

TOP NEWS OF J&K

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BRIEFLY

LG Ladakh appoints new competent authority under BUDS Act

LEH, Aug 9 (Agencies): The Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Ladakh has appointed Lalitkhuma Franklin, Commissioner Secretary to the Government, UT of Ladakh, as the new competent authority under the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes (BUDS) Act 2019. This appointment updates previous regulations and designates Franklin to oversee the implementation of the Act's functions.

Suspected IED found, defused in Kulgam

SRINAGAR, Aug 9 (Agencies): A suspected object believed to be an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was found in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday, officials said.

They said a suspect object was found lying on Kulgam Balsoo Road, following which the area was cordoned.

"The area was sealed, and traffic movement on the busy road was halted. A bomb disposal squad was also called, and the suspect object found inside a pressure cooker was blasted in a controlled explosion without causing any damage," officials said.

A senior police officer said the investigation is underway, and a technical examination of the object was initiated immediately.

The traffic on the road was restored after the controlled blast.

Staying illegally after marrying local boy, Bangladeshi woman arrested in Jammu

JAMMU, Aug 9 (Agencies): Police have arrested a Bangladeshi woman illegally staying after marrying a local boy here in Talab Tillo area of Jammu city.

Police sources on Friday said that a Bangladeshi woman identified as Junaki Chiram, who had come to Jammu in 2022 on a three-month visa, was taken into custody on Thursday.

The lady, sources said, had married a local boy from the Trikuta Nagar area, and the couple was

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ECI takes feedback from Police, civil admin

SRINAGAR, Aug 9 (Agencies): The Election Commission on Friday held consultations with the Jammu and Kashmir chief secretary and the union territory's police chief to review the preparedness for assembly polls, officials said.

On the second day of their visit, the EC delegation comprising Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and S S Sandhu held discussions with J-K chief secretary Atal Dullo and J-K Police DGP R R Swain, the officials said.

The ECI reviewed the preparedness of the



administration as well as the security agencies for the conduct of the polls. The ECI team sought feedback from the DGP on the readiness and preparation of the forces for the polls, the officials

said.

The issues of deployment of forces, providing security cover to candidates, and security during campaigning were deliberated upon, the officials added.

After the meeting, the ECI team left for Jammu where it will hold a review meeting with enforcement agencies. It will also hold a press conference to brief

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Pakistan more of 'Nuisance', than strategic threat to India: Shaurya Doval

NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): Pakistan is now more of a "nuisance" than a strategic threat as India has gained an edge over its neighbour, according to BJP leader and India Foundation founder Shaurya Doval.

India's key advantage is its economic growth, he said but stressed on the need to manage relations with its neighbours, including Pakistan and China, to support this growth and gain a strategic edge.

In an interaction with



editors at the agency's headquarters here, Doval also favoured roping in private players to fight cyberterrorism as he called for a "comprehensive" societal response rather than solely relying on legal

and military measures.

"We have passed various points in our relationship with Pakistan, and while they still present challenges, they no longer represent a serious threat...Pakistan poses nuisance value to us now but does not pose any strategic threat to us. So, that is one situation solved," he said.

He highlighted that similar dynamics are at play along India's eastern front, while cautioning that India's northern neighbour remains a

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LG Sinha pays tribute to freedom fighters on Quit India Movement's anniversary

SRINAGAR, Aug 9 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday pays tribute to freedom fighters on Quit India Movement's anniversary.

In a post on X, LG Sinha wrote, "Humble tributes to freedom fighters & martyrs of the Quit India Movement on



August Kranti Diwas. This historic

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Another batch of pilgrims leaves for Amarnath Yatra

JAMMU, Aug 9 (Agencies): A fresh batch of over 390 pilgrims left for the Amarnath cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas on Friday, officials said.

The 42nd batch of 398 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp at 3.26 am in a convoy of 14 vehicles escorted

by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and police, they said.

All the pilgrims have opted for the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

Over five lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the shrine so far this year.

The yatra commenced on June 29 and is scheduled to conclude on August 19.

Meanwhile, 730 pilgrims also left for the ancient temple of Budha Amarnath in Poonch border district this morning.

The yatra began on August 7 and will conclude on August 20.

Supreme Court grants bail to AAP leader Manish Sisodia



NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to AAP leader Manish Sisodia in the corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam, noting that

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Two missing children traced within hours, reunited with families in Srinagar: Police

SRINAGAR, Aug 9 (Agencies): Srinagar Police have successfully traced and reunited two minor children with their families in an efficient operation. These children had been reportedly missing for four days from Jamaat-ul-Uloom

BK Pora Nowgam.

Upon receipt of written information in Police Station Nowgam, a case vide FIR No. 68/2024 under section 137(2) BNS was registered and investigation was set into motion.

Utilizing a combina-

tion of technical data and human intelligence, Police Station Nowgam followed a lead to Vilgam, Handwara. With the cooperation of Handwara Police, the missing children were located and safely recovered from a remote area in

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NBCC gets Rs 15k Cr contract to build 406-acre satellite township in Srinagar

NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): State-owned firm NBCC has bagged a Rs 15,000 crore project to develop a 406-acre satellite township in Srinagar. In a regulatory filing on Friday, the compa-

ny informed that it has bagged this project from Srinagar Development Authority.

The nature of the work is the development of a satellite township spread over 406-acre at

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Executive Engineer R&B Bandipora suspended pending inquiry into 'conduct'

JAMMU, Aug 9 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Government has suspended the Incharge Executive Engineer of the Roads & Buildings Department, Division Bandipora, pending an inquiry into his conduct.

"Pending inquiry into the conduct of Er. Assad Ullah Najar, I/c Executive Engineer, R&B Division Bandipora, he is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect. During his suspension, the said engineer will remain attached to the office of the Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Pir Panjal," reads an order issued by the Secretary to the Government, Bhopinder Kumar.

"Further, Er. Mohamad Hussain Shah, I/c

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EDITORIAL

CIVIC ISSUES

Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir, is a city with a rich historical background and a strategic location. However, like many growing urban areas, it faces a variety of civic issues that impact its residents' quality of life. Addressing these issues is crucial for the city's development and the well-being of its citizens.

One of the most pressing issues in Jammu is the water supply. Despite significant improvements in recent years, many areas still experience inconsistent water availability. The Jal Jeevan Mission, aimed at providing safe and adequate drinking water, has not yet reached all remote and underserved areas. This issue is exacerbated by the city's growing population and the strain it places on existing resources. Efficient water management, infrastructure upgrades, and extension of water supply schemes are essential to address this problem.

Jammu's waste management system is under significant stress due to the city's rapid urbanization and increasing waste generation. Inadequate waste collection, inefficient disposal methods, and a lack of recycling facilities contribute to the accumulation of garbage in public spaces and water bodies. The development of a comprehensive waste management plan, including better collection systems, recycling initiatives, and public awareness campaigns, is crucial to mitigating this issue.

Traffic congestion is a common problem in Jammu, particularly during peak hours. The city's road infrastructure has struggled to keep pace with the increase in vehicle numbers. Narrow roads, inadequate traffic management systems, and poorly planned urban expansion contribute to frequent traffic jams and accidents. Improving road infrastructure, implementing effective traffic management solutions, and promoting alternative transportation methods can help alleviate congestion.

Access to quality healthcare services remains a challenge in Jammu. While there are several government and private hospitals, the growing population and increasing demand for healthcare services often lead to overcrowding and long wait times. Upgrading existing facilities, expanding healthcare infrastructure, and improving the availability of essential medical supplies and personnel are necessary to enhance healthcare delivery in the region.

Rapid urban growth has led to issues related to housing and urban planning. The increasing demand for residential properties has resulted in unauthorized construction and encroachments, which strain existing infrastructure and services. The lack of proper urban planning and zoning regulations further exacerbates these problems. Implementing effective urban planning policies, regularizing unauthorized constructions, and ensuring adequate provision of housing and amenities are vital for sustainable urban development.

While Jammu has several educational institutions, there are disparities in the quality of education and access to resources. Rural areas and economically disadvantaged communities often lack access to quality educational facilities and trained teachers. Improving infrastructure in schools, investing in teacher training, and implementing programs to bridge educational gaps are essential steps to ensure equitable access to education.

Environmental issues such as pollution, deforestation, and loss of green spaces are increasingly affecting Jammu. Industrial activities, vehicular emissions, and improper waste disposal contribute to air and water pollution. Additionally, deforestation and the loss of green spaces impact the local ecosystem and residents' quality of life. Enforcing environmental regulations, promoting green initiatives, and raising public awareness about environmental conservation can help address these concerns.

Security concerns, particularly in the context of Jammu's proximity to conflict zones, are significant. Ensuring public safety and maintaining law and order require effective policing and community engagement. Addressing issues related to crime, ensuring adequate lighting in public spaces, and enhancing emergency response systems are essential for improving safety and security.

Jammu faces a range of civic issues that require coordinated efforts from government authorities, local communities, and other stakeholders. By addressing challenges related to water supply, waste management, traffic congestion, healthcare, housing, education, environmental concerns, and security, the city can work towards improving the quality of life for its residents and ensuring sustainable development. Effective planning, investment in infrastructure, and community engagement are key to overcoming these challenges and fostering a thriving urban environment.

Caste, data & sub-quotas: No wriggle room for PM

By: Shikha Mukerjee

Childish truculence is writ all over the Narendra Modi-led new minority government's reaction that the water leaking in the grand lobby of the new Parliament building was a minor matter, a "so what, huh!" event. For the far bigger and more politically consequential matter of the Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe sub-categorisation by state governments, enabled by the landmark order of the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, the "so what" posture will not do. Also Read - Indranil Banerjee | The Dragon's bear hug: A strategic blunder by US? Advertisement Judged by the Supreme Court of 2024, identifying SCs and STs by "different degrees" of economic and social backwardness relative to other groups within SCs and STs is necessary to fulfil the promise of equality and justice. The court held that some SCs and STs even after reservation kicked in have been left behind. By identifying these sub-castes and listing them for reservation benefits, the necessary correction would have been made to satisfy the principle of equality, the judgment held. Also Read - Dilip Cherian | Sudan's challenge is to clean and reform UPSC The Supreme Court has sensibly recognised that "the inclusion [in the presidential list] does not automatically lead to the formation of a uniform and internally homogenous class which cannot be further classified". By recognising that there are the relatively worse off within the SC/ST communities, the Supreme Court has obviously opened the door compelling the states to identify the "creamy layer" within. Also Read - K.C. Singh | India-Bangla ties adrift as Hasina flees from Dhaka The decision is pointed; relative deprivation or dis-

crimination or backwardness must be "quantifiable and demonstrable" with adequate data to verify the social and economic condition of the group. By adding that notifications categorising a sub-caste as SC cannot be a matter of "whims or as a matter of political expediency", the Supreme Court judgment is trying to protect what it has enabled from manipulation by vested political interests and the compulsions of electoral politics. Also Read - K.C. Singh | India-Bangla ties adrift as Hasina flees from Dhaka The actuality of variations in the status of SCs and STs among the states and Union territories is a matter of concern for state governments faced with the pressure from some sub-categories that continue to feel deprived and discriminated and in need of special attention. By hoisting a barricade against expediency, the Supreme Court judgment has made it clear that the ruling side led by the BJP in Maharashtra should not take advantage to announce the long sought after reservation for Marathas. Conceding the demand will be a potential game-changer for a party like the BJP that is short of strong Maratha leaders who can swing votes away from Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party and Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena. The same would be true for Haryana, where micro-managing the sub-categories of Dalit votes could potentially be a face-saver for the BJP, after its electoral debacle in the recent Lok Sabha elections. The Supreme Court has drawn on the precedent which implies that these are now settled principles of how the Constitution is to be understood in the 21st century and thereafter. It remains to be seen how Article 341, which gave the President effective monopoly in deciding which communities to include or exclude from

the list of SCs and STs, and the 102nd Amendment of Article 342A, passed in 2018, that made Parliament the final arbiter to "specify the socially and educationally backward classes" in relation to that state or Union territory, fits into the new order of things. A Centrally-controlled list that had stalled the inclusion of Madigas in Telangana as a sub-category within the SC group, the Paswans in Bihar, the Jatavs in Uttar Pradesh and the Arundhatiyars in Tamil Nadu as sub-categories has now been removed. The reactions of the chief ministers of Tamil Nadu and Telangana, M.K. Stalin and A. Revanth Reddy, confirm the political impact of the Supreme Court's decision. In Bihar, where elections are due in early 2025, the quantifiable and demonstrable test of relative deprivation is a time bomb waiting to explode for the Nitish Kumar-led Janata Dal (United)-BJP alliance. Having fought with the Modi government over the legitimacy of its caste survey, what will Nitish Kumar do now? He has the data. Will he insist on using it to identify sub-castes and Muslims within these sub-castes and offer them reservations? Chest-thumping posturing that amendments to the Constitution that violate its sanctity will be defeated because these are conspiracies by the Congress and the Opposition to pamper vote banks and divide the people will not work either. The judgment is perfectly clear that categorisation henceforward has to be based on data. The BJP's problems are not limited to managing its allies like Nitish Kumar or N. Chandrababu Naidu of Andhra Pradesh, where the Madigas have hailed the Supreme Court decision. Neither friend nor foe parties like the Bahujan Samaj Party have chipped in with its demand that listed res-

ervation beneficiaries should be put into the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. The BJP is now in a fix. Its aversion to data is evident in its stubborn and harmful delays on announcing the start of the population census. The Modi government has withheld data on the Caste Survey of 2011, releasing bits and pieces that fit its political purposes over the years. However much it may be a "sensitive domestic issue" as RSS leader Ram Madhav has described it, the Sangh Parivar cannot duck addressing it. To say nothing or worse do nothing in BJP-ruled states would alienate the sub-castes demanding separate listing as a quick fix on their grievance of relative deprivation. To do something would require the Modi government to conduct a caste survey. There are voices that are growing louder from within the BJP ranks that have welcomed the expansion of the list of identified SCs and STs. The reaction of a BJP stalwart from Varanasi, Bizay Sonkar Shastri, who was the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes chief during Atal Behari Vajpayee's government, was unambiguous: "those who have not got the benefit for long" need to be helped, he said. The cleavages within the BJP are now out in the open. The data in the 14-year-old socio-economic caste census of 2011 is now outdated. A new census on caste is necessary to meet the condition laid down by the Supreme Court. The Modi government has a choice; it can notify that the long-delayed Census, including a caste census, be held immediately, or it can stop attacking the states, albeit all Opposition-ruled, that have either conducted such surveys or will now do so. The time for eating his cake and having it too on data is clearly over for the Prime Minister.

Value of Education and Ambition in Student's Life

By: Vijay GarG

Education provides the knowledge but the skills and professional attributes mould and bring about a successful career. In studies, the development of the skills is a necessity and only hardworking and capable student survives. Another important aspect is that education leads our life towards the best and up-moving direction. The competency examinations after the lectures and assignments appraise the level of students at a higher stage. Success and work centred in the mind of students from the initial stage of education that's why only they take so much keen interest in the field of education, to achieve their results and want to stand on merit only. The availability of ambition, aim and goals determined the concentration of education and one has to live in that environment to pursue a career. It is estimated that Education and Acknowledgement are the same sides of two coins which leads the career of student and also make him Confident, Determined, Independent and Well-educated in his/her life.

Sometimes, students face a shortage of skilled professionals and knowledge materials to meet the provisions of their state of education which makes them feel looser. But, it was seen in the early period of time, not now. Because now at the present all the criteria's and ways of the education system has been changed.

An Education, with its adaptable measurements, goal-oriented objectives, and knowledge awareness brings in its own set of regulations and restrictions requiring careful monitoring and also personnel for successful implementation for the betterment of the students. Education always gives strength, intelligent mind and active thoughts to the students for leading their career and to get a valuable position in life.

Success in the life of the world. It is truly observed that ambition brings out the best in all of us and also helps to achieve success in our goals. Ambition helps us to achieve perfection in life. Therefore what kind of ambition is necessary is the thing one has to think accurately and implement all our efforts to build a career in life. Ambition is the driving force in life which makes great achievements possible in the world. Here living is not enough, something has to be achieved to make one's life interesting or make interesting things, worthy things, best things and noble things known to the world.

Education has always been the basic tool to shape the career of the students. One of the most important steps you can take to develop a career is to undertake some training and education. You can improve your existing skills or build new one-become an expert of your own professional life. In, terms of reaching your ideal goals it's important to build your skills. Because after all, you haven't got your job due to the fact that you are lacking certain skills or experience. There is so much to be gained from learning and education and knowledge about new culture, new field, experiencing new challenges and opening our mind to the whole new world. Choosing the right career path is the route of choices, it is always better information about the courses that are being offered in various parts of the world before taking a decision regarding one's career path.

There are persons with ambition for materialistic developments, for intellectual development and for spiritual development. So, ambition for all-round development can make one a complete human being with a positive attribute, which is the aim of human culture and necessary for the well being of the world. It is also important for all of us to know that ambition which is based on one-sidedness, selfishness or imagination is abnormal, unnatural and undesirable for human society in the world. Therefore ambition is necessary, but good ambition only can give satisfaction, peace and happiness in life. It is merely believed that not only for the individuals but also for the nations, healthy human ambition is absolutely necessary so that real peace, prosperity and progress can be achieved for everyone in the world.

So, to implement such a broad idea, each

individual should have some realistic and good ambition with the vision of the future world in mind instead of confining their thoughts only on their individual self only.

The main purpose of Education is to develop the knowledge, skill and character of an individual. Knowledge arises in the mind of an individual when that person interacts with an idea or experience. Education is about drawing out what is already within the student. Well, it is the duty and mere responsibility of the teachers, that they should give students the necessary knowledge and skills to gain optimum positions in their life and come out with flying colour as well as in their career also. The central task and meaning of Education are to build a will-power among the students and also providing the best facilities for learning so that one can easily find the true meaning of his/her life. The effort of every good and useful Education should be utilized in the best possible manner, which can help the students to raise their standards of learning and as well as for becoming a shining spark in their career. The purpose of Education is to teach a student how to live his life in the most conducted and controlled manner. And also by developing his mind and encouraging him to deal with reality. The students should be taught in a good manner to understand, to implement and to prove themselves through the esteem medium of Education.

With an appropriate ambition based on experience, knowledge and vision, one can overcome the hardships of life in the world. It is a real fact, that from experience, reading and observation we gain knowledge. As time goes on experience, knowledge and conviction give us an active mind, strong attitude, wisdom, confidence, will-power, which is necessary to decide about matters. Then the ambition of one would be accomplishing that mission or achieving that in the world, which would make everything interesting in life and would make one achieve all matters according to one's plan with complete success. That is the way everyone has to live in the world and achieve something remarkable according to one's full capacity in some field like art, literature, information technology, agriculture, politics and so on not only for the present world but also for the future of mankind. And it is important for all of us

to give meaning to our life so, that we can achieve our goals, aims and ambitions in the best possible manner.

In fact, they should be given essentials of knowledge so that which can help them out bring out their own efforts for achieving their goals in life. The main objective of Education is to improve our minds so that we can raise our own thinking instead of following the thoughts of others. Well, all the students should believe that the purpose of Education lies at the heart and mind of teaching methods, behaviour and implementations. Beliefs arising from the own values and experiences of students always take the first front in their career and life. Well, it is a true fact that the transfer of knowledge from school to the real world is something that happens naturally as a consequence of possessing that knowledge as an extreme function of Education. It is a well defined and accurate statement that listening to the language of education which gives out complete focus on knowledge and teaching rather than on the learner. Therefore, students are expected to conform to schools rather than schools serving the needs of students. So, all the educators-teachers-professors and guides must be challenged to identify and reexamine their beliefs in the light of present knowledge which can help the students in a simple, useful and easy way.

As we make our ambition and implement our all efforts so that we can easily please everyone with our work and can achieve our real destination in life. It becomes a daily adventure for all of us, as we find routine situations which may bring deep and real lessons about life and one's character. We also behold the glory, power and wisdom of God at our work, in our personal lives and in the lives of others. As we learn to seek not for what we like but what is right. So, we always enter into the peace and joy of that which is good, easy, real and pleasing. Our responsibilities and involvements become more excited in our day to day life that we start enjoying our work, believe our efforts and continue our positive thinking.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)

Make 'Har Ghar Tiranga' a memorable mass movement: PM Modi

People are encouraged to display the national flag at their homes and other establishments during the run up to Independence Day on August 15.

NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asked people to make "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign a memorable mass movement. He also replaced his profile picture with the national flag and urged them to do the same. Modi said on X, "As this year's Independence Day approaches, let's again make Har Ghar Tiranga a memorable mass movement. I am changing my profile picture and I urge you



all to join me in celebrating our Tricolour by doing the same. And yes, do share your selfies on harghartiranga.com." People are encouraged to display the national flag at their homes and other establishments during the run up to Independence Day on August 15 as part of the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign. The ruling BJP rallies its members across the country to make the campaign a success.

Centre forms committee to monitor situation along Indo-Bangla border: Amit Shah



NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the Centre government has set up a panel to monitor the situation on

the Indo-Bangladesh border on Friday. "In the wake of the ongoing situation in Bangladesh, the Modi government has constituted a committee to

monitor the current situation on the Indo-Bangladesh Border (IBB). The committee will maintain communication channels with their counterpart authorities in Bangladesh to ensure the safety and security of Indian nationals, Hindus, and other minority communities living there," Shah posted on X. "The committee will be headed by the ADG, Border Security Force, Eastern Command," the minister added.

Awaiting release of 69 Indians from Russian army: S Jaishankar

NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday said the government is awaiting the release of 69 Indians recruited into the Russian army and that in many cases there are indications that the Indian nationals were misled. Speaking in the Lok Sabha, the minister also said the government has taken up seriously the issues of recruitment of Indian nationals into the Russian army and cyber crime trafficking of nationals to South East Asian countries. There are a total of 91 cases so far of Indian nationals being recruited in the Russian army. Out of them, eight have died, 14 have been discharged or sent back, and the release of 69 nationals is awaited, Mr Jaishankar said during the Question Hour.



"We take this issue very very seriously... I have myself raised it many times with the Russian foreign minister," he said and added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi also took up the issue during his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin last month. The minister said the problem is that the Russian authorities maintain that these Indian nationals entered into contracts for services with the Russian army.

"We are not necessarily subscribing to that... I think in many cases there are reasons to indicate that our nationals were misled, that they were told that they were going for some other job and then they were deployed with the Russian army," he said. Mr Jaishankar said the prime minister got Putin's assurance that any Indian national, who is in the service of the Russian army, will be discharged and released.

Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill introduced in Lok Sabha

Bill seeks to give customers an option to increase the number of nominees per bank account

NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary on Friday introduced in the Lok Sabha the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which seeks to give customers an option to increase the number of nominees per bank account to four, from existing one, among others. Another proposed change relates to redefining 'substantial interest' for directorships, which could increase to Rs 2 crore instead of the current limit of Rs 5 lakh, which was fixed almost six decades ago. Congress member Manish Tewari opposed the introduction of the Bill saying the power to legislate with regard to cooperative societies vests with state governments. Responding to opposition's remarks, Finance Minister



Nirmala Sitharaman said the banking regulation act and the cooperative banks do have a relationship and hence any amendment has to be taken through this route. "There is no attempt to undermine the cooperatives, particularly cooperatives dealing with everything other than banks. Banks, cooperatives with a licence for banking will have to

have a rule and therefore we have shown this," Sitharaman said. The Bill also seeks to give greater freedom to banks in deciding the remuneration to be paid to statutory auditors. It also seeks to redefine the reporting dates for banks for regulatory compliance to the 15th and last day of every month instead of the second and fourth

Friday. The Bill, which was approved by the Union Cabinet last week, proposes to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the State Bank of India Act, 1955, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970, and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980. The announcement about amendments to the Banking Regulation Act was made by the Finance Minister in her 2023-24 Budget speech. "To improve bank governance and enhance investors' protection, certain amendments to the Banking Regulation Act, the Banking Companies Act and the Reserve Bank of India Act are proposed," she had said.

Supreme Court partly stays Mumbai college circular banning 'hijab, burqa, cap and naqab' on campus

NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday partly stayed a Mumbai college circular banning 'hijab, burqa, cap and naqab' on the campus and said girl students must have the freedom to choose what they wear. Educational institutions, it said, cannot force on them their choice. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar issued notice to the Chembur Trombay Education Society, which runs the 'N G Acharya and D K Marathe College', and sought its response by November 18. "Girl students must have freedom of choice in what they are wearing and college cannot force them...It's unfortunate



that you suddenly wake up to know that there are many religions in the country," the bench told the college administration at the centre of a fresh row over a dress code for Muslim students. It added why the college did not ban 'tilak' and 'bindi' if intended the religious faiths of the students to not be revealed. "Will the students' names not reveal their religious identity?" the bench asked senior advocate Madhavi Diwan, appearing for the educational society. The court, however, said no

burqa can be allowed to be worn by girls inside the classroom and no religious activities can be permitted on the campus. The bench said its interim order should not be misused by anybody and granted liberty to the educational society and the college to approach the court in case of any misuse. The top court was hearing a plea challenging a Bombay High Court verdict upholding the college's decision to ban hijab, burqa and naqab inside the campus. Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves and advocate Abiha Zaidi, appearing for the petitioners, including Zainab Abdul Qayyum, submitted that students were not able to attend classes because of the ban.

Auditorium built by Shahu Maharaj in 1915 gutted in major fire in Kolhapur



KOLHAPUR, Aug 9 (Agencies): A major fire gutted a more than 100 years old auditorium in Kolhapur city of western Maharashtra, officials said on Friday. The auditorium, Keshavrao Bhosale Natyagraha, which stood as a symbol of arts and drama in Kolhapur, was gutted in the blaze that broke out on Thursday night, the district officials said. The auditorium was built by Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj in 1915. According to the district administra-

tion, a short-circuit is suspected to have triggered the fire. "The fire erupted around 9.45 pm on Thursday. Following the call, fire tenders and water tankers were rushed to the site and attempts were made to douse the flames," a fire brigade official said. Hasan Mushrif, the guardian minister of Kolhapur, later visited the spot and said an inquiry will be conducted. He said, "It is unfortunate that the auditorium, which was built by Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj 109 years ago, was gutted in a fire. No one could have imagined that the auditorium would be destroyed like this." The auditorium had been renovated after the state government granted Rs 10 crore for the work, he said. "An inquiry will be conducted into the incident," Mushrif said.

SC rejects plea against election of Amritpal Singh as Lok Sabha MP

NEW DELHI, Aug 9 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a plea against the election of jailed radical Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh as an MP from Punjab's Khadoor Sahib. The petitioner claimed before a bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan that Article 84 of the Constitution deals with qualification for membership of Parliament and says that a person shall not be qualified to be chosen to fill a seat in Parliament unless he is a citizen of India. "In this case, respon-

dent number four (Amritpal Singh) had said that he does not owe allegiance to the Constitution of India," the petitioner, who appeared in-person, said. "You file an election petition," the bench said. The petitioner said he was not a voter of Khadoor Sahib constituency but was "deeply hurt" by the statements given earlier by Singh. "It is a matter of evidence. There are procedures prescribed. There are provisions in the Representation of the People Act," the

bench observed. "Thank you. Dismissed," the bench said while refusing to entertain the petition. On July 5, Singh, was granted parole to take oath as members of the Lok Sabha. Singh, who heads the 'Waris Punjab De' outfit, is lodged in a prison in Assam's Dibrugarh district for alleged offences under the National Security Act. Singh, 31, won the Lok Sabha elections from Khadoor Sahib as an independent candidate while being incarcerated.

Case against Puja Khedkar's father for obstructing government work

PUNE, Aug 9 (Agencies): Police have registered a case against Dilip Khedkar, the father of former probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar, on charges of threatening and obstructing a public servant in the discharge of duty in Pune district, officials said on Friday. The case was filed at the Bundgarden police station here on the basis of a complaint lodged by a tehsildar-rank officer from the Pune district collectorate, they said. "The complaint says that during Puja Khedkar's posting as an assistant collector, Dilip



Khedkar allegedly used threatening language against tehsildar Dipak Akade, asking him to allot a cabin for his daughter even as he had no right to interfere in the administrative functioning," an official said. The Union Public Service Commission

(UPSC) recently cancelled the selection of Puja Khedkar and also permanently debarred her from all future exams and selections. She is currently untraceable after an FIR was registered against her in Delhi as she is accused of 'misrepresenting information' in her application for the UPSC Civil Services Examination, 2022. The 2023 batch officer is accused of misusing power and privileges by demanding perks and facilities she was not entitled for, during her training at the Pune district collectorate. "After receiving the complaint from the district administration, we registered a case against Dilip Khedkar under sections 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of his public functions), 504 (intentional insult) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal

Code (IPC)," a senior official of the Pune police said. The incident occurred in June this year. Dilip Khedkar, a retired government official was also booked in a case of criminal intimidation filed by the Paud police in Pune, in which his wife Manorama was accused of toting a gun at a person in Mulshi area over a land dispute. Dilip Khedkar was granted anticipatory bail in that case, while his wife Manorama, who was arrested by Pune rural police, was released on bail by the court recently.

DC Kishtwar organises symposium during Vigilance Awareness Week 2024

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Aug 9: The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) DKR, in collaboration with GDC Kishtwar, organized Vigilance Awareness Week 2024 at the GDC Kishtwar Auditorium. The event, themed "Day of Resolution for Freedom from Corruption," saw the participation of around 200 students and NSS volunteers.

The chief guest for the event was ADDC Kishtwar, Gulam Rasool. The guests of honor included Principal GDC Kishtwar, Prof. Basharat Iqbal, and Addl. SP Kishtwar, Pawan Sharma.



Other notable attendees were AD CAPD, Shafiqat Qayoom, Prof. Umar Din Rather, Prof. N.K. Manhas, and various officials from GDC Kishtwar, district administration and police department.

Dr. Tabassum Saleem,

Assistant Professor at GDC Kishtwar, conducted the proceedings and delivered the formal welcome address.

Rakesh Kumar, SSP (ACB), felicitated the chief guest and the guests of honor. He also administered the anti-corruption

pledge, which was taken by all dignitaries and students present.

Pawan Sharma addressed the gathering, emphasizing the need to combat corruption for a better-developed society. The event also featured symposium on corruption, where Abroo Wajid secured first prize, Anurag Sharma secured second prize, and Payal Parihar secured third prize which was adjudged by Asstt. Prof. Dr. Sehrish Gazal, Inspector Vipin, and Inspector Ravinder Mehta of the ACB (DKR).

Rakesh Kumar provided an in-depth explanation

of various forms of corruption, CVC preventive vigilance measures, CVC complaint guidelines for the public against public servants, and the causes and consequences of corruption through PPT.

Principal GDC Kishtwar Prof. Basharat Iqbal highlighted the importance of transparency, accountability, and integrity in building a corruption-free society.

ADDC Kishtwar Gulam Rasool encouraged the audience to raise their voices against corruption. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Inspector Vishal Jamwal of ACB.

Youth should follow Mahant Rohit, contribute to preservation of culture in state: SSP Angral



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 9: In observance of Sanskrit Month, the Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sans-than Trust conducted a tree plantation campaign at Jammu Police Line IRP 18th Battalion.

On this occasion, SSP Ramesh Angral, Commandant of IRP 18th Battalion, emphasized the importance of planting a tree in memory of our martyrs. He urged everyone to take a pledge to plant a tree on each child's birthday. The significance of trees is highlighted in our scriptures. Trees are a part of our culture and identity. Mahant Rohit Shastri is playing a vital role in the upliftment of society by spreading the Sanskrit language and Indian culture to the masses. He is making invaluable contributions to the promotion and development of the Sanskrit language in

India. The youth should follow Mahant Rohit's example and contribute to the preservation of culture in the state and nation.

On this occasion, Mahant Rohit Shastri warned of the dangers of a polluted environment and encouraged people to engage in tree planting. He stated that everyone should take a pledge to plant at least one tree. Tree planting is essential for saving society from a polluted environment. Today, people are recklessly cutting down trees for material comfort and short-term gains, the severe consequences of which we are witnessing. Just as the body needs food for nourishment, the environment needs trees to remain pure. It is also crucial to protect the trees after planting them. The coming era belongs to Sanskrit, and every parent should ensure their children learn Sans-

skrit.

Kulveer Handa, Deputy Commandant of IRP 18th Battalion, said that tree planting is essential for protecting the environment. Trees provide us with life-sustaining oxygen and offer many direct and indirect benefits to humanity. We all should plant trees and also work to protect them. The trust is doing commendable work in promoting Sanskrit.

Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal stated that they will stand shoulder to shoulder with Mahant Rohit Shastri in this campaign to promote Sanskrit, the divine language, through tree planting. They will plant as many trees as possible and inspire others to do the same.

Present at the event were Trust members Uttam Chand Sharma, Naresh Raina, Aditya Abhiraj Sharma, and other members of the Trust.

GDC R S Pura hosts Flower Pot making competition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 9: Students of NSS Unit of GDC R S Pura organised a vibrant flower pot making competition under the theme "Ek Ped Shaheedon Ke Naam" as a part of series of event for independence day celebrations.

The purpose behind organizing such programme was to honour the martyr of our nation and to promote environmental awareness.

The programme was organised with the collaborative effort of NSS Unit, NCC (Girls), beautification committee and Department of Zoology.

Near about 40 students participated with great zeal and enthusiasm. The competition was organized under the guidance of Principal Prof.(Dr.) Preetpal Kour who has been a constant source of inspiration and support for initiatives that foster both creativity and social responsibility among students.

Dr. Chanchal Angral,

the event coordinator along with the faculty members viz. Dr. Neena Gupta, Prof. Shifali Abrol, Dr. Hari Singh, Dr. Sunil Mangoch and Dr. Rupali Salathia ensured that the programme was conducted smoothly and efficiently.

They also motivated the students to express their creativity through beautifully crafted flower pots and planted saplings dedicated to the martyrs. After careful evaluation by a panel of Judges, Manshi Bhagat was declared as the winner whereas 2nd position was shared by Shikha Chib and Ayushi Bhagat. 3rd position was bagged by Ajmeet Kour. Consolation prize was given to Vanshika Choudhary.

The Principal of the college appreciated the efforts and creativity and highlighted the significance of the theme 'Ek Ped Shaheedon Ke Naam' and emphasize the importance of honors of our Martyrs by contributing positive to the environment.

GCoE Jammu observes Vigilance Awareness Week

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 9: Government College of Education (GCoE), Jammu organized week long activities to observe Vigilance Awareness Week in the college campus as per the directions of JKHED.

The students organized rally against corruption, besides slogan besides programs like poster making.

On the concluding day of the awareness week SSP, ACB Sandeep Wazir was the Chief Guest.

The program witnessed detailed presentations by Sh. Deedar Singh, DySP ACB related to functioning of ACB, process of lodging complaints against corrupt public servants and the practices to curb menace of corruption.

The presentation was followed by interactive session in which Mohd Amir-al-Mansoor CPO answered the queries of students and the staff members of GCoE Jammu.

In the presidential



address Principal of the college, Dr Jyoti Parihar expressed her gratitude towards the officers from ACB for conducting the program.

She assured that the institution will work towards a corruption free India. The college will also collaborate with law enforcement agencies like ACB towards achieving a common goal that is a progressive and corruption free India. She appreciated the dedication and commitment of the visiting team.

Wazir also reiterated during his interaction with the students that corruption is not just a word, it is a deep-rooted malice that affects every aspect of our society.

It erodes trust, weakens institutions and deprives our fellow citizens of their rightful opportunities. From the smallest bribe to the largest scam, corruption perpetuates inequality, fosters injustice and slows down the wheels of progress. But as daunting as this challenge may seem, it is not insurmountable. A corruption-free India is not just a lofty ideal, it is an achievable goal if become aware citizens and work together.

The program was conducted by Dr Shalini Rana while vote of thanks was presented by Prof Sarita Dogra. The students who acted as student organizers were Neha Bashal and Anjali Sharma.

DPS Jammu students shine in 2nd J&K UT Ranking Table-Tennis Championship 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 9: Students of Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu brought laurels to the school and their parents by clinching 1st, 2nd and 3rd position in 2nd J&K UT Ranking Table-Tennis Championship 2024 organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports held at M.A Stadium, Jammu from 26-29 July, 2024.

1st positions: Saiyam Nischal (V-G) U-13 & U-11, Mishthi Aggarwal (XII-F) Women's category & U-17, Pranit Mahajan (VIII-A) U-14, Ahaan Anand (VI-B) U-14, Eshan (VI-E) U-14, Samarth Nischal (X-E) U-17, Gourav Singh (X-B) U-17, Satyam Nischal (IX-E) U-17, Yashashree (VIII-C) U-17, Tuhina (X-C)



U-17, Rohan Sharma (XII-F) U-19, Chetney (X) U-19, Rudraksh Sharma (XI) U-19, Ragini Gupta (XI-B) U-19, Arya Giri (XII-B) U-19, Chitrani (X-A) U-19.

2nd positions: Aleena Arora (U-11), Ahaan Anand (VI-B) U-15, Mishthi Aggarwal (XII-F) U-17 & U-19, Rihimi Gupta (VI-A) U-14, Gunjan (VIII-F) U-14, Bhavin Kour (VI-H) U-14.

Consolation prizes were

also given to Aarav, Rihimi and Eshan.

The management of DPS Jammu under the leadership of President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC- Dr. Ritu Singh, Director- S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated all the winners, their parents and coach, Meenu Ragesh.

They also extended their best wishes to them for all their future endeavours.

Anti Corruption Foundation of India confers 'Pride of India' Award to Rajesh Sharma

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 9: The Anti Corruption Foundation of India is proud to announce that Rajesh Sharma, Executive Engineer (Civil) of the PMGSY Division, Kishtwar (Jammu), has been conferred with the prestigious 'Pride of India' Award.

This honor was bestowed upon Sharma in recognition of his outstanding service and Exceptional contributions to his department.

Rajesh Sharma has been a dedicated and diligent professional, known for his unwavering commitment to excellence in civil engineering.

His contributions have significantly advanced the objectives of the PMGSY Division in Kishtwar, particularly in improving rural connectivity through the construction and maintenance of quality roads.

The 'Pride of India' award is one of the most honors presented by the Anti Corruption Foundation of India. It recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional integrity, dedication, and service in their respective fields. Sharma's nomination and subsequent selection for this award highlight his exemplary work and commitment to public service.

The award was presented to Rajesh Sharma



yesterday, acknowledging his remarkable efforts in ensuring transparency, efficiency, and quality in his work. His contributions have not only benefited the department but have also made a significant impact on the community he serves.

The Anti Corruption Foundation of India commends Rajesh Sharma for his outstanding achievements and is honored to recognize him with the 'Pride of India' award.

IYC Kishtwar organizes plantation drive on Foundation Day

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Aug 9: The Indian Youth Congress (IYC) Kishtwar marked its Foundation Day with a significant plantation drive in the presence of Anas Mujtaba Munshi, the Kishtwar Assembly Incharge.

The event saw active participation from several Congress leaders and supporters, reflecting the party's commitment to environmental sustainability and youth empowerment.

During the drive, IYC members successfully planted around 100 trees at

various locations across Kishtwar.

This initiative is part of the Youth Congress's broader efforts to promote green practices and contribute to the ecological well-being of the region.

Speaking to the media, Anas Mujtaba Munshi emphasized the party's unwavering support for youth and youth empowerment.

"On our Foundation Day, we urge all, especially the youth, to join the Congress in our mission to eradicate unemployment and corruption in India," he stated, highlighting the crucial role of young people in shaping the future of the nation.

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