

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 07, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-217 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

**J&K CEO invites bids for helicopter & helicopter ambulance for Assembly polls**

SRINAGAR, Aug 7 (Agencies): J&K's Chief Electoral Officer has invited bids for the hire of a helicopter and helicopter ambulance for the forthcoming Assembly elections in the UT.

The full Election Commission is visiting J&K on August 8 to interact with the representatives of various political parties to get feedback from them regarding the Assembly polls likely to be held by the end of September.

The CEO has set the ball rolling by inviting bids from reputed companies for the supply of a helicopter and helicopter ambulance from September to November. The documents inviting bids have, however, said that the timing can change depending on the election schedule to be announced by the poll body.

The hiring of a helicopter and helicopter ambulance by the CEO is an indication that polls in J&K would take place by September in accordance with the deadline set by the Supreme Court. In December last year, the Supreme Court, while upholding the abrogation of Article 370 by the Centre, had directed the poll body to conduct elections in Jammu & Kashmir by September 30, 2024.

Jammu & Kashmir has been without an elected government since June 19, 2018, when the BJP withdrew support to Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP-BJP coalition government. J&K subsequently came under the Governor's rule and the Assembly was dissolved. Since then, the UT has been without an elected government.

**J&K Police Security Wing takes charge of I-Day Celebration venue in Jammu**

JAMMU, Aug 7 (Agencies): The security wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police has taken charge of the M A M Stadium, the venue of the Independence Day function in Jammu, in view of the high degree of threat perception following a chain of terror attacks in the region, officials

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## ECI to arrive tomorrow to evaluate J&K poll readiness before SC deadline

SRINAGAR, Aug 7 (Agencies): The Election Commission will arrive in Jammu and Kashmir tomorrow to assess the readiness for the upcoming assembly elections.

As per the details, the Election Commission of India (ECI), led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, along with Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and S S Sandhu, will begin their two day J&K visit tomorrow, just weeks before the Supreme Court's September 30 deadline



for holding elections in the Union Territory.

The commission will depart from Delhi at 08:00AM and will arrive at Srinagar at 10:00AM.

The Commission will first meet with political parties at 11:15AM and Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police at 02:00PM.

At 07:00PM, the commission will hold discussions with the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Special Police Nodal Officer (SPNO), and the Central Forces coordinator to review preparations.

It further said that the Commission will evaluate the preparations with the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police (DGP) at 09:00AM on August 09.

The Commission will travel to Jammu at

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## 20 leaders of Sheikh Hasina's party Awami League found dead in Bangladesh



DHAKA, August 7 (Agencies): Amid the ongoing unrest in Bangladesh, the bodies of 29 people, including 20 Awami League lead-

ers, were found across the country, local media reported on Wednesday.

These deaths follow the resignation of former Bangladesh Prime Min-

ister Sheikh Hasina and her departure from the country on Monday, the Dhaka Tribune reported. At least 10 people were killed in violence-hit Sathkhira, and 11 more lost their lives in mob attacks in Comilla.

The turmoil has led to widespread vandalism and looting of the homes and business establishments of Awami League leaders and activists. Police have also reported incidents of arson across multiple cities.

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## CBI arrests employee among three persons in bribe case in Udhampur

JAMMU, Aug 7 (Agencies): The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday arrested three persons, including a revenue department official, for demanding and accepting a bribe in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, officials said.

The CBI registered a case based on a complaint against a property dealer from Jib village in Udhampur, alleging that the dealer was demanding a bribe of Rs 40,000 on behalf of a patwari for the issuance of a revenue extract of a property being purchased by the complainant's father, said a CBI spokesman.

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## Amarnath Yatra to continue through Baltal route



JAMMU, Aug 7 (Agencies): Due to unavoidable repair work undertaken on the south Kashmir Pahalgam route, authorities have decided that the Amarnath Yatra shall now take place through the Baltal route only till it ends on August 19.

Officials of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) said that rains have damaged the Pahalgam-Cave shrine axis and repair work on the track has been

undertaken which has necessitated that for the rest of this year's Amarnath Yatra, Yatris will be using only the central Kashmir Baltal-Cave shrine axis to perform the pilgrimage.

Another batch of 651 Yatris left Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu city in an escorted convoy of 14 vehicles at 5.30 a.m. on Wednesday for the Baltal base camp.

Since this year's Yatra started on June 29, around 5 lakh devotees had 'Darshan' inside the holy cave shrine till Tuesday.

This is much more than last year's total number of 4.45 lakh Yatris who performed the Yatra.

A large number of security forces including police and CAPFs have

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## RR Swain appointed as DGP of Jammu and Kashmir



JAMMU, Aug 7 (Agencies): The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has announced the appointment of RR Swain to the position of Director General of Police (DGP), Jammu and Kashmir. Swain, who has been serving in an additional capacity, will officially assume the role effective immediately. His

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## First batch of Budha Amarnath Yatra left from Jammu under tight security

JAMMU, Aug 7 (Agencies): The first batch of pilgrims left for the Budha Amarnath Yatra on Tuesday. The Yatra was flagged off by Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and ADGP Jammu Anand Jain from Yatra Niwas in Jammu.

Balwan Singh, a pilgrim who hails from Madhya Pradesh said "We are happy and there is no tension among us, Indian people and army are with us. Military is providing all kinds of help".

"We are going for Budha Amarnath Yatra with the help of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal. Indian army's security arrangement is top class and it feels like home here" said a pilgrim Deepak Kalmoriya.



A woman from Ahmedabad who is going for the first time on the Budha Amarnath Yatra said, "We are going for the first time, 150 people have come with us from Ahmedabad and there are no issues with the security".

Nearly 700 Pilgrims from mainly Karnataka, Gujrat and Madhya Pradesh have come for the pilgrimage. Budha Amarnath yatra which started on Tuesday, 7 August and will con-

clude on 20 August. Budha Amarnath temple is situated in the Poonch district of Jammu.

Due to recent terrorist activities in Poonch and Rajouri areas, the security arrangements are very high. Pilgrims said that they were excited about the Yatra and had no fear and Security forces had made good arrangements for security.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar

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## Search continues for terrorists in Udhampur

JAMMU, Aug 7 (Agencies): A search operation for terrorists hiding in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district entered its second day on Wednesday, with additional reinforcements rushed to the area, officials said.

A massive joint search operation by police, Army and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is underway in the Pathi Nalla Khaned area of Basantgarh, where brief contact was established with a group of terrorists late on Tuesday, they said.

They said the terrorists were believed to be still hiding in the forest area and more reinforcements were rushed in the morning to expand the cordon to neutralise them, the officials said.

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# MBA MOTORS

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# Khatana lauds PM Modi's efforts to revolutionize rural healthcare

**Top News Report**

NEW DELHI, Aug 7: In a commendable endorsement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiatives to enhance rural healthcare, Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana praised the expansion of the NP-NCD (National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases) program.

Highlighting the introduction of new clinics and centers for early detection and management

under the National Health Mission (NHM), Khatana emphasized that this expansion is poised to be a transformative measure for rural populations.

Khatana pointed out that the NP-NCD program represents a population-based initiative aimed at the prevention, control, and screening of common non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including three prevalent cancers. "This initiative has been rolled out across the country under the NHM as part of Comprehensive Primary



Health Care," he stated. "The program specifically targets individuals over 30 years of age, screening them for common

NCDs such as Diabetes, Hypertension, and three common cancers: oral, breast, and cervical."

The MP further explained that the screening for these NCDs and cancers is a crucial component of the service delivery framework under Ayushman Bharat – Ayushman Arogya Mandir.

"By integrating these screenings into routine healthcare services, the initiative aims to ensure early detection and timely management of these conditions, ultimately

improving health outcomes in rural areas", he added.

Er. Gulam Ali Khatana's appreciation for Prime Minister Modi's efforts underscores the significance of the NP-NCD program in addressing the healthcare challenges faced by rural populations. The expansion of healthcare services and the focus on early detection and management are expected to bring about a significant positive impact on the health and well-being of people living in rural India.

# Dimple leads anti-Bangladesh and Pakistan rally

**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Aug 7: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, led a rally on Janipur High Court Road protesting against the killings of J&K students and the attacks on Hindu temples and homes by Bangladesh and Pakistani ISI operatives.

The rally included burning effigies of Pakistan and Bangladesh as a symbol of outrage over the ongoing violence.

Addressing the protesters, Dimple alleged that Hindu and Muslim students from J&K are unsafe in Bangladesh, where the army is reportedly killing minority Hindus, desecrating temples, and attacking Hindu homes and businesses. He warned both Bangladesh and Pakistan that attacks on Hindus and J&K students would not be tolerated.

Dimple called on all Islamic countries and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene and protect Indian citizens and Hindus living in Bangladesh. He also accused the Pakistan army of similar atrocities, including the killing of Hindus, Sikhs, Shia Muslims, and committing sexual violence and



forced conversions.

According to Dimple, reports indicate that around 600 trained Pakistan SOG commandos and Border Action Team (BAT) soldiers have infiltrated into various regions of Jammu, including Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Rajouri, and Kathua, and have been involved in at least 15 major terror attacks over the past 50 days. He stated that these attacks have resulted in the martyrdom of over 50 security personnel and civilians in the last two months.

Dimple questioned why Jammu has become a battleground following the abrogation of Article 370 and criticized the BJP-led NDA government for what he described as weak responses to the situation. He accused the

BJP of destroying the Dogra identity and culture by abolishing Article 370 and concentrating power in the hands of the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Secretary.

He announced that after August 15, Mission Statehood would convene a meeting with all political parties to discuss the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the demand for statehood before the upcoming assembly elections. He reiterated that any further killings of Hindus or attacks on their properties in Bangladesh would not be tolerated.

Prominent leaders at the rally included Dev Raj, Bramu Sharma, Vipin Mahajan, Vicky Gupta, Sanjay Sethi, Das Kumar, Rajesh, Deppu Kumar, Akbar Khan, and Mohamad Shafi.

# To understand Indian worldview, one must learn Sanskrit: Rana

**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Aug 7: A grand awareness rally was organized by the Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, from Government Higher Secondary School Gharota to Sagun Palace in Nagrota Assembly.

The event aimed to promote Sanskrit and drug de-addiction, highlighting the importance of staying away from drugs and understanding the significance of Sanskrit.

The rally, which was conducted during Sanskrit Month, began with a tree plantation ceremony. Senior BJP leader and former MLA of Nagrota Assembly, Devender Singh Rana, was the chief guest.



He emphasized that understanding the Indian worldview requires learning Sanskrit, as it is deeply connected to India's cultural heritage and identity.

Rana also spoke about the importance of overcoming addiction for a prosperous and happy

life, stressing that social awareness is crucial for addressing this issue.

Dil Bahadur Singh addressed the harmful effects of addiction and the tendency of addicted individuals to drift towards criminal activities, urging people to stay away from drugs. He praised the

trust's efforts to promote Sanskrit, highlighting its role in uniting the world and its rich literature.

Mahant Rohit Shastri underscored the role of Sanskrit in preserving India's unity and culture, stating that the trust is dedicated to promoting and preserving the

language. He noted that Sanskrit Month, which will conclude on August 19, features various programs aimed at celebrating the language's heritage.

The rally saw enthusiastic participation from students of Government Higher Secondary School Gharota, who displayed slogans promoting drug de-addiction and Sanskrit on placards. Also present were the school principal, SHO Gharota Arjun Magotra, and several other dignitaries and trust members.

# BJP miserably failed to bring Acche Din for J&K people: Uday Chib

**Urges people to support Congress in ensuing Assembly polls in J&K**



**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Aug 7: Uday Bhanu Chib, General Secretary of National Youth Congress, on Wednesday conducted a meeting in Nardani Panchayat, Jammu North Assembly. He interacted with local residents, listening to their concerns and grievances being faced by them in absence of elected Govt in J&K.

The people of the area appraised the senior Congress leader about the lack of basic amenities, which has significantly impacted their quality of life. The public's dissatisfaction was evident, reflecting a broader sense of disillusionment with the current administration.

In his address, Uday Bhanu Chib said that the

BJP Govt at the Centre has failed on all fronts and betrayed their electorate as a result the people of each and every section of the society are suffering and disappointed.

He expressed strong criticism of the BJP government, accusing it of failing to deliver on its promise of "Acche Din." He highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as one of the highest in unemployment and corruption rates under the BJP's governance.

The downgrade of J&K from a state to a Union Territory, he argued, has only compounded the problems faced by the residents, stripping them of the benefits and autonomy that come with statehood.

Chib called for the res-

toration of J&K's statehood before the upcoming Assembly elections, stressing that such a move would be a critical step towards addressing the region's issues and fulfilling the aspirations of its people.

He emphasized that the current Union Territory status has failed to bring the promised improvements and has instead led to greater discontent among the population.

The senior Congress leader appealed to the people to support Congress in the upcoming elections, adding that Congress is the only party that truly listens to the people's concerns in J&K.

He said that Congress party is fast emerging as the only choice of people because of its progressive

policies, democratic and secular values.

He said that secularism is the strength of Indian nation and only Congress can lead the J&K and the entire Nation to the path of peace, progress and prosperity by strengthening secular fabric of this country.

Uday Chib also met with the grieving family members of a young man who allegedly died due to police torture.

He extended his condolences to the family and appealed to the government to provide a government job to one of the family members as a form of support and justice.

The meeting was attended by several prominent figures including Soam Nath, Panch Jagdish Raj, Kamal Singh, ex-Panch Ashok Kumar, ex-Panch Sansar Chand, Gurmalk Chouhan, Ashok Kumar, Surjeet Singh, Uttam Chand, Jagga Panch Harbans Lal, Kaku Choudhary, Kailash Singh, Kamal Manhas, Madan Singh, Kaka Ram, Pummy Manhas, Jungbhadur, and Parshotam Chib.

# DPS Kathua teacher wins gold at 8th Pencak Silat Federation Cup 2024

**Top News Report**

KATHUA, Aug 7: Aruna Jamwal, a dedicated teacher from Delhi Public School Kathua, has brought immense pride to Kathua and the entire Jammu and Kashmir region by winning the Gold medal in the Open 2 category at the 8th Pencak Silat Federation Cup 2024.

The prestigious event was held in Leh, Ladakh and was organized by the Ladakh Pencak Silat Association in collaboration with Youth Services & Sports, UT of Ladakh, LAHDC, and the Indian Pencak Silat Federation. The competition fea-



tured 454 athletes from 18 States/UTs, showcasing exceptional talent and sportsmanship.

Jamwal's achievement is a testament to her dedication and skill in the art of Pencak Silat, a traditional martial art form.

Her victory not only highlights her personal excellence but also brings recognition to the rich sporting culture of Jammu and Kashmir.

Vivek Arora, Principal of DPS Kathua, and Kanta Andotra, Founder

Chairperson and former MLA, extended their heartfelt congratulations and blessings to Jamwal. They praised her outstanding performance and expressed their confidence in her ability to inspire and inculcate the same level of skill and dedication in her students.

Jamwal's success at this national-level event underscores the importance of perseverance and hard work.

DPS Kathua continues to foster an environment that encourages students and staff to excel in various fields, contributing to the holistic development of the community.

**JAMMU MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PWD(R&B) JMC Division Jammu**  
E-mail:- [xenpwrnrbjmcdiv@gmail.com](mailto:xenpwrnrbjmcdiv@gmail.com)

**e-NIT No. PWD(R&B)DIV/JMC/19 of 2024-25 Dated:- 03-08-2024**

For and on behalf of The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, The Executive Engineer, PWD(R&B) Division JMC Jammu invites Percentage basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K CPWD, Railways, MES and other State / Central Govt. for each of following works are as under:-:

Sr. No	Name of work	Advertised Amount (In lacs)	Tender Fee (In Rs.)	EMD 2 %	Class of contractor	Time of completion (In Days)
1.	Upgradation of lanes and Drain and other allied works in Model Town W.NO.57	21.60	600/-	2 % of advt. cost	A,B,&C	120 DAYS

- Position of AAA : Accorded
- Position of T.S : Sanctioned
- Major Head : Financial Assistance 2024-25 (CAPEX)
- JMC Division : Ex. Engineer PWD(R&B) JMC DIVISION JAMMU

- The Complete bidding process will be online.
- The bids can be uploaded in electronic format on the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- The Bidding documents consists of :-
  - Qualification information;
  - Eligibility criteria;
  - Specifications;
  - Bill of quantities (BoQ);
  - Set of terms and conditions of contract; and other details can be seen/ downloaded from department web site <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule.

S.No	Sequence of Activities	Date and Time
1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	03-08-2024
2	Bid submission start date	03-08-2024 from 16:00Hrs
3	Bid submission End date	23-08-2024 upto 16:00 Hrs
4	Date and time of opening of Technical Bid (Online)	24-08-2024 at 12:00 Hrs in the Office of Ex. Engineer PWD(R&B) JMC Division Jammu
5	Date and time of opening of Financial Bid (Online)	To be notified after Technical Evaluation is completed.

- Documents required to be uploaded online for Technical Bid:
- (Note: Non-Submission of any of the below mentioned required document's Online shall rendered the bidder as Non-responsive and his financial bid shall be out rightly rejected)
- Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copy of all the necessary document's mentioned in the e-NIT and S.B.D as a part of Technical Bids:-
- Note: - all the documents Scanned on 100 dpi with black and white options.

- Cost of bidding document in shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to PWD(R&B) Division Jammu Municipal Corporation Jammu/tender fee receipt mentioning the eNIT No. & Serial No. of the work through online payment through the JMC link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html>.
- (Note: The date of challan should must be between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date. The Bid fee of old e.NIT of the same work if not opened shall also be considered)
- Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in shape CDR/FDR/BG pledged to PWD(R&B) Division JAMMU Municipal Corporation Jammu, @ 2% of Advertised Cost of Work.
- (Note: The date of issuance of E.M.D (in any of above three forms) should must be between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date).
- GSTIN Registration/online latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B i.e. latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the preceding Month/quarter to the issued of NIT i.e. if the bidder have opted for QRMP scheme under GST then GSTR-3B for quarter ended March 2024 to June 2024 (2024-25) is to be uploaded and if the bidder have not opted for QRMP scheme under GST, then GSTR-3B for the month of July 2024 is to be uploaded.
- Scanned Copy of PAN Card
- Copy of Renewal Registration certificate of Contractor/ Firm for the current Financial year 2024-25 upto 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.
- Scanned Copy of duly filled Annexure "A", "B" & "C"
- Mentioned the Name of Work and NIT NO. And Date of Annexure "A".

- Note: Non-submission of any of the above documents online shall render the bidder as non-responsive and his financial bid shall not be opened.

Sd/-  
(Er. Lokesh Gupta)  
Executive Engineer PWD(R&B)  
JMC Division Jammu

No.: PWD(R&B)/JMC/2127-36 DIP/J-1519-P/24  
Dt: 03-08-2024

## EDITORIAL

Rights of Hindus  
in Bangladesh

**B**angladesh, a country with a predominantly Muslim population, has a significant Hindu minority, constituting around 8-10% of the total population. Despite constitutional guarantees of equality and freedom of religion, the Hindu community in Bangladesh often faces challenges and discrimination. Understanding the rights of Hindus in Bangladesh requires a comprehensive look at legal protections, social realities, and the ongoing issues they encounter.

The Constitution of Bangladesh guarantees fundamental rights to all its citizens, irrespective of religion. Articles 12 and 27 of the Constitution enshrine the principles of equality and non-discrimination, promising equal rights to all citizens. Article 41 of the Constitution provides the freedom of religion, allowing individuals to profess, practice, and propagate their religion.

Moreover, the Bangladesh Hindu Marriage Registration Act of 2012 aims to provide legal recognition to Hindu marriages, which is a significant step towards safeguarding the rights of Hindu families. This act seeks to ensure that Hindu marriages are registered, offering legal protection and recognition.

Despite these constitutional guarantees, Hindus in Bangladesh face numerous challenges:

Hindus often face violence and discrimination, particularly during periods of political instability. Attacks on Hindu temples, homes, and businesses by extremist groups have been reported, especially during religious festivals and elections. The 2013-2014 incidents of violence against Hindus during the anti-war criminal protests are notable examples. Such attacks are fueled by religious intolerance and are often accompanied by looting and vandalism.

Hindu properties and lands have been the subject of illegal grabs and disputes. The "Vested Property Act" of 1965 allowed the government to seize property belonging to minorities, which has left many Hindus vulnerable to land disputes and loss of property. Although the Act was repealed in 2001, the repercussions of its implementation continue to affect the Hindu community.

Hindus in Bangladesh often face socio-economic disadvantages. Many face difficulties in accessing government services and employment opportunities due to societal prejudices and systemic discrimination. Educational and employment opportunities can be limited, and social exclusion is a reality for many members of the Hindu community.

There have been reports of forced conversions of Hindu women, especially in rural areas. Cases of abduction and forced marriages of Hindu girls are distressing issues that highlight the vulnerability of the community.

The Bangladesh government has taken steps to address some of these issues. Efforts to rehabilitate victims of violence and to protect Hindu properties have been made. The government has set up special committees and task forces to investigate and address violence against minorities.

International organizations and human rights groups also play a crucial role in advocating for the rights of Hindus in Bangladesh. These organizations work to document abuses, raise awareness, and push for reforms to protect minority rights.

Civil society in Bangladesh has been active in advocating for the rights of Hindus. Numerous NGOs and community organizations work to provide legal aid, support victims of violence, and promote interfaith dialogue. Initiatives to foster social cohesion, are important aspects of this work.

To improve the situation for Hindus in Bangladesh, several steps are necessary.

Enforcing existing laws and introducing new legislation to protect minority rights and prevent violence against Hindus are crucial. Legal reforms should address property disputes and ensure that the rights of Hindus are upheld in practice.

Initiatives to promote religious tolerance and interfaith dialogue can help to reduce prejudice and build a more inclusive society. Education and public awareness campaigns are essential in fostering mutual respect and understanding.

Holding perpetrators of violence and discrimination accountable is essential for ensuring justice and preventing future abuses. Effective law enforcement and judicial processes must be in place to address grievances and provide redress for affected individuals.

In conclusion, while the Constitution of Bangladesh provides certain rights and protections for Hindus, challenges remain. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach involving legal reforms, government action, civil society engagement, and societal change. By working together to uphold the rights of Hindus and promote social harmony, Bangladesh can move towards a more inclusive and equitable society for all its citizens.

By: Shahnaz Husain

**C**aring for your feet during monsoons can prove to be quite tricky as they're exposed to dirt and germs due to prolonged and constant exposure to muck and rainwater during a downpour.

Walking through dirty water is unavoidable, exposing feet to germs and infections. Our feet bear the brunt of it and are exposed to all sorts of dirt and pollutants floating in the water.

The humid, wet and sticky climate translates into wet shoes, sweaty feet, cracked toes, fungal infections, itching, athlete's foot and many other allergies.

Wearing tight, closed-toe shoes, keeping your feet wet for a long time, and getting minor skin or nail injuries on your foot are common causes of fungal infections of feet.

A little extra care tendered to your feet during monsoon and rainy seasons can help prevent shoe bites & serious foot conditions.

The main problem during the Monsoons is high humidity and sweat. The feet are among the areas where germs accumulate and odour forms. The waste matter, which is secreted with sweat, has to be removed by daily washing, to eliminate odour and feel fresh and clean. Pay special attention to your feet, while bathing. After washing them well, dry them thoroughly and apply talcum powder.

Selecting appropriate footwear is crucial to maintaining foot health during the monsoon. Avoid wearing heels in the monsoons as roads get wet and slippery. If unavoidable, wear footwear that is resistant and with as little heel as possible.

Switch your heels for simple footwear such as flip-flops, slippers, rubber boots, sandals etc., as they allow maximum ventilation and help the perspiration evaporate. But, open footwear also attracts dirt and therefore, foot hygiene becomes all the more important. Don't forget to wear gum boots if you live in a region prone to heavy rainfall and floods. If you wear closed shoes, talcum powder can be sprinkled inside the shoes.

After a hot day, soak your feet in cold water, to which some salt has been added.

A foot problem called "Athlete's Foot" develops more easily during hot and humid weather, because it thrives on soggy skin. If neglected, it can become a stubborn problem, with an itchy condition. The athlete's foot starts as a fungus infection. So, if there is dry scaling on the feet, especially between the toes, with some itching, consult a dermatologist without delay. Anti-fungal preparations are effective in dealing with the problem in the initial stages. However, excessive moisture, caused by excessive sweating, tight shoes and humid weather can lead to bacterial activity

and this worsens the condition. If socks are a must, wear cotton ones. In fact, during the hot and humid season, the feet should be exposed to the air as much as possible. Do not neglect any type of warts, wounds or minor infections on your feet. Clean your wounds with an antiseptic liquid

Have a salon pedicure once a week. It keeps the feet in good condition and is also most relaxing!

Here are some home remedies for Monsoon foot care:

**Foot Soak:** In one-fourth bucket of warm water, add half cup of coarse salt and 10 drops of lemon, or orange essential oil (if you cannot get essential oil, use half a cup of lemon or orange juice). If your feet tend to sweat a lot, use a few drops of tea tree oil, as it has germicidal properties. It helps to deal with bad odour. Soak the feet for 10 to 15 minutes.

**Foot Lotion:** Mix together 3 tablespoons of rose water, 2 tablespoons of lemon juice and one teaspoon pure glycerin. Apply on feet and leave on for half an hour.

**Foot Care for Dryness:** In one-fourth bucket cold water, put 2 tablespoons honey, one tablespoon herbal shampoo, one tablespoon almond oil. Soak feet in it for 20 minutes.

**Cooling foot bath:** Add rose water, lemon juice and a splash of eau de cologne in cold water and soak feet in it. Cools, cleans

and removes odour.

Toenails -----Overgrown nails are an invitation to dirt and grime that accumulate under them and a breeding ground for fungal infections.

Keeping your toenails groomed by cutting them to an optimal short length is a way of making sure that an unnecessary amount of dirt doesn't accumulate in your toenails. Additionally, moisture causes toenails to become brittle so a regular trim keeps it under check.

**Cooling Massage Oil:** Take 100 ml olive oil and add 2 DROPS eucalyptus oil, 2 DROPS rosemary oil and 3 DROPS khus, or rose oil. Mix together and keep in an airtight glass jar. Use a little of this for foot massage. It cools and protects the skin and keeps it healthy.

Make a mix of three tablespoons of rose water with two tablespoons of lemon juice and one teaspoon of pure glycerine. Apply this daily after washing and drying the feet.

**Turmeric ----**Paste of turmeric which is well known for its antibacterial, antifungal and antiviral properties can be applied around the toes to get rid of fungal infections too.

*(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the Herbal Queen of India)*

## How preparing for Olympiads can help ace JEE

By: Vijay GarG

**J**EE hopefuls can improve their chances of success and gain a deeper respect and comprehension of the subjects they are passionate about by incorporating Olympiad preparation into their study routine.

One of the hardest and most difficult engineering entrance tests in India is the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). Numerous students strive to gain admission to esteemed establishments such as the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) every year. In order to accomplish this, students frequently put in a lot of preparation work and look for different ways to improve their conceptual knowledge and problem-solving abilities. Taking part in Olympiad exams is one such efficient route.

Understanding Olympiads and their relevance

Olympiads are competitive tests intended to find and develop a student's aptitude in a particular field, such as computer science, physics, chemistry, biology, or mathematics. These tests, which range in difficulty from school to international, call for a thorough comprehension of the subject matter in addition to strong problem-solving skills.

The parallels between Olympiads and JEE preparation make them relevant in this setting. Both call for a solid understanding of basic ideas, the capacity to work through challenging situations, and effective time management. Additionally, the JEE and Olympiad syllabuses frequently overlap, which enhances their mutual benefit.

Enhancing conceptual clarity  
A major advantage of getting ready for Olympiads is the focus on conceptual clarity. Olympiad issues are renowned for their

intricacy and profundity, compelling pupils to study the material thoroughly. This in-depth study aids in creating a solid foundation, which is essential for JEE questions that frequently assess how basic ideas are applied in different contexts.

For example, there are questions in the Indian National Mathematical Olympiad (INMO) and the International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO) that call for a deep comprehension of mathematical ideas and their relationships. Similar to this, a thorough understanding of physical concepts is the main goal of both the Indian National Physics Olympiad (INPhO) and the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO). Students gain a strong conceptual foundation by preparing for these Olympiads, which makes it simpler to take on the the JEE syllabus.

Developing advanced problem-solving skills

Olympiad problems require knowledge application in order to solve original and difficult problems; they do not only require memorisation. For JEE hopefuls, this component of the Olympiad preparation is quite helpful. Particularly in the JEE Advanced, students' analytical and logical reasoning skills are put to the test with challenging, application-based questions.

By working through Olympiad tasks, students can hone these sophisticated problem-solving techniques. The Chemistry Olympiad, for instance, has questions that test students' ability to use critical thinking skills and apply their knowledge in unfamiliar contexts. The capacity to address JEE problems creatively and with confidence is honed by this type of practice.

Improving time management and examination strategy

Effective time management is an essential competency for all

competitive exams, including JEE and Olympiads. Olympiad exams usually contain a time constraint in which students have to work through difficult tasks. Students can directly transfer their skills to manage their time efficiently to JEE by preparing for these tests.

Olympiads also instruct students on how to plan their approach to the test. They get knowledge on how to manage their time effectively, rank questions according to difficulty and familiarity, and remain composed under duress. These are very helpful tactics for the JEE, where a person's performance can be greatly affected by how well they manage the exam.

Gaining confidence and competitive edge

An Olympiad participant who does well might greatly increase their confidence. One feels accomplished and more prepared for other competitive tests like JEE because of the intense preparation and experience of competing at a high level. Olympiad accomplishments are also frequently acknowledged and praised by academic institutions, giving a student's resume a another boost.

Access to advanced study material and resources

Students get access to advanced study materials and tools outside the usual school curriculum when they prepare for Olympiads. Specialised books, problem sets, and internet sites devoted to Olympiad preparation are frequently among these options. These resources help students get a deeper and wider understanding of the subjects they are studying for in JEE.

JEE hopefuls can benefit greatly from books like "Problems in General Physics" by I.E. Irodov and "Mathematical Circles" by Dmitri Fomin, Sergey Genkin, and Ilia Itenberg, which are fre-

quently suggested for Physics and Mathematics Olympiads. They provide difficult issues and thorough solutions that improve problem-solving abilities.

Building a strong peer network  
Interaction with like-minded peers who have similar academic aspirations is a common part of preparing for an Olympiad. This network has the potential to be very encouraging and inspirational. Collaboratively addressing problems, exchanging resources, and having debates can all improve the learning process. In addition to offering moral support, a robust peer network might be helpful during the rigorous JEE preparation phase.

Beyond the immediate objective of competing well in these events, there are several advantages to training for Olympiads. Cracking the JEE requires a strong emphasis on conceptual clarity, sophisticated problem-solving techniques, time management, exam strategy, and confidence-building, among other things. In addition, having access to cutting-edge study resources and having a robust peer network to lean on are tremendous advantages in the quest for admission to esteemed engineering colleges.

JEE hopefuls can improve their chances of success and gain a deeper respect and comprehension of the subjects they are passionate about by incorporating Olympiad preparation into their study routine. In the end, they will benefit greatly from the abilities and information acquired from this demanding training in both their academic and professional endeavours

*(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout)*



## Credited with making Indian food look glamorous globally, Chef Sanjyot Keer became the first turbaned chef to walk the Cannes Red Carpet in 2024

As a kid, the only thing that brought immense joy to this shy, little sardar boy was watching his neighbourhood pav bhaji wala rustling up sizzling bhaji on a giant tawa with his girdle. Every night, this chubby boy would get sandwiched between his dad and sister on his rickety bike and go to Mumbai's roadside eateries. This seven-year-old foodie would watch street-food vendors for hours without blinking, wanting to recreate their magic at his home. When other kids were buying toys, he pestered his parents to buy him knives, tawas and karahis used by street-food vendors.

At 12, he cooked his first pav bhaji, and the brilliant taste got his entire family smiling happily. It was at this moment that this little boy discovered his superpower. He knew the only thing that would make him stand out and shine was his cooking!

Fast forward to 2024, and this shy kid is now shining as the brightest star on the Indian culinary scene. A super-fit, new-age celebrity chef (with 15 million plus followers on social media); Sanjyot Keer is the only Indian (after Chef Vikas Khanna) to have walked the red carpet at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival, 2024. "With my unique way of visual storytelling, my food videos feel like cinema. Hence, for me, being at Cannes was celebrating the Indian culinary art on an international stage. Moreover, as this festival is a melting pot of different cultures, representing my Punjabi roots as a turbaned Sikh here brought me immense pride," smiles the celebrity chef.

The young chef was featured in Forbes India's Tycoons of



Tomorrow in 2018 and declared GQ's Most Influential Young Indian 2024. He was recently seen cooking misal pav with the global music sensation Ed Sheeran.

Riding the tide

Immediately after completing his graduation in International Hospitality and Tourism Management, Keer joined the production team of MasterChef India, Season 4. After this, he wanted to study culinary science at London's Le Cordon Blue Culinary School. But just then, his family faced a financial

crisis. So, he joined his dad's electrical business, giving up cooking, "Staying away from food with machinery all around me was a nightmare. After two years of working in my dad's factory, I told him that I was very unhappy not cooking," reveals the chef, who decided to take short weekend breaks from the factory and cook. For the next six months, Sanjyot took weekends off from his dad's factory and started creating content, "I registered YFL (his immensely popular platform called Your Food Lab) and started making

food content," reveals the chef, who began by making videos on the dining table of his living room, using jugaadu DIY house ceiling lights, rented cameras and lens.

Going viral

Sanjyot was so scared of going unnoticed on social media that he shot 100-odd videos before uploading a single one! He released the first video on April 25, 2016, and his third video also went viral. "When I uploaded my first video, I tagged over 50 people, praying they won't get annoyed and block me instead. But I woke up to 10K views on my very first video the next day a million views on my third video," recalls the star chef.

Master collaborator

Producing short and visually stunning Indian food videos, Sanjyot's YFL became the Mecca for aspiring chefs and homemakers, "Back in 2016, food videos were 30 minutes long and according to how food content was seen on TV. I brought this revolution, where food content could be watched on mobile phones," reveals Sanjyot, who was the first Indian chef-content creator to produce stunningly shot, one-minute recipe videos. With the attention spans of people really decreasing, this format really worked. There has been no looking back since then.

Sanjyot recently produced an award-winning short film Before We Die, which brings to light the dire water crisis in the interiors of Maharashtra. The visionary chef is now making a brand-new YouTube web series, writing his first book and launching a D2C cookware brand, besides gearing up for his OTT debut!

## Karan Aujla on returning to India for his debut tour



Punjabi music sensation Karan Aujla, who is currently basking in the success of his latest track Tauba Tauba, will be seen performing in India with his It Was All A Dream World Tour. He has shared that his

return 'feels like coming a full circle'.

Karan said, "I'm absolutely overwhelmed by the love and support of my fans in India. The fact that we had to add a third show in Delhi was a dream come true. This

incredible response fuels my passion to create even more powerful music. This tour is more than just a concert; it's a celebration of our connection. Returning to India for my debut tour feels like coming a full circle. It's where my musical journey began, and to be able to share this moment with my fans here is incredibly special."

Karan said through this tour, he wanted to 'celebrate the music that connects us all, and create an unforgettable experience where I can get up, close and personal with the people who have supported me from day one'. "Together, we'll embark on a musical journey that celebrates our roots and the power of human connection," he added.

It Was All A Dream World Tour will commence its global run across territories such as Canada in August, UK in September and New Zealand in October 2024. He will be performing his third show in the national capital on December 19. Presented and produced by Team Innovation and supported by Live Nation, the tour is slated to kick off on December 7 in Chandigarh, followed by Bengaluru on December 13 and then Delhi NCR on December 15 and December 18, with the last stop being Mumbai on December 21.

## Punjabi web series Kudiyan Punjab Diyan is about women breaking barriers

A ground-breaking new web series is set to redefine the portrayal of Punjab on screen. The series, Kudiyan Punjab Diyan will delve into the lives of five extraordinary Punjabi women as they navigate their aspirations to settle in the United Kingdom. The poster of the series was launched at the Chandigarh Press Club in the presence of producer Hardeep Singh, co-producer Pappu Khanna, director Shivamm Sharma and executive producer Monika Ghai on Tuesday. Often, Punjab is depicted as a land steeped in tradition and rustic charm, overlooking the rapid strides made by its women. This series challenges the conventional narrative by showcasing the modern Punjabi woman, who is breaking barriers and excelling in every field — right from



aviation to sports.

At the heart of the series lies a powerful message of equality. It celebrates the strength, resilience and ambition of these five young women, as they

embark on a journey to pursue their dreams in a foreign land. The series will explore their motivations, challenges and triumphs, offering a fresh perspective on the lives of Punjabi women.

## Karan Mehra wishes Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai co-star Hina Khan 'speedy recovery' amid her breast cancer battle

Karan Mehra recently had a reunion with some of his castmates from Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai (YRKKH), including actors Neha Saroo Babani, Nidhi Uttam, Sonali Verma, Medha Jambotkar and Ayush Viz. The actor posted pictures, comparing them all from 2011 to now. Ask him about it and he says, "We had been in touch over the phone, but hadn't met physically for a long time. So, we decided to plan this reunion. The six of us used to go to dinners together and we could do that again after so long."

Mehra says that while they have all moved on from the show, their connection with it still remains. "The show still exists, but the eight years I was a part of it, people still like to revisit that. YRKKH has already created history by being the longest running show and to have laid its foundation makes us all very happy. Rajan (Shahi, producer) sir has been the pillar of it, and we all were joking that 'hum sabko waapas aana chahiye



ek baar'. People still love us for what we did 16 years ago. As actors and entertainers, we keep doing iconic things, but I got to create history at the beginning of my career," he insists.

The 41-year-old informs that he still gets recognised by his character's name Naitik in public. "I have been called by many of my characters' names, but Naitik will always be iconic for me. Even the next generation is going back to watch it, and I have fans in all age groups. Kids as young as eight come up to

me and say they know me," he says.

Karan on Hina Khan's cancer diagnosis

The reunion had Mehra's castmates except his leading lady, actor Hina Khan, who is currently battling stage 3 breast cancer. Mention her and the actor says he doesn't want to comment on her personal life, as it is a sensitive topic, but he does wish her well. He says, "I would like to wish her a speedy recovery, which is already visible as she is battling it bravely.

So, God bless her."

"TV has gone haphazard" Mehra has been a part of the TV industry for a long time and recently, he wrapped up his show Mehndi Wala Ghar. Having seen the evolution of the small screen over the years, how does he feel when people still tag the medium regressive? "We still have that reach to the masses because in the tier-two and tier-three cities, TV is still the primary source of entertainment. But things have changed, the longevity of the show is always questioned. The shows can get off air in a few months. Earlier, when we did a show, it would stay on air for at least a year, giving time for the audience to get attached to it. There was always a progression in the stories, but now, it has started getting a bit haphazard. Everything is being tried in a TV show and thus the content is going up and down. We have shown so much over the years that it's getting repeated now," he responds.

## Avneet Kaur accused of fraud and non-payment by Indian jewellery brand: 'We expected integrity but faced exploitation'

Avneet Kaur landed in hot water after Indian jewellery brand Rang called her out for wearing their products during her European tour and not giving them credit in her posts as per the commitment. In their latest Instagram post, Rang has shared a series of screenshots of conversations between the brand and the actor's stylist regarding the issue, where Avneet disregarded multiple

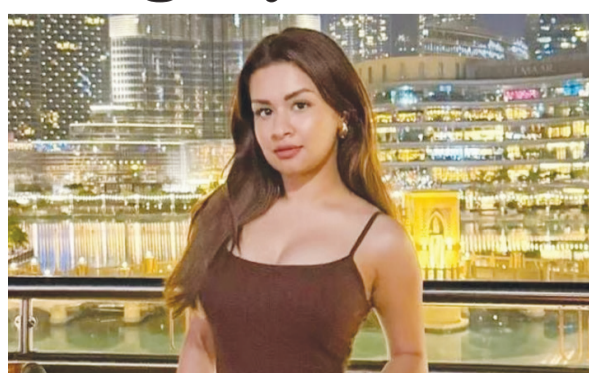
requests to credit the brand.

Avneet fails to credit brand

The official Instagram page of Rang posted a long statement detailing the entire issue. Avneet had sourced some products from Rang for her recent trip to Europe, and agreed to tag the brand on her social media posts. The post went on to add that Avneet wore the brand products a total of 7 times,

but did not tag them even once. Instead, the actor tagged 'high-end' brands like Vivien Westwood and Dior.

The brand then consulted her stylist, and upon discussion, she agreed to tag them in a different post. She still did not give credit in the next post, and replied saying, "Hey I'll pay them. How much is it?" The brand said it was not about the money, but the credit as per



agreement. Even after failing on these grounds, the actor went ahead and kept the jewellery

pieces with her for the next month, and upon contact, replied, "It was a collab right. That's why

I took it in the first place. I didn't wear it more than ten times btw. I'll not pay for it. I'll do story."

More details

Concluding the post, the brand shared: "We feel we shouldn't sit quiet and accept this. This isn't fair for us or any brand or any stylist that provides jewellery, outfits, etc. to celebrities, only to be met with such an attitude. This cavalier approach raises concerns about how some

public figures exploit brands and stylists, relying on their influence to bypass mutual understandings."

"This experience highlights the broader challenges we face in the industry. It's crucial for both parties to honour their commitments to foster trust and mutual respect. This has been the worst experience to date and we believe it is important to stand up and speak out against

such behaviour, hoping to prevent similar situations for other brands and stylists in the future," read the statement.

Avneet made her acting debut in Bollywood with Tiku Weds Sheru last year, starring Nawazuddin Siddiqui. She recently walked the red carpet at Cannes Film Festival, and announced her international film debut with the Indo-Vietnamese film Love In Vietnam.

## Supreme Court's Stern Reprimand For Judge Who Criticised Its Order

**A Supreme Court bench led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud underlined that compliance with its orders is not "a matter of choice but a matter of constitutional obligation"**

NEW DELHI, Aug 7 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Wednesday responded firmly to a challenge to its authority - stressing that compliance with its orders is "not a matter of choice" - and expunged critical remarks made by a single-judge bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court last month regarding a land dispute case.

The judge had reacted sharply to a May 3 order staying certain contempt proceedings.

Chief Justice DY Chandrachud called the criticism "unnecessary" and said it lowered the dignity of both courts. "A party may be dissatisfied with a decision... but judges can never express dissatisfaction over the order passed by a higher constitutional forum," the Chief Justice declared.

A five-judge bench of the Chief Justice and Justice Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai, Surya Kant, and Hrishikesh Roy was responding suo moto to the



judge's comment, and called it a "matter of grave concern". The bench also warned the judge - Justice Rajbir Sehrawat - who made the remark, saying it expected restraint while commenting on orders passed by the Supreme Court.

"Justice Sehrawat made observations in regard to the Supreme Court of India, which are a matter of grave concern... judicial discipline in the context

of the hierarchical nature of the system is intended to preserve the dignity of all institutions, whether a district or a High Court, or the Supreme Court."

"The observations made... were unnecessary for the ultimate order which was passed. Gratuitous observations in regard to previous orders passed by Supreme Court are absolutely unwarranted."

The Supreme Court under-

lined that compliance with its orders is not "a matter of choice but a matter of constitutional obligation". "Parties may be aggrieved by an order... but judges are never aggrieved by an order passed by a higher constitutional forum," the Chief Justice-led bench.

The top court, however, declined to initiate contempt proceedings of its own against the judge, particularly since a Division Bench had acted first and stayed Justice Sehrawat's order.

The court did, though, express hope that judges of other courts would learn from this episode and be cautious while commenting on orders passed by the country's foremost legal forum.

The matter broke after a video of the judge making his observations went viral. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta suggested the video "makes (for) a case of aggravated contempt" against the judge.

## Bill to amend law governing Waqf boards to be tabled tomorrow in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, Aug 7 (Agencies): A bill to amend the law governing Waqf boards will be introduced on Thursday in the Lok Sabha by Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju. The bill, which has faced backlash from Muslim legislators, aims to streamline the manner of registration of waqf properties through a central portal.

The bill proposes renaming the Waqf Act as the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, 1995. Sources said the government's priority was to get the legislation passed in the Lok Sabha unanimously, and it was also open to sending it to a joint committee for further discussion.

In the last two months, the government has

consulted about 70 groups on the bill, sources said. The bill is aimed at providing justice to poor Muslims and Muslim women apart from freeing Waqf properties from illegal occupation.

Under the Waqf Act, waqf refers to a property dedicated exclusively for religious or charitable purposes. There are 30 waqf boards in the country controlling properties spanning more than 8 lakh acres. This makes them the third-largest owner of real estate after the Railways and Defence Ministry.

The bill proposes the formation of a Central Waqf Council and state Waqf Boards, which would have representation of Muslim women and non-Muslims. Moreover, all income from waqf properties will have to be spent on

charity, as per the proposed bill.

The bill proposes that the district collector would decide whether a property is a Waqf property or government land.

It also proposes the creation of a separate Board of Auqaf for the Boharas and Aghakhani. The draft law provides for the representation of Shias, Sunnis, Bohras, Aghakhani and other backward classes among Muslim communities.

The proposed bill has come under heavy criticism from the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), which has said that any interference with the legal status and the powers of waqf boards would not be tolerated. It has urged the opposition to not allow such amendments to be passed in Parliament.

## AAP MP Raghav Chadha demands corridor to Guru Nanak's birthplace in Pakistan

NEW DELHI, Aug 7 (Agencies): Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha today urged the Centre to initiate talks with Pakistan to establish a safe corridor to Shri Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of Shri Guru Nanak Dev.

In his address during the Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha, the AAP leader drew parallels with the successful Sri Kartarpur Sahib corridor, which has united people in faith, and hoped that a similar corridor to Shri Nankana Sahib would foster shared spiritual connections.

Mr Chadha suggested a safe road passage be created from Amritsar (Attari Wagah Border) to Shri Nankana Sahib in Pakistan.

This will provide a secure and convenient route for devotees to travel to the sacred site, he said.

He also requested that devotees not be required to carry passports, visas, or fill out



forms to visit Shri Nankana Sahib, and that no fees be charged for this sacred pilgrimage. This will ensure the corridor is accessible to all who wish to pay their respects to Shri Guru Nanak Dev, he said.

This appeal comes as Mr Chadha continues to advocate for progressive changes.

Recently, he pushed to reduce the minimum age for contesting elections in India from 25 to 21 years.

In his address to the Parliament, he stated that India was a young country with an average age of 29 years, where 65 per cent of the population was below 35 years and over 50

per cent was under 25 years.

Mr Chadha pointed out that only 12 per cent of MPs in the last Lok Sabha were under 40 years, compared to 29 per cent in the first Lok Sabha.

He stressed that India needed to transition from being a "young country with old politicians" to a "young country with young politicians."

The Rajya Sabha member also noted that politics was often viewed as an undesirable profession in India, with parents encouraging their children to pursue careers in fields like medicine, engineering and science instead.

## Akhilesh targets govt over 'unpaid' DA arrears to Central government employees

LUCKNOW, Aug 7 (Agencies): Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday slammed the government's refusal to pay 18 months dearness allowance (DA) arrears to central government employees, and questioned its claim of being a "global economic superpower".

He also asked the government where is the money from the ever-increasing 'GST collection' going.

"Does the government's claim of becoming a 'global economic

superpower' mean that employees do not get their dues? The central government's refusal to pay 18 months DA arrears to central employees is, in a way, a denial of 'government guarantee', Yadav said in a post on 'X'.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister also posted a newspaper clipping with the headline "Centre will not pay 18 months DA arrear to employees."

"The government should tell where is the money from the ever-increasing 'GST collec-



tion', the 'trillion dollar economy' going? There is money for ships worth billions and leaking buildings, but not for the employees who actually run the government. On one hand, rising inflation and on the other, not

getting dearness allowance, is a double blow to employees with limited income," he said.

Maintaining that non-payment will also affect efficiency of employees, Yadav said efficiency of employees, who are

worried about their domestic expenditure, will also be affected.

"The BJP does not pay proper salary to those who work," he added.

He said the BJP government is not even considerate to the elderly, whose medical care expenses are increasing but not pension.

"Now does the government want senior citizens to go on a hunger strike for pension? By stopping railway concessions, the BJP has insulted senior citizens," he added.

## 66 Cases of Zika virus infection found in Pune city since June

PUNE, Aug 7 (Agencies): A six-year-old Dalit cKAt least 66 cases of Zika virus infection have been reported in Pune city in the last two months, civic officials said today.

Four of these patients died, but the cause in each case was not the Zika infection, a senior health official told Press Trust of India.

Those infected also included 26 pregnant women but most of them are in good health, an official statement said.

The first case of Zika virus infection in the city this year was reported on June 20 when a 46-year-old doctor in the Erandwane area tested positive. Subsequently, his 15-year-old

daughter too tested positive for the infection. "The 66 cases include four deaths, but these deaths were not due to Zika but comorbidities the patients were suffering from... such as cardiac issues, liver ailments, old age. Their reports came positive for the virus from the NIV (National Institute of Virology) after death," the health department official said.

These four patients were aged between 68 and 78. The Pune Municipal Corporation's health department would, nonetheless, send their reports to the death audit committee of the Maharashtra government, the official added.

"So far, no death due to Zika has been reported in the country," he said.

Zika virus in pregnant women may cause microcephaly (a condition in which the head is significantly smaller due to abnormal brain development) in the foetus. The virus is transmitted through the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito, which is also known to transmit dengue and chikungunya infections. "The PMC health department is conducting surveillance. As a precautionary measure, it is taking measures such as fumigation to curb the breeding of mosquitoes," the statement added.

## Ashram School Student Dies After Food Poisoning In UP, 61 Hospitalised

DEORIA, Aug 7 (Agencies): A 15-year-old school boy, who was among the several children hospitalised two days ago after food poisoning, died in eastern Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur on Wednesday, officials said.

Around 80 students from the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Ashram School in Mehroona village had fallen ill with symptoms of stomach pain, vomiting and diarrhoea after eating the school meal, and were hospitalised on Monday. Currently, 61 students are hospitalised in Deoria medical college, according to the officials.

District Magistrate Divya Mittal expressed deep sorrow over this incident.

"All the students admitted for treatment at Deoria Medical College are healthy and they

will be discharged from today," Mittal said.

Ashram schools, which provide residential-based free education to meritorious students from financially weaker sections of society, are being run by the Social Welfare Department of the state. Currently, 94 such schools are functional in the state, according to an official website.

"A student receiving treatment at Baba Raghav Das Medical College in Gorakhpur has passed away this Wednesday morning. The student, Shivam Yadav, son of Sadanand Yadav, aged 15, was a resident of Bhaisiya Ramnagar, Farendra Tehsil, Maharajganj district," Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Rajesh Jha said.

"Following the food poisoning incident on August 5, his condition



deteriorated, and he was admitted to Maharshi Deoraha Baba Medical College, Deoria. Initially, his health was stable, but on the afternoon of August 6, his condition worsened with a sudden drop in blood pressure, leading to his admission to the ICU," Jha said.

He said despite efforts, there was no significant improvement in his health.

Consequently, for better treatment, the medical college administration transferred him to BRD Medical College,

Gorakhpur, on Tuesday evening around 4 pm using an advanced life-saving ambulance.

At the BRD Medical College, Shivam was placed on a ventilator for treatment, the CMO said.

"To ensure coordinated efforts for his treatment, the district administration sent Additional CMO Dr Surendra Chaudhary to BRD Medical College. Unfortunately, Shivam Yadav passed away on the morning of Wednesday, August 7," he added.

## Dalit boy, 6, forced to clean toilet in up school, later found locked in classroom

**The Basic Education Department has taken action against the school's principal and a teacher.**

MUZAFFARNAGAR (UP), Aug 7 (Agencies): A six-year-old Dalit child, who was allegedly forced to clean the toilet by some teachers, was found locked in the classroom of a government primary school in the Jansath area, police said on Wednesday.

The Basic Education Department has taken action against the school's principal and a teacher.

The incident took place on Tuesday when a six-year-old student of class one was found locked in the school classroom, allegedly due to the laxity of Principal Sandhya Jain and class teacher Ravita Rani, police said.

A police complaint in this regard has been given by the child's mother in which she



alleged that the two teachers used to force her son to clean the toilet as they had "hated" against Dalit children.

She alleged that due to the negligence of the teachers, her son remained locked in the classroom for more than an hour after the school closed. When her son did not reach home after the closure of the school, she inquired about him with other students, who expressed ignorance, she added.

She said she found the school closed when she went there, and heard the cries of her child, after which the villagers and her family members called the principal. Later, teacher Ravita Rani's husband reached the school with the keys and opened it. Rani's husband said the child might have fallen asleep in the class.

Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) Sandeep Kumar told agency that the prin-

cipal has been suspended and teacher Rani has been given an adverse entry.

A probe has been ordered into the matter and a two-member committee led by the block shiksha adhkari, Jansath and Shahpur, will look into it and submit its report within three days.

Kumar said that all staff have been asked to check the classrooms before closing the school.

Principal Jain said that "injustice" was done with her as the class teacher was responsible for this. "Even if the child was sleeping, the classroom should have been checked before locking it," she said.

Police are probing the matter.

## 5 people killed in a helicopter crash in the mountains northwest of Nepal's capital

KATHMANDU, Aug 7 (Agencies): All five people on board a helicopter were killed when it crashed Wednesday in the mountains just northwest of Nepal's capital, authorities said.

The bodies of four men and a woman were pulled from the wreckage, said Krishna Prasad Humagai, the government administrator of Nuwakot district.

The crash site is in the Suryachaur area, which is just northwest of Kathmandu, and is on a mountain covered by forest.

The helicopter had



taken off from Kathmandu international airport at 1:54 p.m. local time and was heading towards the town of Syaprabeshi.

The helicopter, an Eurocopter AS350 belonging to Nepal-based Air Dynasty, had

lost contact with the tower just three minutes after takeoff, according to a statement from the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal.

The four passengers are Chinese nationals, and the pilot is a Nepali man, officials said.

## Russia Says Ukraine Launched Missiles, Drones Shot Down Over Kursk Region

"Two Ukrainian missiles were shot down by air defence systems in the Kursk region", regional governor Alexei Smirnov wrote on Telegram social media channel, adding that three drones were also destroyed.

MOSCOW, Aug 7 (Agencies): Ukraine lobbed missiles and drones at Russia's southwest region of Kursk overnight, the local governor said Wednesday, a day after pro-Kyiv forces crossed across the border with tanks and armoured vehicles.

On Tuesday, Moscow's defence ministry said it had rushed its troops and aviation



units to the border in Kursk after a morning raid by Ukrainian units -- the latest such attack in the conflict.

The incursion was carried out by some 300 troops, 11 tanks

and more than 20 armoured vehicles, Russian authorities said.

Five people were killed throughout the day and some 28 wounded, Smirnov and local

health authorities said.

Kursk sits just across from Ukraine's northeastern Sumy region.

Ukrainian drones also targeted residential buildings in the border regions of Voronezh and Belgorod, with damage but no casualties reported, local officials said on Wednesday.

Combatants from Ukraine have made several brief incursions into Russia since the beginning of the conflict in February 2022, including by units of Russians fighting in support of Kyiv -- the Russian Volunteer Corps and the Freedom of Russia Legion.

## Chaos continues in Bangladesh as authorities scramble to bring law and order under control

DHAKA, Aug 7 (Agencies): Students carried out traffic management as volunteers for the second consecutive day on Wednesday in Bangladesh, as a top police official called on every member of the police force to resume their duties gradually and maintain law and order.

Chaos reigned supreme in Bangladesh after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on Monday, with police absent from their duty to keep law and order or manage traffic, local media reports said.

Additional Inspector General of Police (AIG) A K M Shahidur Rahman, who was appointed as the focal person of the Bangladesh Police on Tuesday to handle the current crisis, called on every member of the police force to resume their duties gradually and maintain public safety and law and order.

The students, including members of Bangladesh Scouts, were seen controlling the traffic movement at several places, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

"The police are friends of the people and work for the public. We cannot imagine a society without the police. Therefore, I request our police members once again to ignore rumours and return to their duties in a phased manner, ensuring that security arrangements are properly in place," said Rahman, who has now been appointed as the Director General of RAB in a fresh reshuffle



on Wednesday.

There were reports of attacks on police stations and facilities across the country on Tuesday, resulting in numerous police casualties, which have led to this unprecedented situation, the newspaper said.

The authorities reconstituted the top positions of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) on Wednesday.

AKM Shahidur Rahman has been appointed as Director General of RAB while Md Mainul Hasan will replace Habibur Rahman as the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, news portal Prothom Alo said.

The reshuffle comes hours after President Mohammed Shahabuddin appointed Nobel laureate Mohammad Yunus as the head of an interim government on Tuesday night.

Attorney General Advocate

Abu Mohammad Amin Uddin, who was appointed in October 2020, resigned on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, businesses on Wednesday demanded immediate restoration of law and order to ensure the safety of their production units amid incidents of arson attacks on factories over the last two days.

They said they opened factories today, particularly the garment units, but many cannot run properly fearing unrest and vandalism, the Daily Star newspaper reported, citing a press conference by the International Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh (ICC-B).

Six top officials of Bangladesh Bank including Deputy Governor Kazi Sayedur Rahman resigned as unrest erupted at Bangladesh Bank on Wednesday, the second day after offices reopened, the Dhaka agency reported.

It said that more than a hundred officials of Bangladesh Bank stormed the bank governor's office, forcing several deputy governors to leave the office claiming the duo was helping the bank looters.

Bodies of at least 29 supporters of Hasina's Awami League party were recovered across the country through Tuesday, taking the overall death toll to 469 in almost three weeks since the protest first started in July over a quota system in government jobs. Over 200 people were allegedly killed by the police and workers of Awami League party during the series of protests led mostly by students.

Meanwhile, some media reports also flagged cases of violence against minorities surfacing through Tuesday, prominent among them being the massive vandalism and destruction at popular folk band Joler Gaan's frontman Rahul Ananda's residence on Monday prompting the singer and his family to take shelter at a secret place.

The Daily Star quoted Saiful Islam Jarnal, one of Joler Gaan's founding members who described that the mob after broking the main gate, started ravaging the house taking whatever they could find for themselves - from furniture, mirrors to valuables and then torched the whole house along with Rahul Ananda's over 3,000 musical instruments, which he designed and made over the years.

## Muhammad Yunus calls for calm as he prepares to lead interim government in Bangladesh



DHAKA, Aug 7 (Agencies): Bangladesh's Muhammad Yunus, who is set to lead an interim government after the premier was ousted, called for calm and urged people to use the opportunity to build a better nation.

"I fervently appeal to everybody to stay calm. Please refrain from all kinds of violence," the Nobel-winning microfinance pioneer said in a statement, a day ahead of his expected return to the country from Europe.

"Be calm and get ready to build the country. If we take the path of violence everything will be destroyed."

The 84-year-old will lead a caretaker government after mass protests forced longtime prime minister Sheikh Hasina to flee, the presidency has said.

"This is our beautiful country with lots of

exciting possibilities," he added.

"We must protect and make it a wonderful country for us and for our future generations." Hasina fled by helicopter on Monday after more than a month of student-led protests, which started as a campaign against civil service job quotas but escalated into demands the leader quit.

"I congratulate the brave students who took the lead in making our Second Victory Day possible, and to the people for giving your total support to them," Yunus added.

"Let us make the best use of our new victory. Let us not let this slip away because of our mistakes."

He has said he wants to hold elections "within a few months".

In January, he and three colleagues from one of the companies

he founded were sentenced to jail terms of six months -- but immediately bailed pending appeal -- by a Dhaka labour court, which found they had illegally failed to create a workers' welfare fund.

All four had denied the charges and, with courts accused of rubber-stamping decisions by Hasina's government, the case was criticised as politically motivated by watchdogs including Amnesty International.

Yunus later travelled abroad -- but is due to fly from Europe to arrive in Dhaka early Thursday afternoon.

Key political leader Tarique Rahman, acting president of the former opposition Bangladesh National Party, spoke via video broadcast to a giant rally of supporters in Dhaka.

Rahman, who went into exile in London during Hasina's rule, urged for elections to be swiftly held.

"The vote should be held as quickly as possible," Rahman said, also urging calm.

Since Hasina fled, police reported mobs launching revenge attacks on her allies.

## Ex-Sri Lankan strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa's son Namal battles for presidency

COLOMBO, Aug 7 (Agencies): Namal Rajapaksa, the 38-year-old heir to the Rajapaksa dynasty, was on Wednesday named as the SLPP candidate for the presidential election, thus officially ending the Rajapaksa family's backing to the incumbent Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Sagara Kariyawasam, the general secretary of the Sri Lanka People's Front (SLPP, also known locally by its popular Sinhalese name, Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna), announced the younger Rajapaksa's candidacy early on Wednesday morning at a ceremony at the party headquarters.

Namal's entry has made the election a four-cornered contest. Besides, President Wickremesinghe, the main opposition leader Sajith Premadasa and the Marxist JVP leader Anura Kumara Dis-



sanayake are already in the fray.

The Rajapaksas -- Mahinda, Basil and Gotabaya -- were instrumental in Wickremesinghe winning the parliamentary vote in July 2022 to take over Gotabaya's remaining term. It was soon after the unprecedented development of mid-April 2022 when the island nation declared its first-ever sovereign default since gaining independence from Britain in 1948 and almost civil war-like conditions followed as unrest spread amid locals over inflation and other economic stress that had led to Gotabaya's ouster.

Wednesday's development comes days after the SLPP lost nearly 100 of its MPs to Wickremesinghe after he announced his candidature as an independent.

Those MPs have condemned their party's decision to ditch Wickremesinghe but the SLPP, in turn, has vowed disciplinary action against those who back Wickremesinghe, defying the party decision.

Namal was a late decision from the party. The favoured candidate, business tycoon Dhammika Perera, on Tuesday told the party he was unable to contest due to personal reasons, sources said.

## UK braces for fresh anti-immigration protests, thousands of riot police deployed

LONDON, Aug 7 (Agencies): Thousands of UK riot police on Wednesday stood ready to deal with more potential outbreaks of violence, which erupted more than a week ago after three children were murdered.

Far-right groups have planned demonstrations in more than 30 locations, with immigration lawyers and buildings hosting asylum seekers set to be the primary targets, according to posts on messaging app Telegram leaked to the British media.

The government has said 6,000 specialist police are being readied to deal with England's worst disorder in over a decade, which has seen hundreds arrested and more than 100 charged.

The violence broke out after three girls, aged nine, seven and six, were killed and five more children critically injured during a knife attack at a

Taylor Swift dance class in Southport, north west England.

False rumours initially spread on social media saying the attacker was a Muslim asylum seeker. The suspect was later identified as 17-year-old Axel Rudakubana, born in Wales. UK media reported that his parents are from Rwanda.

Despite the police statement, initial disturbances in Southport centred around a local mosque, and widespread violence has rocked England and Northern Ireland since.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer late Tuesday warned anyone involved would face "the full force of the law", including those inciting violence online.

Starmer, a former chief state prosecutor, said he expected "substantive sentencing before the end of this week" for the rioters, after chairing his second emergency

meeting in as many days.

"That should send a very powerful message to anybody involved, either directly or online," he added in televised comments.

The unrest, Britain's worst since the 2011 London riots, has led a number of countries to warn its citizens about the dangers of travelling in the United Kingdom.

Rioting in several cities has seen demonstrators throw bricks and flares at police officers, burn cars and attack mosques and at least two hotels that have been used as accommodation for asylum seekers.

Scores of alleged perpetrators were hauled before judges on Tuesday, with some entering guilty pleas.

A 19-year-old man became the first person to receive a prison sentence related to the unrest when he received a two-month term Tues-

day, PA Media reported.

Another man was convicted after he admitted assaulting a police officer outside a hotel housing asylum seekers in Rotherham, northern England, on Sunday.

A 15-year-old boy pleaded guilty to committing violent disorder in Liverpool on Saturday after he was identified from a TikTok video, while a man in Leeds admitted posting threatening words on Facebook to stir up racial hatred.

The government, only one month old, has vowed to take a tough line on the unrest.

"99.9% of people across the country want their streets to be safe and to feel safe in their communities, and we will take all necessary action to bring the disorder to an end," Starmer said.

Justice minister Heidi Alexander told BBC Radio 4 that the gov-

ernment had freed up an extra 500 prison places.

Police have blamed the disorder on people associated with the now-defunct English Defence League, a far-right Islamophobic organisation founded 15 years ago, whose supporters have been linked to football hooliganism.

The rallies have been advertised on far-right social media channels under the banner "Enough is enough".

Interior minister Yvette Cooper said "there will be a reckoning" for perpetrators, adding that social media put a "rocket booster" under the violence.

Tech billionaire Elon Musk escalated a dispute with the UK government Tuesday by likening Britain to "the Soviet Union". A spokesperson for Starmer had said there was "no justification" for Musk's earlier comment that a British "civil war is inevitable".



# Plantation Drive organizes by BVP Shivshakti Branch

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 7: The Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP), Shivshakti Branch, Greater Kailash, Jammu, organized a Plantation Drive titled "One Tree in the Name of Nation's Martyrs" at Cybernetic Sec School, Jammu. The event began with a warm reception for chief guests Devraj Sharma, Ravinder Singh, and Safer Hussin Shah. They were greeted by the BVP Greater Kailash team, school band, children, and management, all holding placards and chanting environmental slogans. The Mahila Wing of BVP and school



staff performed a song about the environment to mark the occasion. The chief guests, including the President of BVP Greater Kailash Branch, Rakesh Sharma, Commandant SSB Panchanan Mahajan, and

defense personnel, led the tree-planting activity. Four teams—comprising the Social Forestry Department, BVP Organization, School Management & Children, and Defense Forces—planted around 30-40 medi-

cal quality plants. School children also participated individually, highlighting their role in environmental conservation. Each dignitary delivered a speech underscoring the significance of increasing tree cover to preserve nature's balance. Rakesh Sharma concluded the event with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to Dr. Devraj Sharma for his guidance, the Social Forestry Department, SSB Commandant, and the school management for their support. He also acknowledged the contributions of the Mahila Wing of

BVP Greater Kailash and other participating members, including Parbhat Singh, Lalit Verma, Mangta Singh, Sudarshan Choudhary, Deepak Sharma, Ravinder, Subash Sharma, Somdutt, Aanchal Sharma, Kewal Sharma, Hans Raj, Vijay Bali, Ramkrishnan, Pawan Gupta, Baldev Dutta, Pratibha, Usha Rajput, Shashi Sharma, Sunita Khajuria, Namrata Sharma, and representatives from Jammu Sanskriti School. The event concluded with the singing of the National Anthem and light refreshments served to all attendees.

# CEC Gyalson provided financial assistance of Rs 20 Lakh to Ashoka Mission

Top News Report

LEH, Aug 7: A meeting was conducted under the Chairmanship of CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson on Aug 6 and was attended by Dy. Chairman LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk and Executive Councillor for RDD, Tashi Namgail Yakzee. CEC Gyalson on today provided financial assistance of Rs 20 Lakh to the Ashoka Mission, New Delhi in the presence of President Ashoka Mission, Thupstan Chhewang (Former MP) and Gen. Secretary,



Tashi Motup Kau as Hill Council, Leh has been supporting the organisation in the past years. Considering the difficult situation of patients suffering from complex diseases, Ashoka Mission has been a pio-

neer in supporting the patients, especially those from financially weaker backgrounds. Further, the discussion was also held upon the upcoming super speciality camp to be conducted in Leh.

# GDC Boys Kathua organizes quiz competition on 'Freedom Struggle of India'

Top News Report

KATHUA, Aug 7: The NSS and NCC Units of Government Degree College (Boys) Kathua organized a "Quiz Competition on Freedom Struggle, National Heroes and 78th Independence Day" under the patronage of the worthy Principal, Prof. Seema Mir. The event was one among the series of programmes scheduled for a week-long celebration of 78th Independence Day. Sixteen students participated in this quiz competition. The participants

were engaged in rigorous rounds of questions, demonstrating exceptional expertise and academic excellence. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across various departments, showcasing their awareness and understanding of India's journey towards independence. The top three winners of the competition remained Manjali Sharma (B.A Sem. 5th), Palak (B.A Sem. 3rd) and Sania Bilowria (B.Sc 3rd) bagged the 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively.

The competition was evaluated by NSS Program Officers Dr. Kulbir Singh and Prof. Arvind Kumar and NCC ANO Lt. (Dr.) Daya Ram. The quiz competition was moderated by Dr. Pinky NSS Program officer of the college. Faculty members from different departments of the college also graced the occasion with their benign presence. The principal of the college appreciated the efforts made by NSS POs and NCC ANOs for organizing these activities in the college.

# Dr. Rajanisree conferred Honorary Doctorate in Int'l Law

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 7: Dr. Rajanisree Rajendran has been honored with an Honorary Doctorate in International Law by an International Organization in Kerala. Dr. Rajanisree Rajendran is a Village Level Entrepreneur, dedicated social worker, and holder of an LLB and B.Sc degree. She is also the managing trustee of the legally registered Sree Narayana Charitable Trust, which operates alongside 10 other units under the "Sree Group." Her work reflects a profound commitment to community service and legal excellence. Dr. Rajanisree Rajendran's journey is marked by resilience, innovation, and unwavering dedica-



tion to social service. Her efforts have not only inspired her community but also set a benchmark for excellence in her field. This recognition serves as a testament to her contributions and her ongoing impact in the realm of social work and law. Dr. Rajanisree Rajendran's life and achievements continue to inspire and uplift many, making her a true icon in her field.

# Chandel expresses concern over ongoing violence against Hindus in Bangladesh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 7: Senior Hinduist Sanatani BJP leader Raju Chandel warned Pakistan today, stating, "We cannot change our neighbor, but we can definitely change its map." He emphasized that terrorism from Pakistan could be addressed by dividing the country, drawing parallels with Bangladesh's historical partition. Chandel expressed concern over the ongoing violence against Bangladeshi Hindus, including the destruction of Hindu temples. He questioned why India, which provides refuge to Bangladeshi Muslim infiltrators, cannot also offer sanctuary to Hindu families facing persecution in Bangladesh. He urged that these Hindu families



be given refuge in India. Chandel suggested that eliminating Pakistan and its terrorism is imperative. He compared the situation to Israel's approach to dealing with terrorists and implied that India might adopt similar strategies. He claimed that the Indian intelligence and security agencies, reputedly the best in the world, have pinpointed the locations of terrorists in Pakistan. According to him, these terrorists will soon be eliminated using

advanced techniques modeled after those employed by Israel. He criticized Pakistan for continuously sending terrorists to India and assured that the Indian military, equipped with sophisticated technology, would address the threat. Chandel also asserted that if atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh continue, India could consider military action against Pakistan. He claimed that the Indian Army could swiftly capture Bangladesh if necessary and that any aggression from Bangladesh would be met with a decisive response from India. This rhetoric reflects a strong stance against both Pakistan and the current situation in Bangladesh, highlighting a readiness to use force if necessary.

# Volunteers unite for a successful cleanliness drive: LFO-BHF

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 7: LFO-BHF (NGO) in collaboration with Talla Jewellers successfully conducted a cleanliness drive in Panchari, bringing together local officials, students, and volunteers for a day dedicated to community and environmental well-being. The event was graced by Swati Sheemar, Tehsildar Panchari, Vipin Kumar, Tehsildar Panchari, and Jasvir Singh, DDC Panchari Moungr. Also in attendance was Navneet Sharma, Range Forest Officer, Panchari. A diverse group of around 80 volunteers, including NSS volunteers from Bhaskar Degree College, Udhampur, GCW Parade, GCOE, and SMPR College, as well as students from GHSS Panchari, Himalayan Public High School



Panchari, and New Star Public School Panchari, participated in the drive. Sanjeev Singh from the Horticulture Department Panchari also lent his support to the initiative. This drive collected total waste of 854kg. Speaking at the event, Vivek Parihar, Director & CEO of the NGO, expressed his gratitude towards the participants and emphasized the importance of community involvement in maintaining cleanliness and environmental health. While speaking with

Samar, Environment Domain Incharge, echoed these sentiments and highlighted the need for sustained efforts to protect the environment. The drive included various activities such as waste collection, segregation, and disposal, plantation of "Deodar", installing 10 dustbins to adjoining areas aiming to instill a sense of responsibility and awareness about cleanliness and hygiene and to make more greener & healthier planet among the participants and the local community.

# Vivek Bali addresses public grievances in Pulwama

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 7: Vivek Bali State General Secretary of Janata Dal (United) J&K, visited Tahab Pulwama on Wednesday to listen to and address the public's grievances. Accompanied by District President Pulwama Hayat Ayaz, Chairman of the Sikh Community Dilwar Singh, Senior Leader Bashir Ahmed Shah, and State Organizer Qazi Faheem, Bali engaged with locals to understand their pressing issues. During the visit, residents highlighted several concerns, including the need for upgrading the animal husbandry sub-division, resolving water shortages, improving road infrastruc-



ture, establishing a playgroup, and allocating land for an Eidgah. Bali acknowledged the problems faced by the residents, criticizing the lack of sufficient action taken by other regional parties despite their multiple visits to the area. He assured the community that all grievances would be prioritised and addressed promptly.

He emphasized the party's commitment to working closely with local authorities to ensure these issues are resolved efficiently and effectively. The visit reflects JD(U)'s proactive approach to addressing the needs of the people and reinforcing their trust in the party's dedication to public service.

**NOTICE**  
I, Khushi Sharma, D/o Mohan Lal Sharma, have lost the Marks sheet of 1st semester of 3 Year Diploma in Civil Engineering bearing roll no 1701-21N1-90398 of Govt Polytechnic College Udhampur. I am applying for the duplicate of same. Objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority within seven days from the publication of this notice.

**NOTICE**  
I Rita Kumari D/o Sh. Dharm Chand R/o H.No. 29, Lane No. 12, Greater Kailash, Jammu-180011 have lost my MBBS Degree. Now I am applying for duplicate. Objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority within seven days from the publication of this notice.

## FROM PAGE 1

# ECI to arrive tomorrow to evaluate J&K poll readiness before SC deadline

11:40AM for a review meeting with enforcement agencies at 01:00PM followed by a press conference to update the media on the election preparations at 02:30PM. The commission will depart for Delhi at 04:40PM and will arrive back at Delhi at 06:15PM. In March, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, during his visit to Kashmir ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, assured political parties and the public that the poll panel would soon conduct assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Following the record voter turnout in Jammu and Kashmir during the Lok Sabha elections, CEO Rajiv Kumar stated that this active participation is a positive sign for the upcoming assembly elections, ensuring the democratic process thrives in the Union Territory. The assembly elections, whenever they occur, will be the first since the abrogation of Article 370 and the division of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories in 2019. In December 2023, the Supreme Court directed the Election Commission to conduct assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30. On July 31, the Election Commission instructed the Union Territory administration to transfer officers posted in their home districts, a standard procedure before conducting elections.

Eyewitnesses recounted an attack on the house of former councillor Md Shah Alam in Ashoktala, which was set ablaze by an "angry mob", reported Dhaka Tribune. Six people, including five teenagers, were killed in the fire, with their bodies recovered on Monday night and Tuesday morning. Similarly, four people died when a mob set the house of Member of Parliament Shafiqul Islam Shimul of Natore-2 (Sadar and Naldanga) Constituency on fire. Their bodies were later found in various rooms and balconies of the house. In Dhaka, parts of the central office of the Awami League in the Gulistan area were repeatedly set on fire, even as hundreds of people looted furniture, tiles, rods, and other items from the burning building. The office was first set on fire shortly after Hasina's resignation and was attacked again around 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday. In Feni, local police found the bodies of two Juba League leaders, Mushfiqur Rahim and Badsha Mia, on Wednesday. Across the country, Awami League leaders and minorities have become the main targets of the ongoing violence. In a particularly devastating incident, 24 people were killed when a mob set fire to the Zabeer International Hotel in the Khulna Division. The hotel is owned by Shahin Chakladar, the general secretary of the Jashore District Awami League. "The bodies were lying on different floors," said Mamun Mahmud, Deputy Director of Khulna Fire Service. The fire was finally extinguished around 5.45 am local time on Tuesday.

# Amarnath Yatra to continue through Baltal route

been doing round-the-clock duties all along the over 350 km long route from Jammu to the two base camps to secure the pilgrims' passage. In addition to this, security forces have been deployed in sufficient numbers at the transit camps, base camps and at the cave shrine for the safety of the Yatris. Locals are not far behind in ensuring that the Yatris are assisted to perform the mountainous journey with ease. Locals provide ponies and also work as porters for the pilgrims often carrying the weak and infirm devotees on their back to and from the cave shrine. Officials of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), headed by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, have been managing the affairs of the Yatra with professional competence. All this together, has ensured this year's safe, smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage to the cave shrine through some of the most rugged and treacherous mountain terrain in the Himalayas. The cave shrine houses an ice stalagmite structure that waxes and wanes with the phases of the moon. Devotees believe that this ice stalagmite structure symbolises the

mythical powers of Lord Shiva. The cave is situated at an altitude of 3,888 metres above sea level in the Kashmir Himalayas. Devotees approach the cave shrine either from the traditional south Kashmir Pahalgam route or the north Kashmir Baltal route. The Pahalgam-Cave shrine axis is 48 km long and it takes Yatris 4-5 days to reach the shrine. The Baltal-Cave shrine axis is 14 km long and it takes one day for the pilgrims to have 'Darshan' and reach back to the base camp. Helicopter services are also available for the pilgrims both at Baltal route and at Chandanwari on the south Kashmir route. This year's Yatra will conclude after 52 days on August 19 coinciding with Shravan Purnima and Raksha Bandhan festivals.

that all the security arrangements have been made for the pilgrims. "Tight security arrangements have been made for the Yatra, there is food and stay arrangements for the pilgrims throughout the Yatra" ADGP Jammu and Kashmir said.

# RR Swain appointed as DGP of Jammu and Kashmir

tenure will extend until September 30, 2024, or until further orders are issued. **First batch of Budha Amarnath Yatra left from Jammu under tight security**

# Search continues for terrorists in Udhampur

Meanwhile, security forces also launched a cordon and search operation in the Diyar Gala forest in the Kalakote area of Rajouri district following information about the movement of two terrorists, one of whom was reported to be injured, they said. The terrorist is believed to have been injured in a recent encounter with security forces in the Gunda village but managed to escape, they added. The combing operation is underway to trace the two terrorists noticed in Diyar Gala, the officials said.

# 20 leaders of Sheikh Hasina's party Awami League found dead in Bangladesh

# CBI arrests employee among three persons in bribe case in Udhampur

The CBI laid a trap and the property

Kumar said "The Buddha Amarnath Yatra starts from Jammu every year. All arrangements have been made for the pilgrims. Jammu & Kashmir police and Indian army are there to look after all the arrangements. Almost 700 pilgrims are going for the Yatra". ADGP Jammu and Kashmir Anand Jain assured

# J&K Police Security Wing takes charge of I-Day Celebration venue in Jammu

said. Security has been beefed up in and around the venue, and as part of enhanced measures, they have assumed control of the area, and the general public is prohibited from entering the premises of the stadium, they said. Vehicles are being checked, and people carrying security cards are only allowed into the stadium after thorough frisking and checks, they said.

## Bukhari remains engaged in Uri constituency

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 7: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Wednesday, had a day-long meeting with grassroots-level party workers, including booth leaders, in north Kashmir's Uri constituency, from where he is contesting the upcoming assembly polls.

According to a party statement, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari held a series of detailed meetings with constituency leaders, senior workers, and especially booth-level leaders to formulate strategies for the upcoming assembly elections.

During these meetings, the Apni Party president and candidate for the constituency gathered firsthand information and feedback.

On this occasion, he

advised the party leaders and senior workers to remain well-connected with the masses and ensure that the people fully informed about the party's people-centric agenda and policies.

He said, "This is the right time for us to accelerate our public outreach to make people well aware of our agenda and policies for the upliftment and well-being of this constituency, which has always been neglected by those in power after receiving votes from the people here. When you engage with the public, avoid speaking negatively about our political opponents. Instead, focus on explaining Apni Party's intentions and agenda for the prosperity of the people. The public is intelligent enough to make their own decisions and distinctions."

He added, "I have complete faith in Almighty Allah, who knows that my intent is to serve Uri and its people because I belong to this place."

He urged his party colleagues to take every possible measure to fortify the party's presence in every corner of the constituency.

He said, "We should identify our weaknesses, even the minor ones, in order to improve the party's presence here. We do not have much time; therefore, we must work hard and value every hour. To ensure success, we need to enhance our genuine political activities and public outreach across the constituency."

Regarding certain public issues and grievances in Uri, the Apni Party President stated that he is fully informed about the problems and chal-

lenges faced by the local residents. He assured that once he receives a public mandate to serve, he will ensure the prompt redressal of these issues, including the enduring electricity crisis in the area.

Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari also engaged with local reporters during his day-long activities in Uri. Responding to a question about some party leaders who recently left the party, he said, "In politics and within political parties, people come and go. Some stay, while others leave, which is not unusual. I wish the best for those colleagues who have departed. I believe that most people in politics genuinely want to serve and contribute to the well-being of the people. Therefore, I extend my best wishes to all my former colleagues."

During the party president's visit to various areas across Uri, the leaders who accompanied him included the party's constituency in-charge, Choudhary Mushtaq; Constituency Coordinator, Feroq Tantray; Deputy Coordinator of the constituency, Ishfaq Lone; Senior Leaders; and all Block Presidents.

Meanwhile, scores of political activists and workers from various areas in Uri joined the Apni Party today in the presence of the party president. Prominent among the new entrants were Syed Mudat Hussain Shah, Syed Sideeq Hussain Shah, Abdul Aziz son of Taj Mohammad, Mohammad Iqbal son of Ghulam Hassan, Mohammad Iqbal Sheikh, Bashir Ahmad son of Alif Din, and others.

## DFSS holds protest against Jamat-e-Islami



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 7: The workers of Dogra Front and Shiv Sena (DFSS), led by President Ashok Gupta, staged a large rally in Jammu City, burning the effigy of Jamat-e-Islami, which has been reportedly targeting Hindus and Hindu temples.

The protest, initially against a quota system for government jobs in Bangladesh, has escalated into widespread violence, with rioting and looting affecting the minority Hindu community across at least 27

districts, as reported by Bangladesh's Daily Star.

Gupta highlighted that Hindu homes and businesses have been attacked and looted, and noted the recent killing of Hindu councillor Haradhan Roy and another councillor, Kajal Roy. He condemned the violence and argued that it is not merely an internal issue for Bangladesh but a matter of international concern. He called upon India to act decisively to ensure the safety of Hindus in Bangladesh, emphasizing the need for India to protect its cultural and civilizational ties with

the minority community.

Gupta recalled India's role in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, asserting that since India played a part in creating Bangladesh, it has a responsibility to protect the Hindus there. He suggested that until the situation in Bangladesh normalizes, efforts should be made to bring endangered Hindus to India.

The rally saw significant participation from party members including Ashish, Abhishek, Prem, Kalu, Naresh, Rampal, Vijay, Vikas, Surinder, Bantu, Billa, Suman, and others.

## Stop atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh: Movement Kalki

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 7: Members of Movement Kalki organized a protest against the atrocities being committed against Hindus in Bangladesh.

They highlighted the urgent need for our country to address these serious issues. In Bangladesh, Hindus are being targeted, their homes and shops are being set on fire, and women are facing brutal violence.

They appealed to the government to take immediate and effective action to ensure the safety of Hindus in Bangladesh. This is not the first time that Hindus have been targeted in the country. Numerous incidents have occurred where Hindus have been victimized. Followers of the Hindu religion respect all faiths and live peace-



fully, yet certain forces continue to target and oppress them.

It is crucial that the entire world takes note of this issue and works towards a solution. We urge the Indian government to take strong steps to prevent such incidents from happening in the future.

They demanded immediate cessation of atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh, strict action against the burning of Hindu homes and shops

and necessary measures to prevent violence against women.

During the protest, Movement Kalki's Advisory Board member Pritam Sharma, Core Committee members Sunny Kant Chib and Arjun Singh, Board members Sanjeev Dubey and Vikram Gupta, and members Deepak Sharma, Riki Trathiya, Narinder Singh, Rashpal Sharma, Lucky Singh, and Lakhan were present.

## CLUJ holds awareness lecture on Startup and Entrepreneurship

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 7: The Institutional Innovation Council (IIC) of Cluster University of Jammu organized an awareness lecture on startup and entrepreneurship for students. The session aimed to inspire and guide the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs.

Dr. Chander Shekhar, the President of IIC, interacted with the students, providing valuable insights into the world of innovation and entrepreneurship.

He discussed the importance of ideation, market research, funding strategies, and scaling for successful startups. Dr. Shekhar emphasized that the awareness lecture is designed to offer students practical knowl-

edge and real-world experiences from leaders in the field.

Dr. Neetu Kumari also addressed the session, highlighting that IIC is dedicated to fostering innovation and supporting aspiring entrepreneurs. She noted that through various programs, mentorship, and resources, IIC aims to nurture creative ideas and transform them into successful ventures.

The session was attended by members of IIC, including Dr. Satyapal Singh Rathore, Dr. Parveen K. Mishra, Dr. Biplal Kumar Maiti, Dr. Anshu Kumar Badyal, and Dr. Vivek Kumar from the School of Sciences. More than 60 students from different schools of Cluster University of Jammu participated in the lecture.

## NABARD celebrates 10th National Handloom Day in Anantnag

Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Aug 7: NABARD celebrated 10th National Handloom Day with female artisans and weavers at Shangas Anantnag. The event was graced by DDM NABARD Rouf Zargar and Director RSETI Nisar Ahmad. Besides the officers from Handloom and Handicraft department, block officials of NRLM and representatives of Humanity NGO attended the programme. The event was participated by large number of female artisans from the area.

Speaking on the occasion, DDM NABARD said that Kashmir has rich cultural heritage in art and crafts and there is immense scope for improving quality of handmade products. He said that NABARD has been taking various initiatives for artisans such

as formation of off-farm producer organizations (OFPO), Livelihood enterprise development programmes (LEDP), micro enterprise development programmes (MEDP), Skill development programmes (SDP) on handicraft/handlooms under NABSKILL initiative, institutional projects based on technological interventions in handloom/handicraft sector, GI Tagging of handloom products etc. In order to help artisans in marketing of their products, NABARD has been sponsoring the artisans for all India level exhibitions, besides NABARD also provide grant support for establishment of Rural Haat, and Rural Mart for local level marketing of the handloom and handicraft products. He said two such Rural Marts were established by female SHGs in the

district with support from NABARD.

Nisar Ahmad, Director RSETI informed that RSETI under the aegis Ministry of Rural Development, has been keen in providing Entrepreneurship development training to weavers for setting up the bank financed units / looms at their homes. Abdul Qadeer Handloom Training Officer from the Handloom & Handicraft department spoke regarding the schemes run by the department which are based on subsidy and other bankable schemes such as weavers MUDRA scheme, Artisans credit Card Scheme, Direct Assistance to Handloom weavers and other credit subsidy-based schemes. On the occasion some prominent artisans were felicitated by NABARD for their contribution in Handloom sector.

## Apni Party authorises PAC chairman to recommend mandate distribution for upcoming assembly polls

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 7: In preparation for the upcoming assembly elections, the Apni Party on Wednesday authorised the party's Parliamentary Affairs Committee (PAC) Chairman, Mohammad Dilawar Mir, to make recommendations on candidate selection and mandate issuance for the assembly polls across Jammu and Kashmir.

In this regard, he has been asked to present his report to the party president within 15 days. Also, the party has tasked its Election Manifesto Committee with drafting the poll manifesto, so that it can be put in the public domain within the next 15 days.

According to a press release issued here, the Apni Party convened a crucial meeting today to address key issues related to the upcoming assembly elections. The meeting was chaired by party president Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari.

"The participants held extensive discussions on various issues related to the upcoming polls. It was decided to authorise Mohammad Dilawar Mir, Chairman of the party's Parliamentary Affairs Committee (PAC), to make recommendations on candidate selection and mandate issuance for the elections. Mr. Mir has been requested to prepare his report and present it to party chief Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari within 15 days," the press note said.

It added, "During the meeting, the party's Election Manifesto Committee was assigned the task of preparing the manifesto for the upcoming polls. It was also decided that the proposed manifesto would be made public within 15 days."

## Rekha Mahajan expresses colorful legacy and rich heritage of handlooms

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 7: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan extends warm greetings on this special occasion, saluting the rich heritage and craftsmanship of India's handloom sector.

On the occasion of National Handloom Day Felicitation program of handloom workers were organised in the esteem presence of Jammu South District President Rekha Mahajan, Mahila



Morcha District President Divya Jain, Mandal President Ritika Dhiman and Vice President Sandhya Gupta to motivate the art of jammu and kashmir. In the said program Shivangi Dhiman and her workers MD Shamen Ansari, Asraf Sheikh, Saimul Ansari were felicitated.

Rekha Mahajan said J&K handlooms are elegant and stand out as a symbol of unparalleled creative heritage, unmatched craftsmanship, and the enduring spirit of the artisans community. Jammu & Kashmir weaving traditions are also a source of pride and cultural identity.

She said, "Best wishes on National Handloom Day to all the weavers and business brothers and sisters of the handloom industry who preserve the spirit of self-respect through Swadeshi and keep the Indian culture and traditions alive through their work and craftsmanship! Come." Notably, the nation celebrated the first Handloom Day on August 7, 2015, guided by the vision of PM Modi.

Rekha Mahajan highlights that the date was specifically chosen to commemorate the Swadeshi

Movement, which was launched on August 7, 1905, and encouraged indigenous industries, particularly handloom weavers. The day, which celebrates handloom weavers and provides motivation and a sense of pride to the handloom industry by appreciating their contribution to the cultural, traditional, and economic landscape of the country, aims to generate awareness about the importance of the handloom sector and its contribution to the socio-economic development of the country.

## Kishtwar police organizes Cyber Jagrookta at Green Model School



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Aug 7: The evolving digital landscape demands constant vigilance. Today, under the direction of SSP Kishtwar Abdul Qayoom, the District Police Kishtwar, led by Dy. SP Hqs Dr. Ishan Gupta and SHO PS Kishtwar along with other officers, took a proactive step towards fostering cyber awareness in the community.

The event, known as "Cyber Awareness Day," was hosted at Green Model School Kishtwar.

The chaired officers spearheaded a comprehensive cyber awareness session aimed at educating attendees about cybercrimes and instilling an understanding of safeguarding internet-connected systems,

including hardware, software, and data, against cyber-attacks."

Dy. SP Hqs Kishtwar addressed various types of cybercrimes, such as cyberbullying, child pornography, cyber grooming, online sextortion, and phishing, providing valuable insights into the complexities of cybersecurity. He also shared critical advice with the student community, emphasizing the need for caution while navigating the internet to avoid falling victim to cybercriminals.

In his message, SSP Kishtwar appealed to the general and student fraternity to take necessary precautions to secure their data online. He highlighted the importance of using strong, unique passwords, enabling two-factor authentication,

and being cautious of suspicious emails and links. SSP Kishtwar also stressed the need for regular software updates and the use of reliable antivirus programs to protect devices from potential threats. He encouraged students and the general public to be vigilant and report any cybercrime incidents to the authorities promptly.

The principal and staff of Green Model School Kishtwar expressed their gratitude to District Police Kishtwar for organizing such a vital program, recognizing its importance in today's digital age. The Cyber Awareness Day organized by District Police Kishtwar represents a commendable effort to strengthen digital resilience within the community.

## Vinesh Phogat admitted to polyclinic inside Games Village due to dehydration

PARIS, Aug 7 (Agencies): Vinesh Phogat has been admitted to the Games Village polyclinic due to dehydration, following her major setback of being disqualified from the women's 50kg wrestling event at the Paris Olympics for being overweight by a few grams.

"Vinesh Phogat was admitted to the polyclinic inside the Games Village because of dehydration, not any hospital," sources told agency.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) released a statement on Wednesday addressing Vinesh's exit from the Games due to being overweight and asked to respect the privacy of the grappler. After being disqualified from the event, Vinesh will be placed last in the com-



petition.

"It is with regret that the Indian contingent shares news of the disqualification of Vinesh Phogat from the Women's Wrestling 50 kg class. Despite the best efforts by the team through the night, she weighed

in a few grams over 50 kg this morning. No further comments will be made by the contingent at this time. The Indian team requests you respect Vinesh's privacy. It would like to focus on the competitions on hand," the IOA statement read.

Following the disqualification, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to IOA chief PT Usha and sought the options India has in the wake of Vinesh's setback. He also asked the IOA chief to explore the full range of options to help the grappler's case and urged PT Usha to file a strong protest regarding the disqualification, if that helps the wrestler.

Vinesh became the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the final of an Olympic Games after she defeated Cuba's Yusneylys Guzman 5-0 in the semifinal on Tuesday night.

After her semifinal win, Vinesh did everything possible to meet the weight category criteria, including jogging, skipping, and cycling.

## Australia says member of men's hockey team arrested in Paris with cocaine



PARIS, Aug 7 (Agencies): A player on the Australian men's hockey team was arrested in Paris and is being held in custody, the Australian Olympic Committee said on Wednesday, after reports in French media said he had been detained in possession of cocaine.

The committee said no charges had been laid against the member of the team, whose identity was not disclosed. It did not disclose the reason for the arrest which took place on Tuesday.

"The AOC is continuing to make enquiries and arrange support for the team member,"

the committee said in a statement.

There was no immediate comments from the Paris police and the International Hockey Federation, the sport's global governing body.

French media reported that a member of the Australian hockey team was arrested as he was purchasing cocaine in the ninth arrondissement of Paris.

The Australian men's team was eliminated in the quarter-finals of the Olympic tournament with a 2-0 loss to the Netherlands on Sunday.

## Paris Olympics 2024: Rishabh Pant joins 'if Neeraj Chopra wins gold' trend ahead of javelin final

PARIS, Aug 7 (Agencies): As the defending Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra prepares to compete for his second Olympic gold medal at the Paris Games, a unique 'if Neeraj Chopra wins gold' trend went viral on social media, generating even more anticipation for Chopra's performance in the quadrennial showpiece.

Joining the trend is none other than Indian star wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant, who announced that he would reward a lucky winner with Rs 1,00,089 if Neeraj clinches the Gold medal.

"If Neeraj Chopra win a gold medal tomorrow, I will pay 100089 rupees to lucky winner who likes the tweet and comment most. And for the rest top 10 people trying to get attention will get flight tickets. Let's get support from india and



outside the world for my brother,' Pant posted on X.

Indian-origin start-up Atlys, an online platform used by travel agents to apply for visas to various places and destinations, CEO promised to provide free visas to its users if Chopra wins a gold at the Olympics on his LinkedIn post.

Chopra, who is competing in his second Olympics in Paris, stormed into the men's javelin throw final by outclassing the field in the qualification in his first attempt.

At the Stade de France,

Neeraj produced a monster 89.34m throw on his very first attempt to breach the direct qualification standard of 84m. It was the second-best throw of the reigning world champion's career.

He also logged his season's best in the qualification round in Paris. Before this, Chopra had achieved a mark of 88.36m to finish second at the Doha Diamond League in May.

The men's javelin throw final is scheduled for Thursday and will take place at Stade de France.

## History-making pistol shooter Manu Bhaker arrives home to enthusiastic reception

*Hundreds of people, who waited at the airport long before her arrival despite the morning drizzle in the city, accord her -- and her coach Jaspal Rana -- an enthusiastic reception*

NEW DELHI, Aug 7 (Agencies): Star pistol shooter Manu Bhaker landed back in the country on Wednesday after her historic feat of winning two medals in a single edition of the Olympic Games and was welcomed by hundreds of supporters and her family, who braved a steady drizzle to give her a memorable reception here.

The Air India flight (AI 142), which brought Bhaker from Paris to Delhi, landed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport at around 9.20am, delayed by an hour.

Hundreds of people, who waited at the airport long before her arrival despite the morning drizzle in the city, accorded her -- and her coach Jaspal Rana -- an enthusiastic reception.

The 22-year-old Bhaker won a bronze each in the women's 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team event -- where she had paired with Sarabjot Singh -- to script Olympic history for the country.

Before her, only British-Indian



athlete Norman Pritchard had achieved the rare landmark for the country with his two silver medals in 200m sprint and 200m hurdles at the 1900 Olympics but this happened in the pre-Independence era.

Before leaving for India, Bhaker had stated that she was looking forward to a grand welcome and she was not disappointed on Wednesday.

She was greeted with bou-

quets, garlands and celebratory dhol after she emerged from the airport exit.

Flower petals were showered on her and Rana as soon as they came out amid significant police presence to manage the crowd.

Among those present were Bhaker's parents -- Ram Kishan and Sumedha -- and sports enthusiasts and officials from her home state Haryana, Rajas-

than and Uttarakhand, the state to which Rana belongs.

Rana's father was also there at the airport.

"It is a matter of pride for us that a daughter of India is coming back after creating history by winning two medals in an Olympics. It has never happened before. She is only 22," said former Uttarakhand sports minister and Rana's father, Narayan Singh Rana.

"She is coming along with her coach Jaspal Rana. He is my son. He brought glory playing for India in shooting. Jaspal Rana and Abhinav Bindra started it all," he added.

People gathered at the airport long before her arrival and they celebrated her feat with song and dance, holding banners with photos of Bhaker and Rana.

Bhaker will be meeting sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya in the afternoon. She will head back to Paris on Saturday to participate in the closing ceremony on Sunday where she will be one of India's flag-bearers.

## Israeli athletes receive threats in Paris as tensions simmer over Gaza

PARIS, Aug 7 (Agencies): Israel's Olympic team said some athletes have received threats as they compete in Paris amid larger tensions over Palestinian deaths during the war in Gaza and the threat of a wider regional conflict in the Middle East.

Yael Arad, president of the Israeli National Olympic Committee, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that team members had received "centralized" threats meant to generate "psychological terror" in athletes, without giving further details.

Last week, Paris prosecutors opened an investigation into emailed death threats to Israeli athletes, and the national cybercrime agency is looking into the leak of some Israeli athletes' personal data online, which has since been taken down. Prosecutors also launched an inquiry into inciting racial hatred after Israeli athletes received "discriminatory gestures" during an Israel-Paraguay match.

Tom Reuveny, a 24-year-old Israeli athlete who won a gold in wind surfing over the weekend, was among those who said

he's received threats. Politics "should be put aside" during the Games, he told agency during a memorial Tuesday for 11 Israeli athletes killed during the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany.

"I don't think any politics should be involved in sport, especially in the Olympic Games," Reuveny said. "Unfortunately, there is a lot of politics involved -- not in the Games -- of the people who don't want us to compete and don't want us to be here. I've gotten quite a few messages and threats."

While Israel has called for the Olympics to remain a neutral space, the Palestinian delegation has used the Games as a way to generate conversation about the day-to-day struggles of those in Gaza. The Israel-Hamas war has claimed more than 39,000 Palestinian lives.

"The thing that really hurts me is that people are looking at Palestinians as just numbers now. The number of people that died. The number of people displaced," Palestinian American Olympic swimmer Valerie Tarazi told agency.

"As athletes, we're



here just as everyone else. We want to compete. As people, we have lives. ... We want to live in our homes, just like everyone else in the world," she added.

As global leaders have raised alarm over deaths in Gaza and called for Hamas and Israel to agree to a cease-fire, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said he would accept nothing less than a "total victory" against Hamas.

The world is coming together in Paris at a moment of global political upheaval, multiple wars, historic migration and a deepening climate crisis, all issues that have risen to the forefront of conversation in the Olympics.

Tensions across the Middle East are spiking following the killings last week of a senior Hezbollah commander in Lebanon and Hamas' top political leader in Iran, in suspected Israeli

strikes. Both groups are backed by Iran.

Palestine's Olympic team has demanded that the International Olympic Committee ban Israel from competing in the Olympics, alleging the country has violated the Olympic charter. Last week, the Palestinian delegation said it had not received a response from the IOC and that it planned to take its plea to higher sports courts.

Israel's team has been met by jeers in stadiums during the country's national anthem, and athletes have arrived to events under a heavy police escort, including riot police vans.

"It's not easy to be an Israeli athlete in the international arena these days," said Arad, head of Israel's Olympic committee. The Olympics is "a bridge between people, between countries, between religions. And we are here to compete."

## I think it might be sabotage: Vijender Singh on Vinesh's Olympic disqualification

NEW DELHI, Aug 7 (Agencies): Indian boxing stalwart Vijender Singh has alleged that wrestler Vinesh Phogat's disqualification from the Olympics final might be a case of sabotage as elite athletes like her are well-versed with the techniques of cutting weight before major competitions.

Vijender, who is India's first and only male boxer to have won an Olympic medal, knows a thing or two about maintaining weight before major bouts and he said it is shocking that Vinesh was 100gm over in the weigh-in before an Olympic final.

"I think it might be sabotage. 100gm, you have got to be kidding me. We athletes can shed 5 to 6kg overnight. It is difficult no doubt but we know how to control our hunger, thirst, and exert to the extreme," the middle-weight (75kg) boxer told agency.

"And when I say sabotage I mean people who are not happy to see India rise as a sporting nation. This girl has been through so much, your heart breaks for her. What more could she have done? Which other test?" he wondered.

Vinesh was the face of a lengthy protest against



former Wrestling Federation of India head Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who has been accused of sexual harassment and intimidation by women wrestlers.

She had endured police detention, nights on the streets and a tumultuous qualification process before making it here.

The highlight of her remarkable performance at the Olympics was the opening win over defending champion Yui Susaki of Japan who came into the competition undefeated in her international career.

"I can't believe that Vinesh would make a mistake like this. She has been an elite athlete for so long that she knows, there has to be something more to it. I am worried for her, I hope she is fine. What has happened is not good at all," said Vijender, a trailblazer in

six-time world champion woman boxer M C Mary Kom, in an interview to agency, had revealed how she lost 2kg in a matter of four hours.

Mary Kom had landed in Poland for a tournament, where she eventually picked up her third gold of that year.

But hours before she was to take the ring, she had gone through the strenuous process of shedding weight just to be eligible to fight.

"We landed in Poland at round 3-3:30 in the morning and the general weigh-in was at around 7:30am. I was a couple of kilograms above 48kg, the category I compete in, at that point," she had said.

"So, I had roughly four hours to shed that or I would have been disqualified for being overweight at the time of general weigh-in.

But I did skipping for an hour at a stretch and just like that, I was ready.

"Thankfully, the flight we travelled in was nearly empty so I could sleep with my legs outstretched, ensuring that I was not stiff on landing there.

Otherwise, I don't know how I would have been able to compete," she had revealed.

## GCOE Jammu hosts essay writing competition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 7: The Literary Club of Government College of Education (GCOE) Jammu hosted an inspiring essay writing competition on the theme "Unsung Heroes of Indian Freedom Struggle."

The objective of the event was to shed light on the lesser-known figures of the freedom struggle who played pivotal roles in India's fight for independence.

The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across various departments, providing a platform for young minds to explore and articulate the



contributions of freedom fighters whose stories are often overlooked in mainstream narratives.

The event commenced with an inaugural session graced by the Principal of GCOE Jammu, Dr. Jyoti Parihar, who emphasized the importance of remembering and hon-

oring the unsung heroes of the nation. She highlighted the need for the younger generation to be aware of the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters.

The topics for the competition ranged from regional freedom fighters to those who made

significant impacts at the national level. The essays were evaluated by a distinguished panel of judges comprising Prof. Balwan Singh and Dr. Suraj Prakash. The criteria for evaluation included originality, depth of research, coherence, and writing style.

The winners of the competition were announced at a special ceremony. During the feedback session, the students shared that researching and writing about unsung heroes like Birsa Munda, Karu Bhagat, Sivagami Ammayar, and others was a profound experience. It made them realize the depth of their sacrifice and the importance of preserving their legacy.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Literary Club Coordinator Dr. Shalini Rana, who expressed gratitude to all participants and judges for their contributions to the success of the competition.

## Director Agriculture initiates Rabi Campaign with Hybrid Vegetable Seed Sowing

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 7: Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, marked the beginning of the Rabi campaign by sowing hybrid vegetable seeds in Hi Tech polyhouse at the Vegetable Improvement Scheme, Talab Tillo Jammu.

This initiative aims to produce early seedlings for distribution to farmers across Jammu Division, ensuring an advantage over seasonal market fluctuation rates.

The Director Agriculture commenced the nursery sowing of Hybrid variety of Cauliflower in the polyhouse.

Agronomist (VIS) Vikas Padha and departmental staff were also present on the occasion. This effort underscores the

department's commitment to enhancing agricultural productivity and better market price for farmers produce through advanced techniques.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Reen advised farmers in the Jammu Division to opt for nursery sowing of hybrid vegetables in naturally ventilated conditions. He highlighted the distribution of Hi Tech and Low-cost polyhouses under the HADP to farmers across the division, emphasizing the benefits of raising vegetable nurseries in polyhouses for early crop growth through vegetable forcing and higher returns.

Agronomist (VIS) Vikas Padha informed that the department-produced nursery seedlings will be available from second

fortnight of August at a nominal cost, facilitating timely and affordable access for farmers.

Additionally, Director A.S Reen participated in a plantation drive conducted within the premises of the Vegetable Development Scheme as part of the ongoing Swachhata Pakhwada 'The Shuchita Sangram' campaign 2024. His involvement underscored the department's commitment to promoting cleanliness and environmental stewardship alongside agricultural development initiatives.

The Director Agriculture Jammu expressed confidence that these efforts will contribute significantly to improving agricultural outcomes in the region, ensuring enhanced productivity and economic stability for farmers.

## LAHDC holds interaction with qualified aspirants UPSC-CSE Coaching

Top News Report

LEH, Aug 7: An insightful interaction session was held with qualified aspirants for the UPSC-CSE Coaching under the "Reway Otzer 2024" program by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) in Leh.

The session was led by Chairman/CEC Tashi Gyalson, along with Deputy Chairman Tsering Angchuk, Executive Councillor for Minority Ghulam Mehdi, Executive Councillor for RDD Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, Deputy Commissioner/CEO Santosh Sukhadeve, former Commissioner Secretary Rigzin Samphel, Private Secretary to Chairman Jigmet Raftan, and Deputy Director of Employment. During the session,



Former Commissioner Secretary Rigzin Samphel and DC Santosh Sukhadeve shared their personal experiences and provided valuable tips on succeeding in the UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE).

They emphasized the critical importance of strategy and discipline, encouraging students to overcome self-doubt and embrace confidence.

Their journey and insights served as a source of inspiration for the aspirants.

The students are scheduled to depart for Delhi on August 10 to commence their coaching. Chairman Tashi Gyalson extended his heartfelt best wishes to all the candidates, expressing hope that each of them will excel in their endeavors and qualify for the exam.

## Dr. Indresh nominates MRM Core Committee members for J&K and Ladakh UTs

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 7: National Executive Member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Chief Patron of the Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM), Dr. Indresh Kumar, has nominated six core committee members for the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The nominations were made during a meeting held in Delhi today.

Dr. Kumar presented the unanimous list to the National Committee Members, who duly approved the panel.

The newly nominated Core Committee Members for the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh are Gulshan Kumar (Organizer J&K, Ladakh), Mir Nazir Ahmed (Convener, J&K, Ladakh), Dr. Shamsh-ul-Haq (Co-Convener J&K, Ladakh), Adv. Malikzada Mohd Shahzad (Co-Convener J&K, Ladakh), Amir Iqbal Khan (Co-Convener/Spokesperson & Media/IT J&K, Ladakh) and Nazir Ahmed (Co-Convener,

Ladakh UT).

Addressing the National Committee meeting, Dr. Indresh Kumar stated, "Muslim Rashtriya Manch is committed to the welfare and well-being of the people and to establish brotherhood from day one."

He emphasized that MRM is the only social organization that consistently stands by society and is firmly resolved to its betterment and well-being.

Dr. Indresh Kumar, along with other National Committee members, extended their felicitations to the newly nominated Core Committee Members.

They expressed hope that the Muslim Rashtriya Manch would continue to work tirelessly for the common good of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and the country as a whole.

The organization is committed to serving distressed communities, alleviating their miseries, and supporting them during times of crisis.

## SGWF Foundation conducts plantation drive under 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 7: The SGWF Foundation conducted a plantation drive titled 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' at Raja Dev Sathan Gurha Brahman, demonstrating its unwavering commitment to addressing environmental challenges.

The event was organized by Ravi Verma, Patron of SGWF, who highlighted the NGO's dedicated efforts in promoting environmental sustainability.

The 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' initiative is designed to honor mothers by planting trees in their names, symbolizing life, growth, and nurturing care. The plantation drive at Kaie Raja Dev Sathan Gurha Brahman saw active participation from community members, volunteers, and SGWF team members.

Over saplings of native species were planted to ensure better adaptation to the local environment and higher survival rates.

The drive included educational sessions on the importance of tree planting, environmental conservation, and the long-term benefits of maintaining green spaces. Participants were provided with guidance on how to care for the newly planted trees, emphasizing community involvement in sustaining these efforts.

Ravi Verma, Patron of SGWF, is a visionary leader with a deep commitment to environmental conservation. His strategic direction and hands-on involvement have been pivotal in steering SGWF's initiatives

towards success. Under his guidance, SGWF has undertaken numerous projects aimed at fostering sustainable development and environmental stewardship.

Reeta Verma, National President of SGWF, leads with passion and dedication. She plays a crucial role in shaping the foundation's policies and programs, ensuring they align with SGWF's mission. Her leadership and organizational skills have been instrumental in mobilizing resources and support for the foundation's initiatives.

Makhani Devi, General Secretary of SGWF, is the backbone of the foundation's operations. She oversees the administrative functions and ensures the smooth execution of projects. Her meticulous planning and coordination efforts were key to the success of the plantation drive.

Jyoti Verma, District President of Samba, is a dynamic leader committed to grassroots mobilization.

She works closely with local communities to promote SGWF's initiatives and encourages active participation in environmental conservation efforts.

Dr. Sonia Verma, an esteemed environmentalist and key member of SGWF, brings her expertise in environmental science to the foundation. She plays a critical role in designing and implementing sustainable practices within SGWF's projects. Dr. Verma emphasized the importance of strategic planning in plantation drives to ensure the

survival of the planted trees. She also shed light on the achievements and ongoing challenges faced by the Synergetic Green Warriors Foundation in its mission to foster a greener and more sustainable environment.

Dr. Sonia Verma's dedication to the 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' initiative goes beyond her role as an environmentalist. Her commitment is deeply personal, driven by a belief in the transformative power of individual and collective action in combating environmental degradation.

Dr. Verma stated, "Each tree we plant today represents hope for a healthier, greener future. The 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' initiative is not just about planting trees; it's about cultivating a legacy of care and responsibility towards our planet."

She highlighted the importance of meticulous planning to ensure the survival of the planted trees. "We carefully select native species and provide proper aftercare instructions to community members to ensure that these saplings grow into resilient trees. This initiative is designed to create a lasting impact, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility within the community," she added.

Sandeep Sharma, Member Board of Directors presented vote of thanks to all the participants. Sharma said that SGWF is committed to conserve the environment for which we are tirelessly working with such plantation drives.

## Kundan Kashmiri emphasizes need for immediate int'l attention to ensure safety, rights of Hindus in Bangladesh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 7: The Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC) president Kundan Kashmiri urged the Government of India to take a strong diplomatic stance and engage with the Bangladesh government to protect Hindus and their places of worship.

Concrete measures are necessary to prevent further violence and safeguard the rights of the Hindu community in Bangladesh.

He also called upon global bodies to investigate these atrocities, hold perpetrators accountable, and provide humanitarian aid and support to the affected communities.

Furthermore, Kundan Kashmiri appealed to Hindus worldwide to exert pressure on their respective governments to intervene in this crisis. Unity and collective action are crucial in combating these injustices.

The persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh is not merely a regional issue but a global



human rights concern. It is a moral duty to stand against this violence and ensure justice, peace, and security for the Hindu community in Bangladesh.

## GDC Sidhra commences celebration of Vigilance Awareness week

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 7: In relation to the celebration of Vigilance Awareness week, GDC Sidhra has commenced the week with pledge taking ceremony wherein all employees along with the students took an oath for eradicating Corruption from public life and Offices.

The Programme was

started by Dr. Harpreet Kour where she briefed the students about the necessity of Uprooting corruption directly or indirectly from day to day life.

The programme was further followed with the pledge taking ceremony where student of Vth semester Ambika Sharma commenced the pledge with regard to eradicating corruption and increasing public accountability.

The Pledge emphasised on the role of a citizen in curbing any Corrupt activity in one way or other.

The programme was organized by Department of Political Science and Cultural Committee with the Coordination of Dr. Anu Sharma, HOD Botany under the able guidance of the Principal of the College, Dr. G.S. Rakwal.

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