

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, AUGUST 01, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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I look best when I style  
myself**



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## BRIEFLY

**Terrorist hideout unearthed in Rajouri; Arms consignment, explosives seized**

RAJOURI/JAMMU, Aug 1 (Agencies): The security forces have seized a consignment of arms and explosives after busting a cave-type terrorist hideout in a forest area of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said on Thursday.

The hideout was unearthed during an ongoing joint cordon and search operation by the police, Rashtriya Rifles, BSF and CRPF personnel at Gulabgarh in Dharamsal area of Kalakote, they said.

The search operation was launched late Wednesday night following information about suspicious movement.

An AK assault rifle, a magazines and some rounds were recovered from the hideout, the officials said.

**Jammu-Srinagar National highway opens for traffic after brief closure due to mudslide**

JAMMU, Aug 1 (Agencies): The strategic Jammu-Srinagar national highway was thrown open for vehicular movement after a brief closure due to shooting stones and mudslides triggered by the rains across the region.

"The Jammu-Srinagar national highway was closed in the morning in view of heavy rains that triggered mudslides at Hingni and intermittent shooting stones at Mehad, Panthiyal, T2, and Kishitwari Pather," Rohit Baskotra, SSP Highway, said.

He said that the machinery, along with the men, was immediately put into service, and the mud was cleared through the traffic.

"The vehicles, due to slippery conditions, are moving at a snail's pace, but the highway is open," he said.

Meanwhile, the MeT department said that in the past 24 hours, Jammu recorded a maximum of 112 mm, followed by Reasi (74.5 mm), Katra (72.9 mm),

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## LG inaugurates J&K Film Conclave, unveils J&K Film Policy 2024

Launches Single Window portal for Film Shooting Permissions and Subsidies

**This film-friendly and pragmatic policy will ensure that heaven on earth is truly a heaven for filmmakers:**  
**Sinha**

**Top News Report**

SRINAGAR, Aug 1: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday inaugurated the J&K Film Conclave, organised by Department of Information & Public Relations, at Srinagar.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor unveiled J&K Film Policy 2024 and launched a slew of initiatives including Single



Window portal for Film Shooting Permissions and Subsidies, J&K Film Screening Series and Frames of Transformation Photography competition.

He also felicitated the winners of Naya Jammu

Kashmir Short Film Making Competition.

In his address, the Lt Governor appreciated the endeavour of Department of Information & Public Relations for hosting a series of events for filmmakers,

industry professionals and cinema enthusiasts in the Conclave.

He said the J&K Film Policy 2024 unveiled today will attract, support and facilitate regional, national and

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## Road accident victims to get free cashless treatment: Nitin Gadkari

NEW DELHI, Aug 1 (Agencies): Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, said that the govt has implemented a scheme to provide cashless treatment to victims of road accidents.

The minister informed the Parliament on Thursday that the Transport Ministry has developed a scheme and begun implementing it on a pilot basis in Chandigarh and Assam. This initiative aims to provide cashless treatment to victims of road accidents.

The minister explained that the scheme covers treatment for individuals involved in road accidents caused by motor vehicles, regardless of the type of road. The ministry is implementing this program in collabo-



ration with the National Health Authority (NHA).

"Under this scheme, the eligible victims are administered Health Benefits Packages relating to trauma and poly-trauma care at empanelled hospitals under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri-Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), up to a maximum of Rs. 1.5 lakh for a maximum period of 7 days from the date of the accident," said the minister in a written reply in the Lok

Sabha.

The scheme is being administered under the aegis of the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, established under section 164B of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. The sources of income and the utilization of funds are detailed in the Central Motor Vehicles (Motor Vehicle Accident Fund) Rules, 2022.

The NHA, under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, is responsible for the program's implementation in coordination with local police, empanelled hospitals, State Health Agencies, the National Informatics Centre, and the General Insurance Council.

Minister Gadkari stated that, in accordance with

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## Lt Gen Vikas Lakhera assumes charge of DG Assam Rifles

**Rajiv Mahajan**

JAMMU, Aug 1: Lt Gen Vikas Lakhera, AVSM, SM assumed the command of Director General Assam Rifles (DGAR) on 01st Aug 2024. The General Officer was commissioned from 86 Regular Course at Indian Military Academy into 4 SIKH LI on 09 Jun 1990 which he later went on to command in lower Assam under Red Horn Division. He is a Post



Graduate from Defence Services Staff College, Wellington.

The General Officer is also an alumnus of the Higher Defence Management Course and successfully completed the prestigious NDC Course from The Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS), London (UK). Among his Staff and Instructional appointments, he has served as

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## India is young country with old politicians, must aspire for younger ones: Raghav Chadha

NEW DELHI, Aug 1 (Agencies): Rajya Sabha MP, Raghav Chadha, while addressing the Upper House on Thursday advocated for a reduction in the minimum age to contest elections, stressing the need for younger representation in Indian politics.

He highlighted that India, with an average age of 29 years, is one of the youngest countries globally, yet the age of its politicians does



not reflect this youthful demographic.

The Rajya Sabha MP noted, "India's population includes 38 per cent who are under 35 years and more than half who

are under 25. However, are our elected leaders as young?"

Drawing a historical comparison, he said, "In the first Lok Sabha after Independence, 26 per cent of the members were under 40, but in the current 17th Lok Sabha, only around 12 per cent are under 40."

"We are a young country with old politicians. We must aspire to become a young country with young politicians," Chadha said, emphasising

the need to encourage young people to enter mainstream politics.

Pointing out that politics is often not seen as a desirable career, the AAP leader said, "Parents want their children to become doctors, engineers, sportspersons, scientists, but no one encourages them to become politicians. I believe it is necessary to introduce incentives for young people to

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## Former Minister Usman Majid, other Bandipora members resign from Apni Party

BANDIPORA, Aug 1 (Agencies): Former Minister and party vice-president Usman Majid and all other members of Bandipora unit have resigned from the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party.

"My primary objective has always been to serve the people of Bandipora and ensure their welfare and development. After extensive consultations with my supporters, the local cadre, and well-wishers, it has become clear that

a new direction is necessary to achieve these goals more effectively. This resignation is a step towards exploring and embracing that new direction," Majid told Greater Kashmir.

He said the decision to resign has been carefully considered and reflects a unified stance among the members of the Bandipora units.

Vice President Usman Majid, along with the entire cadre, expressed their gratitude for the

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## Police attach commercial complex of drug trafficker in Anantnag

SRINAGAR, Aug 1 (Agencies): Police on Thursday attached a commercial complex allegedly acquired through illicit drug trade in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In a significant blow to drug traffickers, Bijbehara Police Station has attached a commercial complex valued at over Rs 2 crore, belonging to the late Abdul Rashid Dar of Tulkhan Bijbe-

hara. "The property was identified as being acquired through the illicit drug trade, specifically the trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances," police said in a statement.

The attached properties include a commercial building constructed at a prime location on National Highway

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## WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK

1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2024

Theme: Closing the gap: Breastfeeding support for all.

### Benefits of Breastfeeding to baby:

- Boosts immunity
- Improves physical growth
- Enhances mental development
- Prevents diarrhoea, ear infections, food & respiratory allergies and many more diseases



### Benefits of Breastfeeding to mother:

- Decreases postpartum bleeding
- Lessens risk of breast cancer, ovarian cancer, osteoporosis
- Helps to lose post pregnancy weight
- Strengthens maternal bonding with baby

- Initiate breastfeeding within 1 hour of birth
- Give exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life
- Continue breastfeeding up to 2 years of age or beyond with introduction of nutritionally adequate and safe complementary (solid) foods at 6 months



Health Education Bureau  
Directorate of Health Services Jammu

DIP/J-3643/24



**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Late Smt Janak Dulari** W/O Late Sh Deepak Chander Sharma on Tuesday the 23rd of July.

**Tenth Day** : The Tenth Day shall be performed at Panch Mandir Sec 2 on Thursday the 1st of August from 10 AM to 11 AM.

**Kriya** : Kriya shall be performed on Friday the 2nd of August at 12 noon at our residence 2307/ Channi Himmat Jammu.

**Uthala** : Uthala will be performed at Panch Mandir Sec 2 Channi Himmat Jammu on Friday the 2nd of August from 5 pm to 6 pm

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Sons and Daughter in law**  
 Soujanya Sharma and Smt Madhvi Sharma  
 Chaitanya Sharma and Smt Sangeeta Sharma  
**Daughters and son in law**  
 Smt Sudha Joshi W/O Late Sh Raman Joshi  
 Smt Sarojini Sharma W/O Col R.C Sharma Retd  
**Brothers in law**  
 Sh Shanti Swaroop Baru  
 Sh Mahesh Sharma  
**Bhabhis**  
 Smt Rama Sharma W/O Late Sh Uday Chander Sharma.  
 Smt Prabha Sharma W/O Late Sh K.C Sharma  
 Smt Kanika Sharma W/O Late Sh P.R Sharma  
**Grand Children**  
 Amita Ranjeeta Gourav Raghav Rashmi Raisa Col Chirag Rishab Yashodhara and Lavanya.  
**Great Grand Children** : Gouri Shourya Rishit and Reeyansh  
 9419197648 9419105325, 9419201509, 9419173397



Late Smt Janak Dulari

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

In our hearts Forever  
**Sh Trilokinath Miya (1931-2024)**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Karamyogi Sh Trilokinath Miya** resident of Rainawari, Srinagar, Kashmir presently residing at B-501, Great Value Shamam, Sec 107, Noida.

He took his last breath on 26th July 2024, on his way to Vaikunth.

**10th Day Kriya** shall be performed on 4th August 2024 at Garh Mukteshwar Distt. Morad bad from 7 am onwards.

**Fondly Remembered By:**  
 Nancy & Surendra Miya  
 Asha & Avinash Wangoo  
 Asmeeta & Jyoti Kachroo

**Grand Children:**  
 Jharna & Samit Watali  
 Sakshi & Rohan Miya  
 Rishika & Siddhant Kachroo  
 Sheersha & Anshul Wangoo  
 Kalpita Kachroo & Angreh Wangoo

**Great Grand Children:** Vaidehi & Aadee  
 9899505506



Sh Trilokinath Miya (1931-2024)

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sudden sad demise of our beloved **Shri Maharaj Krishan Bhat (Bairaj)** S/o Late Shri Prem Nath Bhat native of Village Shuast Kulgam at present H.No.25, Lane A1, Lakshpuram Chirota, Jammu near Apple Kids School who left for heavenly abode on 25-07-2024.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 02-08-2024 (Friday) at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 06 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
 Smt Jiga Kumari (Wife)  
**Daughters & Sons-in-law**  
 Dr. Alka Bhat & Shri Tushar Bhat  
 Smt. Sushvi Pandita & Shri Nilesh Pandita  
**Bhabhi & Brother**  
 Smt. Mohan Bhat & Late Shri Radha Krishan Bhat  
 Smt Marmohani Bhat & Shri Neel Lal Bhat  
 Smt Rajni Bhat & Shri Astor Krishan Bhat  
**Sisters & Brothers-in-Law**  
 Smt. Taja Koul & Shri Maharaj Krishan Koul  
 Smt. Josta Pandita & Shri Yogendra Pandita  
**And Samast Bhat, Pandita and Koul parivar**  
 9854507830, 9846019290



SHRI MAHARAJ KRISHAN BHAT (BAIRAJ)

**10TH/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief & Sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of **Smt Rama Khajuria** W/o Late Sat Pal Khajuria R/o 281, Lane No 27 Rajpura Jammu.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 01-08-2024 at 11 AM at our residence.

**KRIYA** will be performed at 12.00 Noon on 02-08-2024 at our residence.

**UTHALA** will be held at Hari Mandir Rehari Colony Jammu from 5 PM to 6 PM on 02-08-2024 (Friday).

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
 Nilan Khajuria & Sandhya - Son & Daughter in Law  
 Divya Sharma & Munesh Sharma - Daughter & Son in Law  
 Rampal Khajuria & Kamlesh -Jeth & Jethani  
 Kashmiri Lal Khajuria & Neelam -Jeth & Jethani  
**Grand Children:** Akshit, Sannit, Jeevika  
**CONTACT:** 9149462564, 7006157593, 7006399440



SMT RAMA KHAJURIA

**OBITUARY/TENTH DAY**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Brij Nath Dhar** S/o Late Sri Kanth Dhar of New Qazi Bhag Anantnag Kashmir At present H No. 288 Lane No 16 Swaran Vihar (Police Colony) Bantalab, Jammu.

**Tenth Day** will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education office on 3.8.2024 Saturday at 9 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**  
 Susheela Mob. 9596958382  
 Smt & Shri H L Dhar -Son Mob. 8717090262  
 Smt & Sh Bihari Lal Dhar - Son Mob. 9469191788  
 Smt Shoba Dhar (Sister in law)  
 Smt Kumta Dhar- Sister in law  
 Smt & Sh D P Dhar  
 Smt & Sh V K Dhar 9419331011  
 Smt & Sh A J Dhar 9419131398  
 Smt & Sh G L Pandit (Sister & Brother in law)  
 Smt & Sh R L Raina (Sister & Brother in law)  
**Grand Children** : Himanshu, Neha, Ashi



Sh Brij Nath Dhar

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Jawahar Lal Raina (Nana Jee)** originally from Bana Mohalla Srinagar. Presently residing in H.No. 52 Pawan Endave Paloura Jammu left for heavenly abode on 24.07.2024.

The **10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Education Department on 02 Aug. 2024 at 8.00 AM.

**In Grief**  
 Smt Sarala Raina Wife  
**Brother and Sister in law**  
 Sh Vinod and Late Smt Vena Raina  
**Daughters and Son-in-laws**  
 Late Smt Ruby and Sh Vijay Raina  
 Smt Neena and Vinod Dhar  
**Sister and Brother in law**  
 Smt Phoola and Sh Surender Halkhu  
**Son and Daughter in law**  
 Sh Ajay and Isha Reel  
**Grand Children**  
 Nehu, Yashit and Aarna  
 Also Samast Muthi, Khar, Pandita, Koul, Sas Chirangoo, Mamo, Kaship  
**In law Parivar**  
 Cont No. 9469468655, 9958985685, 8493845752, 9870064545



Sh Jawahar Lal Raina (Nana Jee)

**OBITUARY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Mrs. July Thakur** W/o Sh. Vijay Thakur, R/o H.No. 83, Lane No. 4, Shantipuram, Muthi Camp, Jammu.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 4/8/2024 (Sunday) 9:00 am at Muthi Ghat Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
 Vijay Thakur (Husband)  
 Tanish Thakur (Son)  
**M.No. : 8803155498**



Mrs. July Thakur

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Champa Manhas** W/o Late Roop Chand Manhas R/o H.No. 96-B Sector 7 Channi Himmat Jammu on 22nd July 2024 at Mumbai.

**Tenth Day** on 31-07-2024 at 9.00 am at Channi Himmat Cremation Ground.

**Kriya** on 03-08-2024 at H.No. 96B Sector 7 Channi Himmat.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Daughters & Son-in-Laws**  
 Smt. Meena & Mridupawan Sonowal  
 Smt. Leena & Sandeep Sethi  
**Sister-in-Laws & Brothers**  
 Smt. Rita & Surinder Rathore  
 Smt. Sushma & Ravinder Kotwal  
 Smt. Sonia & Ajay Kotwal  
 Dr. Meenakshi & Dr. Rajive Kotwal  
 Smt. & Sh. Mansa Ram Manhas  
 Smt. & Sh. Vishwa Nath Manhas  
 Smt. Jhansa Devi Manhas- **Sister-in-Law**  
 Sh. Rajinder Manhas- **Brother-in-Law**  
 Miss Nihira Sonowal- **Grand Daughter**



Smt. Champa Manhas

Mob. 9967505113, 9419180873

**TENTH DAY / KRIYA /UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Late Smt Janak Dulari** W/O Late Sh Deepak Chander Sharma on Tuesday the 23rd of July.

The **Tenth Day** shall be performed at Panch Mandir, Sec 2, on Thursday the 1st of August from 10.00 am to 11.00 am.

**Kriya** shall be performed on Friday the 2nd August at 12:00 Noon at our residence 2307/ Channi Himmat, Jammu.

**Uthala** will be performed at Panch Mandir, Sec 2, Channi Himmat, Jammu on Friday the 2nd August from 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Sons and Daughter in law**  
 Soujanya Sharma and Smt Madhvi Sharma  
 Chaitanya Sharma and Smt Sangeeta Sharma  
 Smt Sudha Joshi W/O Late Sh Raman Joshi - Daughter and Son in law  
 Smt Sarojini Sharma W/O Col R.C Sharma Retd - Daughter and Son in law  
 Sh Shanti Swaroop Baru - Brother in law  
 Sh Mahesh Sharma - Brother in law  
 Smt Rama Sharma W/O Late Sh Uday Chander Sharma - Bhabhi  
 Smt Prabha Sharma W/O Late Sh K.C Sharma - Bhabhi  
 Smt Kanika Sharma W/O Late Sh P.R Sharma - Bhabhi  
**Grand Children** : Amita, Ranjeeta, Gourav, Raghav, Rashmi, Raisa, Col Chirag, Rishab, Yashodhara and Lavanya.  
**Great Grand Children** : Gouri Shourya Rishit and Reeyansh  
 9419197648 9419105325, 9419201509, 9419173397



Late Smt Janak Dulari

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Dr. Kishan Lal Handoo**, son of Vedd Lal Handoo of Kalwal Mohalla, Rainawari, Srinagar (presently residing at Neel Padamkunj Apartments, Sector 1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad), on the 26th of July. He was a prolific scientist who served as a professor at the University of Sagar and the University of Kashmir. He was also a visiting professor at Utah State University, USA, and the University of Marseille, France.

The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at **Dr. Kishan Lal Handoo** Gadh Ganga Ghat, Muradnagar, UP, on August 4th, Sunday, at 10:00 AM.

**GRIEF-STRICKEN**  
 Smt. Kishni Handoo - **Wife**  
 Sh. Vikas Handoo & Smt. Poonam Handoo - **Son & Daughter-in-law**  
 Sh. Rajesh Kalla & Pamposh Kalla - **Son-in-law & Daughter**  
**Grandchildren:** Neelish, Ritik, Shriya  
**ALL NEAR AND DEAR ONES**  
**PH NO.:** 9560069101, 9810314806, 9910666519



Dr. Kishan Lal Handoo

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

*Your warmth, kindness and laughter will forever remain in our hearts.*

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat, Jammu on 3rd August 2024 at 9.00 am.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY**  
 ALL NEAR AND DEAR ONES  
**THUSSU FAMILY**  
 243/A, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu - 180004  
 +91 9891306268, +91 9871085667



Maharaj Krishen Thussu

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Late Smt. Kailash Devi**.

**TENTH DAY** shall be held at 1-08-2024 at 10:00 am at our residence.

**KRIYA** shall be held at 2-08-2024 at 12 :00 Noon at our residence.

**UTHALA** will be performed on 2-8-2024 at 5 PM at address H.No. 302, Patoli Mangotrian Toph Thathar, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
 Smt Radha & Sh. Kousal Kumar (Pappu)  
 Smt. Preety & Sh. Somnath (Bittu)  
**Grand Children:** Rohit, Rahul, Rajat, Sourav  
**Mob:** 959 6868499, 7006773741, 7051113166, 9055783842



LATE SMT. KAILASH DEVI

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Sham Lal Bhat** S/o Madow Lal Bhat of Harigam(Kewa) Qazigund at present 280/ C , SEC-1, Durga Nagar Jammu on 27th of July 2024.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 5-08-2024(Monday) at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 8.30 A.M.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
 SMT NANCY BHAT- (WIFE)  
 SMT UMASHORIE AND SH O.N KOUL (SISTER & BROTHER IN LAW)  
 SMT AMRITA & ASHOK BHAT (DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON)  
 SMT DAZY & MANOJ BHAT (DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON)  
 SMT PINKI & SH P.K. HANGLOO (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW)  
 SMT SHIMI & SH VEERJI RAINA (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW)  
 SMT SAKSHI & SH KULDEEP PANDITA (GRAND DAUGHTER & GRAND SON IN LAW)  
**BHAT'S, KOUL'S, SARAF'S, MATTOO'S, HANGLOO'S, RAINA'S & ALL GRAND AND GREAT GRAND CHILDREN**  
 PH 9149844404, 9419605383, 7051338040



SH. SHAM LAL BHAT

**10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Satya Sharma** W/o Late Shri Ram Swaroop Sharma (XEN) at our residence H.No.129/5, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

**10TH DAY** will be performed on 02-08-2024 Friday at 11 AM at our residence.

**KRIYA** will be performed on 03-08-2024 at 8:30 AM to 12 noon at our residence.

**UTHALA** will be performed on 03-08-2024 at 5 PM at Panch Mandir Sector 5-7, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Son and Daughter in law**  
 Er. Suresh Sharma (PDD) and Smt. Reena Sharma  
**Brothers in law and Sisters in law**  
 Dr. Shanti Swaroop Sharma and Smt. Veeray Sharma  
 Sh. Bhat Bhusan Sharma and Smt. Reeta Sharma  
 Sh. Kubushan Sharma (Retd. Dy. Director Prosecution) and Smt. Rajni Sharma  
**Brother's and Sister in Law**  
 Late Sh. Kehore Lal Sharma and Smt. Anna Sharma  
 Late Sh. Shri Kant Sharma and Late Smt. Chandar Mohani Sharma  
 Late Sh. Veinder Sharma Smt. Sheela Sharma  
**Grandchildren** : Taarvi, Sayam  
**TELEPHONE NO.** - 9419181443, 6006151719



SMT. SATYA SHARMA

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Susheela Devi** W/o Late Shri Kalyan Singh Manhas R/O E-23 Shiv Nagar Jammu who expired on 21.07.2024 (Sunday)

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 30th July(Tuesday) at 10.00 A.M at Shaktinagar Ghat Jammu

**Kriya** will be performed at our residence on 2nd August 2024 (Friday) at 10.00 AM onwards

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
**Son and Daughter in law**  
 Er.Surjit Singh Manhas and Bindu Jarmal  
**Daughters and Son-in-Law**  
 Sarita Kumari and Ratan Thakur (Election Officer Rtd.)  
 Sushma Rani and Dr. Kuldeep Singh Bhadwal  
**Grand Children:** Dr.Aanchal, Priyanshu, Ashish, Manya, Indrakshi and Ranbir



Smt Susheela Devi

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Bushan Lal Safaya** S/o Lt. Shri Narayan Pt. Safaya R/o Sharda Vihar, Lane No.1, Santra Moh on 25-07-2024.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 03-08-2024 at 09.00 am at Muthi Ghat Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
 Smt Krishna Safaya - **Wife**  
**Brother & Bhabhi**  
 Lt. Shri P.L. Safaya & Smt Rajni Safaya  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
 Mr Raj Kumar Safaya - **Son**  
 Lt. Mr Ajay Safaya & Mrs Dimple Safaya  
 Mr Vijay Safaya & Mrs Sakshi Safaya  
 Mr Sanjay Safaya & Mrs Neetu Safaya  
 Mr Sunil Safaya & Mrs Meenakshi Safaya  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
 Mrs Lalita Razdan and Mr Ashok K. Razdan



Shri Bushan Lal Safaya

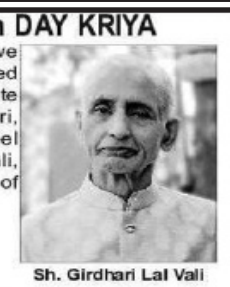
**Grand Children:** Mansi, Vasu, Sheenu, Paras, Diksha, Nivid, Arush  
**Ph.No.** 9149570578,  
 9906125394, 9419648982,  
 6005728884, 9419148176

**SHANTI PAATH & 10th DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father, **Sh. Girdhari Lal Vail**, son of Late Sh. Hari Krishen Vail, Rainawari, Srinagar (presently residing at Neel Padmukunj Apartments, Vaishali, Ghaziabad), on early hours of 28th of July.

**SHANTI PAATH**  
 Sunday 4th August 4pm - 5pm  
 Shri Bhagwat Dharm  
 Sahakarika Marg  
 Pocket 3 Mayur Vihar Ph 1  
 Muradnagar, UP at 7:30 am onwards.

**10th DAY KRIYA** will be performed on Monday 5th of August 2024 at Chota Haridwar, GRIEF STRICKEN:  
 Anvaypurna Kumar (Daughter) & Saral Kumar (Son-in-law)  
 Kuldeep Vail (Son) & Sumera Vail (Daughter-in-law)  
**SARAFS, TUKRAS, KACHROOS, BHATS & WATTALS**  
**Grand Children:**  
 Swati Kumar, Himanshu Kapoor, Vaishali Kumar, Ronit Vail  
**Ph: 9810771798, 9873532041**



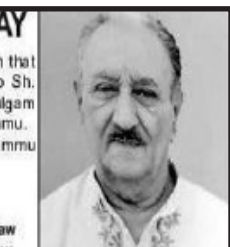
Sh. Girdhari Lal Vail

**MOURNING AND TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform that the sad demise of **Sh. Jagan Nath Handoo** S/o Sh. Shambho Nath Handoo of Harand Chawalgam, Kulgam at present Lane No. 2, Adarsh Nagar, Paloura, Jammu.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat Jammu on 8th of August 2024 at 8.30 am.

**Grief Stricken:**  
 Smt. Kanika Ji - **Wife**  
 Sh. P.K. Handoo & Smt. Sunita Ji - **Brother & Sister-in-law**  
 Sh. D.K. Handoo & Smt. Sarla Ji - **Brother & Sister-in-law**  
 Sh. Viender Kalla & Smt. Binla Ji - **Sister & Brother-in-law**  
 Sh. T.K. Sharma & Smt. Sadash Ji - **Sister & Brother-in-law**  
 Sh. Ramesh Dhar & Smt. Babita Ji - **Son-in-law & Daughter**  
 Sh. Roop Krishan Handoo & Smt. Surita Ji - **Son & Daughter-in-law**  
 Sh. Pawan Handoo & Smt. Archana Ji - **Son & Daughter-in-law**  
**& All Nears & Deans with Kids**  
 706653233, 7889530219



Sh. Jagan Nath Handoo

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# CEC, LAHDC Leh reviews preparations for upcoming Ladakh rPal Ngam Duston

**Top News Report**

LEH, Aug 1: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson chaired a meeting today to review preparations for the upcoming Ladakh rPal Ngam Duston to be celebrated on 5th August 2024 on the occasion of UT Ladakh Declaration Day. Executive Councillor for Art/Culture, Stanzin Chosphele; Executive



Councillor for Minority, Ghulam Mehdi; ADDC Leh, Sonam Nurboo; DYSC, Tsewang Paljor; CPO Leh, IAO/CCF along with all the concerned officials attended the meeting today.

CEC Gyalson stressed on making the event an all-inclusive one highlighting the traditions and customs of the different parts of the region. H'CEC further instructed the departmental heads and the concerned officers to ensure that the Ladakh rPal Ngam Duston is celebrated in a grand manner keeping intact

# J&K Bank Officers Federation campaign for Wage Revision Settlement

**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Aug 1: In pursuance of the Federation's decision on Aug 1, 2024, the affiliated units of the Federation in Delhi, Jammu, Kashmir, and Maharashtra have launched a campaign to mobilize membership for future agitation programs to expedite the implementation of the wage revision settlement in J&K Bank. Today, the affiliated units held membership

mobilization meetings at the zonal offices of the Bank across the country, where office bearers of the Federation and affiliated units addressed the members. The speakers highlighted the utmost patience and maturity exhibited by the Federation leadership while continuously urging the Management and owners, at periodic intervals, to implement the settlement reached between national bank staff unions, representing

the staff, and the Indian Banks Association, representing JK Bank Management, on March 8, 2024, in Mumbai. The speakers called upon the Management and other stakeholders, including the JK Government, to heed the submissions of the Federation, as communicated through various channels, to avoid disturbing industrial peace in the Bank, which is not in the interest of the owners, staff, or other stakeholders.

# Indian Armed Forces gets first woman Director General of Medical Service

**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Aug 1: Lt Gen Sadhna Saxena Nair, VSM, assumed the appointment of Director General Medical Services (Army), on 01 Aug 24, becoming the first woman to be appointed to this prestigious position. Prior to this, she was also the first woman to hold the post of Director General Hospital Services (Armed Forces), on promotion to the rank of Air Marshal. Lt General Sadhna Nair, started her schooling at St Mary's Convent, Prayagraj and completed it from Loreto Convent, Lucknow. In between,



she went to schools at Tezpur, Gorakhpur, Kanpur and Chandigarh. She graduated from the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune with a distinguished academic record and was commissioned into the Army Medical Corps in Dec

1985. She holds a Post Graduate degree in Family Medicine, Diplomas in Maternal & Child Health and Health Care Management and has also undergone a two year training Programme in Medical Informatics at AIIMS, New Delhi. She trained in CBRN Warfare with the Israeli Defence Forces and in Military Medical Ethics with the Swiss Armed Forces in Spiez, Switzerland. She is also the first woman Principal Medical Officer of Western Air Command, IAF, and Training Command, IAF. She was nominated as an expert member of the prestigious Dr Kas-

turirangan Committee for drafting part of the medical education component of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2019. For her meritorious service she has been awarded the AOC-in-C (WAC) and CAS Commendations as well as the Vishisht Seva Medal by the President of India. Three generations of her family have served in the Armed Forces over the last seven decades. The General officer is married to Air Mshl KP Nair (Retd), has the unique distinction of being a daughter and sister of military doctors and wife and mother of IAF Fighter Pilots.

# Panun Kashmir criticizes GoI policies, calls for strategic reassessment to combat terrorism, Separatism in J&K

**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Aug 1: Panun Kashmir has urged the Government of India (GoI) to reevaluate its political and strategic approaches regarding the separatist and terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. They stressed the need for the GoI to abandon any strategies that inadvertently support terrorism and separatism in the region. Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, Panun Kashmir leaders highlighted that while Pakistan's involvement in internal subversion is evident, certain policies and perspectives of the GoI also create an environment conducive to such subversion. One significant criticism is the GoI's denial of the genocide against Hindus in Kashmir, referring to it



merely as migration. This denial, according to Panun Kashmir leaders, provides tacit support to terrorist groups and sends a dangerous message that the GoI is willing to overlook severe crimes against humanity committed against Hindus in Jammu and Kashmir. The organization criticized the GoI's employment policy for displaced Hindus from Kashmir, describing it as a façade that forces these individuals into a communal order, thereby presenting a false image of secularism. Panun Kashmir leaders argued that this policy turns these employees into captives, used to maintain an illusion of normalcy and shield the government from taking necessary actions. They also pointed out the BJP government's failure to visit Hindu victims of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

They questioned the strategic or tactical benefit of this approach, suggesting it only serves to further marginalize the victims and strengthen the ecosystem of terrorism. Additionally, They accused the GoI of ignoring the demographic changes in Jammu, alleging that the BJP government, which initially opposed the demographic assault, later followed the same path as its predecessors when in power. They even claimed that the government went further by awarding those responsible for these demographic changes. Panun Kashmir called for a serious reassessment of the GoI's policies to ensure they do not inadvertently support the separatist and terrorist ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

# DFSS protests against Caste-Based Census demand by INDI Alliance

**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Aug 1: The workers of Dogra Front and Shiv Sena (DFSS), led by President Ashok Gupta, held a massive protest rally in Jammu City against the caste-based census demand by the INDI Alliance. The protesters carried banners with slogans like "No votes on caste, no votes on community, votes only for the hand symbol". Gupta argued that while



a caste census might provide data beneficial to certain political entities, it is detrimental to national unity. He emphasized the need for equality and harmony, rejecting any form of division based on caste. Highlighting historical context, Gupta noted that the Congress party, under Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, did not implement the Mandal Commission report until 1990, which was then enacted by the

subsequent government. Rajiv Gandhi, in 1990, advocated for a united India over a caste-based India and expressed frustration when asked about the caste of a Leader of Opposition. Gupta referenced the 1931 British-led caste census, which he claimed sowed seeds of division that eventually contributed to the partition of India and the formation of Pakistan. He also cited a 1985 interview where

Rajiv Gandhi acknowledged the politicization of reservations and called for a rethink. Concluding his address, Gupta firmly opposed the idea of a caste-based census, stating that it should never be conducted to ensure a stronger, united Bharat. Other notable attendees at the protest included Rahul Kundal, Raju, Ganesh, Bhanu, Prem, Bantu, Vikky, Prem, Naresh, Kalu, and various others.

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

e-NIT No. 46 of REW POONCH 2024-25 Dated:-29-07-2024 2nd Call  
For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch, as his representative invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt/CPWD/MES for the following work under:

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Position of Funds
1	Spring at Moh. Fathawala W.No. 5 Pyt. Baila Block Mandi Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	0.75	200	1500	20 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 06-08-2024 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded
2	Spring Renovation at W.No. 7 Moh. Belwali Near School Pyt. Danna Dhakran Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		0.75	200	1500	20 days			
3	Spring at Moh. Galiwala Dakki W.No.3 Pyt. Chakrara Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		0.75	200	1500	20 days			
4	Spring at Moh. Bhattian NLO Mohd. Latief W.No. 4 Pyt. Chakrara Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		0.75	200	1500	20 days			
5	Spring Renovation at Moh. Durgullian W.No. 2 NLO Mohd Shabir Pyt. Chakrara Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		0.75	200	1500	20 days			
6	Spring Renovation at Moh. Lower Nallah Gagian W.No. 9 Pyt. Chakrara Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		0.75	200	1500	20 days			
7	Spring Renovation at Moh. Jub NLO Bashir Mir W.No. 5 Pyt. Chakrara Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		0.75	200	1500	20 days			
8	Spring Renovation at Moh. Kalsan W.No. 1 Pyt. Chakrara Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		0.75	200	1500	20 days			
9	Spring Renovation at Moh. Pathana W.No.1 Pyt. Chakrara Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		0.75	200	1500	20 days			
10	Spring Renovation at W.No.8 Moh. Khatana Sandurian Pyt. Sathra Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		1.00	200	2000	20 days			
11	Spring Renovation at W.No. 7 Moh. Anna NLO Imtiaz Hussain Shah Pyt. Sathra Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		1.00	200	2000	20 days			
12	Spring Renovation at Moh. Lower Sopora W.No. 3 NLO Ghulam Rasool Pyt. Sathra Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		1.00	200	2000	20 days			
13	Spring Renovation at Moh. Saydian W.No. 3 NLO Mehram Shah Pyt. Sathra Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	1.00	200	2000	20 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 06-08-2024 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded
14	Spring Renovation at W.No. 2 Moh. Bagh NLO Shabab Pyt. Sathra Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		1.00	200	2000	20 days			
15	Spring Renovation at W.No. 1 Moh. Tash Pathana NLO Aslam Khan Pyt. Sathra Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		1.00	200	2000	20 days			
16	Spring at Moh. Salamwali W.No. 7 NLO Sagheer Pyt. Jandrolla Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		0.70	200	1400	20 days			
17	Spring at Moh. Kalsyan W.No. 4 NLO Zabir Pyt. Jandrolla Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		0.70	200	1400	20 days			
18	Spring at W.No. 2 Moh. Malian NLO Jhangir Pyt. Jandrolla Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		0.70	200	1400	20 days			
19	Spring at W.No. 2 Moh. Chohana NLO Aslam Pyt. Jandrolla Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		0.70	200	1400	20 days			
20	Spring at W.No. 9 Moh. Khatana NLO Mohd Sharief Pyt. Jandrolla Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		0.70	200	1400	20 days			
21	Spring at W.No. 5 Moh. Kotewali NLO Mohd Rashid Pyt. Jandrolla Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		0.70	200	1400	20 days			
22	Spring at W.No. 8 Moh. Numbaradan NLO Zabir Pyt. Jandrolla Block Sathra Under PMKSY 2.0 Year 2024-25 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call		0.70	200	1400	20 days			

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	29-07-2024.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 29-07-2024 to 05-08-2024,1855 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	29-07-2024 from 1500 Hrs onwards
4	Bid Submission End Date	05-08-2024 up to 1855 Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) (in case of holiday, the bid shall be opened on next day)	06-08-2024 on or after 1000 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer REW, Poonch
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (of only successful technical bidders)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

**OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION: -**  
1. Position of A.A.A : Accorded  
2. Position of T.S. : Accorded  
3. Position of Funds : Partially Available/Demanded  
**No:- XEN/REW/P/594-603**  
**Dated:- 29-07-2024**  
**DIP/J-3633/24**  
Executive Engineer  
Rural Engineering Wing  
Poonch

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system**  
Sr. Divisional Material Manager, NRty., Store Branch DRM Office, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity	Due Date
1.	94245932	Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 11KV/0.416KV oil immersed 500KVA outdoor distribution transformer copper wound, 3 phase, 50 Hz, conforming to IS: 1180(Part I): 2004 with latest amendment if any with energy efficiency level-3 or above.	04 Nos.	29.08.2024

**Note:-** Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate from certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.  
**Tender Notice No. 15/2024-25 Dated:- 30.07.2024** 2331/2024  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**



## EDITORIAL

## Gair Mumkin Khads Policy

The term "Gair Mumkin Khads" refers to uncultivable or non-arable land, often characterized by ravines, gullies, and other forms of barren terrain that are unsuitable for agriculture. In Jammu and Kashmir, these lands have been a significant concern due to their impact on land use, development, and environmental management. Recognizing the need to address issues associated with Gair Mumkin Khads, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has formulated a comprehensive policy to manage these lands effectively. This policy aims to transform these barren lands into productive assets, enhance land use efficiency, and promote sustainable development.

The policy aims to convert Gair Mumkin Khads into usable land through various interventions. This includes transforming barren land into agricultural plots, residential areas, or industrial zones as appropriate.

Addressing soil erosion, water management, and ecological balance are key objectives. The policy promotes afforestation, soil stabilization, and other environmental measures to restore and maintain the health of these lands.

By converting non-arable lands into productive uses, the policy seeks to stimulate local economies. This includes creating opportunities for agriculture, real estate development, and industrial activities, thereby generating employment and income.

The policy provides guidelines for the systematic conversion of Gair Mumkin Khads into arable or usable land. This includes scientific methods of soil improvement, terracing, and other land reclamation techniques to make the land suitable for agriculture or construction.

Emphasis is placed on planting trees and other vegetation to prevent soil erosion and enhance water retention. Afforestation projects are encouraged, and native plant species are promoted to restore the natural ecosystem.

Effective water management practices are integral to the policy. This includes constructing check dams, water harvesting structures, and proper drainage systems to manage runoff and prevent waterlogging.

The policy outlines specific regulations and zoning requirements for the use of Gair Mumkin Khads. Clear demarcation of land for agricultural, residential, or industrial use is established to prevent haphazard development and ensure sustainable land use.

Financial incentives, subsidies, and technical support are provided to landowners and developers who undertake projects to convert and utilize Gair Mumkin Khads. This support includes grants for afforestation, soil conservation measures, and infrastructure development.

The policy encourages community participation in the planning and implementation of projects. Awareness campaigns are conducted to educate landowners about the benefits of land conversion and the importance of environmental conservation.

A robust monitoring and enforcement mechanism is established to ensure compliance with the policy guidelines. Regular inspections and audits are conducted to track the progress of land conversion projects and address any deviations.

The successful implementation of the Gair Mumkin Khads Policy requires a coordinated approach involving multiple stakeholders, including government departments, local authorities, landowners, and non-governmental organizations. The policy outlines a clear implementation strategy with defined roles and responsibilities for each stakeholder.

Various government departments, such as the Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Revenue, play a crucial role in providing technical expertise, funding, and regulatory oversight.

Municipalities and local councils are responsible for zoning, enforcement of regulations, and facilitating community involvement in the projects.

Landowners are encouraged to participate in land conversion projects, and developers are incentivized to invest in infrastructure development and afforestation initiatives.

NGOs are involved in raising awareness, providing technical support, and assisting in the implementation of environmental conservation measures.

The Gair Mumkin Khads Policy of Jammu and Kashmir represents a significant step towards sustainable land management and environmental conservation. By converting non-arable lands into productive assets, the policy aims to enhance land use efficiency, promote economic development, and restore ecological balance. With a comprehensive implementation strategy and active involvement of all stakeholders, the policy has the potential to transform the landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring a greener, more prosperous future for its inhabitants.

## Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay | Push for Bengal's division will be damaging for BJP

By: Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay

Leaders of the BJP wouldn't have much time for one of India's finest filmmakers, the late Mrinal Sen. Even if they would have interacted with him, I am not sure they would have heeded the advice he gave me over four decades ago. This goes back to a retrospective of his films way back in 1981-82 during the International Film Festival of India. Watching his films one after another with a friend, we spotted Sen during a break. Still students, we approached him with trepidation. But we found him to be a genial conversationalist. Seeing that, off the cuff I asked if we could interview him.

"Sure, why not". Next morning we were in his hotel room and an engaging discussion on his films followed. As we were leaving, he asked about me, I being the Bengali in our duo. Hearing I was a "probashi" (non-resident Bengali), he advised: If I wanted to relate to the Bengali psyche, comprehending the deep impact of three episodes of history was essential: Partition of Bengal, the British attempt in 1905 and the subsequent tragic events of 1947; Bengal Famine of 1943; and Naxalbari and the related political turbulence of the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Its obsession with history is not the BJP's best kept secret. However, its interest is only with those episodes that can be used to recall Bharat's "goldenness", or if Muslims featured in them and could be depicted as villains. Of these three chapters of Bengal's history, only the partition of Bengal, the rolled-back one in 1905-11 and the permanent division in 1947, had

basis in the religious identity of people. This however, does not fit the Hindutva template of "usable" history: both episodes were seen as tragedies by people on both sides of the border. After over seven-and-a-half decades, the romanticised dream of reunion, the central theme of the Ritwik Ghatak classic, Komal Gandhar, no longer finds resonance. But the idea of an indivisible West Bengal is predominant in the state and any political leader can rake up the issue of another partition of the state only at grave political cost.

The BJP and its leaders have unmistakably not come to terms with the June 4 verdict, depriving them of a parliamentary majority and a not-so-small loss of 63 Lok Sabha seats. But, as the party has not conducted a methodical review of its declined performance and formulate corrective steps, individual leaders in various regions are presenting impromptu proposals which even they have not thought out, and certainly doesn't have top-level sanction. Barely a fortnight ago, Bengal BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari, in a clear rejection of inclusive politics, said the party has had enough of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas", and instead the party's new mantra should be to proclaim "Jo Hamare Saath, Hum Unke Saath".

While Mr Adhikari, who doesn't hold any party office besides being Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, issued a hasty "clarification" on his assertion, Sukanta Majumdar, now Union minister of state for education, called for North Bengal to be hived off and incorporated into the Northeast in a presentation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He immediately publicised this demand and found ready

support from Raju Bista, BJP MP from Darjeeling, who also alleged the region's neglect by a succession of state governments. Around the same time, another BJP MP, Nishikant Dubey, demanded that parts of Jharkhand, along with Murshidabad and Malda districts in West Bengal, and Kishanganj and Katihar in Bihar, be declared a Union territory. A completely untenable demand because of the size of the proposed UT, he contended that this was required to deal with challenges posed by increasing number of "illegal immigrants from Bangladesh" (read Muslims) in the region, which, Mr Dubey argued, has led to a sizeable reduction of tribal populations. He claimed the tribal population in the Santhal Parganas declined from 36 per cent in 2000 to 26 per cent now. BJP Murshidabad MLA Gouri Shankar Ghosh also supported this demand. There might be some basis in Mr Dubey's claim on the tribal population's decline, but this can be precisely established and its causes, if true, can be studied, only if the much-delayed Census is done. His government however, is yet to show any eagerness in the exercise. Nagendra Ray, another BJP MP in the Rajya Sabha, was put up by the party in July 2023 despite being a longtime advocate of carving out Cooch Behar from West Bengal. His alleges that the region's development is tardy because South Bengal-based upper caste leaders pursue lopsided development policies. After chief minister Mamata Banerjee threw a "dare" to the BJP to partition the state again, Mr Adhikari, clearly realising its political cost, issued a formal denial of any plan, saying this was not the party's position. He however, flagged the deprivation of parts of

North Bengal and asked the state government to allocate funds and projects like AIMS or an IIT-like institution in the region beyond the "Chicken's Neck" corridor. There is some truth in each of the allegations levelled by various BJP leaders but the "solution" suggested will be politically suicidal for the party in other parts of West Bengal. Part of the problem is that in its efforts to win Assembly or Lok Sabha seats from this region, the party has been implicitly backing separatist sentiments. For instance, last July when deciding its first representative from West Bengal to the Rajya Sabha, the BJP chose Mr Ray, who was heading a faction of the Greater Cooch Behar People's Association, which seeks statehood for the district. Social engineering was what the party had in mind because he is from the Rajbanshi community, or the Koch-Rajbanshis, who account for about 33 lakh of West Bengal's population, according to the 2011 census. But politically this was an unwise decision as the BJP implicitly backed yet another partition of Bengal. The BJP should have learnt its lesson from this round of uncoordinated mis-statements by its leaders, eagerly looking solely at their political pie. But, for the ruling Trinamul Congress too, there are lessons that the success of the BJP in North Bengal has a lot to do with its failure to prioritise the development in this region. Even the issues raised by Mr Dubey may have some basis, but empirical data is required for a correct picture. It is time the BJP realised that the reluctance for diverse data, which would prevent it from whipping up the fear of the "other", is counter-productive in the long run.

## Careers opportunities &amp; Challenge in Computer Science Engineering Artificial intelligence &amp; Machine learning

By: Vijay GarG

The field of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) has always been a dynamic and evolving domain. With the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), the landscape of CSE has expanded even further, opening up numerous career opportunities. Careers in CSE AI and ML offer exciting possibilities for innovation and problem-solving.

As industries increasingly adopt AI and ML technologies, the demand for skilled professionals in these areas has skyrocketed. This article explores the various opportunities and challenges in careers in CSE AI and ML, highlighting the skills required, job roles available, and future prospects in this rapidly growing field.

Opportunities in Careers in CSE AI and ML

## 1. Diverse Job Roles

One of the most appealing aspects of careers in CSE AI and ML is the variety of job roles available. Professionals can choose from positions such as Data Scientist, Machine Learning Engineer, AI Researcher, AI Ethics Specialist, and more. These roles span across various industries, including healthcare, finance, retail, and technology.

For instance, Data Scientists analyze and interpret complex data, while Machine Learning Engineers develop algorithms that enable machines to learn from data. AI Researchers focus on advancing the theoretical aspects of AI, and AI Ethics Specialists ensure that AI applications align with ethical standards.

## 2. High Demand and Competitive Salaries

The demand for professionals skilled in AI and ML is at an all-time high. Companies are constantly on the lookout for experts who can leverage these technologies to drive innovation and efficiency. As a result, careers in CSE AI and ML often come with attractive compensation packages.

According to industry reports, the average salary for AI and ML professionals is significantly higher than the average for other tech roles. This

is especially true for specialized roles, such as Deep Learning Engineers and Natural Language Processing (NLP) Specialists, where expertise is scarce and highly valued.

## 3. Opportunities for Innovation

Careers in CSE AI and ML offer unparalleled opportunities for innovation. AI and ML technologies are transforming industries by automating processes, enhancing decision-making, and creating new products and services. Professionals in this field have the chance to work on cutting-edge projects, such as developing autonomous vehicles, creating personalized healthcare solutions, and designing intelligent virtual assistants. The innovative nature of these careers makes them highly rewarding, as professionals can see the tangible impact of their work.

## 4. Global Opportunities

The global demand for AI and ML professionals means that there are opportunities worldwide. Whether you want to work in Silicon Valley, Europe, Asia, or any other part of the world, the skills you acquire in AI and ML are highly transferable. This global demand also means that professionals in this field have the flexibility to work remotely, as many companies offer remote work options. The cross-border applicability of AI and ML skills provides a significant advantage for professionals looking to explore career opportunities in different regions.

## 5. Interdisciplinary Applications

AI and ML are not limited to the tech industry; they have interdisciplinary applications across various fields. For example, in healthcare, AI algorithms are used to predict patient outcomes and assist in medical diagnoses. In finance, ML models help detect fraudulent transactions and optimize trading strategies. In entertainment, AI is used to recommend personalized content to users. The interdisciplinary nature of AI and ML careers allows professionals to work in diverse domains, making the field exciting and ever-evolving.

Challenges in Careers in CSE AI and ML

## 1. Rapid Technological Advancements

One of the main problems encountered in the IT industry embracing the CSE AI and ML is to keep pace with the

fast pace at which technology is changing. It is an area of activity, which is undergoing a constant process of development, where new algorithms, frameworks, and tools are created all the time.

Professionals should be able to update themselves with the latest fads and technological advancements. Ongoing learning and professional development are indispensable weapons for the maintenance of the competitive edge. The exposure can also stimulate innovation in the quick learners, thus making them the drivers of progress.

## 2. Ethical and Legal Considerations

The widespread use of AI and ML technologies implies that the questions of ethics and legality are being raised more and more. Matters like data privacy, algorithmic prejudice, and ethical applications of AI systems are the main issues to be addressed. Workers in this domain need to deal with these problems by including moral and possibly judicial requirements. These matters are just so complicated that apart from the technical side, one's moral sensibility has to be developed as well.

## 3. High Entry Barrier

Engineering and quantitative knowledge, especially in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, are the essential courses to pursue a career in CSE AI and ML. Only people with a strong basic knowledge in these fields can pass the hurdle. Besides, getting specialized in AI and ML needs a big amount of time and hard work.

Professionals have to be experts in programming languages, like Python and R, and they need to become familiar with different AI and ML frameworks such as TensorFlow and PyTorch. The high entry barrier can be the first step for some, and no one would like to miss it if they were obliged to count with the expected results.

## 4. Data Dependency

AI and ML models are largely reliant on the data in order to work properly. The right type and amount of information can have great influence on the execution of these processes. One of the hindrances in careers in CSE AI and ML is data-related issues, like data scarcity, data quality, and data privacy.

Professionals should come up with some ways to handle these challenges

and propose methods that ensure the soundness and reliability of the respective models. Moreover, data ethics is an important aspect to be considered; when the data is misused, there will be a serious consequence.

## 5. Interdisciplinary Collaboration

The fact that connections between AI and ML are established across different academic areas is both one of the prospects and one of the liabilities. Professionals often have to team up with professionals from diverse industries such as healthcare, finance, and law.

Effective communication and work together are the foundation of the AI and ML alignment to the individual demands and needs of different interdisciplinary areas. This is synergy that is bound to happen, but the combination of interdisciplinary fields being centrally linked means that it requires a deep insight into the technical aspects of the field and the context of the domain.

## Conclusion

Career in CSE AI and ML is full of opportunities and challenges. The demand for skilled professionals in these fields is growing stably and continuously influenced by the research, development, and implementation of AI and ML technologies in profit-making as well as nonprofit organizations.

This area is full of opportunities and is filled with highly-technologically capable persons who can earn a good salary and are willing to contribute, but they also face challenges such as fast technological advancement, Ethical problems, and entry barriers. Those who are committed to continuous learning and skill development may get a lot of satisfaction from working in AI and ML. The professionals in CSE AI and ML will still occupy the main role in the technology domain and the application field as well.

(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational  
columnist Malout)



# Kashmir Valley's First TOEFL & GRE Test Centre completes one Year

## ETS announces special initiatives for local students

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 1: ETS, the world's largest nonprofit educational assessment, research, and measurement organization and the owner of assessments such as TOEFL® and GRE®, is proud to celebrate the first anniversary of its TOEFL & GRE test centre in Kashmir. Located at Hashtag Educational Services in Regal Chowk, Srinagar, this centre marks a significant milestone in providing easy access to international assessments for aspiring study abroad aspirants in the Valley.

ETS India announced a specially curated TOEFL Official Beginners Guide, that will be provided to all TOEFL test takers at no cost. This comprehensive guide, which will



be available to students in Kashmir, includes real full-length practice tests with answer keys, sample responses, and access to audio files, ensuring students are well-prepared to excel in the TOEFL iBT® test.

In order to further motivate and support study abroad aspirants, ETS India has introduced several scholarships and competitions, with a combined total prize amount of INR 52 lakhs. The TOEFL India Cham-

ptionship is a national-level competition offering total prize money of INR 15 lakhs, providing participants with a platform to demonstrate their English proficiency and academic excellence. The GRE India Contest allows students to compete for total prizes worth INR 12 lakhs - by taking the GRE test between May 20 and September 15, 2024, helping them achieve their dream of studying at universities in the US, UK, Canada,

or Australia. Additionally, in collaboration with the National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU), ETS TOEFL® announced the 2nd Edition of the 'UK-India TOEFL Scholarship' for 10 Indian scholars. Each selected candidate will receive a one-time scholarship of INR 2.5 lakhs, with the total scholarship amounting to INR 25 lakhs. These scholarships recognize and support applicants who wish to excel in their full-time on-campus undergraduate or post-graduate programs at a UK university.

"We are delighted to celebrate the first anniversary of our test centre in Kashmir, a region with immense potential for international education. Our partnership with Hashtag Educational Services has enabled us

to provide a world-class testing facility, eliminating the need for students to travel neighboring states, making it more convenient for them to pursue their international education goals while being in Kashmir," said Mr. Sachin Jain, Country Manager, ETS India & South Asia. "Furthermore, our new initiatives, including the TOEFL Official Beginners Guide and various scholarship opportunities, are designed to empower students by providing them with the necessary resources and financial support to excel in their academic pursuits. At ETS, we are committed to investing in the educational future of Kashmir and are excited to see the positive impact these initiatives will have on the local student community."

# Dimple demands restoration of J&K statehood before assembly election



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, expressed his approval of the Election Commission of India's preparations for holding the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections. During a press conference, he emphasized the fight for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's Dogra princely state, with full powers to the chief minister, ministers, and MLAs before the assembly elections.

Dimple announced plans to observe August 5 as a black day and criticized the BJP's decision to celebrate the abroga-

tion of Article 370 on the same date in states like Rajasthan. He urged the Supreme Court to direct the BJP government to restore Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and called on the Election Commission to announce the election schedule.

He questioned whether political parties are prepared to work under the leadership of the BJP's Lieutenant Governor and Chief Secretary, comparing the situation to the limited powers of the Delhi Chief Minister. Dimple demanded the Prime Minister and Home Minister fulfill their commitments by restoring Jammu and Kashmir's

statehood before the elections and making an announcement during the Independence Day speech on August 15.

Dimple accused the BJP and the Election Commission of colluding to delay the elections and alleged that the BJP fears defeat in Jammu and Kashmir. He called on all political parties to unite for the restoration of statehood before the elections to preserve Jammu and Kashmir's identity, culture, and demography. Other leaders present at the press conference included Ashok Sharma, Rahul Sharma, and Partap Singh.

# CMO Doda launches "Swachhta Pakhwada" 2024 campaign



### Top News Report

DODA, Aug 1: To instil a sense of responsibility and commitment towards maintaining cleanliness in our surroundings, the Health Department Doda under the supervision of CMO Doda Dr Om Kumar launched 15 days long Swachhta Pakhwada campaign in the District.

On day first, the staff of CMO Office, Dy CMO Office besides Staff and Students of ANMT School Doda led by CMO Doda took part in the campaign, which aimed

to ensure the cleanliness & upkeep of the area.

While speaking on the occasion, CMO Doda Dr Om Kumar laid stress on the importance of maintaining hygiene in our surroundings and emphasized on spreading awareness about hygiene practices. He also briefed them about the ongoing Swachhta Pakhwada campaign initiative.

CMO also asked for an active participation of local communities to come forward and contribute to the cleanliness

drive at their respective areas.

On this occasion, the staff also took Swachhta Pledge with great zeal and enthusiasm.

The event comprised various activities such as cleanliness and sanitation awareness, which was also observed in all Medical Blocks viz Assar, Bhaderwah, Gandoh, Ghat and Assar, supervised by the BMOs, with the objective of doing regular cleanliness drives and inspiring others to adopt a cleanliness oriented life style.

# NHM Employees Association Kishtwar offers condolences to Sajad Khanday

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Aug 1: The National Health Mission (NHM) Employees Association Kishtwar has expressed heartfelt condolences to Sajad Ahmed Khanday (MMPHW) following the demise of his mother.

Khanday, who is currently posted at Ekhal, Block Dachan, Kishtwar, is mourning the loss of his beloved mother.

In a statement issued by Dr. Nazir Hussain, Medical Officer and President of the NHM Employees Association Kishtwar, the association extended its deepest sympathies to Khanday and his family

during this difficult time.

"On behalf of the NHM Employees Association Kishtwar, I extend our sincere condolences to Sajad Ahmed Khanday and his family. We pray that Allah grants them the strength to bear this immense loss. May her soul rest in eternal peace. Ameen," said Dr. Hussain.

The NHM Employees Association, known for its solidarity and support among its members, stands united with Khanday in his time of grief.

The association has urged all its members to keep Khanday and his family in their thoughts and prayers.

# Kashmir houseboat owners cry foul over new taxes amidst crisis, industry on the brink

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 1: The houseboat industry, once the pride of Kashmir's tourism, is teetering on the edge of collapse. Decades of neglect, compounded by the challenges of recent years, have pushed these entrepreneurs to the brink. Now, a new wave of taxes threatens to sink the industry altogether.

Houseboat owners have endured a harrowing journey. The unrest, the abrogation of Article 370, and the COVID-19 pandemic inflicted immense damage on the industry. With their vessels deteriorating and livelihoods shattered, these entrepreneurs sought government assistance, only to be met with indifference. The imposition of hefty taxes on an industry already reeling from successive blows has sparked outrage among houseboat owners.

The houseboat industry is not just about tourism; it sustains thousands of families directly and indirectly. Its demise will have far-reaching consequences for the local economy. It is imperative that the government recognizes the critical role of this sector and extends a helping hand rather than imposing additional burdens.

Mohammad Yaqoob Dunoo, Former General Secretary of the Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association (KHBOA), vehemently criticized



the government's decision. He argued that the industry is yet to recover from previous losses and cannot bear the burden of additional financial strain. Dunoo urged the government to reconsider the decision and roll back the taxes, emphasizing the dire situation of the houseboat owners.

The houseboat industry, once the crown jewel of Kashmir's tourism, is now facing an existential crisis. For decades, these resilient entrepreneurs have borne the brunt of government apathy and discriminatory policies. Their struggles have been exacerbated by the tumultuous events of the past two decades, including the unrest, the abrogation of Article 370, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

During these trying times, houseboat owners were left to fend for themselves. Their pleas for support, including essential materials like timber for repairs, fell on deaf ears. Many houseboats were lost to the waters, while the government remained indifferent. Now, as tourism begins to revive, the administration's demand for taxes

has added insult to injury.

With a limited operational season of just 90 days, houseboat owners face a daunting task of balancing meager income with exorbitant expenses. From maintaining their vessels to supporting their families, every rupee is stretched thin. The imposition of hefty taxes is nothing short of a death knell for this already struggling community.

A vocal advocate for the houseboat owners, often referred to as the "Warrior," has passionately brought their plight to the forefront. His words, echoing the spirit of Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal, underscore the indomitable spirit of these entrepreneurs who continue to navigate adversity with unwavering pride.

It is imperative that the government recognizes the critical role played by houseboat owners in Kashmir's economy and takes immediate steps to address their grievances. Providing them with the necessary support, including access to timber, waiving electricity bills during crises, and implementing fair taxation policies, is essential for the survival of this iconic industry.

The future of Kashmir's houseboat industry hangs in the balance. Without urgent intervention, a cherished part of Kashmir's cultural and economic fabric may be lost forever.

# Government ITI Kishtwar launches Swachhta Pakhwada Awareness Initiative



### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Aug 1: Government ITI Kishtwar conducted a significant awareness campaign for the Swachhta Pakhwada programme, aimed at promoting cleanliness and hygiene within the institution and the surrounding community.

The event commenced with a formal pledge-taking ceremony, where the Principal, alongside

senior staff members, elucidated the objectives and scope of the Swachhta Pakhwada programme. The Principal highlighted the programme's emphasis on fostering a culture of cleanliness, environmental responsibility, and public health.

In addition to the pledge, selected trainees actively participated in the programme by delivering speeches that underscored the impor-

ance of cleanliness. These addresses were instrumental in reinforcing the principles of the Swachhta Pakhwada and engaging the trainees in the initiative.

This comprehensive approach aligns with the Government ITI Kishtwar's commitment to not only enhancing educational standards but also contributing to broader public health and environmental sustainability goals.

# SMVDU team qualifies for BAJA SAEINDIA 2025 Virtual Round

### Top News Report

KATRA, Aug 1: Team CRAWLERS from SAE Club Under Board of Professional Activities of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (AMVDU) has made a significant impact at the BAJA SAEINDIA 2025 Round-I, held on 20th July, 2024.

Competing in the eBAJA category, the team outperformed numerous returning teams, demonstrating remarkable progress and innovation.

Pertinently, SMVDU's team is the only team from Jammu & Kashmir to participate in the final round of BAJA SAEINDIA 2025.

The BAJA SAEINDIA competition, known for its rigorous standards and intense competition, challenges teams to design, build, and race an off-road vehicle that can withstand the harshest terrains.

The presentation round, a critical component of the competition, evaluates teams on their design, research, and overall strategy.

The CRAWLERS' outstanding performance is a reflection of their months of hard work, meticulous planning, and innovative thinking. The team, comprised of final-year engineering students, demonstrated not only technical proficiency but also a deep understanding of the principles of sustainable engineering, which is crucial in the eBAJA category focusing on electric vehicles.

Dr. Mir Irfan UI Haq,

Assistant Professor, SME and Dr. Ankush Raina, Assistant Professor, SME, the faculty advisors for the CRAWLERS, expressed immense pride in the team's accomplishments.

"This is a phenomenal achievement for our students. Competing against experienced teams and securing a high score in the presentation round speaks volumes about their capabilities and commitment. We are excited to see how they perform in the upcoming rounds." Team leader. Divyansh Kale, highlighted the team's journey, stating, "Our journey to the BAJA SAEINDIA 2025 has been challenging yet rewarding. Our score in the presentation round is a reflection of our team's synergy and relentless effort. We are motivated to push our boundaries further and excel in the main event."

With their eyes set on the finals, the CRAWLERS from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University are poised to make even greater strides in the BAJA SAEINDIA 2025 competition, inspiring future engineers and reinforcing the university's commitment to excellence in engineering education.

Prof. Pragati Kumar (Vice Chancellor, SMVDU) conveyed his best wishes for the upcoming rounds and congratulated the team for their success. Dr. Yathesh Anand (Head, SME) also congratulated the team.

# Plantation Drive organized by MIER College

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: The Environment Unit of MIER College of Education organized a plantation drive from July 22 to July 25, 2024, in collaboration with the Urban Forest Department Jammu. This initiative aimed to address deforestation and highlight the importance of reforestation in combating climate change.

The Talab Tillo Nursery, under the Urban Forest Department, donated 100 plants, including Amla,

Jamun, Snake Plant, and various decorative and flowering plants. Over 65 students from the School of Education and the School of Social Sciences and Humanities participated, planting these in their surrounding areas. The drive supported the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goals 13 and 15, focusing on climate action and life on land.

Dr. Adit Gupta, Principal of MIER College, praised the unit's efforts and student participation, empha-

sizing the importance of fostering environmental responsibility among youth to protect the planet for future generations.

The activity, led by Suman Gupta, Incharge of the Environment Unit, educated students on the many benefits of trees, such as oxygen production, air purification, and their social, economic, and environmental advantages. The students of MIER College are committed to creating a greener and more sustainable world.

# GCW Bhagwati Nagar conducts Outreach Swachhta Awareness Drive

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: NSS Unit of Government College for Women (GCW), Bhagwati Nagar "Veerangana" conducted an Outreach Swachhta Awareness Drive in the adopted village Kharbooja on Thursday, extending its efforts beyond the campus to the local community.

The initiative aimed to promote cleanliness, hygiene, and environmental sustainability among students & staff in general and community members in particular.

The outreach drive began with a flag-off ceremony at college, attended by Principal, Staff members and Students. The event featured various activities designed to educate and engage participants in maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

Informative sessions were held by carrying out door to door awareness drive, focusing on topics such as waste segregation, recycling, and personal hygiene. Volunteers went to individual home of the residents of Kharbooja village and created awareness regarding importance of maintaining clean and hygienic environment.

They highlighted ill-effects of using plastic/polythene bags and also told them about alternatives to it. They also raised awareness regarding benefits of using dustbins, solid waste management and water waste management.

Principal of the college, Dr. Meeru Abrol commended the collective efforts, stating, "This outreach drive demonstrates our college commitment to social respon-

sibility and environmental awareness. By involving the community, we aim to create a lasting impact and inspire others to adopt cleaner and greener practices".

The event was organized by Dr. Preeti Salathia and Dr. Kamaldeep Singh. Special thanks to all volunteers, local authorities, and community members who contributed to the success of this initiative.

GCW Bhagwati Nagar is dedicated to fostering a holistic education that includes academic excellence and a strong emphasis on social and environmental responsibility.

Through various outreach programs, the college seeks to make a positive impact on society and encourage students to be active, responsible citizens.



## Big boys do cry!

*Nikhil Taneja, who hosts Be A Man Yaar, wants to sensitise his viewers to toxic masculinity through his YouTube show*

Be A Man Yaar is perhaps India's first show on positive masculinity, which has made rippling change after initiating conversations with men we look up to. The recent, Season 2 opened with Kartik Aaryan's journey from being an outsider to giving hits, shifted to internet sensation Bhuvan Bam's heartfelt conversation about being teetotaler and loss of his parents, and then words of wisdom from none other than Javed Akhtar. There are many episodes yet to come, but one wonders how difficult it is to get these famous men to talk, sometimes cry too. Nikhil Taneja, the man behind this 'manly' show, available on YouTube, left out no detail while discussing about it and the target audience.

For the first season that aired last year, entrepreneur and co-founder of Yuva, Nikhil had hosted guests whom he knew from the entertainment industry. He shared, "I knew them personally through years of association, which automatically imparted the confidence to interact. But with this season, there were people I never had a conversation with in my real life. Also, we have gone a level up on inclusivity, as we included a sportsperson, influencer, designer, singer as well as an educator. For instance, one of our guests, Boman Irani, is an extremely funny and charming man. For a long time we were talking about a lot of things except what we should have been talking about. We never really know whether it will result into a good conversation once we are on the couch, but my job is to be a good listener and speak to communicate, not react. If you go with an agenda,



it would fail you."

Nikhil never has a script in mind. "But I went prepared. Like, I had read biographies of Naseer sahib and Javed Akhtar, and for Boman Irani's episode, I had a talk with his son beforehand to know more about him," he said.

Recollecting his best conversations of this year, he hesitated to take one name as every episode had something to offer. But upon much insisting, he revealed how Bhuvan Bam's conversation was most raw and authentic, as he had never expected that the creator-actor would be comfortable sharing most heart-breaking days from his life.

If many have reaped the benefits of their name or connections when making talk shows and

podcasts, Nikhil's perspective is fresh and introspective. "Rather, I count is an advantage to be an outsider. I have been brought up outside the industry, watching movies and following actors, but I have also worked with actors, directors and producers. I am grateful to everyone whom I met in the industry; they never made me feel like an outsider and only helped me move forward. Being an outsider gave me a bird's eye view of things. It reflects in things like how I was quick to notice Vicky Kaushal becoming an 'item number' in Tauba Tauba, unlike female-led item numbers that cater only to male gaze."

About his dream to host Shah Rukh Khan, Nikhil said, "It would be a dream-come-true moment once I have him on my show.

But I never wanted it so soon in my hosting career. I would eventually want to reach that level when I have the courage to invite him."

Often when talking of feminism or positive masculinity, there have been counter words like hyper-feminism and alpha-masculinity thrown at people who initiate these conversations. Nikhil shared, "With this show or any other work we do through Yuva, our own platform on YouTube, we would like to create space for everybody to talk more freely, not to sensationalise but to sensitise on the issues that cry for attention. When we talk of positive masculinity, it also helps feminism and gender equality. Anything hyper or alpha is against what we are fighting for."

About female guests on the show, Nikhil shared, "We had brought in Sriшти Garg in the previous season for the last episode, but it did not find much viewers. I would now refrain from doing it for the sake of it. It would only happen organically and with female guests who we think our audience would be interested in. Also because the show has become such a success, I would want to include a big name that people would look up to."

Dream come true  
Be A Man Yaar earned global recognition as season two's trailer was featured on Billboard at the iconic Times Square, New York, on July 19. The host and co-founder of Yuva, a youth media and impact organisation, Nikhil Taneja captioned the post as, 'Sometimes dreams come true. And sometimes, dreams you don't even have the audacity of dreaming come true.'

## Sanya Malhotra: I look best when I style myself



Hailing from Delhi and working in Mumbai, actor Sanya Malhotra admits that the two cities have had a huge influence on her fashion sense. "I have a very bipolar sense of fashion. I am a Delhi girl, so there, I like to dress up, do make up and be proper even if I am stepping out for five minutes. In Mumbai, I become much more relaxed and easy going with my fashion sense," she shares, adding that her friends from Delhi got a huge shock seeing her clothes in Mumbai. "They'd be like 'oh, you look very simple', and that too with a negative connotation. I did the biggest sin when I wore chappals to Khan Market in Delhi. Now, I am much more aware, I

know what I like to wear, but I am still trying to find my personal style," she says.

The actor insists that "fashion gives you the opportunity to express yourself in a different way", and she had been "missing that for a long time". Malhotra asserts that her off-screen persona differs from her real personality and even her audience acknowledges that: "People don't recognise me if I go out with straight hair. There are so many actors in Bollywood who look almost the same in all their characters, and I think they are doing the right thing as there is a recall value to it. But I can't do that."

While for many actors their characters might

influence their style in real life, for the 32-year-old, it's the reverse. "I used to get my own clothes on set for Badhaai Ho (2018), and that I keep doing whenever I want to add a personal touch to my characters. In the start of my career, I was invited to an event and I didn't have money to afford a stylist. So, I wore something out of my closet, and I got good ratings for it. I wear my own clothes for events, and I don't mind repeating clothes. I look the best when I style myself," she says.

Ask her how her roles have established her as an actor first and Malhotra says, "I always wanted to become an actor. My intention was never to become a star, so I am not running behind a title." Early on in her journey, the actor has led films from the front, be it Pagglait (2021) or Kathal (2023), and Malhotra insists that it gave her a lot of confidence. "I didn't believe in myself when I signed Pagglait and I actually didn't want to do it as I didn't have the confidence to pull it off. I told my team that we should meet Guneet (Monga, producer) and say no. But the kind of confidence Guneet and Umesh (Shukla, director) sir had in me, I thought of giving it a try. I am glad I did it as that success gave me a lot of confidence to pick up films like Kathal and Mrs."

## Kashmera says 'show must go on' after she sustains injury on set

Actor Kashmera Shah recently took to Instagram to share photos of her injured rib and twisted ankle sustained on the set of a reality TV show. Detailing the incident, she tells us, "I could barely talk. It's only after taking some painkillers am able to talk a little. We were at the pantry, Krushna (Abhishek) was inside and I was stealing some food. I was wearing heels and I had a free fall. Sab heels ki hi fault hain. When I fell, my leg twisted and I hit the edge of the bench and got hurt on the upper part of my ribs."

Shah explains that she has re-injured the same rib she hurt before, and says, "I have a small hairline fracture just below the breast. The pain is so severe that I'm unable to breathe and talk properly."

Despite the injury, Shah doesn't let it halt her work. She notes that actor Shradha Kapoor, who was on set for her film's promotions, was incredibly supportive. "I didn't stop working as I wanted to finish



the shoot. The show must go on! I got up and couldn't breathe for a second. Krushna was extremely worried," Shah says, adding, "Shradha Kapoor is so sweet and gentle. She was extremely caring and came running all the way to help me with my slippers."

Highlighting that her focus in the coming days will be on resting at home, Shah adds,

"The doctor checked and gave me a patch to wear on the ribs and very strong painkiller medications. I can't lie down and get up on my own, Krushna is helping me with that."

"I hope it gets better before my next shoot. I will of course not go to the gym and try not exert myself. But yes, I know ki yeh ribs ka pain jaldi se jaata nahi hai," she wraps up.

## Medha Shankr addresses typecasting concerns after 12th Fail success

Actor Medha Shankr, who is celebrating her birthday today, says this year is especially meaningful following the success of her debut as a female lead in 12th Fail. Shankr, who is turning 27 this year, plans to travel to Alibaug with close friends and family for the occasion. "It's a special birthday for me. We have booked a villa where we'll spend time playing table tennis, badminton and enjoy delicious food. It will be a three-day staycation. We are doing it around Mumbai so that we can take our dog Laila."

Reflecting on her role, Shankr continues, "12th Fail was such a massive success. People loved my character so much that they etched my image as Shradha Joshi in their minds."

However, she is cautious about being typecast. "It took me some time to transition into who I really am, away from Shradha's character. On Instagram, my audience said 'oh,



we only want to see you as that character', and then I took some time to transition even on social

media so as to not scare my audiences. But, I don't want to be stereotyped."

So, is she on a break? Shankr explains that while there are projects coming her way, she is selective with scripts. "I really want to challenge myself with the kind of stories I am choosing. I want to break the previous image that I have created in the new film that I sign so that the next film hopefully is a role that is very different from what I have played so far. Of course, at the same time working with different actors and directors is also on my mind," she says, adding, "I want my filmography to be a mixed bag of all kinds of films. I have always been inclined towards meaty parts which are performance-oriented. Where the girl's character has a lot to say. Then there are also some directors I really want to work with. If that happens, the script really does not matter much and it is up to the director."

But isn't she apprehensive of being out of sight, out of mind? Shankr tells

us, "As long as you are putting out great work instead of just being in the eyes of people, I am fine. That matters to me more."

Excited about the buzz around 12th Fail being in contention for the National Awards, Shankr says, "I am happy that there are so many people who are rooting for us. Whether we win or we don't, the love that we have received for the film and our performances is everything that I ever wanted. While saying that, I really do hope we win. It's going to be massive."

She further says: "When we were shooting, there was this moment during Vikrant's performance when I said, 'I am manifesting a national award for you'." "I could feel even then that there is something very magical about the film. But there are so many other contenders too who are brilliant. I am really stoked to see what happens," Shankr wraps up.

## Janhvi Kapoor: Don't know if industry has opened up to the actor in me

Actor Janhvi Kapoor, who is all set for her upcoming theatrical release 'Ulajh', has been extensively promoting her film as she believes this is one of her finest performances to date. Janhvi's last release, Mr and Mrs Mahi, didn't clock in huge numbers but Kapoor's performance and hard work didn't go unnoticed. During the promotions of her film, Janhvi shared

her take on whether the industry has opened up to the actor in her, looking beyond her vanity.

Speaking to agency, Janhvi said, "I don't know whether the industry has actually opened up to the actor in me yet. Even if they have, it's something that I'm probably not specifically thinking about as such, because acting is what I wanted to all my life. I feel I have evolved from

my first film to now, but how the industry takes me is something I can't tell for myself."

"It would have been predictable and a much easier journey if I had done commercial movies with a wider reach that has the song, dance and glamour, because that would have come easily to me and has a higher guaranteed success rate and ensures more popularity.



But I made a conscious decision a couple of years ago to challenge myself and surprise myself and try something different even though the risks and stakes are much higher," the actor added.

Janhvi opened up about picking the 'smaller films' and stated, "So, yes, I do feel that I have picked a couple of high-risk films and 'Ulajh' is one of them. I some-

times make jokes about Insta Janhvi vs actor Janhvi.

Honestly, I'm a little unaware of how the industry sees me, but all I can attest for myself is that with every film, I get more confident on another set because I feel that I can deliver what my director wants out of me."

Janhvi concluded by saying, "I am scared to try to become aware of

what the outside narrative or perception is about me. I think that kind of awareness kills an artist, because it will start making me calculate things that I'm not meant to calculate in any case. It will either make me supremely confident or completely shatter my ego and both of these things will be very disruptive for me."

Ulajh releases in cinemas on August 2



# PM holds talks with Vietnam counterpart, agrees to expand strategic partnership

Chinh arrived in Delhi on Tuesday night on a three-day visit that is aimed at further expanding the comprehensive strategic ties between the two countries.

NEW DELHI, Aug 1 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held wide-ranging talks with his Vietnamese counterpart Pham Minh Chinh to further expand the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.

Chinh arrived in Delhi on Tuesday night on a three-day visit that is aimed at further expanding the comprehensive strategic ties between the two countries.

"PM @narendramodi extended a warm welcome to PM Pham Minh Chinh of Vietnam at Hyderabad House," External Affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on 'X'.

"Substantive discussions to further energise the India-Viet-



nam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership on the agenda," he said ahead of the talks.

The strategic ties between India and Vietnam have been on an upswing in the last few

years. In July last year, India gifted its in-service missile corvette INS Kirpan to Vietnam in reflection of growing bilateral strategic and defence partnership

amid common concerns over China's increasingly aggressive behaviour in the South China Sea.

It was for the first time that India handed over a fully operational corvette to any friendly foreign country.

Vietnam, an important country of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), has territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea region.

India has oil exploration projects in the Vietnamese waters in the South China Sea.

India and Vietnam are boosting their maritime security cooperation in the last few years to protect common interests.

# 3 dead in flooding of basement in Jaipur house amid heavy rain



JAIPUR, Aug 1 (Agencies): At least three people, including a child, were killed after the basement of a house in Jaipur was flooded on Thursday after heavy rain pounded the Rajasthan capital.

As a result of the downpour, four people have also been reportedly missing.

The victims were identified as Poorvi (4), Puja (19), and Kamal (24).

Kamal and Puja, originally from Bihar, were daily wageworkers and lived in the city's Vishwakarma area.

As heavy rain continued to batter Jaipur, authorities have ordered the closure of all schools, as well as

several offices.

Meanwhile, a road in Jamdoli area caved in, following which a school bus, a taxi and a bulldozer got stuck there. Rescue operations are currently underway.

A car was swept away in the flooded Dravyavati river near Maharani Farm area in Jaipur. The driver jumped out of the car and escaped unhurt.

At least two people were hurt after three houses collapsed in Gangotri Nagar in Gopalpura in the city.

Meanwhile, in Bagru, a 12-year-old boy was swept away in the rain.

Waterlogging was also reported from Jaipur International Airport.

# Supreme Court allows states to sub-classify SCs, STs for quotas within reserved categories

NEW DELHI, Aug 1 (Agencies): In a majority verdict on Thursday, the Supreme Court ruled that states have the authority to sub-classify Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to allocate quotas within the reserved category, aiming to uplift more underprivileged groups.

A seven-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud held a 6:1 majority that the further sub-classification of SCs and STs by states can be permitted to ensure the grant of quotas to more backward castes inside these groups. The bench delivered six separate judgements.

The majority verdict said the basis of sub-classification has to be justified by "quantifiable and demonstrable data by the states, which cannot act on its whims."

The majority verdict overturned a 2004 judgement by a five-judge constitution

bench in the EV Chinnaiah v. State of Andhra Pradesh case, which had ruled that sub-classification was not permissible as SC/STs were considered homogeneous classes.

The apex court pronounced the judgment in connection with a case concerning the validity of the Punjab Scheduled Caste and Backward Classes (Reservation in Services) Act, 2006, which involved the sub-classification of reserved category communities.

It ruled that SCs are not a homogeneous group and governments can sub-classify them to give more weightage in 15% reservation to those who suffered more discrimination among SCs.

"The members of SC/ST are not often able to climb up the ladder due to the systemic discrimination faced. Article 14 permits sub-classification of caste. The court must check

if a class is homogeneous or if a class not integrated for a purpose can be further classified," a seven-judge Constitution bench of the top court, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud, said in the verdict.

The other six judges on the bench who delivered the verdict along with the CJI were Justices BR Gavai, Vikram Nath, Bela M Trivedi, Pankaj Mithal, Manoj Misra, and Satish Chandra Sharma.

The CJI wrote for himself and Justice Misra, while four judges wrote concurring judgements.

Bela Trivedi was the lone dissenting judge in the case. She dissented from the majority and ruled that such sub-classification is not permissible.

The apex court also upheld the validity of laws that provide for such sub-classification in Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and other states.

# Heavy overnight rain leaves 12 people dead in Uttarakhand; 200 pilgrims stranded on Kedarnath route moved to safer places

DEHRADUN, Aug 1 (Agencies): Twelve people, including three of a family, were killed and six injured in heavy overnight rains in various parts of Uttarakhand that triggered many incidents of house collapse, flooding and rise in water levels of several rivers, officials said on Thursday.

Most parts of the state did not receive fresh rains till Thursday afternoon.

Haridwar district reported six deaths, Tehri three, Dehradun two and Chamoli one. Two persons, one each in Haldwani and Chamoli, are still missing, the Disaster Control Room here said.

Two people were swept away by the waters of an overflowing seasonal canal near the Ordnance Factory in Raipur area of Dehradun, Dehradun SSP Ajai Singh said. Bodies of both of them have been recovered, he said. They have been identified as Sundar Singh and Arjun Singh Rana, the SSP said. Water gushed into many homes in Dehradun besides leaving the roads heavily waterlogged at various places in the city.

A seven-year-old child Rizwan was swept away by the swirling waters of a stream in Haldwani in Nainital district. He is yet to be found. Body of a woman in Devchauli



in Chamoli district, who was missing since Wednesday evening after a house collapse, has been found.

In Bharpur village in Bahadarabad area of Haridwar district, four people were killed and six injured after a house collapsed due to heavy rain on Wednesday night, police said. In another incident reported from Haridwar district, two persons were electrocuted at Roorkee bus stand.

Three members of a family -- Bhanu Prasad (50), his wife Neelam Devi (45) and son Vipin (28) -- were killed in a landslide which damaged their roadside restaurant following a cloudburst in Jakhanyali village of Tehri district's Ghansali area, the officials said. Vipin was rescued but died while being taken to the AIIMS in Rishikesh, Tehri District Disaster Management Officer Brijesh Bhatt said.

Nearly a dozen four-wheelers parked along the riverbed of the Sukhi

in Haridwar's Kharkhari area were washed away following torrential rain on Wednesday evening. Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the SDRF and the administration have been deployed in affected areas of the state, the officials said.

A total of 450 pilgrims bound for Kedarnath got stranded beyond Bhimbali along Gaurikund-Kedarnath trek route when 20-25 metres of the stretch were washed out by heavy rain on Wednesday night.

Disaster Secretary Vinod Kumar Suman said 200 passengers stranded on the Kedarnath route due to falling stones and the washing away of the stretch near the Bhimbali Chowki have been moved to safer places. The process to rescue the rest with the help of helicopters is underway, he said.

The trek route to the Himalayan temple is blocked by boulders at Ghoraparav, Linchauli,

Badi Linchauli and Bhimbali. Pilgrims stranded on the trek route to Kedarnath are being brought to the emergency helipad, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said in a post on Facebook.

An advisory has also been issued for Kedarnath-bound pilgrims asking them to wait in a safe place until the weather improves and the roads blocked here and there are restored. Both Mandakini and Alaknanda rivers in Rudraprayag district are flowing close to the danger mark.

Fresh registrations for the Chardham yatra have been put on hold for the time being.

Dhami visited the disaster management centre here on Thursday morning to review the situation across the state and asked officials to remain alert.

"Due to heavy rains last night across the state, life was affected at many places. Rescue teams conducted operations throughout the night and took people to safer places. I am in constant touch with the local administration and have instructed the NDRF and SDRF teams to remain on alert mode in the affected areas," Dhami said in a post on X.

"Relief and rescue operations are being conducted in Rambada,

Bhimbali, Jakhaniyali and other more affected areas.

The safety of every resident of the state, the devotees and tourists coming from other states is our priority, for which our entire team is working with promptness. All of you are requested to travel only after getting an update on the weather situation," he said.

The chief minister also said he will conduct an aerial and ground inspection of the disaster affected areas of Rudraprayag and Tehri Garhwal districts.

In Kharkhari, a truck carrying rations and essentials for a group of kanwariyas was among the vehicles washed away. No one was there in the truck when the incident took place on Wednesday.

Roads were submerged in many areas of Haridwar and the rainwater also entered the Kankhal police station. Many colonies and markets of Bhupatwala, Haridwar, Naya Haridwar, Kankhal and Jwalapur also got flooded.

A house collapsed due to heavy rain in Talla village of Pithoragarh district. Three more houses in the village were damaged. Schools up to class 12 and Anganwadi centres have been closed for Thursday in various districts, including Dehradun.

# Delhi court denies anticipatory bail to former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar

NEW DELHI, Aug 1 (Agencies): A Delhi court on Thursday denied anticipatory bail to former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar who has been accused of cheating and wrongly availing of OBC and PwD (person with disabilities) quota benefits.

Additional Sessions Judge Devender Kumar Jangala said Delhi Police "must also investigate if anyone from inside the UPSC helped Khedkar".

The judge also widened the probe in the case and directed Delhi Police to investigate if other persons have availed of benefits under OBC and PwD quotas without entitlement.

The UPSC on Wednesday cancelled Khedkar's candidature and debarred her from



future exams. The judge had on Wednesday reserved the order after hearing arguments on the application filed by Khedkar, who claimed through her lawyer that she has "imminent threat of arrest".

During the proceeding, the prosecution as well as the counsel appearing for the UPSC had opposed the application, claiming that she has "cheated the system".

"This person has abused the law and process of law.

The chances of her abusing the law is still there. She is a resourceful person," the counsel appearing for the UPSC had claimed before the court.

She was accused of 'misrepresenting information' in her application for the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services Examination, 2022.

# Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka visit landslide-hit spot in Wayanad

The two will proceed to Dr Moopen's Medical College and two relief camps at Meppadi

WAYANAD, Aug 1 (Agencies): Congress leader and former Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited the landslide-affected area of Chooralmala here on Thursday afternoon.

After reaching the spot amidst the rain, Gandhi and his sister left for the Community Health Centre in Meppadi, party sources said.

From there, the two will then proceed to Dr Moopen's Medical College and two relief camps at Meppadi, they said.

AICC general secre-



tary and Alappuzha MP K C Venugopal is also accompanying them. Gandhi, who won from

the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency in the 2019 general elections, had again won from here

this year. However, as he also won from the Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha seat in Uttar

Pradesh, he gave up the Wayanad constituency from where Priyanka is expected to contest when a by-election is held there.

Gandhi and Vadra landed at Kannur airport at 9.30 am and then travelled to Wayanad by road.

Massive landslides triggered by torrential rains hit Mundakkai, Chooralmala, Attamala, and Noolpuzha hamlets in the early hours of Tuesday, killing 173 people, including women and children, so far.



## Iran holds funeral for Hamas chief Haniyeh, calls for "Revenge" on Israel

Iran held funeral processions on Thursday with calls for revenge after the killing in Tehran of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh.

TEHRAN, Aug 1 (Agencies): Iran held funeral processions on Thursday with calls for revenge after the killing in Tehran of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in a strike blamed on Israel.

The Islamic republic's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei led prayers for Haniyeh ahead of his burial in Qatar, having earlier threatened a "harsh punishment" for his killing.

In Tehran's city centre, thousands of mourning crowds carrying posters of Haniyeh and Palestinian flags gathered for the ceremony at Tehran University before a procession, according to an agency correspondent.

Haniyeh's death was announced the day before by Iran's Revolutionary Guards, who said he and his bodyguard were killed in a strike on their accommodation in the Iranian capital at 2:00 am (2230 GMT) on Wednesday.

It came just hours after Israel targeted and killed top Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukur in a retaliatory strike on the Lebanese capital Beirut, sending fears of a wider regional war soaring in fallout from the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

Israel has declined to comment on the Tehran strike.

Iran's state TV showed the coffins of Haniyeh and his bodyguards covered in Palestinian flags during the ceremony attended by senior Iranian officials.

President Masoud Pezeshkian and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps chief, General Hossein Salami, were present. Haniyeh had been visiting Tehran for Pezeshkian's inauguration ceremony on Tuesday.

Senior Hamas figure Khalil al-Hayya, the movement's foreign relations chief, vowed during the funeral ceremony that "Ismail Haniyeh's slogan, 'We will not recognise Israel,' will remain an



immortal slogan" and "we will pursue Israel until it is uprooted from the land of Palestine."

Iran's conservative parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said Iran "will certainly carry out the supreme leader's order (to avenge Haniyeh)."

"It is our duty to respond at the right time and in the right place," he said in a speech with crowds chanting "Death to Israel, Death to America!"

Our duty The caskets, with a black-and-white pattern resembling a Palestinian keffiyeh scarf, were borne on a flower-bedecked truck through leafy streets where cooling water mists sprayed the flag-waving crowds.

Khamenei, who has the final say in Iran's political affairs, said after Haniyeh's death that it was "our duty to seek revenge for his blood as he was martyred in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The Islamic republic has not yet officially published any information on the exact location of the strike.

Pezeshkian said Wednesday that "the Zionists (Israel) will soon see the consequences of their cowardly and terrorist act".

The international community, however, called for de-escalation and a focus on securing a ceasefire in Gaza -- which Haniyeh had, according to a Hamas official previously, accused

Israel of obstructing.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the strikes in Tehran and Beirut represented a "dangerous escalation".

All efforts, he said, should be "leading to a ceasefire" in Gaza and the release of hostages taken during Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel which began nearly 10 months of war.

The prime minister of key ceasefire broker Qatar said Haniyeh's killing had thrown the whole mediation process into doubt.

"How can mediation succeed when one party assassinates the negotiator on the other side?" Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said in a post on social media site X.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday called on "all parties" in the Middle East to "stop escalatory actions."

Earlier he said a ceasefire in Gaza was still the "imperative", though White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said the twin killings of Haniyeh and Shukur "don't help" regional tensions.

Tensions inflamed While Iran has blamed the attack on its arch-foe, Israel has declined to comment on Haniyeh's death. It did, however, claim the killing of Shukur, whom it blamed for a weekend rocket strike that killed 12 youths in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights. The killings come with regional

tensions already inflamed by the war in Gaza, a conflict that has drawn in Iran-backed operatives groups in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen.

One of those groups, Yemen's Huthi rebels, "declared three days of mourning" for Haniyeh, with political leader Mahdi al-Mashat expressing "condolences to the Palestinian people and Hamas" over his killing, according to the group's Saba news agency.

The United Nations Security Council also convened an emergency meeting Wednesday at Iran's request to discuss the strike.

Hamas has for months been indirectly negotiating a truce and hostage-prisoner exchange deal with Israel, in talks facilitated by Egypt, Qatar and the United States.

Analysts told agency that Haniyeh was a moderating influence within the Islamist group, and that while he would be replaced, the dynamics within Hamas could change.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to destroy Hamas in retaliation for the October 7 attack that ignited war in Gaza.

That attack resulted in the deaths of 1,197 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures.

Operatives also seized 251 hostages, 111 of whom are still held captive in Gaza, including 39 the military says are dead.

Concern grew among Israelis over the fate of those still held in Gaza.

Haniyeh's killing "was a mistake as it threatens the possibility of having a hostage deal," said Anat Noy, a resident of the coastal city of Haifa.

Israel's retaliatory campaign against Hamas has killed at least 39,445 people in Gaza, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

## Israel says it has confirmed Hamas military wing chief Mohammed Deif was killed in a July strike



JERUSALEM, Aug 1 (Agencies): The Israeli military said Thursday that it has confirmed that the head of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, was killed in an airstrike in Gaza in July. The announcement comes a day after an apparent Israeli strike in the Iranian capital killed Hamas' top political leader.

Israel believes that Deif, the head of Hamas' military, and Yahya Sinwar, the top Hamas leader in Gaza, were the chief architects of the Oct. 7 attack that killed some 1,200 people in southern Israel and triggered the Israel-Hamas war. Sinwar is believed to remain in hiding in Gaza.

Israel has not confirmed or denied it was behind Tuesday's strike in Tehran that killed Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas' political chief. Hamas has said Deif survived the July attack in Gaza and did not immediately comment on the military's announcement of confirmation.

The killing of two of Hamas' most senior

figures brings a victory for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, who has said that he will not end the campaign in Gaza until Israel destroys Hamas' military capabilities.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said the strike that killed Deif was a "significant milestone" toward achieving the goals of the war. "The results of this operation reflect that Hamas is an organization in disintegration," he wrote on X.

The assassinations risk pushing Hamas to harden its position in negotiations for a cease-fire -- or to drop out completely. And Iran has vowed vengeance for the strike on its soil, raising fears of an all-out regional war.

Israel targeted Deif in a July 13 strike that hit a compound on the outskirts of the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis. The military said at the time that another Hamas commander, Rafa Salama, was killed. More than 90 other people, including displaced civilians

in nearby tents, were killed in the strike, Gaza health officials said at the time.

In a statement Thursday, the Israeli military said that "following an intelligence assessment, it can be confirmed that Mohammed Deif was eliminated in the strike."

In its 10-month-old campaign of bombardment and offensives in Gaza, Israel has killed some 39,480 Palestinians and wounded more than 91,100 others, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, whose count does not differentiate between civilians and combatants. More than 80% of the population of 2.3 million have been driven from their homes, the vast majority crammed into tent camps in the southwest corner of the territory, with limited food and water.

Deif was one of the founders of Hamas' military wing, the Qassam Brigades, in the 1990s and led the unit for decades. Under his command, it carried out dozens of suicide bombings against Israelis on buses and at cafes and built up a formidable arsenal of rockets that could strike deep into Israel and often did.

He remained a mysterious, underground figure in Gaza. He never appeared in public, was hardly ever photographed and only rarely was his voice heard in audio statements. He survived a string of Israeli assassination attempts.

## Blinken urges end to "Escalatory Actions" for all parties in Middle East



ULAANBAATAR, Aug 1 (Agencies): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday urged "all parties" in the Middle East to stop "escalatory actions" and achieve a ceasefire in Gaza, after Hamas's political leader was killed in a strike in Tehran that Iran blamed on Israel.

The strike that killed Ismail Haniyeh came just hours after Israel said it had killed a top Hezbollah commander in a retaliatory strike on the Lebanese capital Beirut.

The killings took place as regional tensions were already inflamed by the war in Gaza, a conflict that has drawn in Iran-backed operatives groups in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen.

Israel has declined to comment on the Tehran strike. Speaking in the Mongolian capital, top US diplomat Blinken warned the Middle East was on a path "toward more conflict, more violence, more suffering, more insecurity, and it is crucial that we break this cycle."

"That starts with a ceasefire that we've been working on," Blinken told reporters alongside his local counterpart.

"And to get there, it also first requires all parties to talk, to stop taking any escalatory actions, it requires them to find reasons to come to an agreement," he said.

As he did on Wednesday in Singapore, Blinken did not comment directly on the death of the leader of the Palestinian Islamist movement.

He also declined to speculate on the impact that Haniyeh's killing could have on a potential ceasefire in Gaza, which the United States has been spearheading along with Egypt and Qatar.

## UK PM, police hold crisis meeting over unrest as stabbing attack suspect due in court

LONDON, Aug 1 (Agencies): Prime Minister Keir Starmer summoned British police chiefs for a crisis meeting Thursday over violent unrest that followed a stabbing rampage that killed three young girls as the 17-year-old suspect appeared in court to face three counts of murder and 10 of attempted murder.

The attack Monday on children at a Taylor Swift-themed summer holiday dance class shocked a country where knife crime is a long-standing and vexing problem, though mass stabbings are rare. The deaths have been used by far-right activists to stoke anger at immigrants and Muslims — though the suspect is not an immigrant, and his religion has not been disclosed.

The suspect has not been publicly named because he is under 18, but police say he was born in Britain. He has not been charged with terrorism offenses but faces three counts of murder over the deaths of Alice Dasilva Aguiar, 9, Elsie Dot Stancombe, 7, and Bebe King, 6, in the seaside town of Southport in northwest England.

He also has been charged with 10 counts of attempted murder for the eight children and two adults who were injured.

The adults, who were listed in critical condition, were publicly named for the first time as Leanne Lucas, who led the dance class, and John Hayes, who worked nearby and intervened in the attack to protect children. The wounded children cannot be named because of their ages.

Two of the children were discharged Thursday, Alder Hey Children's hospital said. Five others were in stable condition at the hospital.

Police have not disclosed a motive for the crime, but other new details emerged during the suspect's first appearance at Liv-

erpool Magistrates' Court.

The alleged murder weapon was a kitchen knife with a curved blade, according to an additional charge he faces. It was also revealed that the suspect is just a week shy of becoming an adult when he turns 18.

The suspect, wearing a gray tracksuit, smiled briefly at reporters before sitting down in the courtroom. He then pulled his sweatshirt above his nose and held his head low during the brief hearing. He did not speak.

Neither the teen's parents nor family members of victims were in court.

Far-right demonstrators — fueled, in part, by online misinformation — have held several violent protests, ostensibly in response to the attack, clashing with police outside a mosque in Southport on Tuesday and causing a melee near the prime minister's office in London the next day.

Starmer's office said he would tell police leaders that "while the right to peaceful protest must be protected at all costs, he will be clear that criminals who exploit that right in order to sow hatred and carry out violent acts will face the full force of the law."

Hundreds of protesters chanting "we want our country back" hurled beer cans and bottles near the prime minister's Downing Street residence in London on Wednesday evening, and launched flares at a nearby statue of wartime leader Winston Churchill. More than 100 people were arrested for offenses including violent disorder and assault on an emergency worker, London's Metropolitan Police force said.

Police officers were pelted with bottles and eggs in the town of Hartlepool in northeast England, where a police car was set ablaze, as far-right groups seek to stir anger over an attack they have

sought to link to immigrants. A smaller disturbance was reported in Manchester.

On Tuesday night a crowd of several hundred people hurled bricks and bottles at riot police in Southport, set garbage bins and vehicles on fire and looted a store, hours after a peaceful vigil for the stabbing victims.

"I am absolutely appalled and disgusted at the level of violence that was shown towards my officers," Merseyside Chief Constable Serena Kennedy said. "Some of the first responders who attended that awful scene on Monday ... then were faced with that level of violence."

Police said a name circulating on social media purported to be the suspect's — spread by far-right activists and accounts of murky origin purporting to be news organizations — was incorrect and that the suspect was born in Britain, contrary to online claims he was an asylum-seeker.

Patrick Hurley, a local lawmaker, said the violence by "beered-up thugs" was the result of "propaganda and lies" spread on social media. "This misinformation doesn't just exist on people's internet browsers and on people's phones. It has real world impact," he said.

Britain's worst attack on children was in 1996, when 43-year-old Thomas Hamilton shot and killed 16 kindergartners and their teacher in a school gymnasium in Dunblane, Scotland. The United Kingdom subsequently banned the private ownership of almost all handguns. While knives are used in about 40% of homicides each year, mass stabbings are unusual. But a recent rise in knife crime has stoked anxieties and led to calls for the government to do more to clamp down on bladed weapons, by far the most commonly used instruments in U.K. homicides.

## South Korea offers humanitarian aid to flood-hit North Korea

SEOUL, Aug 1 (Agencies): South Korea on Thursday offered to send aid supplies to North Korea to help the country recover from heavy rains and floods that submerged thousands of homes and huge swaths of farmland.

It's unclear whether North Korea would accept South Korea's proposal for help. Animosity between the warring rivals is at its highest in years over the North's growing nuclear ambitions and the South's expansion of combined military exercises with the United States and Japan to counter the North's threats.

South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, said the South was willing to swiftly provide supplies to address the "humanitarian difficulties" facing North Korean residents following the recent storms. The ministry in a statement urged North Korea's Red Cross to promptly respond to its calls for discussions to determine the types and amounts of South Korean supplies and how to deliver them.

North Korea didn't immediately respond to the South's offer.

North Korean state media said Wednesday that recent heavy rains left 4,100 houses, 7,410 acres of agricultural fields and numerous other public buildings, structures, roads and railways flooded in the northwestern city of Sinuiju and the neighboring town of Uiju.

The North has not reported details about casualties.

In an emergency Politburo meeting on Wednesday in Sinuiju, leader Kim Jong Un asked authorities to "strictly punish" those who he said neglected their responsibilities for disaster prevention and caused "even the casualty that can not be allowed," according to the North's Korean Central News Agency.

North Korea has suspended virtually all cooperation and diplomacy with the South after its larger nuclear negotiations with the United States derailed in 2019 over disagreements on lifting crippling U.S.-led sanctions and the North's steps to wind down its nuclear and missile program.

The North had also rejected South Korea's offers for help while battling a COVID-19 outbreak in 2022.

Tensions between the rivals have worsened since 2022 as Kim used Russia's war on Ukraine as a distraction to further accelerate the expansion of his nuclear arsenal and issued belligerent threats toward Washington and Seoul.



## DPS Jammu wins zonal gold medals, zonal excellence awards in SOF

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: Students of Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu brought laurels to the school and their parents by excelling in Olympiads organized by Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF) 2023-24. The result of which was declared recently. 210 students from DPS Jammu were registered for this prestigious Olympiad in Maths, Science, English & Social Science.

Out of these, 15 students were shortlisted for achieving outstanding performance in Level 1 & Level 2 in IMO, NSO, IEO, & ISSO. These children are



awarded with Gold medals, Cash/Voucher and Certificates of Merit. Mhotsav Gandotra (VIII-J) - Zonal Gold medal and Certificate of Zonal Excellence and a cheque of Rs 5000 for achieving International Rank 94 & Zonal Rank 1 in International

Maths Olympiad (IMO). Taransh Mahajan (IX-D) - Certificate of Zonal Excellence, Gift voucher worth Rs 500 for achieving International Rank 1017 & Zonal Rank 4 in International Maths Olympiad (IMO). Atharva Gupta (XI-A) -

Certificate of Zonal Excellence, Gift voucher worth Rs 500 for achieving International Rank 914 & Zonal Rank 8 in National Science Olympiad (NSO). The students who received Certificates of Merit are Aalia Malik (XII-D), Kriday Misri (XI-A),

Arihant Manhas (XI-B), Rishita Mahajan (XI-D), Ishvita Luthra (XI), Tarini Gupta (X-J), Umaiza Khan (X-F), Syed Lisan Mohammad (X-B), Ketan Gupta (X-G) Chirag Luthra (VIII-C), Sabal Chargotra (VII-E) & Mohd Umair Malik (VII-F).

The Management DPS Jammu under the esteemed leadership of President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC, Dr. Ritu Singh, Director, S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chhabra and staff congratulated the entire team members.

The efforts of Navneet Kaur and Dr. Paramjeet Singh (Coordinators) were also appreciated.

## GDC R S Pura inaugurates program to commemorate 77th I-Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: The inaugural ceremony of 2-week long celebrations in wake of 77th Independence Day at GDC R. S. Pura were kick started with pomp and show amidst patriotic fervor under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, Principal of the College. The event started with lighting of lamp by the College Principal along with senior faculty.

The proceedings of the program initiated with the introductory talk on Indian Freedom Struggle by Dr. Rakesh Choudhary, HOD Political Science and ANO Boys. He emphasized on the fact that India's independence has been a historic change for the country and highlighted the contribution of different ide-



ologies and the Heroes in Freedom Struggle.

He further added that because of the sacrifices of many freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose, Rani Laxmi Bai, etc. we are living in an independent and democratic society today.

While addressing the gathering, The college Principal apprised that on this Independence Day, we should recommit ourselves to the ideals that make our country great and remember the sac-

rifices that have been made to protect our freedom.

She also guided the students to work together to build a better nation. The proceedings of the programme was conducted by Gursimran Kour, a student of B.Sc sem 5.

The whole event was coordinated by Dr. Chanchal Angral, NSS PO, who also extended formal vote of thanks. All the teaching as well as non-teaching staff of the college graced the event with their esteemed presence.

## "Paving way for development" Industrial, housing expansion to follow delineation of land: Raman Suri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri on Thursday applauded the Administrative Council's decision to approve a revised policy for delineating the lands recorded as Gair Mumkin Khads in revenue records. Suri highlighted that this move is set to facilitate substantial industrial expansion and attract new investments, marking a significant step towards planned urban development in segregated areas.

Raman Suri commended Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for creating opportunities to draw more investments from builders, colonisers, industrialists, and other business houses through this delineation initiative. He pointed out that the scarcity of land had previously hindered the development of new colonies and investments, especially following the abrogation of Article 370, but now, with the identification of ample land, there is a huge potential for more extensive development.



By segregating khads from those that do not form watercourses, this policy will allow for the subsequent development of these segregated lands.

Raman Suri noted that region from Kathua to Jammu has ample areas lying unattended. This new policy will enable the government to develop industrial estates, leading to massive industrialisation and generation of employment. He further urged the LG administration to invite software companies to Jammu and Kashmir once new land banks are developed.

The BJP leader added that by empowering the Deputy Commissioner to carry out delineation based on the District Level Committee's recommendation, regardless of the land size involved for State Land, the procedure will be

completed earlier. Now that the Deputy Commissioners have been authorised to delineate up to 200 kanals per Khasra on the District Level Committee's recommendation, while the Divisional Level Committee and Divisional Commissioner can delineate 200-500 kanals per Khasra in case of private land, there is every chance of more and more areas coming up for development.

Raman Suri said that this decentralized approach will ensure efficient, transparent, and timely delineation of land banks, which can further be developed into industrial estates or IT parks.

The process will be conducted simultaneously in various districts using modern and scientific technologies like Digital Elevation Model (DEM), Digital Terrain Model (DTM), and Hydrological/Hydraulic Modelling.

This technological integration aims to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of the delineation process, paving way for systematic and sustainable development across Jammu and Kashmir.

## Swachhta Pakhwada inaugurated at SPPND GDC Samba



Top News Report

SAMBA, Aug 1: Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Government Degree College, Samba inaugurated the Swachhta Pakhwada, a fortnight long Cleanliness Drive aimed at promoting hygiene and sanitation within the college campus and the surrounding community.

A total of 70 NSS Volunteers, NCC Cadets and faculty members actively participated in the comprehensive event which marks a significant step towards promoting a culture of cleanliness and civic responsibility.

The whole event was co-ordinated by NSS Unit Maitri and NCC wing. The Volunteers cleaned the entire campus wearing gloves and separated biodegradable material from the Non-biodegradable. Dedicated bins were provided around the campus to ensure proper segregation and disposal of waste.

The Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri highlighted that Swachhta Pakhwada is not just a fortnight event but a movement that encourages everyone to adopt sustainable cleanliness practices in their daily lives. Interacting with staff and students, she emphasized the pivotal role of students and staff in maintaining a clean, green and healthy environment.

## Dr. Ganesh Vitthal conferred with Honorary Doctorate in Social Work

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: Dr. Ganesh Vitthal Raut conferred with Honorary Doctorate in Social Work by Global Human Rights. He is working since last 25 year in Human rights field. He is great social activist from Maharashtra. He worked tirelessly for the upliftment of the downtrodden and weaker section of the society. He worked day and night for Corona patients



and evacuate them the difficult situations. Ganesh is dedicated to social as well as Human rights since 20 years.

## CCI welcomes revised policy on "Gair Mumkin Khads"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: Arun Gupta, President Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) welcomed the decision of administrative council headed by LG UT of J&K Manoj Sinha regarding approving revised policy on "Gair Mumkin Khads" which was the long pending demand of Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu.

Arun Gupta said that the Chamber had time and again taken up the issue that where no water bodies are passing through these lands the registration and construction activities should be allowed.

He also said that the decision shall pave way for establishment of new industries on these lands.

Arun Gupta further said that as per the decision of administrative council, the concerned Dr. Commissioners shall delineate upto 200 kanals per khasra on the recommendations of the district level committee while as Divisional Commissioner can delineate 200 to 500 kanals per khasra and all

other proposals/ cases shall be approved by the UT level committee.

He appealed the concerned Dy. Commissioners, Divisional Commissioner as well as UT level committee that this process should be carried on without any hindrance and in a transparent manner.

Arun Gupta also appreciated the announcement of LG Manoj Sinha wherein he has directed the officials to expedite the pending grievances of the people on fast track basis.

He also demanded that government should constitute a grievance redressal committee to resolve the issue of excess billing of PDD consumers of smart meter areas at the earliest.

Arun Gupta expressed displeasure for closing window two months earlier on 31st July 2024 instead of 30th September 2024 for availing the Central Package of incentives of Rs. 28400 crore from 2021 onwards as announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

He said this is serious matter and demanded

that the window should be restored and kept open upto 2028 as requested by us earlier also.

He also appealed LG Manoj Sinha to take up the issue for restoring the window for availing the above central package and also appeal for enhancement of the amount of package at least upto Rs. 1.00 lakh crores and the window should be kept open upto 2028.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rajiv Mahajan, son of Late Sh. Manohar Lal Mahajan, residing at 17-New Rehari, Jammu, hereby announce my intention to start a Home Stay business in Ban, Bantalab, Nagrota. Objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

## FROM PAGE 1

### LG inaugurates J&K Film Conclave, unveils J&K Film Policy 2024

international film production in the UT. "The film-friendly and pragmatic J&K Film Policy will ensure that heaven on earth is truly a heaven for filmmakers. We will provide high-impact infrastructure, support in sourcing locations and a large pool of professionals, financial incentives to make the filming more attractive in J&K," the Lt Governor said.

He highlighted that the J&K Film Policy also provides added incentives for films in local languages, thereby promoting regional cinema of J&K. It encourages filmmakers to hire local talent which will lead to employment generation and jobs for the local population of J&K, he added.

Speaking on the new initiatives taken by the government, the Lt Governor said the new interventions will have a strong multiplier effect and play a pivotal role in developing J&K - a global Film production hub. Single Window portal will ensure efficient handling of intricate formalities and seamless release of subsidies, he added.

The Lt Governor said the new initiative like J&K Film Screening Series is part of systemic and effective reforms to tap into a vibrant and youthful moviemaking culture and to provide space for emerging creators and film enthusiasts to exchange ideas on film aesthetics and strengthen Cine-club culture.

"J&K and Cinema is a symbol of oneness and cannot be seen separately. They are a perfect match. For great filmmakers like Raj Kapoor and Yash Chopra, J&K was not only a shooting destination but also a cultural organism. In the past five years, there has been an effort to reconnect J&K with the culture of Cinema and theatre. Our new initiatives highlight this resurgence," the Lt Governor said.

Madhur Bhandarkar, Bollywood film-

maker, lauded the Lt Governor led UT Administration for progressive Film policy and initiatives to create a vibrant film ecosystem in J&K.

'J&K Film Conclave' offers a platform for collaboration, idea exchange, and showcasing talent. The initiative aspires to build a sustainable and thriving film ecosystem in Jammu Kashmir.

The conclave is hosting a series of workshops on filmmaking, besides insightful panel discussions with film personalities like Rahhat Kazmi, Parag Mehta, and Mir Sarwar. It also features Award-winning films from the Naya Jammu Kashmir Short Film Making Competition, premiere screening of "Country of Blind" and cultural performances by local artists.

Single Window portal launched today will simplify the process of applying for shooting permissions and subsidies. Filmmakers can now apply online for everything from shooting permits to subsidy, making the entire procedure straightforward and user-friendly.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Rehana Batul, Secretary, Information; Jatin Kishore, Director Information, senior officials, winners and participants of the Short Film-Making Competition, industry professionals and cinema enthusiasts were present on the occasion.

### Road accident victims to get free cashless treatment: Nitin Gadkari

the Motor Vehicles Act, of 1988, the pilot program for cashless treatment extends support to victims of road accidents caused by motor vehicles, regardless of where the accident occurs.

The scheme will help in reducing deaths in road accidents and will help in providing better treatment to road accident victims.

### Lt Gen Vikas Lakhera

### assumes charge of DG Assam Rifles

Divisional Officer and Tactical Training Officer at NDA, Khadakwasla, MA to GOC-in-C, HQ Eastern Command, Staff Officer and Deputy MA to COAS, Director MO-2 and Deputy Commander of 93 Inf Bde.

The General Officer commanded 15 Infantry Brigade at Sriganganagar before he moved to HQ 4 Corps as Brigadier (Q). The General Officer was also Inspector General Assam Rifles (North) from Jan 2022 to March 2024. Prior to assuming the appointment of DGAR, General Officer was tenanted the apt of ADG MO (IW), DGMO, IHQ of MoD(Army).

His academic qualifications incl MSc from Madras University, MA from King's College, London (UK) and Masters in Management Studies from Osmania University.

In addition to serving across a wide spectrum of terrain profiles and multi-faceted operational areas like LC, IB and North East, the General Officer has immense operational experience in planning and conduct of Counter Terrorist operations in J&K, Assam and Nagaland. The General Officer is a highly decorated Officer & he has to his credit an Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Sena Medal, Chief of Army Staff Commendation Card and two GOC-in-C Commendation Cards.

His spouse Vibha Lakhera is a freelance educator and an active social worker. The couple is blessed with two sons Arjun Lakhera and Krishna Lakhera. The General Officer hails from Tehri district of Uttarakhand state and did his Graduation from DAV PG College Dehradun prior to joining the Indian Military Academy Dehradun.

### India is young country with old politicians, must aspire for younger ones:

### Raghav Chadha

encourage their participation in mainstream politics."

Chadha also proposed that the government reduce the minimum age to contest elections from 25 to 21 years.

"In India, the age to contest an election is 25 years. I would like to urge that the government reduce the minimum age to contest polls and make it 21 years. And then 21-year-old youths can join mainstream politics by contesting the polls."

He reasoned that if 18-year-olds can vote, they should also be allowed to contest elections at 21, thus enabling them to engage directly in the political process of the country.

### Former Minister Usman Majid, other Bandipora members resign from Apni Party

support and trust placed in them by their constituents during their tenure with the Apni Party.

"We urge our supporters and the general public to remain patient and supportive during this transition period. Further announcements will be made in due course, providing clarity on the new direction and initiatives that will be undertaken," said a senior member.

### Police attach commercial complex of drug trafficker in Anantnag

(NHW-44) at Semthan Bijbehara, covering an area of 5 Kanal 12 Marla land under Survey No. 291 Min.

The individual was involved in Case FIR

No 210/2020 under Section 8/15-29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, registered at Bijbehara Police Station.

In September 2020, an underground room in the compound of the deceased Dar was discovered to contain a substantial quantity of contraband substances, presumably poppy straw (Fukki) packed in gunny bags and plastic barrels.

The investigation revealed that the deceased had acquired this contraband substance from illegal sources and stored it for further illicit sale to the local youth, thereby promoting drug addiction and their illegal trade.

A total of 126 gunny bags weighing 2600 kg and 60 plastic barrels (1395 kg) of the contraband substance were recovered from the spot, the statement said.

### Jammu-Srinagar National highway opens for traffic after brief closure due to mudslide

and Udampur (32.2 mm).

He said that till August 5, the weather will be generally cloudy with spells of intermittent light to moderate rain or thundershower at many places in Kashmir and the Jammu Division and most places in Jammu Division, and on August 6 and 7, a spell of rain and thundershower will occur at scattered places in Kashmir Division and fairly widespread places in Jammu Division.

From August 8 to 10, they said that a spell of rain and thundershowers at scattered places is expected, adding, "intense showers for a brief period with the possibility of flash floods, cloud bursts, landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones over vulnerable places of J&K and heavy rainfall at a few places of Jammu Division."



## RBPS Jammu organizes multilingual Kavi Goshthi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: Rashtra Bhasha Prachar Samiti (RBPS) Jammu organized a multilingual Kavi Goshthi at its office at Mahatma Gandhi Library, Nanak Nagar Jammu in which prominent poets and poetesses from Hindi, Dogri and Punjabi languages participated.

The poets and poetesses who participated in Kavi Goshthi include Chandrodaya, Dr. Baljeet Singh Raina, Sanjeev Bhasin, Amita Mehta, Girija Sharma, Abhimanyu Sharma and Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju'. It was presided over by senior journalist and Hindi



and Dogri poet Abhimanyu Sharma while Dr. Baljeet Singh Raina, an eminent Hindi and Punjabi writer and film maker was the chief guest.

The program started with Prof. Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Secretary RBPS Jammu giving detailed account of the continuous activities of Samiti.

He said that promoting our rashtrabhasha Hindi is our duty but regional languages should also be given due recognition and for the same their organization conducts multi lingual programs quite often.

He assured that the organization will continue organizing literary meets thus providing platforms

to aspiring talents in future also.

He hoped that Government of UT of J&K will help in promoting Rashtrabhasha with concrete efforts in this part of nation, a non-Hindi speaking region.

Abhimanyu Sharma in his presidential address complemented all the participants for their thought provoking presentations and hoped that such platforms will inspire others also to pen down their feelings in the form of poetry.

He further added that we should seek lessons from our seniors and read quality literature to improve because one

should have a learning habit to excel in any field.

On this occasion Dr. Baljit Singh Raina said that the multi lingual Kavi Goshthi offer an opportunity for the participants as well as literature lovers to enjoy poetry written in different languages.

He asserted that such get together of litterateurs offers an opportunity to interact with each other which is must for a literary movement.

The Kavi Goshthi was conducted by conducted by Sanjeev Bhasin who presented vote of thanks also. The program was attended by galaxy of litterateurs and literature lovers.

## Management Development Programme on LEAD-ART commences at School of Business Studies, CUJ



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: Director, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Government of Jammu and Kashmir Sham Lal, Sheetal Pandita, Deputy Secretary, RD & PR and Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, CUJ inaugurated a residential training programme under leadership/ Management Development Programme for elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) being organised by School of Business Studies, Central University of Jammu.

The programme was organized under the Patronage and mentorship of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, CUJ from 1-3 August 2024. This programme aimed to enhance the leadership and management capacity at grass-root level where elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions, including Chairpersons /BDOs are being trained on various institutional and functional issues and thematic development goals.

With a view to enhance the leadership capacity at the grassroots and to give an impetus to the strengthening and capacity building of Panchayati Raj Institutions across the UT of J&K, Department of RD & PR has conceptualized a programme for leadership development among the panchayat leaders who are leading the change at the grassroots level under the supervision of Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, UT of J&K. Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary for infusing professional leadership skills.

Under this initiative the Department of RD & PR in collaboration with SBS, CUJ will organise the programme for ben-

eficiaries for developing leadership skills among the Panchayati Raj representatives for better and informed decision making and governance. In the first batch the chairpersons/members and BDOs of RD & PR will be participating. This 3-day residential programme is a pioneering initiative with an objective to enhance the skills and knowledge of panchayat leaders, enabling them to function effectively as the third tier of government.

Speaking on the occasion Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dean, School of Business Studies informed the august gathering that the programme aims to equip the attendees with leadership and managerial skills for effective utilization of resources and functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions. The first of its kind training programme Leadership/ Management Development Programme encompasses various modules covering leadership and teamwork, Financial Management and Panchayat Finances, Effective Communication, Project Management and Monitoring, Digital Transformation, ICT, and more. Department of RD & PR, UT of J&K is set to usher in a new era of grassroots governance by prioritizing the training, handholding and equipping of Panchayat representatives. Recognizing the pivotal role these grassroots leaders play in local governance, RD & PR aims to elevate their capabilities to compete with the highest standards of public service delivery. Panchayats are the bedrock of our democratic system, serving as the primary interface between citizens and the government. To bring about substantial transformative change at the grassroots level, it is imperative that Panchayat representatives and functionaries are not only well intentioned but also equipped with the knowl-

edge and skills required to address the multifaceted challenges of local self-governance. The training modules will cover a wide array of topics, including effective leadership, financial management, community engagement, digital literacy, sustainable development instilling leadership qualities to inspire and guide communities towards achieving Localized Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs). By investing in the development of panchayat representatives and functionaries, the RD & PR envision a ripple effect that will positively impact communities across the UT of JK. The ultimate goal is to create a cadre of grassroots leaders who not only meet but exceed the highest standards of public service, driving positive change at the grassroots level.

Speaking on the occasion Prof. Anil Gupta from IIM-Ahmedabad highlighted the importance of capacity building endeavours in government functionaries and elected representatives are deemed necessary because of the importance of service delivery and service quality in recent times.

He talked about Creativity and Open Innovation for village development citing local success stories. Three more sessions by eminent speakers were conducted during the day.

The MDP organising team comprises Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dr. Neelika Arora, Dr. Shahid Mush-taq, Dr. Asif Ali faculty members from School of Business Studies. Earlier Dr. Neelika Arora welcomed the gathering and briefed about the agenda for next three days and Dr. Asif Ali proposed formal vote of thanks.

Riya Gandotra conducted the proceedings of the programme and Rashmi Srivastva and Lovekesh Raina coordinated the registration desk.

## BJP neglected Chhamb constituency in budget: Satish Sharma

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: A meeting, organized by local residents of Village Mattu in the Chhamb constituency, brought together prominent figures such as Sham Choudhary and Ramesh Verma.

The event was chaired by senior Congress leader and AICC member Satish Sharma, with a large number of Panchayat Mattu residents in attendance, who openly pledged their support to the Congress party for the upcoming assembly elections.

Numerous speakers at the meeting voiced their concerns, highlighting the BJP's long-standing neglect of the Chhamb constituency's development needs. Over the past decade, not a single developmental initiative has been sanctioned, leaving the area's progress stagnant since Shri Madan Lal Sharma's



tenure.

The deteriorating public infrastructure is seen as a clear indication of regression under BJP's governance. Frustration was expressed over the BJP's unfulfilled promises, with many attendees stating their readiness to vote against the party in the upcoming elections.

In his address, Satish Sharma expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support from the Chhamb constituency. He criticized the BJP for worsening the living conditions of the poor and the common man over the past ten years, while the rich have become richer.

Sharma accused the BJP of reducing public relief and implementing policies that favor crony capitalism. He pointed out that record inflation and high unemployment rates have disrupted the lives of ordinary people and shattered the aspirations of educated youth.

Sharma also highlighted the BJP's failure to fill vacant government positions and criticized the recent constable recruitment advertisement for not providing age relaxation to those who have been waiting for the past 6-7 years.

Sharma urged the Lieutenant Governor of

Jammu and Kashmir to resolve the issue of daily wagers before assembly elections. He also noted the absence of budget allocations to address the issues faced by residents of the border belt, particularly the pending border compensation. Despite public demand, the BJP has shown little interest in granting separate 3-3% reservations for IB and ALC residents.

Sharma called for unified action to vote against the BJP candidate in the upcoming assembly elections, promising to uphold the trust and support shown by the constituents. He assured that, if elected, he would prioritize the comprehensive development of the Chhamb constituency, following in his father's footsteps to make it a leading region in the state.

Prominent attendees at the meeting included Sham Choudhary, Capt.

Roshan Choudhary, Raj Kumar, Kulvir Singh, Uttam Singh, Master Yashpal, Billa Panch, Sham Lal, Mohinder Singh, Ex-Sarpanch Satish Sharma, Capt. Prabh Dayal, Kuldeep Raj Verma (Ex MoS), Manjeet Jatt (Secretary JKPC), Prabhu Singh (Sr. Vice President DCC Jammu Rural), Retd. DySP Ashok Kumar Sharma (Vice President DCC Jammu Rural), Capt. Sham Singh Bhu (Vice President DCC Jammu Rural), Ashok Sharma (Vice President DCC Jammu Rural), Prem Singh Chib (Block President Khour), Vijay Kumar (Block President Sanwan), Rahul Tandon (General Secretary JKPYC), Dr. Sita Ram, Capt. Chhankar Singh, Bhagwan Dass, Dr. Sudesh Choudhary, Rattan Lal Sharma, Naib Sarpanch Kulbir, Sham Lal, Tara Chand, Master Yash Pal, and Thoru Ram.

## NMC urges PM to release pending installment of 4 pc DA

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: National Amdoor Conference (NMC) president Subash Shastri on Thursday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release the pending installment of 4 per cent DA due from July this year for the central government employees & pensioners.

"We appealed to the PM to announce and release the pending installment of 4 per cent DA due from July this year for employees and pensioners of the Centre as well as state governments in view of increasing inflation and price hike of essential commodities," Shastri said.

In a memorandum sent to the Prime Minister, the NMC chief said, the price index which was 6.89 per

cent in December 31 last year increased to 12.49 per cent in June 30, 2024, and urged him to take decision in this regard at the forthcoming Union Cabinet meeting.

The rate of compensation was revised every six months based on average of the consumer price index for previous months and this would be the 17th biannual increase since the recommendation of the 7th pay commission which was accepted by the Central Government in 1st January 2016, he said. Shastri said that prices of all essential commodities had gone up and there was no justification on Central Government's part to withhold this installment of DA.

Urging the PM to declare both Jammu and Srinagar as B-1 Cities, Shastri said, giving the status to

both capital cities would ensure more flow of funds to upgrade infrastructure and modernize civic amenities.

The NMC chief also urged Modi to immediately grant a special package of Rs 2,000 crore per annum for regularization of 61,000 casual and seasonal laborers in various State Government Departments in one go.

Setting up off 8th pay commission headed by Ashok Lavasa, for evolving national pay policy throughout the country, merging of 50% DA with basic pay and pension, releasing of 18th months DA installments arrears in favor of both Central State Government employees and pensioner beside restoring of old pension scheme etc. for other demands highlighted in the memorandum.

## KVK Reasi organises Training Programme for SHGs members

Top News Report

REASI, Aug 1: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi under the administrative control of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) organized one day training programme for the members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) members here at Karua village in Reasi district of J&K which was enthusiastically attended by the number of women members of SHGs of the area.

The programme was organised under the dynamic stewardship of Vice Chancellor, Prof. B.N. Tripathi and able guidance of Director Extension Prof. Amrish Vaid of SKUAST-J.

Dr. Banarsi Lal, Chief Scientist & Head of KVK, Reasi initiated the programme with the warm welcome of participants. During the technical session he highlighted the role and importance of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the current scenario of livelihood diversification especially for the marginalized rural women.

He discussed on various incomes generation activities among the rural women and stressed on value addition in agriculture for more farm returns. He also discussed on woman empowerment and stressed on SHGs formation in the rural areas. He said that SHGs formation has an immense scope in hilly areas and can play a key role in enhancing the income and employment among the rural women.

He discussed on regular saving, budgeting, record keeping, regular interloaning, linkage with banks, repayment ethics etc. He highlighted the importance of homogene-

ity, fortnight meetings and book keeping for the significant results in SHGs. He also guided farm women on small business planning, effecting marketing strategies and product development.

He stressed on the agr-entrepreneurship development in rural areas by working in groups and discussed on Atama Nirbhar Bharat.

He also guided the participants on packaging, leveling, branding and marketing of processed agro-products. He emphasised on value addition in fruits, vegetables and spices to enhance the income and employment among the rural women.

He narrated that by the value addition in fruits and vegetables rural women can fetch more money and thus they can raise their socio-economic status. During the programme some queries were raised by the group's members which were answered by the KVK officials in a satisfactorily way.

During the programme an progressive woman farmer of the area, Chanchla Devi was also present who shared her experiences on value addition in agriculture with the other participants.

The participants thanked KVK, Reasi scientists for organizing such a useful programme.

It is worthwhile to mention here that such training programmes foster economic independence, self-reliance and sustainable growth for SHGs members, enabling them to positively impact their communities and lead fulfilling lives. The programme was assisted by Manohar Lal and concluded by Chanchla Devi with formal vote of thanks.

## Directorate Agriculture Jammu starts Swachhta Pakhwada-2024 Campaign

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: The Directorate of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu kick-starts Swachhta Pakhwada-2024 with an opening ceremony today at Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo, Jammu, featuring a cleanliness drive, a Swachhta pledge, and a plantation drive. This event marked the start of a 15-day campaign aimed at promoting cleanliness and environmental stewardship within the agricultural community.

The opening ceremony witnessed a Swachhata Pledge undertaken by Director Agriculture Jammu, Shri Arvinder Singh Reen, along with Sectoral Heads, Chief Agriculture Officers, and staff members from the

department.

In his address, Arvinder Singh Reen emphasized the importance of capacity building for agriculture field officers and the need for a change in staff behavior to ensure the mission's success. He stressed the necessity of public awareness campaigns aimed at farmers, focusing on farm waste management, waste segregation, and understanding the environmental impact of improper waste disposal.

Reen directed officials to engage actively with the farmer community, encouraging initiatives such as Swachhta Banks and household compost-making. He also urged the farming community of Jammu Division to actively participate in Swachhta Pakhwada, advocating

for the adoption of safe agricultural practices and proper disposal of farm waste.

The ceremony included a symbolic gesture with Director Reen planting a tree sapling as part of the 'Ek Ped Shaheedon ke Naam' campaign, emphasizing the importance of green initiatives in maintaining a cleaner and greener environment.

Throughout the Swachhta Pakhwada-2024, various activities will be organized, including Swachhta Pledge ceremonies at District level in Chief Agriculture Offices, Sub-Divisional, and Zonal Agriculture Offices. The campaign will also feature cleanliness drives at agricultural offices and Panchayat levels, as well as Swachhata Gram Sabhas.

## Two-day National meeting of BTSM to be held at Panipat

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: The meeting of the National Council of Bharat Tibet Sahyog Manch will be held on 3-4 August 2024 at Seva Sadhna and Gram Vikas Kendra, Patti Kalyana, Samalkha, Panipat, Haryana Province under the guidance of Dr. Indresh Kumar, Senior Pracharak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and Guide of the organisation, under the chairmanship of Harjeet Singh Grewal, National Executive President of the BTSM and under the leadership of National General Secretary Pankaj Goyal.

About 300 representatives from all over the country will participate in this meeting.

Regarding the meeting of the Council, National General Secretary Pankaj Goyal said that the BTSM has completed its journey of 25 years in a splendid manner. In these 25 years, the history of the BTSM is full of many glorious achievements. This glorious history of achievements has to be taken forward further. Shri Goyal said that after a journey of 25 years, this National Council meeting will prove to be very important and useful from

the point of view of expansion.

The kind of passion that is seen in the workers of the Forum regarding the objectives, working methods and activities of the organisation proves that in future the organisation will establish new records and very positive results will be seen in terms of freedom of Tibet, liberation of Kailash Mansarovar, protection of Himalayas and protection of environment.

In the inaugural session of the National Council, Hon. Indresh, Patron of the BTSM Dr. Kuldeep Agnihotri, Defence Minister of Tibetan Government in Exile Gairy Dolma, Jyoti Kailash (Retired IAS), Pratap Singh, Provincial Karyavah, Sanjay Singh (Minister, Haryana Government), Harjit Singh Grewal and Swami Dayanand Saraswati Yati Maharaj (Ramakrishna Sadhana Kendra, Murthal) will grace the glorious presence. In the closing session on 4th August, Hon. Indresh, Dr. Kuldeep Agnihotri, Gairy Dolma, Nikhil Madan (Mayor), Pratap (Provincial Sanghchalak), Mohanlal Badoli (BJP State President), Harjit Singh Grewal and Mahipal Danda (Minister, Haryana Government) will

grace the occasion.

Regarding the opening and closing session, Pankaj Goyal said that it can be easily understood how pleasant the conference will be when so many learned and capable people will be present. Along with this, the local people will also be able to know and understand the working system, activities and objectives of the organisation very well.

There will be extensive discussion on how to strengthen the BTSM further from ideological, organizational, creative and functional point of view.

Dr Vivek Sharma, President BTSM J&K while addressing the State office bearers about the scheduled programme and its objectives and be extensive discussion on how to strengthen the BTSM further from ideological, organizational, creative and functional point of view and seek suggestions if any which will be discussed in the said programme and also nominated Dr Vikrant Singh, Vice President BTSM, J&K as State Prachar Parmukh to give mass media coverage to the programmes and activities of State Chapter of BTSM.



## Paris Olympics: Swapnil Kusale shoots bronze, India's 3rd medal at the Games

*Shooter Swapnil Kusale scripted history, by becoming the first Indian shooter to bag a medal in the 50m Rifle 3P event at the Olympics*

CHATEAURoux (FRANCE), Aug 1 (Agencies): Shooter Swapnil Kusale secured India's third medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics after finishing third in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final at the National Shooting Center in Chateauroux on Thursday. Kusale delivered an exceptional performance amidst intense competition, earning third place with a score of 451.4 points in the final. Swapnil has now become the first Indian shooter to win an Olympic medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event.

The 3P event, or Three-Position Rifle shooting, involves shooters competing in kneeling, prone, and standing positions. In the event, shooters fire three series of five shots each in the kneeling and prone positions. After the 40th shot, which occurs during the second series in the standing position, elimination begins, with the two lowest-scoring shooters being eliminated. From that point on, each subsequent shot serves as an elimination shot until the winner is determined.

Kneeling: Kusale had a slow start, scoring 50.8 in the first series and 50.9 in the second. However, he improved slightly with a 51.6 in the third series, totaling 153.3, and placing



sixth. He needed a strong performance in the prone position to stay in contention.

Prone: Kusale's performance improved, scoring 52.7, 52.2, and 51.9 in the three series, bringing his total to 310.1 and moving him to fifth place. Only the standing position remained, where significant shifts often occur.

Standing: After a nine-minute break, shooters prepared for two series of five shots each, with eliminations starting after the 40th shot. Norway's John Hermann led with 312.1, followed by China's Yukun Liu (311.5), and Ukraine's Serhiy Kulish (311.1). Kusale was fifth with 310.1 but moved to fourth with 361.2 after the first five shots. He scored 10.6 and 10.3, followed by 9.1, 10.1, and 10.3, moving to third with 411.6 behind Kulish and Yukun.

Eliminations: Sixth Place:

Kusale scored 10.5, holding third with 422.1 as France's Lucas exited.

Fifth Place: Despite a 9.4, Kusale retained his position, with the Norwegian exiting (430.2).

Fourth Place: Kusale's 9.9 kept him safe, securing a medal for India as the Czech competitor exited.

Third Place: Kusale scored 10, surpassing Kulish's 9.9 to win the bronze medal with a final score of 451.4.

China's Y.K. Liu won the gold medal with a score of 463.6 points, while Ukraine's S. Kulish claimed silver with 461.3 points. Kusale's outstanding achievement not only made India proud but also highlighted his expertise in shooting sports, solidifying his status as a formidable competitor on the global stage. Swapnil had finished seventh in the qualifying round with a total

score of 590, including 38 inner 10s (Xs), from three positions.

Notably, this was India's third medal in shooting at the Paris Olympics 2024. The first medal came on Monday when Manu Bhaker claimed a bronze in the women's 10m air pistol event, making her the first Indian shooter to win an Olympic medal. Bhaker made history again on Tuesday by winning another bronze with Sarabjot Singh in the 10m pistol mixed team event. She became the first post-independence Indian athlete to win two medals in a single Olympic edition.

Swapnil Kusale, born in 1995 into a family with an agricultural background, works as a Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE) with the Pune Railway Division. His father enrolled him in Maharashtra's Krida Prabodhini, a primary sports program, where after a year of intensive physical training, Kusale chose shooting as his sport. In 2015, he won a gold medal in the 50m rifle prone 3 event in the junior category at the Asian Shooting Championships in Kuwait. He also triumphed at the 59th National Shooting Championship in Tughlakabad, surpassing Gagan Narang and Chain Singh in the 50m rifle prone event. Kusale repeated this success at the 61st National Championship in Thiruvananthapuram, winning a gold medal in the 50m rifle 3 position event.

## "Don't care if people kill me": Sunil Chhetri's blunt take on India's Olympics 'Reality'

*Indian football icon Sunil Chhetri refused to mince his words as he explained the reason behind the country's poor show in Olympic Games.*



NEW DELHI, Aug 1 (Agencies): Indian football icon Sunil Chhetri isn't known to mince his words when it comes to sharing opinions on the sporting culture in the country. Chhetri earlier spoke his mind when asked about India's lack of success in the Olympic Games, where a total of 7 medals (in the Tokyo Games) is the country's best tally ever. As India looks to do better in the Paris Games this time, Chhetri explained the reason behind India's lack of medals despite a population of 1.5 billion

people.

In a podcast, Chhetri said that India fails to get medals on the global stage because of its lack of success in identifying and nurturing talent at the grassroots level.

"We don't win medals (at the Olympics) despite a population of 1.5 billion is not factually correct because we are not able to identify and nurture the talent of 1.5 billion people. China, US, Germany, Japan, Australia, Canada -- the ones who do well in the Olympics -- are miles better than us," said

Chhetri on the podcast, and the video has gone viral.

A country of about 1.5 billion people should be able to produce more talent, and Chhetri feels though India have talent, there isn't much focus on nurturing them to take them to the next level.

"When people say, 'talent ki kami nahi hai hamari country mei' (there is no dearth of talent in our country), it is 100 percent right. A five-year-old kid in Andaman, who was good in football or javelin throw or cricket, he didn't even know. Threw it once or twice and then disappeared, working in a call centre," Chhetri asserted.

The former India football team captain said that he believes in speaking facts, even if someone kills him for it. "In identifying the talent and nurturing the talent at the right time and with the right procedure, we are way behind. And I don't care if people want to kill me for this; this is the reality."

## MS Dhoni opens up on IPL retirement possibility: Will do what's best for CSK

NEW DELHI, Aug 1 (Agencies): Former India captain and CSK star MS Dhoni revealed at a recent event that the 41-year-old is still thinking out his plans about a potential retirement from the Indian Premier League (IPL). Dhoni explained that his retirement decision will ultimately be focused on the larger benefit of CSK, a franchise which he is deeply connected with, and that will take into consideration the updated PL retention rules. Dhoni has been a pivotal part of the franchise, and has even led them to a joint-record of five IPL titles.



started anticipating the 2024 season to be MS Dhoni's last. However, Dhoni is yet to disclose any firm details about his potential curtain down moment, and things are looking marginally poised for yet another "Thala" season in 2025.

"There's a lot of time left for the franchises and management to decide on the retention rules and everything. So when all of it is decided, then we will take a decision. So no we don't have the ball in our court. When the regulations are decided, then we will be able to

take a call...At the end of the day, we will have to take a decision which is best for CSK, and that is the ultimate goal," Dhoni said at an event.

Under Rituraj's captaincy, CSK failed to qualify for the IPL 2024 play-offs, but that did not dial down any kind of praise for the 27-year-old's first leadership stint of the franchise. There were numerous occasions where Dhoni was seen giving his guidance to Rituraj in the middle of matches, which has only spiked the hype around Rituraj being the long-term captain of the franchise.

## Paris Olympics, Hockey: India suffer 1-2 defeat to Belgium top of lacky defence

PARIS, Aug 1 (Agencies): The Indian hockey team were handed a 1-2 defeat to Belgium in their Men's Pool B match on August 1 at the Paris Olympics, which highlighted a lacklustre defensive performance from the Harmanpreet Singh-led side. Despite India taking a lead going against the tide of the game with an Abhishek Nain goal in the second quarter, Belgium completed the turnaround with prominent birth.

Despite the best efforts of India goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, India's morale took a big hit from the loss. Although India have secured their place in the quarter-finals, the loss will set up a lot of work to be done by the side ahead of their big upcoming game against Australia. India attacking-wise, shone in bits and pieces, but their defence was a complete let-down throughout the match. India conceded 11 penalty corners in the match, while Bel-



gium did only 3. This fact alone sparks points of concerns for India's defence structure.

INDIA'S CLUMSY DEFENCE

While the last three matches put a spotlight of concern on India's attack-line lacking the finishing touch to their game, this clash against Belgium will put up a lot of question-marks on their defence. At a point, it looked like India's defence line had

put all their dependency on their goalkeeper, PR Sreejesh, who kept on drawing lifelines for his side. While the first goal saw no Indian player able to stop a lone dribbling run from Belgium's Florent van Aubele, his low drive which was flicked into goal by Thi-beau Stockbroeck was something that would ideally be expected to get intercepted.

The second Belgian goal came in the dying

minutes of the 3rd quarter from a Belgium penalty corner, which required Sreejesh to make back-to-back saves, but the Indian defence was just not aware enough to push the dead ball out of play. Ultimately, it was the veteran John Dohmen who simply flicked the ball in from just an inch away. India will need to pull up their game, with the quarter-final clash right above their heads now.

SREEJESH THE LONE HERO

This match was the best example of PR Sreejesh's brilliance. The experienced India goalkeeper stood strong like a thorn in front of the Belgium attack and had an answer for every rush he faced at goal. From the very get-go of the match, Sreejesh was tested many times, with Belgium enjoying the majority of the attacking intent in the first quarter. Whenever the referee awarded a penalty corner to Belgium, it came down to Sreejesh to keep India alive in the game.

Even in the second quarter, Sreejesh impressed with a back-to-back save off a well-paced shot by Alexander Hendrickx and even managed to keep away a rebound. One thing very highlight-worthy in the match was that Sreejesh received very little support from his defensive line when it mattered the most.

## Rishabh Pant or KL Rahul? Gautam Gambhir's big dilemma ahead of India vs Sri Lanka ODI series

COLOMBO, Aug 1 (Agencies): The Gautam Gambhir-led Indian team management has an opportunity to decide who among KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant will be India's long-term first-choice wicketkeeper-batter in ODIs when the side takes on Sri Lanka in a three-match series beginning here on Friday. There will be clamour around the first sighting of veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli as well, after the recent T20 World Cup triumph. But the think-tank will look to shut out that outside noise, focusing on sorting out the combination in a season that has some marquee one-day events including the Champions Trophy.

In that context, the Rahul vs Pant conundrum is certain to get priority treatment in this series.

Rahul is the incumbent wicketkeeper-batter and has been assigned to that role by the previous set-up under Rahul Dravid since last year's Asia Cup, a tournament in which he made his comeback from a long injury-forced layoff. Since then, Rahul has done full justice to his duty both in front and behind the wicket.

Since the continental showpiece last year, Rahul has made 834 runs from 21 matches at a fine average of 69.50 with two hundreds. Besides, Rahul also

captained India in the ODI series against South Africa earlier this year. As a stumper too, the 32-year-old has been pretty good. But will Gambhir follow the same route since Pant is back in the reckoning? Pant's return to India fold through a clutch of T20Is after that horrific accident in 2022 has been heartwarming but he has not set the field ablaze with his outings. There have been encouraging sparks during the last month or so. But is that enough to convince the powers that be to pick him ahead of Rahul? If Gambhir and skipper Rohit decide to keep both Rahul and Pant in the 11, then they will have to think as to how to accommodate Shreyas Iyer, another formidable player in the 50-over version. In his last ODI outing, Iyer made a 52 against South Africa at Johannesburg, and his record in 2023 is also impressive - 846 runs from 20 matches at an average of 53 with three hundreds.

So, it could be a three-way tie between Rahul, Pant and Iyer for two batting slots because if India go ahead with all three of them, then they will have to play with five bowlers. India might not want to walk that rigid path particularly with Hardik Pandya missing this series because of personal reasons.

Hence, India might just want to give a run to either Shivam Dube or Riyan Parag at No. 6.

However, the management entrusting Parag with bowling duties in the just-concluded T20Is could be a precursor to the larger role he might get in the ODI series. That Parag can shift between off-spin and leg-spin effectively too brightens his chance, something he was not able to showcase much in the IPL, courtesy the Impact Player rule.

But the Assam player has a fairly noticeable body of work in the domestic 50-over competition - the Deodhar Trophy. He took 11 wickets last season to be placed sixth behind Vidwath Kaverappa (13), Shams Mulani (12), Mayank Yadav (12), Shahbaz Ahmed (12) and R Sai Kishore (11) at a good economy of 4.8.

In contrast, Dube, who appeared in an ODI five years ago, played only one match in the series against Sri Lanka and was not summoned to bowl.

Amid all this, Gambhir will also keep an eye on the outings of Rohit and Kohli, whom he said will have a major part to play going forward.

This will also be the first ODI for the duo after that deflating defeat against Australia in last year's World

Cup final at Ahmedabad, and they will be eager to mark the return to 50-over format with a special outing.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka, a mixture of young and experienced names, will want to avoid a batting collapse that led them to their doom in the T20I series despite enjoying periods of dominance.

However, they will not have the services of pacers Matheesha Pathirana and Dilshan Madushanka, who have been ruled out of the series with injuries.

Teams:

India: Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill (VC), Virat Kohli, KL Rahul (WK), Rishabh Pant (WK), Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Washington Sundar, Arshdeep Singh, Riyan Parag, Axar Patel, Khaleel Ahmed, Harshit Rana.

Sri Lanka: Charith Asalanka (C), Pathum Nissanka, Avishka Fernando, Kusal Mendis, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Kamindu Mendis, Janith Liyanage, Nishan Madushka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dunith Wellalage, Chamika Karunaratne, Maheesh Theekshana, Akila Dananjaya, Ehsan Malinga, Mohammed Shiraz, Asitha Fernando. Standbys: Kusal Janith, Pramod Madushan, Jeffrey Vandersay.



# GGM Science College launches Swachh Bharat initiative

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: GGM Science College launched its Swachh Bharat initiative, aimed at promoting cleanliness and hygiene within the college campus and surrounding areas. This initiative aligns with the national Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, a campaign by the Government of India to achieve a clean and green India.

The event was launched at Hari Singh Park and successfully extended to the college campus. A campus-wide cleanliness drive was led by the students, faculty, and staff of GGM Science College to create a sense of responsibility and awareness among students about the importance of maintaining a clean environment.

During the Pakhwada a thorough cleaning of the college premises, including classrooms, laboratories, canteens, and outdoor spaces, will be conducted in series of events w.e.f 1st to 15th of August 2024.

Special attention will be given to waste segregation and proper disposal



of waste materials. The college will host seminars and workshops on waste management, recycling, and the impact of a clean environment on health and well-being. Experts from the field will be invited to educate students and staff on sustainable practices.

Students will actively participate in the campaign by forming cleanliness committees. These committees will be responsible for maintaining cleanliness in designated areas and spreading awareness about hygiene practices. As part of its commitment to the community, the college will extend the cleanliness drive to nearby localities.

This outreach aims to involve the community in the Swachh Bharat mission and encourage local residents to adopt clean and hygienic practices.

Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal, GGM Science College, expressed enthusiasm for the initiative, stating, "The Swachh Bharat initiative at our college is more than just a cleanliness drive; it is a movement to instill a culture of cleanliness and responsibility. We are proud to contribute to the national mission and set an example for our students and the community."

The GGM Science College Swachh Bharat initiative is a step towards

creating a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable environment for all. The college invites everyone to join hands in this noble cause and make a difference. He emphasized the significance of cleanliness in his inaugural address.

He stated, "Swachhhta is not just a campaign; it is a way of life that promotes a healthy lifestyle and environmental conservation. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that our surroundings are clean and hygienic, not just on designated days but throughout the year. Our students are the ambassadors of this mission, and their role in spreading awareness about cleanliness is crucial."

Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta further stressed that the "Swachhhta Pakhwada" initiative should inspire everyone to maintain cleanliness in their daily lives, making it a continuous effort rather than a one-time activity.

He called upon the students to lead by example and encourage their peers and communities to participate in cleanliness drives and adopt sustainable practices.

Associate NCC Officers (ANOs) Lt. Dr. Devinder Kumar Sharma, Dr. Shafia Saleem, NSS Program Officers, Dr. Rahul Kait, Dr. Neha Sharma and Hostel Warden Prof. Rajive Kumar, coordinated the activities and played a vital role in the initiative.

They emphasized the role of NSS volunteers, NCC Cadets and Boarders in community service and their responsibility in promoting social welfare.

Today's event concluded with singing of national Anthem cultivating a sense of unity and patriotism among the students and staff.

# Apni Party takes out protest rally in Samba

## Manjit Singh seeks restoration of statehood before polls in J&K



## Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Aug 1: Apni Party today took out a protest rally at Vijaypur in Samba District, demanding restoration of statehood, before the holding of proposed assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

The protest was led by Party's Provincial President, Jammu, and former Minister, Manjit Singh. During the protest march, the party leaders were carrying placards demanding restoration of statehood before the holding of proposed elections for the legislative assembly of Jammu and Kashmir.

The protesting party leaders shouted slogans for the restoration of democratic system with full empowerment.

While speaking on the occasion, the former Minister raised alarm over the attitude of the Central Govt towards the burning issues of the Jammuities.

He said that the Central Govt with the convenience of the administration in Jammu and Kashmir

apparently planned to continue the LG rule as it granted him more powers that is a violation of rights of the democratically elected institutions.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir have never seen such a situation in the past where they were left to the mercy of God, and their elected Govt was made dependent upon the LG J&K, who takes directions from Delhi," he added.

He said that the Apni Party stands firmly against the autocratic rule that does not value the sentiments of the people and gives more weight to the outsiders and protects them.

"The dissent is growing among the people in Jammu plains against the Central Govt's policies that ignores the sentiments of the people, and has not restored the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir," he stated amid the sloganeering of the party leaders.

He said that "Jammu people are nationalist, and they have given their lives defending the borders of the country internally as

well as externally. Hence, it is imperative for the Govt to sense the alarming situation and take a decision that is suitable for the people of both regions by granting statehood with all powers to an elected Govt in J&K."

Meanwhile, other leaders of the party also addressed the protest demonstration which concluded peacefully.

Prominent among those who participated in the protest include Provincial Vice President, Ex-MLA, Faqir Nath, ST Wing State President, Saleem Alam, SC Wing State President, Both Raj Bhagat, Apni Trade Union, J&K President, Ajaz Kazmi, Vice President Youth Wing, Vishal Naraina, Provincial Vice President, Women Wing, Neelam Gupta, Provincial Secretary, Shikha Bhardwaj, District President Legal Cell, Samba, Adv Sahil Bharti, SC Wing Provincial President, Jammu, Adv Lovely Mangol, District President Samba, Raman Thappa, Ex - Sarpanch Joginder Lal and others.

# CUJ organizes free multi-specialty medical camp in Collaboration with AYUSH Deptt



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: The Central University of Jammu (CUJ), under the patronage of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, CUJ organized a free multi-specialty medical checkup and awareness camp at Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium. The camp was attended by faculty, staff and students who were screened for different non-communicable diseases and introduced to the efficacy of Unani treatment and encouraged for adoption of a healthy life-

style. On this occasion free medicines were also distributed. This initiative was spearheaded by Dr. Vijayata Puri, Senior Medical Officer at CUJ, in collaboration with the Directorate of AYUSH, J&K.

The medical camp featured a team of expert doctors from AYUSH, providing comprehensive healthcare services to the community. The team included Dr. Gagan Deep Kour, Medical Officer Musculoskeletal Disorders and Panchkarma, and In-Charge of the

camp. Dr. Arun Gupta, Medical Officer, AYUSH Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Dr. Lotika Bharti, Medical Officer, AYUSH Eye and ENT Specialist, Dr. Mitalli Intern, Dr. Akshay Kumar Intern, Sh. Neelam Kumar, Yoga and Naturopathy Specialist.

This camp aimed to provide free medical consultations, treatments, and promote the benefits of AYUSH healthcare practices. The Central University of Jammu remains committed to the health and well-being of the community through such collaborative initiatives.

# Batwal community members express shock on loss of lives at Wayanad in Kerala

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: The Batwal community members expressed deep shock over the loss of lives of 288 people including men, women, children and infants, occurred due to massive landslides at Wayanad on Tuesday.

Community members prayed to Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed souls and give families the enough courage to bear this immea-

asurable loss boldly. They also wished an early recovery of those injured in the tragedy.

Among the community members who joined here included Hony Captain Kamal Dass Kaith (Retd), Subedar Baldev Chand Sandhu (Retd), Havildar Des Raj Kaith (Retd), Hans Raj Loria, R.L.Kaith, Madan Raj Kaith, Naresh Kumar, Puran Chand, Harkrishan Lal, Dev Raj, Sewa Ram, Jagdish Raj and Gulshan Kumar.

# BJP leaders apprise Chief Engineer JPDCL of power problems



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: BJP leaders led by District General Secretary BJP Jammu Adv Rajesh Gupta met Chief Engineer distribution JPDCL (Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited) Er. Manhar Gupta and apprised him of power problems being faced by inhabitants of various areas of Ward 32 and Ward 41 in Talab Tillo area.

The leaders held a fruitful meeting with the Chief Engineer and it was brought to his notice that many areas including Sunder Nagar, Ajeet Colony, Gole Panj Peer, Saini Mohalla, Govind Nagar, Trilokpur, Sehora, Pounichak, Santra Mohr, Khariyan, Wazir Lane, Colonel Colony, Bohri Patta of the Wards 32 and 41 are facing many difficulties regarding frequent electricity cuts and low voltage.

The leaders gave the Chief Engineer a memorandum regarding grievances of the public. They

urged the Chief Engineer to look into the problems of the masses and solve them and said that this is the time when there is a dire requirement of power.

Chief Engineer assured them that all their problems will be looked into seriously and JPDCL is committed to provide power to all areas.

Sudhir Dhar, Naveen Gupta, Jatinder Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Alok Sharma and Mohan Singh Slathia were also present.

# IGNOU launches programme in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

## Extends last date for admission, re-registration till Aug. 14

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: The Faculty of Public Administration in the School of Social Sciences, IGNOU, New Delhi has announced launch of Post Graduate Diploma in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (PGDDRRM) in the ongoing July 2024 admission cycle to equip the learners with necessary conceptual and analytical skills required for disaster risk reduction and management.

Earlier, in 2006, the faculty launched the Post Graduate Diploma in Disaster Management (PGDDM) Programme. As the course material of this Programme is not much relevant, now, due to paradigm shift in disaster management and many new developments, therefore a new PGDDRRM Programme

has been launched to provide updated course material to students, which is developed on the basis of National Education Policy, 2020.

As increased exposure to both natural and human-induced hazards poses threat to lives and sustainable development, therefore it is highlighted in D.O. No. 2-9/2022(CPP-II), UGC, All the Higher Education Institutions to initiate courses on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management at the Post Graduate level to fulfil the promise of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to make the nation safer and resilient to disasters by the Year 2030.

The Programme is designed to comprehensively cover various aspects of disaster risk reduction and management, including an internship component aligned

with the National Education Policy, 2020.

"This programme is designed to address the increasing threats from natural and human-induced hazards, aiming to make our nation safer and more resilient while enhancing the career prospects of learners", said Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Director, IGNOU, Regional Centre Jammu. Dr. Verma also informed that the University has further extended the last date of admission for the ongoing July 2024 admission cycle till August 14, 2024 keeping in view the interest of students as there were many representations from the aspiring learners across the Country to further extend the last date in view of the onset of monsoon and incessant rains resulting in internet and other disruptions.

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