comfy chic. You'll catch me in comfortable clothing like soft fabrics, denims and cozy footwear as I'm always on my feet. And my main hero is a cool pair of sunglasses," says the stylist.

On a food trail around Shimla Faraz Arif Ansari of *Sheer Qorma* fame has directed *Bun Tikki*, Zeenat Aman's comeback film. Also starring Abhay Deol and Shabana Azmi, the film was shot in Shimla. Abhya Deol, who will be seen in the film alongside Zeenat Aman and Shabana Azmi, in an interview with *The Tribune* earlier said, "I've done *Honeymoon Travels* with Shabana, but we didn't have any scenes together, so it was nice. This one gave me the opportunity to act with her." He adds, "Zeenat is an amazing human being and she is a living legend, so just to see the two of them together in one frame was really awesome. I couldn't believe how lucky I was." Talking about how different the two stars are, Deol muses, "Shabana is kind of fire, while Zeenat is like water — both equally captivating in their own ways."

Relish before you watch *We don't have much information on the reel *Bun Tikki* as the makers have kept the plot of the film under wraps, but here are a few famous outlets in Shimla where you can relish the edible variety.*

Rashami Desai recalls being homeless with 3.5 crore debt after divorce



Rashami Desai is well-known for portraying diverse characters in films, television, and web shows. The actor recently opened up about a difficult time in her life when she was homeless. During a podcast with *Paras Chhabra* on his YouTube channel, Rashami shared that after her divorce with Nandish Sandhu, she faced financial difficulties with a 3.5 crore debt and had to sleep in her car.

Rashami Desai on issues after divorce

Rashami, while recalling the hardships immediately post her separation with Nandish, told, "I had bought a house during that time. I had a loan of almost 2.5 crore, and apart from that...I remember there was a total debt of 3.25-3.5 crore on me. I thought everything was fine but then suddenly, my show was shut down. I was on the road for four days. I had an Audi A6 and I

would sleep in that car. All my stuff was at my manager's house. I was completely cut off from my family. Those days, rickshaw valas would have a meal for 20. It used to come in a plastic bag which had daal and chawal mixed and they would give two rotis along with it. It would have some stones also but I ate that anyway. These four days were very difficult."

She further said, "I got divorced, even my friends started to think I was very difficult because I wasn't expressive and I would go into my shell. My family thought all my decisions are wrong. I somehow paid off my loan but I was still too stressed all the time. I would not sleep. I would just work continuously. At that time, I started thinking, I would rather die."

Rashami mentioned that several of her colleagues and team members supported her through that period, and yoga also played a significant role in her healing journey.

Rashami Desai's acting projects

Rashami made her acting debut with a cameo appearance in an Assamese film titled - *Kanyadaan* (2002). She later acted in Ravi Kishan starrer *National Award winning Bhojpuri movie - Kab Hoi Gawna Hamar* (2003). However, she shot to fame with the television shows - *Uttaran* (2019-2014) and *Dil Se Dil Tak* (2017-2018).

Fit and fine: Jasmine Bhasin starts driving again after corneal injury

Actor Jasmine Bhasin, who recently suffered corneal damage due to a mishap with her contact lenses, shared a video of herself happily driving a car.

Jasmine posted a selfie video on her Instagram stories.

In the clip, the actress is seen wearing a black T-shirt with no makeup and her hair left open.

Jasmine accessorised the look with black sunglasses and is seen driving a car.

The video also features her removing the sunglasses to reveal her recovered eyes, accompanied by her cheerful smile.

Jasmine has set the tune of the song 'Tu Juliet Jatt Di', sung by Diljit Dosanjh, to the video.



Robert Downey Jr's return to MCU will cost Marvel a fortune: report

Hollywood star Robert Downey Jr's return to Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), albeit in a villainous avatar, will cost Marvel Studios a fortune.

Downey, who kickstarted the money-spinning behemoth that MCU became with his turn as Iron Man, is returning to the franchise, Marvel chief Kevin Feige recently announced at the San Diego Comic-Con.

However, the actor, who wrapped up the story of Iron Man with a perfect ending in *'Avengers: Endgame'*, will not reprise the character but play the villain Victor Von Doom, or Doctor Doom, in two upcoming *'Avengers'* movies.



The upcoming movies, titled *'Avengers: Doomsday'* and *'Avengers: Secret Wars'*, will be

directed by Joe and Anthony Russo, who are also returning to the franchise after *'Aveng-*

ers: *Infinity War*' and *'Avengers: Endgame'*.

Sources told *American news outlet Variety* that Marvel is spending USD 80 million or over Rs 669 crore for Anthony and Joe Russo to direct the two new movies.

The studio will spend a "significantly more" amount for Downey to bring alive the villain Doctor Doom in the two tentpoles.

According to the outlet, the Russos' deal does not include back-end compensation, but it does contain performance escalators that kick in at the USD 750 million and USD 1 billion thresholds.

In a departure from the earlier scheme of things, the brothers will also produce the two films

via their AGBO banner. Marvel typically doesn't work with outside producers, preferring to keep the team in house.

As for Downey Jr, whose star power just got a boost with a maiden Oscar trophy for *'Oppenheimer'*, the studio has agreed to a deal that comes with perks like private jet travel, dedicated security and a whole 'trailer encampment'.

The two *'Avengers'* films will begin shooting in London in the second quarter of 2025.

'Avengers: Doomsday' will be released worldwide in May 2026 as part of the MCU's sixth phase, followed by *'Avengers: Secret Wars'* in May 2027.

Amitabh Bachchan gives out pointers on why 'movement is crucial for overall well-being'

He will next be seen in the upcoming Tamil action drama 'Vettaiyan' starring Rajinikanth

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has talked about why movement and gentle activities are "crucial for overall health and well-being".

Big B took to his blog and shared a collection of pictures from the sets of *'Kaun Banega Crorepati'*.

In the images, the actor is seen running towards the set, sitting opposite

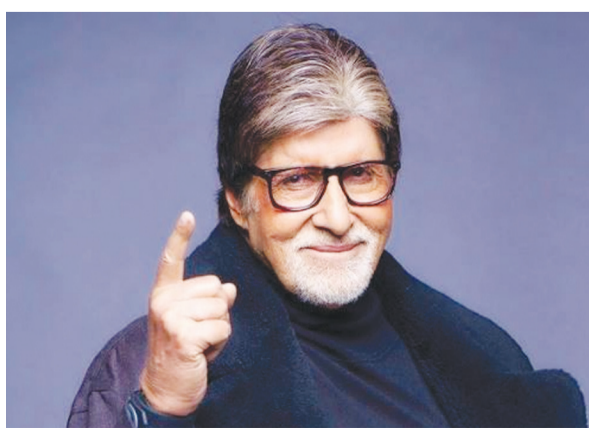
the hot seat, and posing in a monochrome shot.

Amitabh then elaborated, saying, "The body moves... not quite as before... but moves. Movements are an integral part of our living. We are brought here in this Universe to move... move out, move above, move about, and around, but move."

"I sought the pt's of

movement for us likes and are given the directions that pertain to the fact of how movement is the crucible of necessity," added the global head-turner.

Sharing his insights, he wrote, "For an 82-year-old male, maintaining movement is crucial for overall health and well-being. Gentle activities like walking, swim-



ming, or tai chi can help enhance mobility, strength, and balance. Stretching exercises improve flexibility, reducing the risk of injury."

The blog also mentioned that light resistance training can preserve muscle mass and bone density.

"It's essential to include regular breaks and avoid overexertion. Social

activities like dancing or group exercises provide both physical and mental benefits. Consulting with a healthcare professional before starting any new exercise regimen is important to ensure safety and to tailor the activities to the individual's health status and physical capabilities. And so I move."

Talking about his

upcoming slate of work, the actor will next be seen in the upcoming Tamil action drama *'Vettaiyan'* starring Rajinikanth.

The film marks Big B's debut in Tamil cinema.

Directed by T J Gnanavel, the film also stars Fahadh Faasil, Rana Daggubati, Manju Warrier, Ritika Singh and Dushara Vijayan.

Centre gave advance warning to Kerala on July 23, says Amit Shah on Wayanad landslide

Also, criticises opposition for questioning central government's early warning systems, and its response to the tragedy

NEW DELHI, Jul 31 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said the Kerala Government was warned as early as July 23 regarding a possible natural calamity in Wayanad due to heavy rains and nine NDRF teams were rushed to the state the same day.

However, the Kerala Government did not heed to the early warning and also did not get alerted even by arrival of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) battalions, Shah said in the Rajya Sabha.

Shah assured the House that the Narendra Modi government was standing a like a "rock" with the Kerala government and people of the state in this moment of the tragedy. He also promised all help from the cen-



Shah speaking at the Rajya Sabha.

tral government. Intervening in the short duration calling attention motion on the Wayanad landslide tragedy in the Upper House, Shah also assured help and support of the Centre to the state and the people to deal with the situa-

tion. He criticised the opposition for questioning the central government's early warning systems, and its response to the tragedy.

Shah said early warning was sent to the state seven days ahead of the July 30 landslide.

Another warning was given on July 24 also.

"Nine NDRF battalions were dispatched on July 23 itself and three more were sent on July 30," Shah said.

He further said several states, including Odisha and Gujarat used the early warnings provided by the Centre to reduce impact of natural calamities like cyclone.

Had the Kerala Government got itself alerted and acted as soon as NDRF teams landed there, losses could have been minimised, the Home Minister said.

Replying to the calling attention motion, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai informed the House that 133 bodies have been recovered so far and death toll may rise.

Class 3 boy suffers gunshot injury in Bihar school, weapon found in nursery student's bag



PATNA, Jul 31 (Agencies): An eight-year-old boy sustained a gunshot injury during firing inside a school campus in Bihar's Supaul district on Wednesday, said officials, adding that the weapon was carried by a nursery student in his bag.

The incident occurred at a private school under the jurisdiction of the Triveniganj police station in the district.

District Superintendent of Police (SP) Shaishav Yadav confirmed to IANS that the incident took place during the assembly session around 9 a.m.

The gun, carried by a five-year-old nursery student in his school bag, caused the incident, said police. The victim, a Class 3 student, sustained an injury to his hand and is currently admitted to a hospital and out of

danger. The police are investigating who used the gun and how did the firing happen.

Following the incident, a large number of parents and residents gathered at the school and created a ruckus both inside and outside the school premises.

"At present, efforts are underway to calm down the agitating parents, with adequate security forces deployed to restore normalcy in the area," SP Yadav said.

He stated, "We are investigating the incident to determine how the child brought the weapon inside the school. It is the initial period of investigation, and we will conduct a thorough investigation to ascertain whether it is a licensed weapon or not. Appropriate action will be taken following the investigation."

The incident has also raised concerns about the school's security measures. The SP mentioned that action will be taken against the school administration as well, indicating that the security lapse will be addressed accordingly.

Gadkari urges FM Sitharaman to withdraw 18 per cent GST on life, medical insurance premiums

NEW DELHI, Jul 31 (Agencies): Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has requested Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to withdraw the 18 per cent goods and services tax (GST) on life and medical insurance premiums.

In his letter to the Finance Minister, Gadkari raised concerns of the Nagpur Division Life Insurance Corporation Employees Union, which had submitted to him a memorandum regarding the issues of the insurance industry.

Referring to the memo, the minister said, "Levying GST on life insurance premiums amounts to levying tax on the uncertainties of life. The Union feels that the person who covers the risk of life's uncertainties to give protection to the family should not be levied tax on the premium to purchase cover against this risk."

Further, he added that the main issue raised by the union is related to the withdrawal of GST on life and medical insurance premiums.



Both life insurance and medical insurance premiums are subject to an 18 per cent GST rate.

He further said, "Similarly, the 18 per cent GST on medical insurance premiums is proving to be a deterrent for the growth of this segment of business which is socially necessary."

"In view of the above, you are requested to consider the suggestion of withdrawal of GST on life and medical insurance premium on priority as it becomes cumbersome for senior citizens as per rules with due verification," he said.

Sonia Gandhi criticizes Modi government over budget, Census delay, national security issues

NEW DELHI, Jul 31 (Agencies): Launching a broadside against the Union Budget presented by the Modi 3.0 government, Rajya Sabha MP and Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday said that instead of taking lessons from the Lok Sabha election results, the government is persisting with the policy of dividing communities and spreading fear and animosity.

Coming down heavily on the Centre for the inordinate delay in conducting the decadal Census, the former Congress President said that it would prevent the government from having an up-to-date estimate of the population of the country, especially of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

"It is clear that the government has no intention whatsoever to conduct the Census that was last due in 2021. It also means that at least 12 crore of our citizens are denied the benefit of the National Food Security Act of 2013 - now repackaged as PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana," she said.

Addressing the Congress Parliamentary Party meeting, Sonia Gandhi accused the government of changing rules to permit the



bureaucracy to participate in the activities of the RSS.

"We would have hoped that the Modi government would draw the right lessons from their significant decline in the Lok Sabha elections. Instead, they persist with their policy of dividing communities and spreading fear and animosity," she said.

"Fortunately, the Supreme Court intervened at the right time. But this can only be a temporary respite. Look at how the rules have been suddenly changed to permit the bureaucracy to participate in the activities of the RSS," she said adding that though RSS calls itself a cultural organization, the whole world knows that it is BJP's political and ideological base.

The veteran leader also asked party members not to become complacent and overconfident given the upcoming assembly elections in four states. "We must sustain the

Gandhi further said that the situation in Manipur shows no sign of improvement. "The PM travels the world over, but steadfastly refuses to go to the state and take the initiative to bring about normalcy," she added.

On the Union Budget, she said that there is widespread disappointment despite efforts of the PM and FM to talk up the Budget and its so-called accomplishments. The Budget has neglected the pressing demands of farmers, and youth, and the allocations in many vital sectors have not done justice to the tasks required to be fulfilled, she stressed.

"The Union government, especially its top leadership, continues to be self-delusional as crores of families across the country are devastated by mounting unemployment and price rise," said Gandhi.

Referring to the alleged irregularities in NEET and other NTA-conducted examinations, she said that education has been amongst the worst casualties in the past years. "Instead of taking the nation forward, the entire educational system is being shown up as flawed and manipulated. The exposure of how competitive examinations

have been allowed has destroyed the faith of lakhs of youth and dealt their future a body blow. The professional character and autonomy of organizations like the NCERT, UGC, and even of Constitutional bodies like the UPSC has been all but destroyed," she said.

She also congratulated both the LoPs and the Congress MPs who expressed the party's views forcefully during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address. "Over the last few days, many of you have very effectively brought out the Budget's many inadequacies," she added.

The meeting also paid condolences to the families bereaved by the horrendous calamity that has overtaken Wayanad. "The scale of devastation has been staggering. Our colleagues in the state have mobilized themselves to provide all assistance. There have been huge floods in other parts of the country as well and we extend our sympathies to the affected families. Apart from natural disasters, our people continue to lose their lives in railway accidents that are caused by mismanagement. Our thoughts are with these victims as well," said Gandhi.

Woman, daughters found dead at home in Madhya Pradesh, cops suspect murder

SAGAR (MP), Jul 31 (Agencies): A 32-year-old woman and her two minor daughters were found dead at their residence in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar city, with the police suspecting it to be a case of murder.

The bodies of the victims were found in a pool of blood at their house located in Nepal Palace area under Civil Line police station limits on Tuesday night, an official said today.

The deceased were identified as Vandana and her daughters Avantika (8) and Anvika (3). "Vandana lived with her husband Vishesh Patel and their two

daughters in Nepal Palace area. On Tuesday night, the bodies of Vandana and their one daughter were found lying in the kitchen, while that of the younger daughter in the bedroom," Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Sanjeev Ulikey said.

"Prima facie, it is a case of murder and an FIR has been registered in this connection," he said.

Around 10 teams have been formed to investigate the case, he said.

The deceased woman's husband works in the district hospital, sources said.

Rain hits Rajasthan, Karauli receives most rainfall in 24 hours

JAIPUR, Jul 31 (Agencies): Rain continued to lash parts of Rajasthan on Wednesday, with Karauli district recording the maximum rainfall in the last 24 hours, the meteorological department said.

According to the Meteorological Centre Jaipur, in the past 24 hours till 8.30 am on Wednesday, light to moderate rain was recorded in some places in western Rajasthan and heavy rain in some places in eastern Rajasthan.

Karauli was the wettest in the state noting 80 mm rainfall. Gadra Road of Barmer in western Rajasthan recorded 32.5 mm rain.



UPSC cancels candidature of Puja Khedkar from IAS, debars her from all future selections



NEW DELHI, Jul 31 (Agencies): The UPSC on Wednesday said it has cancelled the provisional candidature of probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar and debarred her from all future examinations or selections.

"The UPSC has examined the available records carefully and found her guilty of

acting in contravention of the provisions of the CSE-2022 Rules," the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) said in a statement.

It said her provisional candidature for the CSE-2022 (Civil Services Examination-2022) has been "cancelled" and she has also been "debarred permanently" from all future UPSC

examinations or selections.

The commission said a show cause notice (SCN) was issued to Puja Manorama Dilip Khedkar on July 18 for "fraudulently" availing attempts beyond the permissible limit in the examination by "faking" her identity.

She was to submit her response to the SCN by July 25 but she requested for time till August 4 to gather the necessary documents for her response, it said.

The UPSC granted her a "final opportunity" to submit her response by 3:30 pm on July 30 but she "failed to submit her explanation within the prescribed time", the commission said.

Goods train wagon derails in Bengal's New Jalpaiguri, none hurt



KOLKATA, Jul 31 (Agencies): A wagon of a goods train derailed near Rangapani station in West Bengal's New Jalpaiguri Rail Division on Wednesday, a senior official said.

There was no report of any injury or fatality, the North-East Frontier Railway (NFR) official said. The empty petroleum wagon, which was part of the goods train, was

headed for Rangapani siding when it jumped the tracks at 11:45 am, NFR CPRO Sabyasachi De told agency.

He said there was no disruption in railway traffic movement in the region.

Railway personnel cleared the tracks by promptly hauling the derailed wagon, De said.

The spot is not far from the site where three

coaches of Sealdah-bound Kanchanjungha Express had derailed on June 17 as a goods train collided with it, claiming 10 lives.

Meanwhile, reacting to the incident, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on X that we are very concerned about what is happening!! Another rail accident today, in the same Phansidewa/Rangapani area in North Bengal, where there was a most tragic accident just six weeks back! she said.

On Tuesday, two persons were killed and 22 others injured after 18 coaches of the Howrah-Mumbai Mail derailed in Jharkhand's Seraikeela-Kharsawan district.

Top Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh killed in 2 am attack on Iran residence

Hamas, a Palestinian outfit engaged in a war with Israel in Gaza, said an 'Israeli' raid killed Ismail Haniyeh in his residence in Tehran.

TEHRAN, Jul 31 (Agencies): Top Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was killed after his residence was targeted in Tehran at 2 am on Wednesday, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said in a statement, agency reported. Hamas, a Palestinian outfit engaged in a war with Israel in Gaza, said an "Israeli" raid killed Ismail Haniyeh and one of his bodyguards in his residence in Tehran.

In a statement, Hamas said Haniyeh was killed in "a treacherous Zionist raid on his residence in Tehran".

In the wake of the Hamas leader's killing, an emergency meeting of Iran's Supreme National Security Council is currently underway at Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's residence. Such a meeting only occurs during extraordinary circumstances, US media reported, citing two Iranian officials.

Chief of the IRGC's elite Quds Force chief is also in attendance.



On Tuesday, Haniyeh, who led Hamas's political operations from exile in Qatar, attended the inauguration ceremony of Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian. He also met Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Israel said its military was "fully prepared for any scenario", The New York Times reported. "We prefer to resolve hostilities without a wider war," said Daniel Hagari, the Israeli military spokesperson. Amid the Israel-Gaza war,

Haniyeh acted as a negotiator in the ceasefire talks. Hamas claimed in April that Israeli airstrikes killed three of Haniyeh's sons and four of his grandchildren.

The military wing of Hamas is led by Yahya Sinwar, believed to be the mastermind of the October 7 attack on Israel that ignited the war in Gaza.

The development comes a day after the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) claimed to have killed Fuad Shukur, a top commander

of Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. Israel had claimed Fuad Shukur was behind a drone strike that killed 12 children in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

The 62-year-old was born in a refugee camp near Gaza City. He joined Hamas in the late 1980s and swiftly rose through the ranks to become a close associate of Hamas's founder and spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Haniyeh served several sentences in Israeli prisons. After Hamas's win in the 2006 legislative election, he became the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority government. However, it was short-lived as the next year he was dismissed from his position by President Mahmoud Abbas in 2007.

Ten years later, in 2017, he was elected the head of Hamas's political wing. The same year, Haniyeh was named a "specially designated global terrorist" by the United States.

Russian drone attack hits Kyiv, one of largest attacks since war began: Military



KYIV, Jul 31 (Agencies): Russia launched several waves of drones on Kyiv in what was one of the war's largest attacks of its kind targeting Ukraine, the military administration of the city said on Wednesday, keeping the Ukrainian capital under air raid alerts nearly all night.

Ukraine's air defence systems destroyed more than 30 drones by 6:30 a.m. (0330 GMT) on Wednesday in what was also Russia's seventh attack on the city in July, Serhiy Popko,

the head of Kyiv's military administration, said.

It was "one of the most massive attacks on Ukraine with attack drones during the entire war," Popko said on the Telegram messaging app.

"At this moment, according to the operational report at this moment, there are no casualties or damage in Kyiv."

The full scale of the attack was not immediately clear. There was no immediate comment from Russia.

Russian state news agencies reported, citing Russian fighters in Ukraine, that the attacks targeted several military airports and military warehouses across Ukraine.

Agency could not independently verify the Russian reports.

Kyiv and most of central and eastern Ukraine were under air raid alerts from 2000 GMT on Tuesday.

Air defence systems were engaged on approaches to Kyiv and in the region surrounding the capital several times during the night, Popko said.

Kyiv's Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on Telegram the attack on the city came from several directions.

Agency witnesses reported hearing blasts several times during the night in what sounded like air defence systems engaged in repelling an air attack.

China condemns 'assassination' of Hamas chief in Iran

BEIJING, Jul 31 (Agencies): China on Wednesday said it condemned the "assassination" of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in a strike in Tehran, warning it could lead to further instability in the region.

"We are highly concerned about the incident and firmly oppose and condemn the assassination," foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian said.

"We are deeply concerned that this incident may lead to further instability in the regional situation," he added.

"China has always advocated resolving regional disputes through negotiation and dialogue," he added.

"Gaza should achieve a comprehensive and



permanent ceasefire as soon as possible to avoid further escalation of conflict and confrontation," Lin said.

Hamas said Wednesday that Haniyeh had been killed in an Israeli strike in Iran, where he was attending the inauguration of the country's new president, and vowed the act "will not go unanswered".

China has historically been sympathetic to the Palestinian cause and supportive of a two-state

solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

It has positioned itself as a more neutral actor on the Israel-Palestinian conflict than its rival the United States, advocating for a two-state solution while also maintaining good ties with Israel.

This month, China hosted rival Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah in Beijing, where they signed an agreement to form a "national unity government" in post-war Gaza.

Australia Launches Life-Saving Peanut Allergy Treatment For Babies

SYDNEY, Jul 31 (Agencies): Australian children with potentially deadly peanut allergies will be offered life-saving treatment in a nationwide programme touted as a world first.

Eligible babies will receive daily doses of peanut powder for two years to build up their tolerance, said officials announcing the initiative on Wednesday.

Over time, the infants will be given increasing doses in the hope of reducing their sensitivity to peanuts, under the supervision of doctors at 10 paediatric hospitals around the country.

It is the first national peanut allergy treatment



programme offered in hospitals outside of a clinical trial setting, said Kirsten Perrett, head of oral immunotherapy at the National Allergy Centre of Excellence.

At the end of the two years, a food allergy test will determine if the treatment has led to a remission.

"Ultimately we want to change the trajectory of

allergic disease in Australia so that more children can go to school without the risk of a life-threatening peanut reaction," Perrett said.

Previously, families have been told to ensure their children strictly avoid foods with peanuts.

Australian children have some of the highest rates of food aller-

gies in the world.

Peanut allergies affect three percent of Australian children by the time they are 12 months old, government data shows.

Of those, only 20 percent will outgrow their allergy by the time they are teenagers.

Nine-month-old Hunter Chatwin, who is among those in the free treatment programme, started developing hives after eating peanut butter.

"We are taking part in the programme to try and improve his chance of being able to safely eat peanut in the future," Hunter's mother Kirsten said.

"Many families are

desperate to protect their children from allergic reactions and anaphylaxis," she said.

"To have this programme available and free at public hospitals is a game-changer."

If successful, the programme will be rolled out more broadly, including in regional and remote areas.

Deaths from peanut allergies are rare in Australia, but almost 20 percent of the population has an allergic disease, data from Australia's leading allergy institute found.

This figure is estimated to grow by 70 percent by 2050, impacting 7.7 million Australians.

Russian military begins 3rd round of drills to train troops in tactical nuclear weapons

MOSCOW, Jul 31 (Agencies): The Russian military on Wednesday began a third round of drills with tactical nuclear weapons, part of the Kremlin's messaging intended to force the West to limit its support for Ukraine.

The Russian Defense Ministry said the drills will feature units of the central and southern military districts armed with Iskander short-range missiles. They will practice receiving nuclear weapons from storage and deploying them to designated launch areas. The maneuvers will also include air force units that will arm their warplanes with nuclear weapons and perform patrol flights.

The ministry said the drills are intended to maintain troops' readiness for combat missions.

Tactical nuclear weapons include bombs, warheads for short-range missiles and artillery munitions and

are meant for use on a battlefield. They are typically far less powerful than strategic weapons — massive warheads that arm intercontinental ballistic missiles and are intended to obliterate entire cities.

The previous two rounds of the maneuvers were held in May and June. The drills in June were conducted jointly with the armed forces of Russia's ally Belarus.

Last year, Russia moved some of its tactical nuclear weapons into neighboring Belarus, which also borders Ukraine and NATO members Poland, Latvia and Lithuania. Belarus' authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko has relied on close ties with Russia and provided his country as a staging ground for sending troops to Ukraine in February 2022.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his officials have repeatedly reminded the West about the country's

nuclear might in a bid to discourage NATO allies from ramping up their support for Kyiv.

The Kremlin has described the drills with tactical nuclear weapons as part of Moscow's response to statements by NATO allies encouraging strikes on Russian territory with Western weapons and the possible deployment of Western troops to Ukraine.

Amid recent battlefield gains in Ukraine, Putin has emphasized that Russia doesn't need nuclear weapons to achieve his goals. But he also reaffirmed that they can be used in the case of a threat to Russia's territorial integrity in line with the country's nuclear doctrine.

Russian hawks have urged the Kremlin to change the doctrine to lower the threshold for using nuclear weapons, and Putin said the document could be modified to take into account the evolving global situation.

Sudan's military says its top commander survived drone strike that killed 5

CAIRO, Jul 31 (Agencies): Sudan's military said its top commander, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, survived a drone attack on a military graduation ceremony that killed five people in the country's east.

The military said in a statement Wednesday that the attack by two drones took place in Gebeit, a town in eastern Sudan, after the ceremony was concluded. Military chief Burhan, who was attending, was not hurt, according to Lt. Col. Hassan Ibrahim, from the military spokesman's office.

Sudan has been torn by war for more than a year between the military and a powerful paramilitary group, the Rapid Support Forces. With fighting in the capital, Khartoum, the military leadership largely operates out of eastern Sudan near the Red Sea Coast.

The assassination attempt comes nearly a week after Sudan's paramilitary leader said that he plans to attend cease-fire talks in Switzerland next month arranged by the United States and Saudi Arabia.

Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, head of the Rapid Support Forces fighting Sudan's army, emphasized at the time that the talks would become "a major step" toward peace and stability in Sudan and create a new state based on "justice, equality and federal rule."



Israel not invited to Nagasaki's annual peace ceremony



KREMLIN, Jul 31 (Agencies): The Israeli ambassador to Japan will not be invited to Nagasaki's annual peace ceremony, the city's mayor said Wednesday, adding the decision was taken to avoid unexpected trouble and was not politically motivated.

The city in southern Japan last month invited dozens of countries and territories to the August 9 event on the anniversary of the US nuclear bombing in 1945.

Nagasaki mayor Shiro Suzuki told reporters the decision was "not politically motivated" but based on a desire to "hold the ceremony in a peaceful and sombre atmosphere".

holding off inviting ambassador Gilad Cohen due to the "potential risk of contingencies" arising from "various developments worldwide around the present Middle East situation".

Concerns over that risk still persist, Suzuki said, describing Cohen's exclusion as a "very tough decision".

Last month, Suzuki said Nagasaki had sent a letter to the Israeli embassy calling for an "immediate ceasefire".

The ambassador, for his part, called Wednesday's decision "regrettable" and said it "sends a wrong message to the world".

"As a close friend and like-minded nation of Japan, Israel has

attended this ceremony for many years to honor the victims and their families," he wrote on social media platform X.

Israel launched a blistering military offensive in Gaza last year, following an attack by Palestinian militant group Hamas on the country.

The Hamas attack on October 7 resulted in the death of 1,197 people in Israel, most of them civilians, according to an agency tally based on official Israeli figures.

More than 39,400 Palestinians, mostly civilians, have been killed in the Gaza Strip since the war broke out, according to data provided by the health ministry of Hamas-run Gaza.

Hiroshima has invited Israel to its ceremony but in its letter called for a "ceasefire as soon as possible and resolution through dialogue", a city official said.

Around 140,000 people died in Hiroshima and 74,000 in Nagasaki when the United States dropped atomic bombs on the cities in August 1945, leading to the end of World War II.

AAI Women Welfare Committee hosts plantation drive at Chani Himmat

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 31: The AAI Women Welfare Committee, Kalyanmaee, conducted a plantation drive at Chani Himmat, Jammu.

The event, aptly named "Maa Ke Naam Ek Paed," was organized to promote environmental awareness and foster community involvement.

During the drive, members of the Kalyanmaee committee planted various trees and greenery in the area. This initiative not only aims to enhance local green spaces but also contributes significantly to environmental



conservation. Such activities are crucial in mitigating the effects of climate change and ensuring a healthier, greener envi-

ronment for future generations.

The drive saw enthusiastic participation from community members and

AAI staff, all united in their commitment to creating a sustainable environment. By planting trees, the participants contributed

to reducing the carbon footprint, improving air quality, and enhancing the overall aesthetic of the area.

S. K. Garg, Airport Director, expressed his appreciation for the initiative, stating, "We are immensely proud of the efforts put in by the AAI Women Welfare Committee, Kalyanmaee in organizing this plantation drive. It is heartening to see such dedication towards environmental conservation. Initiatives like these not only help in greening our surroundings but also inspire others to take up similar causes."

NSF observes 84th Death anniversary of Udham Singh

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 31: National Secular Forum (NSF) paid tributes to Saheed Udham Singh on his 84th Death Anniversary at University Campus. Amid slogans Udham Singh Zindabad, Inqilaab Zindabad, Bharat Mata ki jai and garlanded the portraits of the son of soil.

Ankush Abrol Provincial Joint Secretary, JKNC was the Chief Guest and Dr Vikas Sharma, Secretary Central Zone and Coordinator Jammu Distt (Urban), J&K National Conference presided over the function. Dr Sukhdev Singh State President NSF was the guest of honour and Vikash Vashist State Secretary NSF was the Special guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Ankush Abrol appreciated the efforts of NSF members to come forward and organize these functions.

He also said that the right tribute to Udham Singh would be to launch the struggle for restoration of full status of Jammu and Kashmir State.

He maintained that the fight for restoration of statehood to J&K shall be the foremost agenda of the party. "People of J&K have suffered a lot during the past five years since the abolition of statehood.

On this occasion, Zonal Secretary JKNC Dr Vikas Sharma threw light on the life and supreme sacrifices of "Udham Singh".



Sharma said that the real tributes to the martyrs would be eradicating evils prevailing in the society like drug addiction. He exhorted the youth to refrain from drugs and intoxicants.

Dr Vikas JKNC also said that we all should take oath not to sit silent and continue our endeavor to regain Jammu and Kashmir State.

He further said that J&K suffered immensely due to misadventures of the Centre. Post abrogation of statehood people here were suffering due to rising unemployment, inflation and discrimination.

He mentioned that during the Jenab Omar Abdullah led NC government, jobs were provided to a large number of youth, RTI Act was enacted to eradicate corruption and several other revolutionary steps were taken to push J&K on the path of development.

Dr Sharma urged the youth to come together on a single platform to push

for this demand. NC would leave no stone unturned to achieve statehood for J&K.

Dr Sukhdev State President NSF, also spoke on the occasion and threw light on the life of martyr Udham Singh was born 'Sher Singh', on 26 December 1899. Udham Singh became involved in revolutionary politics and was deeply influenced by Bhagat Singh and his revolutionary group. Udham Singh was hanged to his death on July 31, 1940.

Vikash Vashist State Secretary NSF, also spoke on the occasion.

Roshan Sharma District President delivered the welcome address; Abhishek Uppal District Chairman delivered the vote of thanks.

Among those who were present on the occasion included, Vinod Kumar, Mohd Umer Farooq President University Unit, Vineet Gupta Chairman University Unit, Umar Charak, Ishtyaq Ahmed, Aditya Sharma, Sumit Manhas and others.

GDC R S Pura launches college beautification drive

Top News Report

R S PURA, July 31: Provision of conducive teaching and learning environment is the need of present era for the successful uplifting of educational activities in the campus. Beautification of the campus has positive impact in enhancing students' learning

in the college campus today on 31.07.24 by cleaning and maintaining paths and parks, seating chairs, towering trees and softy grass. Though this campus is surrounded with lush green scenic beauty and reflects a picture of daffodil blossoming in the vicinity. This sense of aesthetic pleasure con-

Campus Beautification Cell, often referred to as CBC, is responsible for enhancing the aesthetics and overall appeal of a college campus which plays a vital role in creating a positive and attractive environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

The drive was organized by Dr. Chanchal



and in which faculty and students can work and study comfortably. This helps students in developing their interest in seeking quality education too. Keeping this in mind, NSS unit of the college in collaboration with the beautification committee launched a beautification drive

siderably contributes into students' critical thinking, personality maintenance and love for nature.

The event was organized under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, Principal of the College who was also instrumental in organizing the drive. She apprised that the

Angral, the NSS PO and Convener beautification committee and Prof. Shifali Abrol, co-convener beautification committee and coordinated by Dr. Hari Singh and Dr. Sunil Kumar, members of NSS unit and near about 30 NSS Volunteers participated in the drive with great zeal.

Flash floods cause significant damage in Lamayuru and Lingshed villages in Leh



Top News Report

LEH, July 31: In an unfortunate incident last night due to heavy rainfall, massive flash floods led at Lamayuru and Lingshed villages area causing damage to public property, private property and National Highway.

Under the direction of Chairman/CEC, Tashi Gyalson, officers of District Administration, Leh immediately activated respondent team, provided immediate relief and restoration. Additionally, CEC has ordered the urgent restoration of the Lamayuru road and dispatched a team to assess the situation in Lamayuru village.

Similarly, on the direction of CEC, an assessment team has been sent

to the damaged area of Lingshed village headed by SDM, Tehsildar and all the sub divisional officers for the restoration of affected area.

All subdivisional officers, including those from Nubra, Changthang, Khatse, and Leh subdivisions, have been instructed to remain on high alert.

CEC Tashi Gyalson assured all the flood victims of his support and also instructed all the sub divisional officers and officials to assess the damage caused by the recent flash floods in all the affected villages and ensure timely restoration and provision of relief materials to the flood victims including due compensation measures also.

Rich Harvest School hosts Sahodaya Inter-school Painting Competition

Top News Report

JAMMU, July 31: RHS Bari Brahmana had the pleasure to host Colours of Hope-an Interschool Painting Competition under the aegis of Sahodaya Schools Complex on 31st July 2024.

Budding Artists from more than 35 CBSE Schools of repute poured their colourful imagination on canvas making the judges job a tough one.

The jury comprised of renowned Artists of J&K K. K. Gandhi, Mahesh Kumar Sharma and Vikas Dogra.

The Chief Guest Th Gulchain Singh Charak-Former Minister R&B and higher education, Gambhir Dev Singh Charak-Managing Director of the School, Ruchi Charak-

Director, Dr Vikesh Kour-President Sahodaya Schools Complex and the Esteemed Jury were accorded a warm welcome by the Head of the Institute Anita Bhatia.

The illustrious guests, participants and guest faculty members were entertained by the RHS Scholars with glittering song & dance performances during the Prize Distribution Ceremony.

Dr. Vikesh Kour expressed joy at the mass participation while congratulating RHS for organizing an event of such magnitude.

The Chief Guest congratulated the young Artists and expressed joy at the amazing talent displayed by the participants.

The Managing Director of the School encour-

aged the young Artists to be passionate about the Visual Arts and make it part of their growing years.

The distinguished guests gave away the prizes to the proud winners: 1st prize was bagged by Maliha Fatima of IDPS, 2nd Prize went to Anuva Sharma of Heritage School, 3rd prize was won by Samaksh Gupta of SNS Vidya Mandir and Aliza Choudhary of Rich Harvest School, Sanskriti Sisodiya of APS Kaluchak, Ravi Ranjan Kumar of Chinar Primary School Nagrota received consolation prizes.

The mega event concluded with the vote of thanks by the Vice Principal Dr Anita Sharma followed by the National Anthem.

Notorious drug peddler booked under NDPS Act in B'la: Police

SRINAGAR, July 31 (Agencies): J&K Police on Wednesday booked a drug peddler under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1988 (PIT NDPS) in Baramulla district.

Police said in a statement on Wednesday, "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 the competent authority."

"The notorious drug smuggler namely Nazir Ahmad Gagroo alias Nazira, son of Abdul Karim, a resident of Arampora, District Baramulla, has been booked under PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent Authority," the police stated.

The accused drug smuggler has been detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail Kot-Baiwal Jammu.

"Pertinent to mention here that many cases are registered against the said drug smuggler who was involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth of Sheeri, Fatehgarh, Old Town, New Town, Kanispora, Delina & other areas of District," police said in the statement.

"Despite his involvement in many FIRs, he did not mend his activities and was again involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth," the police added.

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