

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

**Wear proper uniform or face action: IGP to police personnel**



SRINAGAR, Aug 12 (Agencies): The Inspector General of Police (IGP) has issued a critical directive aimed at addressing the issue of uniform non-compliance among police personnel. The order responds to increasing concerns over deviations from the department's uniform policy, including the wearing of T-shirts, beret caps, and non-standard shoes.

Effective immediately, the directive mandates that all officers within the 218 Kashmir Zone adhere strictly to the prescribed uniform standards. Supervisory officers are instructed to enforce compliance rigorously, with non-compliance subject to severe disciplinary measures.

**Budgam student found dead in Bengaluru, probe launched**

SRINAGAR, Aug 12 (Agencies): A Kashmiri student who was studying in Bengaluru was found dead under mysterious circumstances in his rented accommodation on Sunday evening, officials said.

An official told that the student from Reva University in Bengaluru, who was living as a paying guest there, was found dead on Sunday evening.

He said that the student has been identified as Tanveer Hussain Rather of Budgam's Chittargam, while investigation has been initiated.

**Minor's body found under mysterious condition near his home in Tangmarg**

SRINAGAR, Aug 12 (Agencies): A body of a three-year-old was found in mysterious conditions near his home at Dewadrag, Tangmarg in north Kashmir's

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## Har Ghar Tiranga campaign in J&K has grown to be a people's movement: LG

**Lt Governor flags off Tiranga Yatra in Srinagar**



**Top News Report**

SRINAGAR, Aug 12: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday

flagged-off the Tiranga Yatra here as he joined thousands of people, including public representatives and officials,

in the walkathon.

"Har Ghar Tiranga campaign in J-K has grown to be a people's movement. May our

beloved and victorious Tricolor fly high in the world," the Lt Governor said.

Sinha urged the citizens to take home the National Flag and hoist it with pride and honour and be a part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

He said the campaign is an embodiment of the collective commitment to nation-building and creates personal connection with the Tiranga.

The Lt Governor expressed gratitude to the citizens for playing a critical role in making the yatra a grand success.

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## Pulled J&K out of 'Debt State' identity in past 5 years: Lieutenant Governor

**Top News Report**

SRINAGAR, Aug 12: Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday said that with the active support of Centre, the administration has been able to pull the UT out of "debt legacy" and to put it on the path of "economically sustainable region."

Addressing a press conference at International Convention Centre (ICC) in Srinagar, LG Sinha said that J&K was known as a "debt State" but since past five years, J&K administration has



worked towards making the J&K as a "self-reliant UT."

"If someone asks me how I see past five years, I would say these years were full of peace and prosperity and high hopes. Lok Sabha polls witnessed a record

participation by people and there was 58 per cent voting is a real big achievement," he said as per news agency—Kashmir News Corner (KNC).

He said J&K budget passed in the

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## Jammu Kashmir Govt Reduces Sentences of Five Convicts Serving Life Imprisonment

SRINAGAR, Aug 12 (Agencies): The J&K govt on Monday issued a notification ordering to remit the life imprisonment of five convicts as per the Supreme Court's direction.

The Supreme Court had on 18-07-2024 passed a judgment under section 473 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, ordering to remit the five convicts, convicted of murder and were serving life imprisonment.

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 473 of Bharati-

ya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) read with S.O 188(E) of 1974 dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 1974 of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and in compliance to the order dated 18.07.2024 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in WP(Cr.) No. 142/2024 titled Mohd. Yousaf Shah & Ors vs State of J&K, the Lieutenant Governor is pleased to order that the remaining term of imprisonment of the five (05) life convict

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## SC must transfer Adani probe to CBI or SIT given 'Likelihood of SEBI's compromise: Congress

NEW DELHI, Aug 12 (Agencies): Amid the raging row over the Hindenburg Research's allegations against SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch, the Congress on Monday demanded her resignation and urged the Supreme Court to transfer the Adani probe to the CBI or a Special Investigation Team given the "likelihood of SEBI's compromise".

The opposition party also reiterated that the path forward is to immediately convene a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to investigate the full extent of what it described as the



"Modani mega scam" involving the "self-anointed non-biological PM and a perfectly biological businessman".

The Congress' assertions came a day after the SEBI said allegations against the Adani Group have been "duly investigated", and chairperson Madhabi Buch disclosed and recused

herself from time to time when dealing with matters.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said that in its statement on the ongoing investigations into certain financial transactions of the Adani Group, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has sought to project an image of hyperactivity, stating that it has issued 100 summons, 1,100 letters and emails, and examined 300 documents containing 12,000 pages.

This must have

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## Fresh batch of 380 pilgrims leave for Budha Amarnath in Poonch



JAMMU, Aug 12 (Agencies): Chanting "Bum Bum Bhole" with enthusiasm, more than 380 pilgrims left a Jammu base camp on Monday for the shrine of Budha Amarnath in the Poonch district amid tight security arrangements, officials said.

The sixth batch of 382

pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp at 5.15 am in a convoy of 10 vehicles escorted by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and police, they said.

The batch comprising 283 men, 90 women and nine children left in eight buses and two

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## Security forces widen search in Anantnag to flush out terrorists

SRINAGAR, Aug 12 (Agencies): The anti-terror operation in the forest area of Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir entered the third day on Monday as security forces widened the search area to flush out terrorists, officials said.

Three persons, including two soldiers, were martyred in the exchange of fire with terrorists on Saturday following which a massive manhunt has been launched in the Ahlan Gagarmandu forest area of Anantnag district to eliminate the ultras.

The operation to hunt down the ultras continued for the third day

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# MBA MOTORS

## MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

**NAGROTA, JAMMU (J&K)**    **+91-9086207123**



**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With immense grief and great sorrow, we inform you about the sudden demise of our beloved father **Shri Surinder Nath Khushoo S/o** Late Shri Radha Krishna Khushoo, (originally from 3rd Bridge Malik Angan Fateh Kadal, Srinagar) Presently residing at Indra Nagar Srinagar.



**SHRI SURINDER NATH KHUSHOO**

The 10th Day Kriya will be performed on 15/8/24, Thursday at Shurayaar Mandir opposite GB Panth Hospital Shivpoora Srinagar at 7 AM.

**DEEPLY MOURNED BY**

**Khushoo's, Kaul's and Dhar's**  
Grand Children: Aradhya Khushoo, Saisha Khushoo, Shivansh Khushoo

**SHADMOS & MASWAR**

*Though you are no longer with us, your memory and legacy live in our hearts.*

Shadmos and Maswar of our beloved **Lt. Smt. Ratna Devi W/o** Late Sh. Kashi Nath Pandita originally from Vessu presently at H.No. 53-Sector-2, Sharika Vihar Roop Nagar Jammu will be performed on 12th Aug and 13th Aug 2024.



**Lt. Smt. Ratna Devi**

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:**

Entire Pandita Family and  
Kouf's, Bhat's, Ganjoo's, Razdan's, Dhar's

**BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Balak Singh S/o** Khem Singh R/o H.No. 12-A, Indra Colony Talab Tillo, Jammu, who expired on 7-08-2024.  
**ANTIM ARDAS** will be performed on 12-8-2024 (Tuesday) at our residence at 9 AM and at Gurdwara Talab Tillo from 10:30 AM to 12:00 Noon followed by Guru Ka Langar.



**S. Balak Singh**

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Jagdish Kaur - Wife  
Amber Singh - Daughter  
Anil Singh - Daughter  
Sohab Singh - Son  
S. Himmat Singh - Brother  
S. Onkar Singh - Brother  
S. Jasak Singh - Brother  
Smt. Manjeet Kaur & Jasant Singh - Sister & Husband  
Smt. Daljeet Kaur & Harpal Singh - Sister & Husband  
Smt. Mohinder Kaur - Sister  
All Nephews & Niece  
S. Ramesh Pal Singh - Brother-in-law  
S. M.P. Singh - Brother-in-law  
S. Ranjesh Singh Nalwa (State president BJP Minority Mocha) - Brother-in-law  
S. Kehar Singh - Brother-in-law  
S. Sandeep Singh - Brother-in-law

Mob.: 941916002

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR RESPECTED MOTHER **SMT. SHARIKA LABROO W/O** LT. MOTI LAL LABROO ORIGINAL RESIDENT OF BUL BUL LANKER ALI KADAL SRINAGAR KASHMIR AT PRESENT HOUSE NO. 105 BLOCK-B LANE 2/5 ROOP NAGAR ENCLAVE JAMMU (DOCTOR CHOUHDHARY LANE).  
THE 10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST 2024 AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR OFFICE OF DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDUCATION AT 9 AM.



**SMT. SHARIKA LABROO**

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW  
RAJESH CHANDER LABROO & VEENA LABROO  
MITLESH LABRU & SHRENG LABRU (SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)  
BUNTI RAINA & M.K. RAINA (DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW)  
GRAND CHILDREN  
AKSHAY LABROO & ABHISHRI MOHIT RAINA & MRS. JENNY  
ARPITA LABROO, DIVYA LABRU, ABHAY LABRU, MANIK RAINA  
MONIKA & ANKIT ARORA MASTER AADIV (GREAT GRAND SON)

**10TH DAY AND KRIYA/ UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh Madhu Mehta Ji** S/o Late Sh. Bansil Lal Mehta Ji R/o Ward No. 2 Nagri Parole, Kathua who expired on 05/08/2024.



**Sh Madhu Mehta Ji**

10TH DAY will be performed on 13/08/2024 at 11 am and **KRIYA/ UTHALA** on 16/08/2024 at 4 pm at our residence.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Rama Gupta (Wife)  
(Daughter-in-law and Son)  
Deep Mala and Ajay Veer Mehta  
Sudhanshu Mehta (Son)  
Saransh Mehta (Son)  
**BHABHIES AND BROTHERS**  
Renu Gupta and Raghu Mehta  
(Advocate, Member SMVDSB)  
Manjana Gupta and Daleep Mehta  
Sunaina Mehta and Sandeep Mehta (SSP JKP)  
**SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN LAW**  
Nirmal Gupta and Ashwani Gupta  
Savita Gupta and Pawan Gupta

M/s RAMA MOTORS Haria Chak  
9596637998, 8716808058

**MASWAR AND VAHARWAR**

One year has passed since our beloved mother Late **Smt. Roopa Ganjoo** W/o Late Sh. Piary Lal Ganjoo left his mortal coil to rest eternally at the DIVINE FEET of the SUPREME. He left an indelible mark of his personality in our lives.

**MASWAR AND VAHARWAR** will be performed on 13th and 14th August 2024 at our residence Tara Niwas Lane No.2 Hazuri Bagh Road Bohri Talab Tillo Jammu.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED AND MISSED BY**

Smt. Veena Ji Kothidar  
Smt Santosh Ji Koul  
Mr. Kuldeep & Bharti Ganjoo  
Mr. Satish & Bita Ganjoo  
Mr. Dileep & Rewanti Ganjoo  
Rohin, Vatsal & Irina, Surbi, Vardhan, Anmol, Rishab  
Master Myril (Shuhul)  
**8825001489, 9469514124**



**SMT. ROOPA GANJOO**

**KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Mrs. Bela Gupta** W/o Ravi Gupta.

**KRIYA** will be performed on 13-08-24 (Tuesday) at 12 noon at our residence H. No 95 P Ext. 1 Trikuta Nagar Jammu (Khuu wali gali).

**UTHALA** will be performed on 14-08-24 (Wednesday) at Shiv Mandir sector 3 Trikuta Nagar Jammu from 4 PM to 5 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Ravi Gupta (Husband)  
Shadha & Manjul Jyoti Gupta (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Shreya Gupta (Daughter)  
Mob.: 9149752139



**MRS. BELA GUPTA**

**REMEMBRANCE**

You left this world of sufferings in the early peaceful godly hours of 12th August 2018, and reached heaven to meet the almighty. But your absence has filled our souls and hearts with deep sorrow. You were an accomplished and dedicated professional who established the Dept. of Gastroenterology in GMC Jammu. You were our pride, protector, a loving adorable father, and caring husband, who worked so hard to help and care for his family and relations selflessly in all possible ways. God is sure to bless you profusely in your heavenly abode.

**DEEPLY LOVED AND REMEMBERED BY:**

Prof. Dr. Anil Sharma - Wife  
Aditi and Anmol Patil - Daughter and Son in law  
Nihar and Rakshit Goswami - Daughter and Son in law  
Anoushka and Anshiv - Grand Children



**Late Prof. Dr. Sunil Sharma**  
MBBS, M.D. (D), (PG) MAMC  
Ex-Head Gastroenterology (GMC)

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

It is with an ultimate sense of anguish that we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Daddy Ji, Sh. Sham Lal Bhat** S/o Lt. Neel Kanth Bhat erstwhile resident of Dewar, Tril (Kashmir) presently residing at H.No.808, Lane 7D, Suryavashi Nagar, Muthi, Jammu.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed as per the rituals on 16-08-2024 at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of Education at 8:30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Sham Rani (Wife) - Spouse  
Sister & Brother-in-law  
Smt. Mohini & Lt. Sh. Kanayal Rai  
Sister-in-law & Brother  
Lt. Smt. Neha Chitli & Lt. Sh. Mahesh Lal Bhat  
Lt. Smt. Vijay & Sh. Charan Lal Bhat  
Sister & Brother-in-law  
Smt. Vijay & Lt. Sh. Sham Sunder Raina  
Daughter-in-law & Sons  
Smt. Sumita & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Bhat  
Smt. Lucky & Sh. Nanaji Bhat  
Smt. Isha & Sh. Rajeev Bhat  
Smt. Sushma & Sh. Sushil Bhat



**SH. SHAM LAL BHAT**

Smt. Sunil & Sh. Anvish Bhat  
Daughters & Son-in-laws  
Smt. Beauty & Sh. Armit Soopri  
Smt. Neera & Sh. Suniti Koul  
Smt. Koral & Sh. Chandrakant Bhat  
Grandchildren: Narmata, Nita, Ravant, Ayish, Rishi, Sayali, Danish, Disha, Hemt, Bhavika, Saksham, Kaira, Ahayee, Babilul

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Arun Sharma** S/o Lt. Sh. Padam Nath Sharma R/o 430 Shastri Nagar Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 3-8-2024.

The 10th Day will be performed on 12-8-2024 (Monday) at our residence 430 Shastri Nagar at 11 am.

**Kriya** will be performed on 14-8-2024 (Wednesday) at our residence 430 Shastri Nagar at 12 noon.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Chandler Bagha Sharma - Mother  
Smt. Sushmati Sharma - Wife  
**Brothers & Sisters-in-law**  
Sh. Ajay Sharma & Smt. Promila Sharma  
Dr. Rajeev Sharma & Smt. Vidushi Sharma  
**Sons & Daughter-in-law**  
Arjun Sharma & Sheruti Sharma  
Narish Sharma & Meenakshi Sharma  
Aditya Sharma  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Arshiya Sharma  
Palvi & Pardeep Raina  
Sonali & Varun Sharma  
Shriya & Shubhangini  
**Grand Children:**  
Atharv, Arav, Anika & Avika



**Sh. Arun Sharma**

Contact No. 9797625161  
M/s Kashmir Spun Pipe & Allied Industries Gangyal

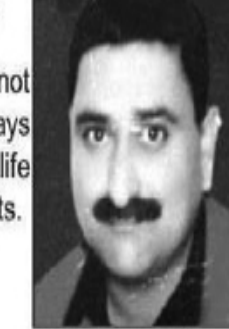
**REMEMBRANCE**

**ON 16TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

In your loving memory words cannot express our feelings. You are always remembered in every moment of life with respect and love in our hearts.

**DEEPLY MISSED BY :**

Whole Family  
M/s Kumar Cement Agencies  
Mob.: 9419196846, 9419186337



**Sh. Raj Kumar Sharma (Raju)**

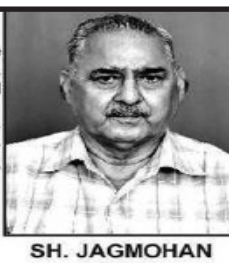
**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our father **Sh. Jagmohan Abrol S/o** Lt. Sh. Ram Chand Abrol R/o Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 13-08-24 (Tuesday) at 10:00 AM at our residence H.No. 605-A Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Smt. Usha Abrol - Wife  
Brother & Sister-in-law  
Sh. Surman Abrol & Smt. Neelam Abrol  
Sons & Daughters-in-law  
Amit Abrol & Poonam Abrol  
Sumit Abrol & Meenakshi Abrol  
Manish Abrol & Radhika - Nephew & Daughter-in-law  
Pankaj Gupta & Rupali - Niece & Son-in-law  
Grand Sons: Lakshya, Garv, Ishaan, Shivin.  
M/S Abrol Daily Need  
9419135618, 9018535618



**SH. JAGMOHAN ABROL**

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Sheela Bhat** W/o Sh. Soom Nath Bhat resident of Sogam Lalooob presently residing at H.No. 680/A Sector 3 Baisakhi Colony Muthi.

**Tenth Day** will be performed at Muthi Ghat near DSE Jammu on 14-8-2024 at 8 AM.

**Grief Stricken**  
Sh. Soom Nath Bhat - Husband  
**Devar & Devrani**  
Sh. Poshker Nath Bhat & Smt. Phoola Bhat  
Sh. Chaman Lal Bhat & Smt. Shanli Bhat  
Sh. Piya Lal Bhat & Smt. Sarla Bhat  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Sh. Ashok Kumar Bhat & Smt. Sweety Bhat  
Sh. Dalip Kumar Bhat & Smt. Beauty Bhat  
Sh. Vijay Kumar Bhat & Smt. Rinku Bhat  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Smt. Sunita Koul & Satish Kumar Koul



**Smt. Sheela Bhat**

Mob. No. 9797451797,  
9906191305

**10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With immense grief and great sorrow, we deeply regret to inform you about the sudden and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Ravi Sharma**, S/o Late Sh. Dina Nath Sharma, R/o H.No 53/B, Kucha Nahar Singh Gali, Panjirthi, Jammu.

The 10th Day will be performed on 13-08-2024 at 10 AM Rani Park, Jammu.

**Kriya** will be performed on 14-08-2024 at 11 AM at our residence.

**Uthala** will be performed on 14-08-2024 at 4 PM at Mandir Shri Baba Banwari Das, near Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Mubarek Mandi, Jammu.

**IN GRIEF:**

Smt. Vinita Sharma (Wife)  
Smt. Kesari Devi (Mother-in-law)  
**Brother and Sister-in-law**  
Smt. and Sh. Vipin Sharma  
**Brother-in-laws and Sister-in-laws**  
Smt. and Sh. Nandinder Koushal  
Smt. and Sh. Rakesh Koushal  
Smt. and Sh. Vivek Koushal  
Divya Sharma (Daughter)  
Hiteshwar Sharma (Son)  
Sideshwar Sharma (Son)  
Brighu Sharma (Nephew)



**Sh. Ravi Sharma**  
(Prof. Range Officer, J&K Forest Dept.)

Tharmat and Koushal Family  
Contact: 7889351677,  
9149457134

**OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA**

With deep grief and heartbreak, we are saddened to inform that our beloved Mother, **Smt. Phoola Kaw (Dida)** has left us for heavenly abode on 5th August 2024, originally from Badiyar Bala, Srinagar, Kashmir (presently residing at Ahmedabad, Gujarat).

Her sudden demise has created a void in our family which can never be filled but she will forever live in our hearts, guiding and inspiring us as always. May her noble soul stay in eternal peace.

**MOURNING** is being held at S-710, Office City 1, Raj Nagar Extension, Ghazalabad, UP 201017.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be held at Ngambodh Ghat (Kashmiri Ghat), Delhi on Wednesday, 14th August 2024 at 8:00 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Mrs. Heena & Mr. Tarun Kaw (Daughter-in-Law & Son)  
Mrs. Deepli & Mr. Kunal Kak (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Grand Children: Om & Hannah  
Fondly Remembered By:  
Samrat Kaw, Pajnu, Mattu, Koul, Mattoo & Zutshi Parivar  
CONTACT NUMBERS: 9979882161 (Tarun Kaw), 9419209633 (M.K Kaw)



**Smt. Phoola Kaw (Dida)**

**OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA**

Amid sobs and tears, with profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our revered father **Sh. Makhan Lal Bhat** S/o Lt. Sh. Neel Kanth Bhat on 7th of August 2024, erstwhile resident of Salamatwari Kralpora Kupwara, presently at Lane No. 1 Lakshmi Vihar Santra Morh Bye Pass Bohri Jammu.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 16th of August 2024 Friday at 9:00 am at Kriya Ghat near Directorate of School Education Muthi, Jammu.

**In Grief**

Smt. Phoola Bhat - Wife  
**Daughter-in-Laws and Sons**  
Smt. Dulari Bhat and Sh. Maharaj Krishan Bhat  
Smt. Daizy Bhat and Sh. Rattan Lal Bhat  
**Daughters and Son-in-laws**  
Smt. Neena Pandita and Veer Ji Pandita  
Smt. Reenu Koul and Sh. Vidya Sagar Koul  
**Grand Daughter and Grand Son-in-law**  
Smt. Sheetal Bharti and Sh. Mohit Koul  
**Grand Daughter-in-Law and Grand Son**  
Smt. Swati Bhat and Sh. Ashish Bhat  
**All Grand Children and Great Grand Children**  
9622021041, 7889346422, 9797574510, 9419185547



**Sh. Makhan Lal Bhat**

**Obituary/Tenth Day**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt Santosh Kaul** wife of Sh. Bushan Lal Koul originally from village Vessu Distt. Anantnag.

Mourning is being held at Community Hall Lane No. 1 Jagti.

**Tenth Day** will be held at Muthi Ghat on Thursday 15th of Aug. 2024 at 8.30 AM.

**Grief Stricken**

Sh. Bushan Lal Koul - Husband  
Mrs Nancy Bhat W/o Late M L Bhat - Sister  
Sh. Shadi Lal Koul & Jeeta - Brother & Bhabhi  
Sh. Deepak Koul & Sheeta - Son & Daughter-in-law  
Smt. Witly & Sh. Vijay Raina - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Smt. Veena & Sh. Manoj Sapru - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Smt. Neetu & Sh. Vijay Raina - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Smt. Baby & Sh. Surrender Hangshu - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Phone Nos. 7006675916, 7889911387



**Smt. Santosh Kaul**

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## Khatana accuses Congress of colluding with foreign forces to undermine India's economy

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Aug 12: In a strongly worded statement on Monday, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, launched a scathing attack on the Congress party, accusing it of aligning with foreign entities to undermine India's economic stability.

Khatana's remarks came in response to recent allegations by Hindenburg Research, which he dismissed as part of a broader conspiracy to tarnish India's global reputation.

"Hindenburg's latest charges are a calculated attempt to defame our nation and destabilize our economy," Khatana



declared. He suggested that the opposition's aggressive promotion of these allegations on Sunday was aimed at negatively impacting the Indian stock market.

The BJP leader drew attention to the timing and nature of the accusations, implying a foreign conspiracy to impede India's economic progress. Khatana specifically pointed to George Soros, a prominent financier known for

his influence on political regimes, as the primary investor in Hindenburg. "I want to ask Congress - what does it want?" Khatana questioned, referencing Soros's previous critical statements about the Modi government.

Expressing concern over Soros's involvement with Hindenburg, Khatana suggested that the Congress party's alignment with these forces was against India's interests. He accused the opposition of harboring an obsessive odium for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which he claimed had evolved into a broader animosity towards India itself.

Khatana criticized the Congress's demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe

into the Hindenburg allegations, arguing that the opposition seemed more interested in destabilizing India's stock market than protecting small investors. "If India's stock market gets disturbed, will the small investors be troubled or not?" he asked rhetorically.

The BJP leader dismissed the need for a JPC inquiry, noting that legal proceedings had already been initiated following Hindenburg's first report in January of the previous year. He chastised Rahul Gandhi for calling for a JPC probe instead of participating in the existing legal process. He emphasized that both SEBI and its chairperson had provided satisfactory explanations in response to the charges.

## Rana flags off rally promoting Sanskrit de-addiction

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: The Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust organized a grand awareness rally from Government Higher Secondary School Dansal to the Tehsil Office Dansal, promoting the Sanskrit language and de-addiction, spreading the message to the society to stay away from drugs and recognize the importance of Sanskrit. The program began with tree planting and distribution. The chief guest of the rally was BJP senior leader and former MLA of Nagrota Assembly, Devendra Singh Rana.

Several slogans promoting de-addiction and Sanskrit were prepared by the children, who carried placards through the entire Dansal, raising awareness among the people.

On this occasion, Devendra Singh Rana praised the efforts of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, for support-



ing institutions like Shri Kailash Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust in their mission to promote and preserve the rich heritage of Sanskrit.

He said, "While speaking about Sanskrit in 'Mann Ki Baat', the Prime Minister had mentioned that 'this language has played a major role in the advancement of ancient Indian knowledge and science.' The fundamental principles of modern science are embedded in Sanskrit.

It is essential for children to have moral education; if we adhere to our values and moral teachings, we will certainly stay away from drugs. Addiction affects not just an

individual but also their entire family and society. There is a need for a comprehensive public awareness campaign against narcotics. The awareness rally was organized by the head of the Trust, Mahant Rohit Shastri, to educate people about the evils of drug abuse."

Dil Bahadur Singh stated that the consumption of toxic and intoxicating substances causes physical, mental, and economic harm to individuals, and also pollutes the social environment. Mahant Rohit Shastri's campaign to promote Sanskrit and de-addiction is extremely necessary, and we fully support it.

Mahant Rohit Shastri said that these programs are being conducted during Sanskrit Month. Sanskrit is not a language limited to a specific class; everyone must acquire its knowledge. Chanakya's politics, Bhaskaracharya's mathematics, Charak and Sushruta's Ayurveda, Patanjali's yoga, Parashara Muni's agriculture, Bharat Muni's dramaturgy—many such subjects were developed in Sanskrit.

It was through this knowledge and science that our ancestors once made the country prosperous.

Along with promoting Sanskrit, we are also working on de-addiction. Addiction is a curse in society, and hence, we all need to work together to eradicate it from our surroundings.

On this occasion, students of Government Higher Secondary School Gharota, the school principal, Som Datt Khajuria, Tony Sharma, surinder singh and other members of the Trust were present.

## BJP betrayed farmers: Raghbir

Reiterates commitment of National Conference in supporting, uplifting farming community



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: A one-day convention of the Block Mandal in Marh Assembly Constituency District Jammu Rural A of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference was held under the leadership of Block President Bishan Dass Bhagat at Mandal.

The convention saw the participation of all delegates and prominent workers of the Block, organized by Man Mohan, Block Mandal Organizer.

The participants raised several issues of public importance, particularly concerning farmers.

Addressing the convention, Th. Raghbir Singh Manhas, District President of Jammu Rural A, alleged that the BJP's double-engine government has utterly failed to fulfill its promises made to farmers.

He criticized the BJP for betraying farmers by promising to double their income by 2022.

He pointed out that it is now 2024, and instead of seeing an increase

in their income, the cost of production for farmers has doubled, with no new avenues available for them to sell their produce.

Manhas emphasized that the National Conference is committed to the welfare of farmers and will implement a mechanism to ensure adequate compensation for crop damage.

Currently, farmers face significant challenges in obtaining compensation for damaged crops, as the Kisan Bima Yojana scheme has failed. He accused insur-

ance companies, banks, and the BJP of conspiring against farmers.

Other senior NC leaders who spoke included Rakesh Sharma, District President Jammu Rural A YNC; Yaku, District President OBC Cell Jammu Rural A; Capt. Joginder, District Vice President Jammu Rural A; Kuldeep Sharma, senior leader; Tilak Raj, District Secretary; Vikas Choudhary, Youth President; Gulshan Kumar, OBC President; Baru Ram, Sarpanch; Kajru Raj, Lamberdar; Kuldeep Sharma, and Pt. Mohan Lal, Lajpat, Mulk Raj among others.

The convention concluded with a strong resolve to continue fighting for the rights and welfare of farmers, with the National Conference reiterating its commitment to support the agricultural community and address their grievances effectively.

## Parmandal Block becomes victim of deliberate negligence: Manjit Singh

Top News Report

PARMANDAL, Aug 12: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and former Minister, Manjit Singh on Monday expressed deep concern over backwardness in Parmandal Block in Samba District that has become the victim of deliberate negligence.

As per a press release, a meeting was organized at Parmandal Block to discuss various issues confronted by the people, especially development in the Block that deserves revamp of the developmental activities, and basic amenities.

During the meeting, the participants held deliberation over the prevailing political situation that has compromised their statehood status, and hence,



they demanded its restoration to Jammu and Kashmir.

While expressing support to the demands of the residents, the Manjit Singh hoped that the proposed assembly elections would not be delayed and accordingly, be held to safeguard the democratic institutions that are waiting to get representation in the Govt.

"The suffering of the people has multiplied,

especially regarding the development, and unemployment. The youth are worried about their uncertain future, and the development has stopped," he stated, citing examples of road infrastructure that require repair work.

He said that the infrastructure should be repaired to help the people to upgrade their living standard with better roads connectivity, lanes, and drains.

He said that "The bureaucracy has become a symbol of harassment and unilateral decisions which are often against the people. The elected Govt is must in J&K to address the growing concern of the unemployed youth, and ensure protection to the resources, jobs, and land in the erstwhile state."

He further stated that the Parmandal Block has complaints about underdevelopment. However, the authorities hardly give any heed to the demands raised by the people of the Block.

In this situation, he said that the area faces discrimination and neglect from the departments that are responsible to provide basic amenities, and develop road infrastructure.

## Kathua Terror Attack | Five terrorist associates arrested in connection with recent attacks

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12 (Agencies): In a major breakthrough by Kathua police, Five terrorist associates

have been arrested by Kathua police. They were involved in the martyrdom of 4 soldiers and other terror attacks at Kathua-Bani-Kisthwar belt.

## We Care Welfare Society Distributes free fruit tree saplings

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: We Care Welfare Society (WCWS) organized a camp at Panchayat Ghar, Ghaink village, Block Bhalwal, District Jammu, for the free distribution of fruit tree saplings.

The event is part of the ongoing campaign, "The Backyard Tree Plantation Drive," initiated by WCWS a few years ago. This campaign focuses on providing fruit plant saplings to underprivileged BPL families during the planting season, ensuring that these families can nurture the plants and eventually benefit from the fruits, thereby contributing to their health and well-being.

This year, the distribution targeted women beneficiaries of the UMEED Scheme, ensuring that the most deserving families received the fruit plants. Over 300 high-quality grafted fruit plants, including Mango (Amarpali), Mosambi (Sweet Lime), and Lime (Nimboo), were distributed free of cost.

Each woman beneficiary received three types of fruit plants and was advised on the proper planting techniques, including digging a one-metre by one-metre pit

and using a mixture of well-rotted manure and soil.

The program was well-attended by local dignitaries, including the BDC Chairman of Bhalwal Block, and the Sarpanchs and Panchs of surrounding villages, who expressed their appreciation for WCWS's efforts in supporting the local community.

Dr. R.K. Gupta, President of WCWS, extended his gratitude to Rakesh Gandotra, Chairman of SD Memorial Hr Sec School, for his support in arranging this charitable initiative. He also thanked BDC Chairman Kuldeep Raj Bhagat for facilitating the program in his Panchayat Ghar, significantly benefiting the farming community of the area.

Shruti Uppal, BDM and Incharge of the Umeed Scheme, also participated in the distribution program. She spoke to the Umeed beneficiaries about the importance of the initiative and how it could positively impact their lives. Rajinder Gupta, General Secretary of WCWS, concluded the event by thanking the members of WCWS for their financial and logistical support, which made this program possible.

## Jammu West achieved many milestones of development : Sat Sharma



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: After getting inputs that inhabitants of Krishna Nagar and Resham Ghar areas of Wards 12 and 13 in Jammu West Assembly segment are having complaints over various issues, Former Minister and Ex MLA Jammu West, Sat Sharma (CA) held a public meeting and gave a patient hearing to the grievances of the people. Sharma was also accompanied by Ex Corporator Jeet Angral and several others during his visit in the area.

With a mission to provide every possible facility to the residents of his Assembly segment at their doorsteps, Former MLA said that he interacted with the masses as well in order to know about their grievances and took stock of the remaining works to be done in the areas. Sharma said that a fruitful discussion was held with the locals and many things came up during the public meeting where the locals have stressed upon taking some utmost important works in the area and it will be seen that these works are taken up and completed in a stipulated time frame, he added. He said that he has asked the concerned officials

of various departments to immediately prepare the estimates and take up the works for remaining works. Sharma also stated that Jammu West achieved many milestones of development during his tenure as MLA and he stated that more and more projects and schemes will be implemented in all areas of the Constituency in order to provide best possible services to the masses at their doorsteps.

Jeet Angral said that no area of Jammu West is left behind in terms of development and every sphere is developed to its fullest. He stated that every type of infra from basic to highest level has been provided to the inhabitants. He said that under the leadership of Former MLA and with the assistance of each and every activist, thousands benefited under various schemes of the Central Government which changed the lifestyle of many.

After the public meeting, a door to door tour of Former MLA was also conducted in the area.

Ramesh Angral, Anil Angral, Gulshan, Mohit, Sunny, Deepak Sharma, Vishwamitra, Ram Krishan, Dr Surjeet, Kapil, Bishan and many others were also present on the occasion.

## Massive protest in Jammu over doctor's rape, murder in Kolkata; regular work in hospitals affected

JAMMU, Aug 12 (PTI): Hundreds of resident doctors on Monday suspended their regular work and staged a peaceful rally here to lodge their protest against the recent rape and murder of a woman postgraduate trainee doctor in Kolkata.

The protest coincided with the nationwide strike called by Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA) against the sexual assault and murder of the trainee doctor whose body was found inside a seminar hall of the hospital on Friday morning.

Doctors wearing black armbands raised slogans calling for justice to the victim. They took out a rally from the Super Speciality Hospital holding placards, some of which read "we stand in solidarity with the victim", "no mercy for rapists" and "raise your voice before you become the next victim".

The doctors' strike



affected the work in government medical college-associated hospitals but the emergency services continued without any disruption.

"I have not slept for the past two days after receiving this heart-wrenching news about the brutal rape and murder of the innocent doctor. We also work in night shifts and we do not feel safe given lack of proper security arrangements," a woman doctor said.

She said the govern-

ment should come out with a comprehensive security plan inside the emergency wards and elsewhere in the hospital to restore the shaken confidence of the doctors.

"Every now and then, we the doctors face unruly visitors and it is the duty of the government to ensure a safe environment for us as we spend more of our time inside the hospitals than our homes," she said.

Anil Sharma, another doctor, said they are on

the streets as part of the nationwide protest to press for the death penalty to the rapist.

"We are providing healthcare service to the people and we want our Government to ensure our safety at the workplace," he said.

Displaying a placard which read "hands that heal should not bleed", a doctor said they are facing safety concerns, especially during the night hours when there are no security guards around.

## GGM Science College organises Poster making competition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: The EcoClub of the college organised a poster making competition on the theme "Environmental Conservation and Management". This event was a part of the ongoing celebrations of Independence Day and Swacchata Pakhwara.

The event, held under the guidance of the Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, aimed to raise awareness about environmen-

tal conservation and sustainability among the students.

He commended the efforts of students and faculty, emphasizing the significance of such events in nurturing a sense of responsibility towards environment among the younger generation.

The activity was judged by a panel of esteemed faculty members including Prof. Indeevar Chanyal, Dr. B. P. Singh Chouhan, and Dr. Rahul Kaith. The first prize was shared by Saatvika and Preeti, second and third

prize was awarded to Akanksha and Muskaan, respectively.

The event was convened by Prof. Harmeet Kour, Convener, Environment Committee of GGM Science College and coordinated by Prof. Bal Krishan, Dr. Arti Sharma, Dr. Sheetu Rani, Prof. Reetika Rani, and Dr. Ram Krishan and supervised by Lt. Dr. Davinder Kumar Sharma, Dr. Shafia Saleem, ANOs and Dr. Neha Sharma, PO of the college. Other dignitaries present in the event were Prof. Sumiksha Thakur and Dr. Nisha.



## EDITORIAL

BANGLADESH  
CRISES

Bangladesh, a country with a history of resilience and growth, has faced several significant crises over the years. These crises, often interwoven with political, economic, environmental, and social issues, continue to challenge the nation. As of 2024, Bangladesh grapples with a complex set of challenges that threaten its stability and development trajectory.

One of the most pressing crises in Bangladesh is political instability, which has long been a hallmark of its governance. The country's political landscape is deeply polarized, with the two major parties, the Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), often engaging in fierce power struggles. These conflicts have led to frequent strikes, protests, and violence, disrupting daily life and economic activities. The political instability is further exacerbated by allegations of corruption, human rights violations, and the suppression of dissent. These issues have not only undermined public trust in the government but have also attracted international criticism.

Elections in Bangladesh are often marred by accusations of rigging, voter intimidation, and unfair practices. The absence of a level playing field during elections has led to boycotts by opposition parties, resulting in questions about the legitimacy of elected governments. This political turbulence has hindered the country's ability to implement long-term policies and reforms, affecting its socio-economic development.

Despite impressive economic growth over the past decade, Bangladesh continues to face significant economic challenges. The country's economy, heavily reliant on the garment industry, remittances, and agriculture, is vulnerable to global economic shocks. The COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted these sectors, leading to a contraction in economic growth and an increase in unemployment.

Bangladesh's economic crisis is also characterized by rising inflation, a widening fiscal deficit, and a growing debt burden. The cost of living has surged, particularly for essential goods like food and fuel, placing immense pressure on the poor and middle-class populations. Poverty and income inequality remain major concerns, with a significant portion of the population living below the poverty line. The government's efforts to alleviate poverty through social safety nets and development programs have been hampered by resource constraints and inefficiencies.

The crisis in the banking sector, marked by high levels of non-performing loans and weak regulatory oversight, further complicates the economic situation. The financial sector's fragility poses a risk to overall economic stability and investor confidence.

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change. Its low-lying geography makes it particularly susceptible to rising sea levels, cyclones, floods, and other natural disasters. Climate change has exacerbated these environmental challenges, leading to more frequent and severe weather events.

The environmental crisis has dire consequences for Bangladesh's agriculture, which is the backbone of its economy. Erratic weather patterns, soil salinity, and river erosion threaten food security and the livelihoods of millions of farmers. Additionally, the displacement of people due to environmental degradation, known as climate-induced migration, is becoming increasingly common. Coastal communities are particularly at risk, with many being forced to relocate as their homes and lands are inundated by rising waters.

The government of Bangladesh has taken steps to address climate change through national adaptation plans and international cooperation. However, the scale of the challenge requires substantial investment in resilient infrastructure, disaster preparedness, and sustainable development practices, which are difficult to achieve without significant external support.

Bangladesh faces a range of social crises, including issues related to human rights, gender inequality, and religious intolerance. The country has made progress in areas such as education and healthcare, but these gains are often undermined by systemic issues such as corruption, lack of transparency, and social discrimination.

Human rights organizations have raised concerns about extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and restrictions on freedom of expression. The government's crackdown on opposition figures, journalists, and activists has drawn criticism from both domestic and international observers. These actions have fueled fears of shrinking democratic space and the erosion of civil liberties in the country.

Gender-based violence and child marriage remain pervasive issues, despite legal frameworks aimed at protecting women and children. Efforts to promote gender equality are often hindered by deep-seated cultural norms and socio-economic barriers.

Bangladesh's crises are multifaceted and deeply interlinked, creating a complex web of challenges that the country must navigate. Political instability, economic vulnerabilities, environmental threats, and social issues all contribute to the precarious situation. Addressing these crises requires a holistic approach, involving political reforms, economic diversification, climate adaptation, and the protection of human rights. International cooperation and support will also play a crucial role in helping Bangladesh overcome these challenges and achieve sustainable development.

## How democracy collapsed in Bangladesh

By: GURBACHAN JAGAT

IN a statement made under the aegis of a group called 'VCs for Kamala', some prominent leaders of the tech industry (LinkedIn founder Reid Hoffman, Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak and Sun Microsystems co-founder Vinod Khosla) said they were united in their support for Kamala Harris in this 'pivotal moment'. "We are pro-business, pro-American dream, pro-entrepreneurship and pro-technological progress. We believe in democracy as the backbone of our nation. We believe that strong, trustworthy institutions are a feature, not a bug, and that our industry — and every other industry — would collapse without them," the group said in the statement, signed by over 700 tech leaders. This enunciates the two foundational principles on the basis of which developed countries have progressed — democracy and institutions. These are the two principles enforced strongly by men and women of courage who have fought and defeated the forces of autocracy, chaos, fascism and violence. The fight is still on and the forces of autocracy and chaos are pitted against democracy and the rule of law. Most of the institutions mandated by the constitution and parliament have stood steadfast in their duties in most of Europe and North America, although they are opposed by strong determined forces.

Democratic institutions were emasculated and could not or would not perform their duties. The streets were taken over by the cadres of the ruling party.

The 'Magna Carta Libertatum' (Latin for great charters of freedom) declared the sovereign to be subject to the 'rule of law' and documented the liberties held by

'free men', providing the foundation for individual rights in Anglo-American jurisprudence. Subsequently, the 'divine right of kings' was gradually taken away, leading to the establishment of democracy. It was this transition in society, where the rule of law and the empowerment of the common citizen were established, that paved the way for the creation of the great democracies. To quote former British PM Margaret Thatcher, "A country is not rich just because of its natural resources. If this were so, your country (Russia) would already be one of the richest in the world. But countries are prosperous only in so far as the system of government encourages the enterprise of the people. For it is enterprise which creates wealth... The capitalism which I support is not a free-for-all in which the powerful are able to exploit their position at the expense of fairness, decency and the common good. Capitalism can only function when there is a strong and just rule of law, to which everyone, including the government, is answerable."

To take the argument further, it can be seen that most of the developed countries have evolved over a period of time strong institutions, as mandated by their constitution and parliament. They withstood the onslaught of the two world wars and their institutions did not flinch in the face of adversity but gained in strength and emerged victorious. On the other hand, less developed and recently independent countries might have started with the right intentions and institutions, but soon caved in to the lust for power and money, besides bigotry, and in the bargain gradually destroyed their institutions. Democracy gave way to autocracy and the dictatorship of a party or a coterie or a person so much so that

the armed forces came to be looked upon as a beacon of hope and justice. The judiciary, the elected bodies, the political entities — all fell like ninepins in the face of the onslaught by the anti-democratic forces opposed to the rule of law, forces opposed to the development of the poor and downtrodden, forces favouring the ruling party, coterie or individual.

Now coming to the country in the context of which the above has been written, Bangladesh or East Pakistan — as it was then known — had all the ingredients necessary to be a state on its own. Politically, culturally and historically, it had nothing in common with Pakistan except religion (that also was not total). However, it continued to be trampled under the iron heel of the Pakistani army, which let loose a reign of terror and massacres. The army was the court of 'first and last resort'; all other institutions had been emasculated. The people rose and formed the Mukti Bahini and a credible leader rose in the form of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Backed by the sage and courageous leadership of Indira Gandhi, Bangladesh was born. Tragedy struck at the very beginning with the assassination of the Sheikh and most of his family members in 1975. The army and the forces of autocracy began to call the shots again. Bangladesh returned to square one. However, Sheikh Hasina, with the support of her people, became the popular leader of Bangladesh. Elections were held, parliament came into being, an elected government was formed and with this and the formation of democratic institutions, the entrepreneurial genie was released. Bangladesh started to grow economically and so did the people's standard of living. The nation started improving on most parameters of development

— human and financial. At the same time, the external and internal forces of destabilisation were at work under the guidance of Pakistani intelligence agencies and extremist Islamic organisations. In order to face the onslaught of these forces, the ruling party cadres and the administrative structure also began to resort to extra-judicial measures. Gradually, a malaise set in — political intolerance, corruption, violence against opponents. More and more Opposition leaders and activists were locked up. Charges of rigging elections were levelled against the ruling party, and Opposition parties were not allowed to function freely. Democratic institutions were emasculated and could not or would not perform their duties. The streets were taken over by the cadres of the ruling party.

When the crisis came, Bangladesh had become a dictatorship bereft of independent and strong institutions. What began as student unrest was politically and administratively mishandled. Finally, Hasina ordered the police and the army to shoot down her own citizens — hundreds died, and the blood will stain her hands forever. She had to flee the country which had brought back her father to an independent Bangladesh and she waits alone in some obscure corner of Delhi for asylum somewhere. Coming back to the statement at the beginning, "we believe in democracy as the backbone of our nation. We believe that strong, trustworthy institutions are a feature, not a bug, and that our industry — and every other industry — would collapse without them..." One would just add that not just the industry, the whole nation could collapse.

## Maharashtra Polls: Congress, Pawar Bargain Hard with Uddhav

By: AMITABH TIWARI

Intense negotiations are underway ahead of the crucial assembly elections in Maharashtra. Former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray was recently in Delhi to meet Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, and Sharad Pawar for discussions.

The opposition alliance, MVA/INDIA, which includes the Congress, the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Bal Thackeray, or 'UBT'), and the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar), aims to build on the momentum from the general elections and challenge the Mahayuti/National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, consisting of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde), and the NCP (Ajit Pawar), by capitalising on perceived anti-incumbency.

During the general elections in 2024, the Shiv Sena (UBT) contested 21 seats, the Congress 17, and the NCP (SP) 10. The Shiv Sena (UBT) had the lowest strike rate, winning only nine of the 21 seats (43%), while Congress and NCP (SP) had strike rates of 76% and 80%, winning 13 and eight seats, respectively.

This disparity has led to concerns within the Congress and NCP (SP) that the Shiv Sena (UBT) was allocated more seats than warranted, and that this should not serve as the basis for seat-sharing in the assembly elections.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) wants to contest the maximum number of seats again in the assembly



polls. The Congress also aims to contest the most seats, arguing that both the Sena and the NCP have weakened due to splits and no longer enjoy the same level of support.

In the 2019 elections, the Congress contested 147 seats, NCP (pre-split) 121 seats as part of the UPA, and the pre-split Shiv Sena 126 seats in alliance with the BJP.

The Chief Ministerial candidate is another contentious issue. Uddhav Thackeray has stated that it is up to the MVA leadership to decide whether he should be the alliance's CM candidate.

While the Shiv Sena (UBT) is advocating for a CM candidate, the Congress and the NCP (SP) prefer to go to the polls without a designated name and decide the top post based on the number of MLAs each party secures.

These are the various seat-sharing formulas under consideration:

## 1. A Third Each

This formula proposes that all three parties — Sena (UBT), NCP (SP), and Congress — contest approximately 90-95 seats each, leaving the remainder for

smaller parties. This approach is supported by their similar vote shares (16%-17%) in the 2019 assembly polls.

## 2. Based On MLAs

In the 2019 elections, the Sena (pre-split) won 56 seats, the NCP (pre-split) won 54, and the Congress 44. These parties would have the first claim on these 154 seats. The remaining 134 seats would then be allocated based on current strength, historical performance, and recent general election trends.

Many MLAs from the Sena and the NCP are no longer aligned with Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar. Given that local candidates are crucial in assembly elections, the support for seats now held by Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar's factions will be a significant factor.

## 3. Based On Party Influence

Influence on a seat is determined by whether a party was a winner or runner-up. Since 2009, the influence of all parties except the BJP has declined in Maharashtra. In 2019, the Congress had influence over 113 seats, the Sena over 110, and

the NCP over 101 - totalling 324 against an assembly strength of only 288.

Adjusting for 39 seats where the Congress/NCP was the winner and Sena was the runner-up, and 32 seats where Sena was the winner and Congress/NCP was the runner-up, the parties combined have influence over 253 seats, leaving 35 seats for further distribution.

## 4. Based On Party Strength Scanner

The strength scanner identifies 50 seats won by the Sena two or three times in the last three elections, 44 seats by the Congress, and 43 seats by the NCP. These 137 strong seats can be claimed by these parties. Additionally, 167 seats were won once by these parties in the last three polls, categorised as moderate. This results in a total of 304 seats, 16 more than the 288 assembly seats, allowing for adjustments due to double counting.

Regional considerations are also crucial. The Congress is strong in Vidarbha, parts of Mumbai, and Marathwada; the Sena is strong in Mumbai and Thane-Konkan regions; the NCP is strong in Western Maharashtra and parts of North Maharashtra.

The INDIA bloc sees an opportunity to leverage its strong Lok Sabha performance to secure a victory. Ticket distribution remains a challenge for NDA as well. A well-coordinated seat-sharing strategy could enhance MVA's prospects, with all parties needing to maintain unity and focus on the big picture.



# Bhan urges UN Secretary General to reprimand Interim Bangladesh Govt for Human Rights abuses

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: Hundreds of Citizens, youth and women staged a candle light march under the auspices of Kashmiri lovers led by Ajay Pandita Chief of Kashmir Peace Lovers, in Gurugram, NCR in solidarity with the protesting Bangladeshis especially the Hindus who are seeking protection against brutal killings, arson, loot and destruction of their properties and places of worship that engulfed Bangladeshis, after the fallout of the forcible exit of Sheikh Hasina government.

Prominent citizens amongst others who participated in the March a noted senior Lawyer Ashok Bhan, Mahesh Dyama, (Councillor- Gurgaon.) Rajesh Pandit, Satish Gudiya, Sanjay Bhat, Anil Pawar, Ashok Rai, Anand Srivastava, Nanda and Women wing



activists Jaya Kachroo, Virin Dhar, Amita Pathak and Sujata Dhar.

Speaking on the occasion Ashok Bhan urged the UN Secretary General to appoint a team of UN officials led by a special Rapporteur to visit Bangladesh and submit a ground level assessment of the human rights violations inflicted on the innocent citizens especially the minorities by killings, arson, loot and burning of properties and temples etc and vandalism against the statues of eminent Bangladeshis.

Bhan urged the UN Secretary General to build pressure on Interim Bangladesh government to restore the peace and to bring the perpetrators of violence to justice.

The innocent civilians and the members of minority community have suffered casualties, arson, loot and torching of their property and vandalism against Hindu temples and statues of eminent Bangladeshi faced at least 205 attacks across 52 districts, he said adding that Bangladesh Buddhist Christian

Unity Council and the Hindu Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad presented the data on such attacks to Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, who had just been sworn in as the head of the interim government.

They demanded, "We seek protection because our brother have been killed and our lives are in a disastrous state. We are staying up at night, guarding our homes and temples. We have never seen anything like this in my life. We demand that the government restore

communal harmony in the country. Those involved in attacking minorities must be brought to justice. If a minority individual is attacked for political reasons, it is still unacceptable. Anyone who commits a crime should be judged, but burning homes and looting will not lead to justice."

Expressing deep concern over the incidents of violence against Hindus, Buddhists and other minority communities in Bangladesh during the change of power in the last few days, they said, "The atrocities such as targeted killing of Hindus and other minority community people, looting, arson, heinous crimes against women and attacks on places of worship like temples in Bangladesh are intolerable and the protesters strongly condemned these atrocities on innocent Bangladeshis."

# GDC Udhampur hosts Inter college Quiz and Essay Writing Competitions

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Aug 12: In a grand and spirited celebration of India's 77th Independence Day, Government Degree College (GDC) Udhampur hosted an exhilarating inter-college quiz competition and an inspiring essay writing contest, marking a standout event in the district's Independence Day festivities.

The celebration was graced by the esteemed presence of Principal Dr. Sanjay Verma, whose visionary leadership continues to inspire academic excellence at the institution.

The inter-college quiz competition saw enthusiastic participation from various distinguished colleges across Udhampur, with teams exhibiting outstanding knowledge and analytical prowess across a broad spectrum of subjects, including history, politics, and general

knowledge.

The competition was a testament to the intellectual vigor and passion of the participants, who thrived in a challenging and intellectually charged atmosphere.

Concurrently, the essay writing contest provided a reflective platform for students to delve into the essence of Independence Day. The submissions, meticulously reviewed by a panel of respected judges, showcased a profound comprehension of India's struggle for freedom and its enduring influence on modern society.

Principal Dr. Sanjay Verma praised the students for their exceptional contributions, remarking, "These competitions are not merely academic exercises; they are a celebration of our nation's core values and a reflection of the incredible intellectual and creative capabilities of our stu-

dents. Such activities play a crucial role in deepening our appreciation for our history while fostering critical and independent thought."

The Independence Day celebrations at GDC Udhampur concluded with a prestigious awards ceremony, where the college honoured the top performers of both competitions. Baljeet Singh of GDC Udhampur emerged victorious in the essay writing competition, while Parshotam Singh, also of GDC Udhampur, triumphed in the quiz competition.

The event, which was coordinated by Dr. Jagjeet Singh, Prof. Tania Akhtar, Prof. Bhanu Priya, Prof. Sanjeet Singh, and Prof. Vijay Kumar, stands as a testament to the college's unwavering commitment to promoting academic excellence and engaging students in meaningful intellectual endeavours.

# Rich Harvest School conducts Investiture Ceremony



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: Investiture Ceremony is one of the momentous occasions when the School entrusts the mantle of responsibility on the School Cabinet.

To carry the tradition forward, Rich Harvest conferred badges of responsibility on the democratically elected Student Council members on 12th August, for the Session 2024-25.

The Chief Guest Th. Gulchain Singhji Charak—former minister PWD (R&B) and Higher Education accompanied by the Guest of Honour Ajay Sangra—EO Municipal Committee Bari Brah-

mana were presented a guard of honour by the NCC Cadets on the occasion. The galaxy of distinguished guests including Sh. Samar Dev Singh Charak—Secretary Dogra Educational Trust, Gambhir Dev Singh Charak—Managing Director Rich Harvest, Ruchi Charak—Director Rich Harvest and Head of Institute Anita Bhatia invoked divine blessings by lighting the ceremonial lamp.

The Head of the Institute accorded a warm welcome to the dignitaries and proud parents of office bearers.

A musical extravaganza was meticulously presented by the middle

year girls much to the delight of the congregation.

And then in a solemn ceremony the student council members led by Head Boy Pranav & Head Girl Adhya marched majestically to receive their badges and sashes of responsibility from the Chief Guest.

Donning the mantle of responsibility, the new Cabinet was administered the School Oath wherein they promised to follow the school's rules, regulations and work in the interest of the student community.

The Managing Director congratulated the Office Bearers and their parents. He also thanked the mentors for shaping the lives of students under their charge.

The Chief Guest in his address urged the Student Council to perform their duties in the best interest of all concerned and become ideal role models for their juniors.

# GDC Darhal celebrates International Youth Day with digital pathways for sustainable development

Top News Report

DARHAL, Aug 12: Government Degree College (GDC) Darhal celebrated International Youth Day on the theme "From click to progress: youth digital pathways for sustainable development."

The event featured a poster-making and slogan-writing competition, highlighting the crucial role of digital tools and skills in driving sustainable development.

The competition saw participation from 30 enthusiastic students, with Sunaina Anjum, Hibza Tabassum, and Mavishkossor emerging as the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners respectively.

"The students' remarkable creativity and understanding of the theme were truly inspiring," said Principal Prof Zamir Mirza.

"This event underscores our commitment to empowering the youth and equipping them with

the necessary digital skills to create a sustainable future."

The event was jointly coordinated by Dr Mohd-Saleem, IQAC coordinator, and Dr Mohd Akhlaq, NSS coordinator, with Dr Ghulam Abbas, Convener of the Advisory Committee, and Dr Taseem Ahmed and Dr Anzaar Ahmed serving as the event's judges.

"Digital literacy and access to digital tools are essential for the youth to actively participate in and contribute to the sustainable development of their communities," said Dr Mohd Saleem. "This event is a testament to the college's dedication to fostering digital pathways for our students."

The celebration of International Youth Day at GDC Darhal underscores the institution's commitment to empowering the youth and preparing them for the digital age, aligning with the broader goals of sustainable development.

# Tiranga Rally by GDC R S Pura ignites feeling of patriotism



Top News Report

R S PURA, Aug 12: J&K Girls & Boys NCC, Jammu in collaboration with NSS Unit of GDC R S Pura organized "Tiranga Rally" under IQAC of the college as part of week-long celebration of 77th Independence Day, 2024 under the guidance of Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour who flagged off the rally.

The purpose was to involve passionate cadets and volunteers in an exhilarating Tiranga Rally in the vicinity of the college, which aimed to ignite the feeling of patri-

otism and nationalism among the participants.

The rally showcased the unwavering love and respect towards the National Flag, the Tiranga.

The atmosphere was filled with fervor and pride as participants waved the Tricolor flag high in the air, chanting slogans such as "Jaan Tiranga!" (Life for the Tricolor), "Shaan Tiranga!" (Pride of the Tricolor), and "Abhimaan Tiranga!" (Respect for the Tricolor). The slogans reverberated through the streets, amplifying the enthusiasm and national spirit among the crowd.

The event served as a reminder of the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters and the importance of preserving the values they fought for.

The Principal congratulated the NSS PO, both ANOs, volunteers and cadets for putting in much heart and efforts in organizing such activities.

The entire event was coordinated by Prof. Chanchal Angral, NSS PO, Lt. Rakesh Choudhary, ANO Boys and Prof. Roopali Salathia, ANO Girls under the patronage of Principal of the college.

# "Knowledge if transformed into action, becomes adornment of life"



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: While in continuation of spiritual tour of J&K UT, giving message of love, peace, tolerance and brotherhood as enshrined by Sant Nirankari Mission, Rev. S I Garg Convener Central Planning and Advisory Board Sant Nirankari Mandal addressed a mammoth gathering of devotees and prominent citizens at Nirankari Sat Sang

Bhawan Jammu.

In his impressive spiritual sermon, he said, "Though knowledge in a particular subject has its own importance, yet it proves of no benefit unless put to use." However, if knowledge is transferred in to action, it becomes the adornment of life, he said with special reference to God knowledge (Brahm Gyan) as "Gyan Karm Mein Dhal Jai To Jeevan Ka Shringaar Bane."

Garg further said that a spiritually enlightened being binds his actions within spiritual jurisdiction and hence lives a life decorated with spiritual symbols of Humility, love, peace, passion and tolerance demonstrating harmony and peaceful co existence which is essential for universal brotherhood.

It was an atmosphere of pure bliss resonated with hymns and spiritual songs presented by devotee singers from Jammu, Arnia Miran Sahib and Ramgarh branch of the Mission.

Ajit Singh Zonal In charge Jammu zone also spoke on the occasion with a gratitude to Rev. S L Garg.

# BLSKS celebrates 'International Youth Day 2024'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: The Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS), in collaboration with Sangam Tru Art Production, celebrated 'International Youth Day' with a grand event held at Durga Bhawan, Janipur, Jammu. The highlight of the celebration was the 450th Regular Series Dogri Musical Play (Nukkad Natak) titled "Ekta Ekta Ka Diya", written, produced, and directed by Dr. M.L. Dogra, former Regional Director of the Song and Drama Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

The event was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, V.K. Magotra, former



Regional Director of the Directorate of Field Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. Distinguished guests, including Dr. Anju Kumari Dogra from the Health Department, Jammu, Dr. Tara Singh Charak, former Deputy Director

of the Health Department, J&K Government, Romesh Chander, Advisor, Shavshat Art Gallery, and Mr. Mukesh Singh, Senior Media Person, graced the occasion.

In his address, V.K. Magotra highlighted the significance of International Youth Day,

observed annually on Monday to bring youth issues to the forefront and celebrate their potential as key contributors to society.

The program featured several thematic songs like "Mil Ke Kaho Hum Ek Hai," "Veer Jawano," "Uncha Rahe Tiranga," "Mera Bharat Desh Hai Sathiyoo Sab Desho Se Pyara," and "Har Ghar Tiranga," which resonated with the audience. The event also included special skits and dances, all prepared to honor the spirit of youth and patriotism.

Dr. M.L. Dogra, Chairman of BLSKS, in his welcome address, emphasized the importance of recognizing and nurturing the potential of young people, as they are the architects of the future.

He urged the youth to

embrace diversity, foster inclusivity, and work towards global challenges like climate change, inequality, and poverty.

He also spoke about the ongoing "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign, which runs from 9th to 15th August 2024, as part of the 78th Independence Day celebrations, encouraging every Indian to hoist the National Flag at home.

M.C. Kotwal, Secretary of BLSKS, further elaborated on the significance of youth, describing it as a period of great energy, innovation, and potential.

He praised the youth for their ability to solve complex problems and make the world a better place, stressing the importance of providing them with the necessary support to achieve their dreams.

He also informed the media that BLSKS organizes over 200 cultural shows annually, promoting Indian culture and raising awareness on crucial issues such as AIDS prevention, water sanitation, national integration, rural development, drug abuse, cleanliness, and saving the girl child.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Master Deepak Kumar, who expressed gratitude to all participants and attendees for making the event a success.

# GCW Bhagwati Nagar organises Swachhta Rally

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: NSS Unit of Government College for Women, Bhagwati Nagar "Veerangana" organised Swachhta Rally under the patronage of Dr. Meeru Abrol, Principal of the College. The objective of the rally is to spread awareness among the people and

to educate them not to litter in the vicinity of their residential area.

They were also made aware of the importance of solid waste management, cleaning streets, parks and their surroundings.

Rally was flagged off by Dr. Meeru Abrol, Principal of the College, wherein she applauded

the efforts of NSS volunteers and teachers for organising such events as a part of their civic responsibility.

While interacting with the students she urged them that the awareness which they are creating by way of rally need to be adopted in their lives too and they are the future of our nation and should act

as responsible citizen of their country.

Around 60 students participated in the rally. Rally started from the college and proceeded towards Ambika Vihar residential area.

Students raised slogans such as "Humne Yeh Thana hai, Bharat ko Swachh Bana hai", Swachh Bharat Swasth

Bharat, Jan Jan ko do Yeh Sandesh, Sunder ho Apna Desh" etc.

By listening to the slogans, residents came out of their homes and appreciated the efforts of the students and said it is the need of the hour and residents of every locality need to imbibe the principles of cleanliness in their lives. Stu-

dents participated with great zeal and enthusiasm.

The entire programme was organised by Dr. Preeti Salathia NSS PO, and Dr. Kamaldeep Singh. Prof. Anju Bala, Dr. Pavanjeet Bali and Prof. Gagan Jyoti faculty of the college also made their significant contribution to the rally.



## Thank you for welcoming me with such wide arms: Shah Rukh Khan on career achievement award at Locarno Film Festival

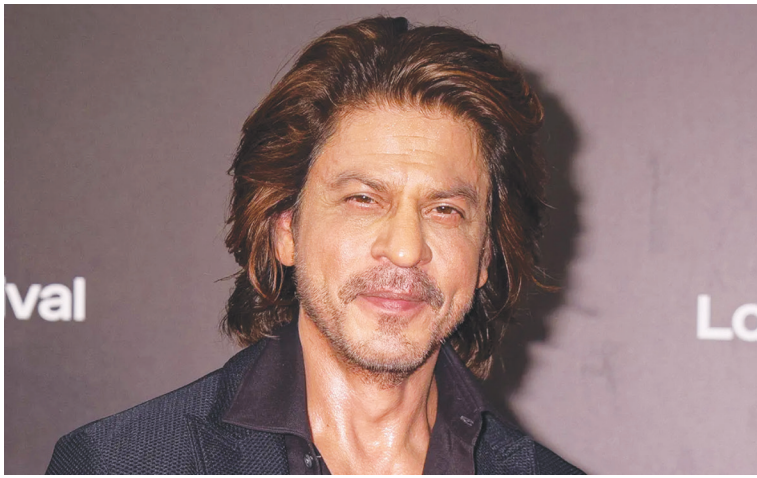
Superstar Shah Rukh Khan was his usual charming and witty self at the 77th Locarno Film Festival in Switzerland where he received the prestigious Pardo alla Carriera Award-Locarno Tourism, or career leopard, for his contribution to cinema.

The 58-year-old, who is the first Indian personality to be felicitated with the honour, was presented with the award at the jam-packed Piazza Grande square.

In his award acceptance speech, Shah Rukh thanked the audience and Locarno Film Festival's artistic director Giona A Nazzaro for their warm welcome.

"I want to thank you all for welcoming me with such wide arms, wider than the ones I do on screen, to this really pretty, very beautiful, cultural, artistic and extremely hot city of Locarno. So many people stuffed up in a little square and so hot, it's just like being at home in India. Thank you so much for having me here. It's been wonderful for the last two evenings, everybody, including Nazaro..." he said.

"They have been wonderful, the food has been nice, my Italian is improving and so has been my cooking. I can cook pasta and pizza, and also I'm learning (Italian) here in Locarno," he added.



no," he added.

Referring to several of his films wherein he has played the roles of a "champ, superhero, zero, dejected fan and very resilient lover", Shah Rukh said he feels encouraged after being awarded the Pardo alla Carriera Ascona-Locarno Tourism at the film gala.

"I normally don't go out for occasions like this. I don't know how to relate to people or how to talk to them. I just know how to act a little bit, not too much. But I'm here tonight and I feel extremely encouraged by the Locarno Film Festival's 77th edition. I wish you all the best."

Less than a minute into his address, Shah Rukh was interrupted by an audience member's screaming declaration of love, to which he responded

with an "I love you also".

He quipped that all romantic interludes were welcome after the speech because at the Locarno Film Festival "we all need to sound intellectual".

Lifting the trophy, the actor admitted that he can't pronounce the name of the award.

After the host showed how to pronounce the Pardo alla Carriera Award-Locarno Tourism, Shah Rukh joked, "Which in English means the leopard award for being the most awesome in the world and the history of mankind."

According to the festival, the Pardo alla Carriera Ascona-Locarno Tourism pays tribute to one or more personalities whose artistic contributions have redefined cinema and the collective imagination.

"Next year around, if you call me Nazzaro, can you keep a shorter name?" he told the artistic director of the festival.

In recognition of his career, the festival also screened Shah Rukh's 2002 hit film 'Devdas', directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali.

The actor said he accepted the award with humility, kindness and goodness.

"... and with the promise that awards like this encourage me to keep trying to embody all the facets of life, emotions and to try to give that one more take, shot and emotion.

"Hopefully, a little bit of love so that all of you feel joyful in a square like this, 8,000 of you, watching the next film which you are going to watch tonight. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart and from India," he said, before wrapping his speech with "Namaskar, Dhanyawaad and God bless you all".

Shah Rukh, who has enjoyed stardom for over three decades in the Hindi film industry with hits such as 'Darr', 'Baazigar', 'Dil To Pagal Hai', 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge', 'Devdas', 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai', returned to the big screen after a five-year gap in 2023 with 'Pathaan'. He followed up the blockbuster actioner with back-to-back two releases: 'Jawan' and 'Dunki'.

## Sara Ali Khan once opened up about 'unearned opportunities' for 'star kids' in Bollywood



Actor Sara Ali Khan debuted in 2018 with Kedarnath and has since starred in films like Atrangi Re, Zara Hatke Zara Bachke, and Murder Mubarak. For the unversed, being actors Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh's daughter, she has often found herself at the centre of debates on nepotism. Looking back at when she spoke to agency and shared her thoughts on it.

nepotism

In 2018, even before she debuted, Sara spoke about being an 'insider' in the film industry. When asked what perks she has as an insider, she said, "The main perk is access. I could go to Rohit (Shetty) sir's office and ask him to consider me for Simmba. The access that my parents worked so hard to enable me to have is not something I deny. Having said that, the tonality of conver-

sation around nepotism has become hard back home. While star kids, as much as I hate that term, do have easier into this line. If you're not good, you won't get a second film."

Sara smiled when the interviewer pointed out that she did get a second film, though, even before her first release. For the unversed, Sara shot for Kedarnath and Simmba even before her first film hit the screens. The films hit theatres within three weeks of each other. She said, "You are right. I am shocked, and I carry that burden. I am done shooting for two films without anyone seeing my first one. I am aware this will be seen by many as an unearned opportunity. Forget anyone; I now have to prove to myself that I am worth this. I am aware I got this opportunity easier than others."

Upcoming work Sara was last seen in the period drama Ae Watan Mere Watan, which was released on Prime Video India. The film received lukewarm reviews. She will soon star in films titled Metro...In Dino, Sky Force and Eagle.

## Karan Johar recalls when his father was disrespected in the industry

Karan Johar talked about his late father Yash Johar during his appearance on the first episode of comedian Zakir Khan's new show, Aapka Apna Zakir. Karan shared how he has seen his father struggle as a producer and also how he was disrespected in the industry.

What Karan said During the show, when Karan was asked whether he knows about the fate of his films at the box office from before, the producer said in Hindi: "I never felt as if I have killed it or that my film will be a huge box office success. I feel like I will incur losses and I will come on the streets; because at the end of the day I am a son of a producer. My father was a production controller for 30 years and when he produced his first film, he took a huge loan to make Dostana, and the film worked. After that when he went on to make many other films and they all flopped."

"I feel sad that he left us so soon"

Karan went on to talk about one particular incident and said, "We were



invited to premieres but were given really standard seats. So my father wouldn't go, but he would ask me to attend. I saw that pain in his eyes of why was he invited when he couldn't be respected. Failure is a bitter pill to swallow. When films flop your failure is announced loudly and it was tough to see him go through that. He would have been very happy to where Dharma is today. I feel sad that

he left us so soon that he saw 5-6 years of my journey only. My biggest regret is that he wasn't around when it was in its best phase."

Yash Johar died on June 26, 2004 of cancer at the age of 75. In 1976, Yash Johar went on to set up his banner Dharma Productions. After his death, Karan Johar took over the production house. His most recent release was Bad Newz.

## Filmmaker Onir is on a high as two of his films—Nandini, which is part of anthology called My Melbourne, and Kagazi Naav are — set to premiere at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne

Onir was called a 'filmmaker far ahead of his time' when he came out with My Brother... Nikhil, one of the pioneer mainstream Hindi films that dealt with same-sex relationship back in 2005. Almost two decades on, as his film Pine Cone explores the queer love story of a filmmaker, the label still sticks to him. "I feel I and my cinema would be accepted fully by our film fraternity and the society only posthumously," chuckles the jovial man, as we talk about his most recent outing Nandini!

Nandini is part of an anthology titled My Melbourne that opens at prestigious Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2024. The four stories capturing the essence of belonging and diversity are directed by Kabir Khan, Imtiaz Ali and Rima Das along with Onir. The stories cross paths and give the feel of a single film.

"Nandini is special, because just like other three stories — Jules, Emma and Setara, it stems from personal experience," says Onir. Nandini follows a queer Indian man looking for acceptance from his



father. "The story is representative of many queer Indians who chart foreign shores to seek acceptance," says Onir.

Onir has another reason to be joyous. It's not just My Melbourne but another of his film, Kagazi Naav (Paper Boat), will also premiere at the festival. It's a Kashmiri language short film made under a film workshop mentored by Onir. "I am excited for

this too as it is directed by first-time filmmakers and is set in Kashmir that has my heart."

As he gears up for these two premieres, he is happy at the attention Pine Cone is receiving at the festival circuit. "Not only internationally but the film is being loved and appreciated in Indian cities as well, both big and small, and that is so heartening," he says.

While Onir never had his 'coming out' date as he was open about his sexual orientation, he feels times have changed for the queer community in India. "I didn't have to go through a formal coming out. It was a natural progression, just as it is for any straight individual. It still wasn't easy as homosexuality was criminalised back then."

Over the decades things have improved and Onir is happy that today the queer community has support, can access information through films, literature and social media platforms. But it's still not an equal world. "There are way too many barriers — caste, class, religion, and for the queer community, the challenges multiply." Like for instance, the fight for marriage rights as far as the queers are concerned. "While marriage rights would be a significant step forward, it would lead to other things like adoption rights."

Onir is happy how queerness is becoming visible increasingly. "It's heartening that the Paris Olympics have 175 out trans athletes. Their sto-

ries and visuals spread awareness and positivity about community."

Closer home, the gender fluidity and queer rights for him are rooted in our culture. "It's like as if the young are reclaiming the roots. In Indian culture, there has been long standing tradition of queerness — be Krishna taking Mohini's form to kill invincible demon Bhasmasura to Arjun taking form of transgender woman named Brihannala in King Matsya's court during final year of exile, now the young are embracing their identity, and also have increasing support."

Inclusive world My Melbourne that opens IFFM 2024 is an anthology of four films. Onir-directed Nandini follows a queer Indian man reconnecting with his father on foreign shores. Imtiaz Ali's Jules has an unlikely friendship between a newlywed and a homeless individual at its heart. Rima Das directorial Emma follows a deaf dancer's journey to self-acceptance. Kabir Khan-directed Setara is a story of an Afghan refugee finding an identity through cricket.

## Sidharth Malhotra revives 70s glam

The fashion world was abuzz last night as Sidharth Malhotra graced the runway for designers Shantnu & Nikhil, bringing a slice of the 70s back to life at The Piano Man, in Delhi.

The glossy evening was a celebration of nostalgia, glamour and innovation, with the designer duo showcasing their latest 2024 couture collection inspired by the unforgettable era of disco, bold prints, and timeless style.

The Shershaah actor stole the show as he strutted down the runway in a striking velvet blazer

layered over a vintage ruffle shirt. Sidharth also surprised the audience with an impromptu dance on stage, adding his unique touch to the night. Sidharth's mother, and brother, were seen seated among the audience.

The show was a trip down memory lane, with models showcasing a range of stunning retro outfits.

Men rocked bell bottoms and ruffled shirts, while women shimmered in glittery gowns, retro sunglasses, disco dresses, and more — all inspired by the iconic fashion



of the 70s.

The designers seamlessly blended the old with the new, using luxurious fabrics like silk velvets and sequined materials, paired with modern elements such as faux leather and bespoke Italian suiting fabrics.

Shantnu & Nikhil's creative genius shone through in their reinterpretation of the classic Paisley motif, a signature element of their brand.

This season, the Paisley was given a fresh twist, appearing in embroidered leather and other

alluring forms that perfectly complemented the collection's theme.

The show kicked off with a stunning appearance by the legendary Zeenat Aman, who opened the event with her timeless grace. Actor-singer Saba Azad added to the retro vibe with a lively performance, setting the tone for an unforgettable evening.

Imaad Shah, the son of Naseeruddin Shah and Ratna Pathak Shah, played guitar in the background as Saba took over the stage.



## PM Modi to address nation on Independence Day for 11th straight time

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort for the 11th consecutive time on August 15.

NEW DELHI, Aug 12 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort for the 11th consecutive time on August 15. He will be the first Prime Minister after Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to achieve the feat.

According to sources, PM Modi will present the priorities of his government in the third term before the audience, and provide a roadmap to make India a developed country.

Furthermore, special guests of the Prime Minister will be invited to the grand celebration at the iconic Red Fort. In line with the Prime Minister's focus



on the poor, women, youth and farmers, representatives of the four groups will attend the Independence Day celebrations, sources added. Nearly 4,000 guests from

these groups have been invited for the celebration on August 15. According to the sources, these guests have further been divided into 11 categories. The ministries of Agriculture

and Farmers Welfare, Youth Affairs, and Women and Child Development have been given the responsibility of inviting farmers, youth and women guests, respectively. Besides, the ministries of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Tribal Affairs, Education and Defense have also prepared the guest list.

The NITI Aayog has also reportedly invited guests. Sources stated that the Indian contingent of Paris Olympics 2024 is also expected to be invited to the Independence Day celebrations.

More than 18,000 people will be present at the event.

## Will hand over Kolkata doctor murder probe to CBI if police fail to solve case by Sunday: Mamata Banerjee



KOLKATA, Aug 12 (Agencies): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said her government will hand over the RG Kar hospital doctor murder probe to the CBI if the police are unable to solve the case by Sunday.

Banerjee said she wants the case to be tried in a fast-track court.

"I want the police to arrest the culprits as soon as possible. If they are not able to crack the case by Sunday, we will hand it over to the CBI. I don't have an issue with the central agency taking over, but its success rate is low," she told reporters here after visiting the residence of the deceased doctor.

The chief minister made a mention of a few high-profile cases that the CBI "could not solve".

The body of the woman post-graduate trainee, who was allegedly raped and murdered inside a seminar hall of the hospital, was found on Friday morning. A civic volunteer

was arrested on Saturday in connection with the case.

Banerjee said the family members of the deceased doctor suspect that an insider was involved.

"I have told the police that if there is any such doubt against anyone - the victim's friends and others - they should be questioned," she said.

Banerjee also said the principal of the hospital had resigned from the post.

"He has spoken about the abuses hurled at him (after the incident). We have shifted him to another department. We have also removed the MSVP (medical superintendent and vice principal) due to negligence. The head of the chest medicine department and Kolkata Police's ACP in charge of RG Kar hospital's security have also been removed," she said.

The CM had on Saturday vowed to seek death penalty for the accused in the case.

Facing backlash over the incident at the state-run RG Kar Medical Col-

lege and Hospital, its principal Sandip Ghosh resigned from his post and government service on Monday morning, days after junior doctors demanded his removal for failing to provide security to the staff.

"We want this case to go to a fast track court. We will also demand capital punishment. Some people may have forgotten how to behave in society. It is a heinous crime to engage in such violence against women," Banerjee said.

Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal also accompanied Banerjee to the victim's residence.

"All those who were near the place of occurrence and have a connection or involvement are being called and will be summoned if they haven't been yet. We are certain that within the next four to five days, if there are more culprits, we will be able to arrest them," he said.

"If even after that, the family is not satisfied (with the probe conducted by the police), then whatever the chief minister has said will happen (handing over the case to the CBI)," Goyal said.

Goyal said the police have already opened a helpline number regarding the case.

"Doctors can share information if they wish to communicate anonymously. They can come and talk to us in person as well," he added.

## 6 killed as speeding SUV mows down pilgrims in West Bengal

KOLKATA, Aug 12 (Agencies): As many as six pilgrims died in Bagdogra in West Bengal's Darjeeling, on Monday, after they were hit by a speeding SUV.

The victims were going to a Shiva temple to perform a ritual on the last Monday of the month of Shrawan.

Local people said that the impact of the collision was such that the speeding vehicle overturned and fell into the adjacent canal, following which some passengers travelling by the car were injured.

Following the incident, there was tension at the Bagdogra Asian Highway-2, as the locals started protesting and blocking the road.

As per reports, the six pilgrims, in the early morning, were going to the popular Jangli Baba temple, to perform their water-pouring rituals on the occasion of the last Monday of the month Shrawana, considered an auspicious month by Hindus.

Meanwhile, the speeding SUV was going towards Sikkim from the Ghoshpukur side. "The

driver of the vehicle lost control and hit the six pilgrims one after another, following which all of them died on the spot. Thereafter, the vehicle fell in the adjacent canal," a local eyewitness said.

Initially, the local people started rescue operations. Later, they were joined by a huge police contingent that reached the spot. The bodies of victims were taken to the North Bengal Medical College and Hospital first and were later sent for post-mortem purposes.



The police have yet to disclose the identity of the victims.

As per the latest information available, tension is still prevailing at the spot of the accident following the

protest by local people. A huge police contingent is present there to keep the situation under control. The cops were trying to persuade the local people to withdraw their agitation.

## Assam: Five killed as speeding truck hits devotees on way to temple

KOKRAJHAR, Aug 12 (Agencies): Five persons were killed and three others critically injured when a speeding truck hit devotees and then a car in Assam's Kokrajhar district on Monday morning, police said.

The speeding truck hit the devotees near Mahamaya Temple on National Highway 27 in Kachugaon under Gos-saigaon police station in which five persons were killed on the spot and one injured.

The driver fled with the vehicle from the spot and it collided with



a car at Bishmuri, critically injuring two others in the car. The victims have been identified as Sukran Roy (20), Jai Roy (11), Bappi Ghosh (21), Basudev Roy (22), and Naba Ghosh (26), all residents of Hatigarh Village No 1 under Gos-

saigaon sub-division.

The injured have been admitted to a hospital and their condition was stated to be critical.

Senior police officers have rushed to both the mishap sites and an investigation is underway.

## Seven killed, 16 injured in stampede at Shiva temple in Bihar's Jehanabad district

PATNA, Aug 12 (Agencies): At least seven people, including six women were killed and 16 others were injured in a stampede at Baba Siddhanath Temple in Bihar's Jehanabad district on Monday.

The temple, located on Vanavar Hill in the Makhdumpur block, was crowded with devotees on the fourth Monday of the holy Sawan month when a huge rush of devotees inside the temple is generally seen.

The injured were transported to hospitals in Makhdumpur and Jehanabad following the stampede. Jehanabad District Magistrate Alankrita Pandey reported that authorities are closely monitoring the situation and have launched relief and rescue operations. Eyewitnesses suggest the stampede

may have been triggered by a dispute involving a flower seller. DM Pandey confirmed the fatalities and injuries, and an investigation is underway to determine the cause of the incident. "The incident is being probed. Officials have been asked to find out the reason behind the incident," the DM said to agency.

Station House Officer Diwakar Kumar Vishwakarma from Makhdumpur police station said that the identities of the deceased were still being ascertained at the time of his statement. The bodies had been sent for autopsy, and senior officials, including the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, were on site overseeing the situation.

The deceased were later identified as Pyare Paswan

(30), Nisha Devi (30), Punam Devi (30), Nisha Kumari (21), and Sushila Devi (64). The identity of one woman remains unknown, officials said.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressed grief over the incident and instructed that an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh each be provided to the families of the deceased.

The Chief Minister also directed the district administration to ensure the best possible treatment for the injured.

"The CM has instructed that an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh each be immediately provided to the next of the kin of the deceased. Kumar has also directed the district administration to provide best possible treatment to the injured," a statement by the Chief Minister's Office said.

The administration will provide Rs 20,000 each to the families of the deceased for last rites, in addition to the Rs 4 lakh ex gratia.

The injured will receive Rs 50,000 each, officials said.

Meanwhile, RJD leaders Lalu Prasad, Rabri Devi and Tejashwi Yadav have expressed grief over the incident, a statement by the party said.

Baba Siddhanath temple, known as the Sidheshwar Nath temple, is located atop one of the highest peaks of the range of the Barabar hills in Jehanabad district. The Bihar stampede comes over a month after a stampede at a 'satsang' (religious congregation) in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras on July 2, killing 121 people, most of them women.

## Demand for JPC probe a sham, aim is to weaken economy: BJP on Hindenburg allegations

NEW DELHI, Aug 12 (Agencies): The BJP on Monday rejected the Congress' demand for a JPC probe into Hindenburg's allegation against the SEBI chairperson, saying it is a sham with an eye on weakening the Indian economy and destroying investment in the country.

BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad reiterated the party's line that the short-selling firm's charge and the opposition's criticism of the market regulator are part of a wider conspiracy.

He told reporters, "After being rebuffed by people, the Congress, its allies and its closest

ally in the toolkit gang have conspired together to usher in economic anarchy and instability in India."

The 10-year-old rule of the Congress between 2004 and 2014 was marked by several alleged scams, Prasad noted as he questioned why such critical reports were not brought out then.

He alleged, "The Congress party leadership is involved in creating economic anarchy based on this fictitious report."

He, however, asserted that investors have come to realise the "conspiracy" and rejected the attempts to jolt the market.



Noting that small investors have put their money in stock market in large numbers, he wondered why the Congress wants to harm them.

He claimed, "In its pathological hatred against Prime Minister Narendra Modi led by Rahul Gandhi and his toolkit friends, the Congress has developed

hatred for India." The SEBI had sent a notice to the US-based Hindenburg as part of its last year's allegations of stock market manipulation against the Adani group but it never joined the probe and has instead launched an attack on its chairperson Madhavi Puri Buch, he said. Prasad noted that the

Supreme Court had ordered the investigation.

At the press conference, he also slammed the Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal over the rape and murder of a doctor at a state-run hospital, alleging that it was trying to cover up.

He said the state government should hand over the probe to the CBI.

Amid attacks on minority Hindus in the unrest-hit Bangladesh, the BJP leader questioned the silence of opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, and noted that Modi had spoken about the need to protect them.

## Three goes missing after surge in river water in Jharkhand



LATEHAR, Aug 12 (Agencies): Two women and a 12-year-old boy went missing after the water level of the river they were crossing on foot increased suddenly

in Jharkhand's Latehar district, police said on Monday.

The incident took place on Sunday evening in Bisanpur village under Balumath police

station area.

Despite attempts, the three individuals could not be traced due to darkness, Balumath police station in-charge Vikrant Upadhyay said.

He said that the search operation resumed in the morning on Monday.

Seven people of Bisanpur village had gone to graze goats in Balbal forest, said Jagannath Sahu, a local resident.

"While returning home, they started crossing the Balbal river on foot as the water level was low.

Suddenly, the flow of water increased and three of them were swept away," he said.



## 'Unauthorised' helicopter flight ends with crash on hotel roof in Australia, killing pilot

About 400 people are evacuated from the hotel after the crash, which happened in Cairns

WELLINGTON, Aug 12 (Agencies): A man died after an 'unauthorised' helicopter flight in Queensland, Australia, ended in a crash on a hotel roof early Monday morning, prompting the evacuation of hundreds of people from the building as flames engulfed the aircraft.

Authorities in the city of Cairns said that they had not confirmed the identity of the pilot, his reason for making the flight or how the tourist helicopter was able to take off from Cairns Airport.

A couple staying at the hotel was hospitalised suffering from smoke inhalation and have now been discharged, Queensland Police Service Acting Chief Superintendent Shane Holmes said. No one else on the ground



was hurt.

Holmes said it was not known if the man flying the helicopter held a pilot's license or if he worked for the company that owned the craft, Nautilus Aviation.

"There is no further threat to the community. We believe this

is an isolated incident," Holmes said.

Nautilus Aviation said in an unattributed written statement that the flight was "unauthorised" but would not supply any further details.

Cairns Airport CEO Richard Barker said initial findings of a

review on Monday showed "no compromise of the airport security program or processes".

About 400 people were evacuated from the hotel after the crash, which happened in the early hours of the morning in a busy tourist district of Cairns — a tropical city of 1,50,000 people in far north Queensland — where it is peak season for holidaymakers. Witnesses told local news outlets the crash sounded like a bomb exploding.

Smoke and flames billowed from the roof of the Doubletree Hilton and one of the helicopter's rotor blades landed in the hotel pool, the Australian broadcaster ABC reported.

The hotel remains cordoned off while its structural integrity is being examined.

## Give up illegal firearms in 7 days: Bangladesh interim government to protesters

DHAKA, Aug 12 (Agencies): Bangladesh interim government's Home Affairs Adviser Brigadier General (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hussain on Monday asked protesters to surrender by August 19 all illegal and unauthorised firearms, including the rifles looted from law enforcers during the recent violence, according to a media report.

Hussain said that if those arms were not returned to nearby police stations, then the authorities would undertake a search and if anyone is found in possession of unauthorised weapons, charges would be lodged against them, agency reported.

Hussain was talking to reporters at the Combined Military Hospital here after visiting the paramilitary Bangladesh Ansar members who suffered injuries during the mass protest that led to the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Hasina resigned and fled to India last week, leaving the country in turmoil following deadly protests against her government over a controversial quota

system in jobs.

Hussain said that around 500 people, including students, were killed, and several thousand others were injured during the protest.

"A youth was seen in the video taking away a 7.62 mm rifle. That means the rifle was not returned. If you did not hand over (out of fear), hand over the firearms through anyone else," he said.

Hussain said they would investigate to identify the youth in civilian clothes who opened fire at Ansar members.

However, he toned down yesterday's comments about shutting down media outlets if they publish or broadcast false or misleading news.

"I said it out of anger. It is not my job," he said. "I never support shutting down any media."

Last Thursday, Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus took oath as the head of an interim government replacing Hasina. A 16-member council of advisers was announced to assist Yunus in running the state's affairs.

## Smoke detected in Singapore Airlines flight during landing in Tokyo, runway shut

TOKYO, Aug 12 (Agencies): White smoke was spotted from the engine of a Singapore Airlines flight during landing at Tokyo's Narita International Airport on Monday, forcing authorities to shut the runway for nearly an hour. An official said tyre pieces were discovered on the runway.

First responders found no signs of fire on flight SQ638, carrying 276 passengers and crew members. No injuries were reported and the aircraft was towed away for repairs as Runway B was shut for about 50 minutes from around 7:40 am (local time).

Six fire engines and two ambulances were deployed to deal with the situation, an air-



port official told news agency.

"We received a report of white smoke rising from the left engine," a Narita city fire official told agency.

Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism's airport office said the Boeing 787 aircraft

might have experienced issues while it was landing at Narita airport.

"It was communicated that there was a possibility that it experienced a problem when it landed," a spokesperson at Narita airport said.

Firefighters observed the plane for over an hour for any sign of fire and left the scene after no fire was reported, the official said, adding that tyre debris was found on the runway.

## Residents flee as Greece wildfires spread despite "superhuman" efforts

ATHENS, Aug 12 (Agencies): Greece ordered the evacuation of hospitals and homes near Athens Monday as wildfires spread despite "superhuman" efforts to combat the flames, the fire brigade said.

At least five more communities were told to flee by civil protection authorities, after hundreds of people evacuated Sunday from at least eight villages.

"Civil protection forces battled hard throughout the night, but despite superhuman efforts, the fire evolved rapidly," fire brigade spokesman Vassilis Vathrakogiannis said.

"At this moment it has reached Mount Pentelicus and is headed in the direction of Penteli," he added.

Two hospitals in Penteli -- one for children and a military facility -- were evacuated at dawn according to Vathrakogiannis.

The brigade has deployed 510 firefighters and 152 vehicles, while 29 aircraft were due to set out at first light, he added.

"Forest fire near you. Follow



the instructions of the authorities," said SMS messages sent to people in the Attica region, indicating in which direction to flee.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis cut short his holiday and returned to Athens Sunday evening to deal with the crisis.

By Sunday afternoon, firefighters had quickly dealt with 33 out of the 40 blazes that had broken out in the past 24 hours.

But the force was battling seven more in the high Medi-

terranean summer heat, the fire brigade spokesman said.

Residents of the historic town of Marathon, 40 kilometres (25 miles) east of Athens, were among those ordered to evacuate.

"Everything is burning," said Giorgos Tsevas, a resident of Polydendri village.

"I have 200 olive trees there but now they are gone," the 48-year-old said.

Already Saturday, Civil Protection Minister Vassilis Kikilias

had warned that half the country was under a high-risk warning for fires due to high temperatures, wind gusts and drought conditions.

"Throughout the night, winds remained strong, creating dangerous situations. Unfortunately their intensity is expected to increase in the coming hours," Vathrakogiannis warned.

The Mediterranean country is exceptionally vulnerable to summer blazes, with this season seeing fires burn daily.

After the warmest winter on record, Greece also experienced its hottest June and July since reliable data collection began in 1960.

Scientists warn that human-induced fossil fuel emissions are worsening the length, frequency and intensity of heatwaves across the world.

The rising temperatures are leading to longer wildfire seasons and increasing the area burnt in the flames, according to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

## Russia evacuates more border areas amid rising threat from Ukraine forces

MOSCOW, Aug 12 (Agencies): Russia on Monday evacuated parts of another region next to Ukraine after Kyiv sharply increased military activity near the border just days after its biggest incursion into sovereign Russian territory since the start of the 2022 war.

Ukrainian forces rammed through the Russian border early on Tuesday and swept across some Western parts of Russia's Kursk region, a surprise attack that may be aimed at gaining leverage in possible ceasefire talks after the US election.

Apparently caught

by surprise, Russia by Sunday has stabilised the front in the Kursk region, though Ukraine had carved out a sliver of Russian territory where battles were continuing on Monday, according to Russian war bloggers.

In the neighbouring Belgorod region to the south, the regional governor, Vyacheslav Gladkov, said that evacuations had begun from the Krasnaya Yaruga District due to "enemy activity on the border" that was a "threat".

"I am sure that our servicemen will do everything to cope with the threat that has arisen,"



Gladkov said. "We are starting to move people who live in the Krasnaya Yaruga district to safer places."

Russia has imposed a sweeping security regime in the Kursk, Bryansk and Belgorod regions while Russian ally Belarus said it was bolstering its troop num-

bers at its border after Minsk said Ukraine had violated its airspace with drones.

The audacious Ukrainian attacks on Russian sovereign territory are aimed at showing its Western supporters that Kyiv can still muster major military operations while trying to gain a

bargaining chip ahead of possible ceasefire talks.

Russian forces, which have a vast numerical supremacy and control 18% of Ukrainian territory, have been advancing this year along the 1,000-km (620-mile) front after the failure of Ukraine's 2023 counter-offensive to make any major gains.

Ukraine broke its silence on the attacks on Saturday when President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Ukraine had launched an incursion into Russian territory to "restore justice" and pressure Moscow's forces.

## "I'm Ashamed...": Iran President's Deputy Quits Days After Assuming Charge



TEHRAN, Aug 12 (Agencies): Iran's former foreign minister Javad Zarif, who negotiated a landmark 2015 nuclear deal with major world powers, on Monday announced he had resigned from his new post as vice president.

"I resigned from the position of vice president for strategic affairs last week," Zarif said in a post on X, less than two weeks after the newly-elected reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian chose him as his deputy.

Zarif cited several reasons for his resignation, most notably his disappointment with the line-up in the newly proposed 19-member cabinet.

"I am ashamed that I could not implement, in a decent way, the expert opinion of the committees (responsible for selecting candidates) and achieve the inclusion of women, youth and ethnic groups, as I had promised," he said.

Pezeshkian on Sunday presented his cabinet, which included one woman, to parliament for approval.

The proposed list drew criticism from some among Iran's reformist camp, including over the inclusion of conservatives from the government of late President Ebrahim Raisi.

Zarif pointed out that he also faced pressure after his appointment as vice president because his children hold US citi-

zenship.

"My message... is not a sign of regret or dis-appointment with dear Dr Pezeshkian or opposition to realism; rather it means doubting my usefulness as a vice-president for strategic affairs," he said, noting he would return to academia and focus less on Iran's domestic politics.

Zarif, who was Iran's top diplomat between 2013 and 2021 in the government of moderate president Hassan Rouhani, became known on the international stage during the lengthy negotiations for the 2015 accord formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The deal was effectively torpedoed three years later when then-president Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the deal and reimposed crippling sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

But it made Zarif a figurehead for a more open, outward-looking Iran that Pezeshkian pledged to strive for during his campaign, during which he was frequently joined by the former top diplomat.

## Tropical Storm Maria hits Japan, disrupts travel, forces evacuations

TOKYO, Aug 12 (Agencies): Tropical Storm Maria made landfall on Monday in Japan's northern region of Iwate, bringing torrential rain that disrupted flights and rail services while forcing people in some areas to evacuate homes, but there were no immediate reports of casualties. The storm, packing maximum wind speeds of 72 kph (45 mph), is expected to move towards the Sea



of Japan.

The Japan Meteorological Agency warned of risks from mudslides and floods after record-breaking rainfall over the last two days in some cities of the region.

The government will do its best to tackle the situation, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters. "We'll continue to provide information to residents and support those evacuating," he said.

Although Japan is observing a holiday, some high-speed bullet trains and regular services have been suspended in Iwate and other northern areas, while Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways also cancelled flights in the affected regions.

Public broadcaster NHK said municipal authorities urged people in Iwate to take shelter. Media said no casualties had been reported.



## CBC's multimedia exhibition in Padder continues to pull crowds on 3rd day

Top News Report

PADDER, Aug 12: The ongoing five day long multimedia exhibition on Flagship schemes of Government of India organised by the Central Bureau of Communication & Broadcasting, in Padder saw an appreciable peak in footfall as it entered its third day on Monday.

The exhibition, which is aimed at the mass awareness of various public welfare schemes of the government, the progress made in different sectors and new initiatives of government, is being organised by CBC's Field Office, Doda at Sports Stadium, Gulabgarh from

10th August to August 14. Information about the welfare schemes is disseminated to the public in an integrated manner through photo exhibits, informative standees, expert lectures, IEC material as well as by medium of performing arts and cultural programs.

District Development Council(DDC) member, Padder, Hari Krishan Chauhan presided over the proceedings on the third day.

Speaking on the occasion he appreciated the goodwork CBC is doing for public awareness at the grassroots level. He said that the exhibition is an opportunity for the local residents and devotees alike to know about a

spectrum of schemes and programmes being run by the government for public welfare.

In his address Khurshheed Yousuf, Field Publicity Officer, CBC said that awareness is the first step in the successful implementation of public welfare schemes and CBC works to ensure that the masses have the right type of information to get the benefits. He said the multimedia exhibition at Padder is designed to provide the information through a direct interaction between the stakeholders and in an easy as well as entertaining way.

Dr. Sunil Singh, from Animal Husbandry Department, Padder also addressed the audience

and apprised them about various schemes aimed at providing financial assistance, self employment, farmer welfare, social security and upliftment of the poor and the marginalised. He made a special mention of National Artificial Insemination Programme (NAIP) and Holistic Agricultural Development Programme (HADP).

Speaking on the occasion, Virender Singh, from Agricultural department delivered address on the various Centrally sponsored schemes implemented by the department for the farmer community. He added that schemes like PM Samman Nidhi and Kisan Credit Card (KCC) are aimed at pro-

viding financial assistance to the farmers.

As part of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA), a flagship mass awareness campaign against drug demand reduction, pledge against drugs was taken during the today's event. It's pertinent to mention here that the theme of this year's NMBA celebration is "Viksit Bharat ka Mantra, Bharat ho Nasha se Swatantra".

As part of the CBC's integrated communication strategy, Empannelled Troupe performed the cultural programmes with special emphasis on local folk. Vikram Uppal, I/C CBC Doda conducted the day long proceeding.

## GDC Kathua observes International Youth Day



Top News Report

KATHUA, Aug 12: The Red Ribbon Club of Government Degree College (GDC) Kathua marked International Youth Day by organizing impactful events to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS. The event was organized under the esteemed patronage of Prof. Seema Mir, Principal, GDC, Kathua and convened by Dr. Shiv Kumar, Convener, RRC. A series of Events were organized like the Poster Making Competition and Awareness Rally in which volunteers from RRC, NSS and college cadets participated. The event began with a vibrant poster-making competition in which 15 students participated. Students showcased their creativity and understanding of HIV/AIDS through their art, highlighting the impor-

importance of prevention, destigmatization, and support for those affected by the virus. The posters not only reflected the participants' artistic talents but also served as powerful educational tools for the college community. The competition was judged by Dr. R.K. Pandita, Dr. R. K. Manhas, Prof. Shivani Kotwal, Prof. Yashpal in which Shivika Rajput of Vth Semester grabbed the first position, Vishal Gupta of Vth Semester secured second position and Nikita Sharma of Vth Semester stood at third position. Following the competition, a rally was held to further spread awareness about HIV/AIDS. Students, faculty, and community members joined forces, marching through the streets of Kathua with banners and slogans advocating for safe practices, testing, and support for individu-

als living with HIV. The rally aimed to engage the broader community, encouraging open conversations about the virus and its impact on society. Speaking at the event, Prof. Seema Mir emphasized the importance of youth engagement in health advocacy.

"Our young people are the key to a brighter future. Through awareness and education, they can lead the fight against HIV/AIDS, breaking down barriers and creating a more inclusive society." The Principal applauded the efforts of RRC members, Dr. Shiv Kumar, Prof. Ram Krishan, Dr. Daya Ram, Prof. Rakhi Malhotra, Dr. Kamaljit Kour for organizing this event and further extended her gratitude to NSS, PO, Dr. Pinky and Dr. Daya Ram, NCC, ANO for their valuable contribution to make this event a resounding success.

## GDC Kishtwar hosts Inter-College Competitions

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Aug 12: Government Degree College, Kishtwar hosted a vibrant array of inter-college competitions today, to commemorate the upcoming 77th Independence Day. Students from GDC Kishtwar, GDC Chatroo, and GDC Padder showcased their talents in painting, essay writing, National Anthem singing, and quiz competitions.

The event was held under the guidance of Principal Professor Basharat Iqbal and the supervision of Dr. Yasir Ahmed (Nodal Officer).

A distinguished panel of judges comprising Professor Swami Raj, Dr. Vijay Kumar, Dr. Zahoor



Din, Dr. Tabassum Saleem, and Professor Sunil Kumar. Prof. Ashfaq Ahmed Wani judged the quiz competition.

GDC Kishtwar's Team A, comprising Amanullah, Sonia, and Uzma, clinched the first prize in the quiz competition. The second and third positions were secured

by Team B from GDC Chatroo (Aqib Hussain and Saqib Hussain) and Team C from GDC Padder (Bohad Raj, Sunil Kumar, and Pawan Kumar), respectively.

Salma Liyaqat from GDC Kishtwar emerged as the winner of the essay writing competition and sunil Kumar (GDC

Padder) and Arshad Naik (GDC Chatroo) secured the second and third positions, respectively. Priya Manhas and Mamta Kumari, both from GDC Kishtwar, excelled in the painting and national anthem singing competitions, respectively.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation

from students and faculty of all three colleges.

Prominent members who attended the event were Prof. Umar Din, Prof. Ajeet Kumar, Prof. Jai deep, Prof. Omraj and Prof. Ashfaq Ahmed Wani. Dr. Sehrish Gazal (Dean Student Welfare) coordinated the entire event, while Dr. Sheikh Mohd. Usmaan took charge of the quiz competition.

The inter-college competitions not only celebrated the spirit of independence but also fostered a strong sense of national pride among participants. The inter-college competition was a resounding success, leaving a lasting impression on students and the local community.

## GDC Marheen organizes Cleanliness Drive

Top News Report

MARHEEN, Aug 12: Under the banner of Swachhhta Pakhwada, the NSS Unit of GDC Marheen, organized Cleanliness Drive in the adopted pond.

The programme was organized under the patronage of Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Anupama Gupta.

In her address, she discussed about the importance of better hygiene, sanitation and cleanliness of our water bodies as well as our surrounding.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Arun Dev Singh, NSS, PO and Dr. Shalvi Rani also joined as a member of the Unit. More than 20 students were actively participated the Cleanliness Drive.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Har Ghar Tiranga campaign in J&K has grown to be a people's movement: LG

In the last two years, people across the union territory belonging to different segments of society have embraced the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and infused it with their warmth and support, he said.

The Lt Governor called upon the people to participate several programmes like Tiranga rallies, Tiranga concerts, Tiranga pledge.

On the occasion, Sinha released a Monograph dedicated to the martyrs and bravehearts of Jammu and Kashmir and launched the Tiranga signature campaign.

### Pulled J&K out of 'Debt State' identity in past 5 years: Lieutenant Governor

parliament is Rs 1.18390 Crore which is Rs 30889 Crore more than the last year. "We have revamped almost all sectors in J&K be that power, agriculture, and infrastructure there is a huge change," the LG said.

He said that in J&K in the past three years, power tariff has not been hiked and the people of J&K continue to get electricity at cheaper rates than Punjab, Himachal and Haryana. "We have been able to overcome the highest ever ATC losses in J&K, which were highest in the country," the LG said.

"We have ensured 25 per cent decreased in transmission and distribution losses in J&K."

The LG said that J&K went through deadly deluge in 2014 and building infrastructure was a challenge. "Another challenge was Covid-19," he said. The LG refused to take questions related to security situation in J&K.

The LG said that in the past five years, J&K Bank, the premier financial institution has been pulled out of the huge debts and today it's a profitable institution of the UT.

### Jammu Kashmir Govt Reduces Sentences of Five Convicts Serving Life Imprisonment

prisoners, mentioned in the Annexure to this notification, shall be remitted with effect

from the date of issuance of this notification," said an order from the government.

However, their remittance shall be based on conditions that they shall furnish a surety bond and a personal bond to the satisfaction of the concerned Superintendent jail before their release. And shall maintain peace, good character and behaviour in the society.

They shall not indulge in any unlawful activity which is prejudicial to the maintenance of the public order and security of the State, while also ensuring their presence before the concerned Police Station once in every six months. The concerned police station shall keep a watch on the activities of the released prisoners, read the order.

These five individuals had already served many years in prison, with maximum being 24 years one month and 20 days by Des Raj, son of Om Prakash. The second highest number has been served for 21years two months and 23 days by Mohd yousof Shah, son of Ab Gani Shah. While the third convict Suresh Kumar, son of Kaka Ram has served 17-years four months and 22 days. Another convict, Mohd Bashir, son of Mohd Azam has served 17years one month and 14 days. While the fifth convict Tarseem Lal, son of Rattan Chand has served 16 years 11 months and 10-days, as on 15-07-2024, said the order.

### SC must transfer Adani probe to CBI or SIT given 'Likelihood of SEBI's compromise: Congress

been very exhausting, but it diverts attention from the core issues involved. Actions matter, not activities," Ramesh said in a statement.

"On February 14, 2023, I had written to the SEBI chairperson urging SEBI to play its role as the steward of India's financial markets on behalf of the crores of Indians who have faith in the fairness of India's financial markets. I never received a reply," the Congress leader said.

On March 3, 2023, the Supreme Court directed SEBI to "expeditiously conclude the investigation" into allegations of stock manipulation and accounting fraud against the Adani Group within two months, he pointed out.

Now, 18 months later, SEBI has revealed that a critical investigation, likely regarding whether Adani violated Rule 19A relating to minimum public shareholding, remains incomplete, he said.

"The fact is that SEBI's seeming inability to close two of its 24 investigations delayed the publication of its findings for over a

year.

This delay conveniently allowed the prime minister to navigate an entire general election without addressing his role in facilitating his close friend's illicit activities," Ramesh alleged.

Despite the Adani Group's claims of receiving a 'clean chit', SEBI has reportedly issued show-cause notices to several Adani firms concerning these allegations, he said.

However, the slow pace of these investigations, especially compared to the swift 'justice' that the prime minister's investigative agencies usually deliver to opposition leaders, remains inexplicable, Ramesh said.

"Moreover, recent revelations raise disturbing questions about SEBI's integrity and conduct in investigating the Adani mega scam," he said.

"SEBI, long considered a trustworthy global financial market regulator, is now under scrutiny. It is shocking to discover that SEBI chairperson and her husband invested in the same opaque Bermuda and Mauritius-based offshore funds where Vinod Adani and his close associates, Chang Chung-Ling and Nasser Ali Shaban Ahli, also invested," he said.

These funds were managed by Anil Ahuja, a close friend of the Buchs and an independent director in Adani Enterprises until May 31, 2017, a period that overlapped with the SEBI chairperson's earlier tenure as a whole-time member of SEBI, Ramesh said.

"The illusion that the SEBI chairperson and her husband had separated their finances has been shattered by the revelation that after joining SEBI, she transacted in the fund from her personal email account on February 25, 2018. Ironically, these funds are part of the same vehicles (Global Opportunities Fund and Global Dynamic Opportunities Fund) that Chang and Ahli reportedly used to bypass Rule 19A, the very violation that SEBI is currently investigating," he said.

"While 360 ONE, the fund manager, claimed that IPE Plus 1 Fund made no investments in the Adani Group, it remains silent on whether Vinod Adani, Chang, or Ahli were investors in that fund alongside the Buchs. It also fails to clarify the connections between the Global Opportunities Fund, the Global Dynamic Opportunities Fund, and the IPE Plus 1 Fund," Ramesh said in his statement.

He further claimed that clearly, no institution is sacrosanct in 'Amrit Kaal'.

Did the SEBI chairperson recuse herself from the Adani investigations, he asked "Do these conflicts of interest explain the prolonged investigation, a delay that has benefited both Adani and the Prime Minister while damaging SEBI's reputation? How

can a match proceed if the umpire herself is compromised?" Ramesh said.

The Supreme Court, empowered by the Constitution, must transfer the investigation to the CBI or SIT given the "likelihood of SEBI's compromise", he said.

At a minimum, the SEBI chairperson must resign to restore SEBI's integrity, Ramesh stressed.

"However, the Adani mega scam extends beyond the 24 matters under SEBI's investigation. It encompasses the source of the Rs 20,000 crore benami funds invested in the Adani Group, the over-invoicing of thousands of crores in coal and power equipment, and the laundering of those proceeds," the Congress leader said.

Additionally, it involves granting of monopolies to the Adani Group in critical infrastructure sectors, and manipulation of Indian foreign policy to secure Adani assets in neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh which are proving to be highly controversial, Ramesh alleged.

Hindenburg Research on Saturday launched a broadside against Madhabi Buch, alleging she and her husband had stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the alleged Adani money siphoning scandal.

The SEBI chairman and her husband have denied the allegations.

The Adani Group termed the latest allegations malicious and said it has no commercial relationship with the SEBI chairperson or her husband.

### Fresh batch of 380 pilgrims leave for Budha Amarnath in Poonch

light motor vehicles (LMVs) amid chants of "Bum Bum Bhole", "Har Har Mahadev" and "Jai Shri Ram".

The yatra commenced on August 7 and is scheduled to conclude on August 20.

The Budha Amarnath Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva in the Rajpura village in Poonch's Mandi tehsil is among the oldest shrines in the Jammu region, drawing large numbers of devotees during the yatra. The yatra concludes with the arrival of the 'Charri Mubarak' (holy mace) at the shrine from Dashnami Akhara, Poonch.

The Pulsata river, considered sacred, flows by the temple, where pilgrims traditionally bathe before entering. Thousands of devotees undertake the yatra annually to pay obeisance at this renowned shrine of Lord Shiva.

### Security forces widen search in Anantnag to

### flush out terrorists

despite the challenging topography. The firefight started on Saturday evening during a cordon and search operation that was initiated by the security forces based on intelligence reports indicating the presence of terrorists in the remote Ahlan Gagarmandu forest.

According to officials, a group of terrorists — believed to be three to four in number — opened fire at the joint search parties comprising Army personnel, including para commandos, and local police.

In the ensuing gun battle, six Army personnel and two civilians were injured, officials said, adding the injured soldiers were promptly taken to a nearby hospital where two succumbed shortly after arrival.

The slain army personnel have been identified as Havildar Dipak Kumar Yadav and Lance Naik Praveen Sharma.

This encounter is a grim reminder of a similar operation in the general area of Kokernag last September, during which four security personnel, including Colonel Manpreet Singh, Major Ashish and Deputy SP Humayun Bhat were martyred in the week-long engagement with terrorists.

Two terrorists, including a senior commander of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), were also neutralised during that operation.

Security forces have ramped up their efforts in the woods of Kokernag after an encounter in Doda district on July 15 that resulted in the deaths of four soldiers, including a captain.

It is believed that the terrorists involved in the recent Anantnag incident may have crossed over from Kishtwar district after escaping the confrontation in Doda.

Giving details of the current operation, a Srinagar-based defence spokesperson said that on August 5, it was confirmed through human and electronic means that terrorists responsible for atrocities in the Doda region in July have sneaked across the Kishtwar range into the Kapran-Garol area in south Kashmir.

### Minor's body found under mysterious condition near his home in Tangmarg

Baramulla, officials said on Monday. Quoting reports the news agency Kashmir News Corner (KNC) said that people were surprised to see the body of a 3-year-old boy identified as Murtaza Manzoor Ganaie, son of Manzoor Ahmad of Dweadrag, Tangmarg lying near his home. Police have taken cognizance of the incident and started investigation.



## BTSM starts awareness in J&K for Twang Tirth Yatra

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: Bharat Tibet Sahyog Manch (BTSM) today organised a meeting in Janipur here in which activists of Jammu district participated.

The meeting was held under the leadership of UT J&K president Dr Vivek Sharma. In his address, Dr Vivek talked about the national executive meeting which was held last week at Panipat. The meeting was held under the guidance of Dr Indresh Kumar RSS Senior Parcharak and the leadership of Pankaj Goyal National General Secretary (BTSM).

In his address, Indresh Kumar said, "What kind of humanity is it that China is eradicating Tibetan identity from Tibet, except a few thousand of them in the rest of the world". BTSM therefore condemned China's actions aimed at eliminating the Tibetan race through a systematic campaign of Sincization. BTSM firmly believes that China is engaged in a conspiracy to erase Tibetan culture and identity.

While highlighting the importance of spreading the Dalai Lama's message of compassion globally in the keynote address by Shri



Pankaj Goyal and further emphasised by Shri Indresh Kumar, BTSM declared the year 2025 as the Karuna Varsh (Year of Compassion), in celebration of the 90th birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Recognised globally as a symbol of peace, His Holiness the Dalai Lama's milestone birthday will be marked by year-long celebrations promoting peace, non-violence, brotherhood, and love. BTSM acknowledged its commitment to forming a committee to organise these celebrations, engaging communities across India and the world.

The meeting was honoured by the presence of several distinguished guests and officials, including Kalon (Minister) Dolma Gyari, Depart-

ment of Security, Central Tibet Administration (CTA), who attended the event as its chief guest.

Other notable attendees included Dr. K. C. Agnihotri (Patron of BTSM), Harjit Singh Grewal (National Working President of BTSM), Swami Deivyanand Maharaj (National Vice-President), Pankaj Goyal (National General Secretary of BTSM), R.K. Khrimay (Convener of the Core Group for Tibetan Cause-India (CGTC-I)) and Pratap Chandra (RSS Haryana Prant Karyawah). Both days featured invaluable guidance from the organisation's guide and senior pracharak of the Sangh, Indresh Kumar, Patron of Bharat Tibbat Sahyog Manch (BTSM).

Furthermore, the resolutions passed during

the meeting reflect BTSM's strong commitment to supporting Tibetan autonomy, preserving cultural identity, and countering Chinese expansionist policies by mobilising national and global support to implement these BTSM's aims to ensure the preservation of peace, non-violence, and cultural integrity.

The meeting underscored the importance of collective efforts in advocating for Tibetan rights and highlighted India's dedication to its mission of safeguarding human identity and promoting global harmony.

Dr Vivek Sharma talked about the importance of the Tawang Tirth Yatra which starts from Guwahati, Assam on 19th November, 2024 and will reach Tawang after

passing through Bomidila, Dirang, Sela Pass, Jaswantgarh via Bhalukpong, which is called the gateway to the land of Rising Sun Arunachal Pradesh via Nagaon and Tezpur.

The Tawang Tirth Yatra is one of the major annual events of Bharat Tibbat Sahyog Manch which aims to remind Communist China that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India and to highlight the illegal occupation of Tibet by Communist China. Its slogan is Tibbat ki Azadi, Kailash Mansarovar ki Mukti aur Bharat ki Suraksha.

Further, we will try to send more people from J&K for this cause, whereby more and more people can join this struggle. BTSM will launch an awareness programme all over the J&K UT for this cause.

Further, he said that a day will surely come when Tibet and Kailash Mansarovar will be liberated by the efforts of the Bharat Tibet Sahyog Manch, as well as India will be secured from the point of view of security.

Other prominent who addressed the gathering are Rajinder Sharma, Dr Vikrant Singh, Dr Rajesh Sharma, Dr Rajesh Chib, Vishal Sharma, Alok Mahajan and others.

## District Level Inter College Competition marks 77th I-Day at SPPND GDC Samba



### Top News Report

SAMBA, Aug 12: SPPND Government Degree College Samba hosted a series of vibrant inter-college events as part of the Independence Day celebrations 2024. The district-level competitions saw enthusiastic participation from five distinguished colleges of the district, GDC Purmandal, GDC Vijaypur, GDC Ghagwal, GDC Ramgarh and SPPND GDC Samba.

The participating institutions showcased remarkable talent in varied competitions, Essay Writing Competition, Quiz Competition, Painting Competition and National Anthem Singing Competition. The event lineup was both diverse and engaging, reflecting the spirit of unity and patriotism synonymous

with Independence Day. Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Principal, SPPND GDC Samba welcomed the guests and reiterated that these celebrations are a tribute to our Nation's journey and achievements and it is heartening to see the young minds of our district come together to celebrate our independence with such creativity and zeal.

The jury comprised of eminent academicians Dr. Kuldeep Raina, HOD Music Govt. MAM College and Cultural coordinator CLUJ, Dr. Mukesh Kumar HOD Music, GDC Hiranagar, Dr. Eva Sharma (English) GDC Kathua and Dr. Indu Khajuria (English) School of Humanities, Cluster University Jammu.

The District-Level Inter-College events concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, wherein

winners from each category were recognized for their outstanding performances. The overall success of the events underscored the collaborative spirit among the colleges and the shared commitment to celebrating India's rich heritage.

Mridhula from SPPND GDC Samba clinched first prize in National Anthem Singing Competition, Arti Devi, GDC Purmandal bagged first prize in Painting Competition and Rupaank Aryan, GDC Vijaypur secured first position in Essay Writing Competition. In quiz competition, Riya Devi, Davinder Singh and Gopi Padha, GDC, Ghagwal bagged the first position.

The prize winners shall be recognized and felicitated on 15th August 2024 by District Administration, Samba.

## PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar organizes Walkthon

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: On the observance of International Youth Day, Red Ribbon Club, PSPS, Govt. College For Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu in collaboration J&K AIDS Control Society (JKACS), Health & Medical Education Dept. organized Debate Competition & Placards-Making Competition on 9th of August, 2024. In this connection a Walkthon/Run of 2Kms was held on Monday for the Promotion of National Toll Free Helpline: 1097.

The debate competition aims to engage young minds in thoughtful discourse on the theme, "The Role of Youth in HIV/AIDS Control & Prevention". The participants expressed their views, fostering a deeper understanding of how youth can contribute in combating the HIV/AIDS through education, activism and peer support for the innovative solution. The first prize winner was Sanjeevani Bhardwaj, second Barnika, third position was shared by Arushi Sharma and Palak Meena.

In conjunction with the debate competition, a Placard-Making contest was held in which participants expressed their thoughts and messages on the prevention of HIV/AIDS. The first winner was Palak Meena, second Sakshi

Devi & third position was secured by Rukhsana Kousar. The members of Jury were Dr. Archana Bakshi, HOD English, Dr. Suman Bala Sharma, HOD Botany, Dr. Anupama Pandotra. A Walkathon was flag off by Chief guest, Dr. Manu Bhatnagar and Guest of Honor, Dr. S.P. Saraswat, Nodal Principal, Jammu Division Colleges at 9:15 am, where participants marched together, holding their placards, to raise awareness among youth and to inspire to join fight against HIV/AIDS.

The event culminated with beautiful Cultural Program & Saraswati Vandana, by the students of GCW, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, Folk dance by AIDS Control Society.

Welcome address was given by Dr. Samriti Aggarwal, Convener of Red Ribbon Club & Head Dept. of Zoology. Dr. Samriti Aggarwal honour the Chief guest, Dr. Manu Bhatnagar, Rakesh Khajuria, Asstt. Director IEC honour the Guest of Honor, Dr. S.P. Saraswat, Dr. Shakun Mahajan, Dept. of English, honour Madan Lal, Deputy Director, Finance JKACS, Health and Medical Education, Rajesh Sharma, Asstt. Director, Youth Affairs, honor Dr. Samriti Aggarwal, Nodal Officer Red Ribbon Club, GCW, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu by presenting the planters.

Certificates were given to the Winners by the Chief guest and other Dignitaries.

Chief guest, Dr. Manu Bhatnagar addressed the audience in which she acknowledged the significant role that youth can play in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

She emphasized that young people, being the most dynamic and adaptable section of society, are powerful advocates for policies that promote better access healthcare and to prioritize HIV prevention programs and resources.

Nodal Principal, Dr. S.P. Saraswat in his address, reiterated the youth to take on leadership roles in the control & prevention of HIV/AIDS and by doing so they can inspire others and create a ripple effect of positive change. Their energy, creativity and commitment are vital to achieving a future free of HIV/AIDS. Vote of thanks was given by Rakesh Sharma, Asstt. Director, Youth Affairs.

The Members of Red Ribbon Club, Dr. Shakun Mahajan, Prof. Shaista Ajaz, Dr. Nidhi Choudhary, Prof. Raj Kumar Santhali, Prof. Manmeet Kour, Prof. Asha Devi, Prof. Varchaskam Sharma, Prof. Meenakshi Sharma, Prof. Monika Hans, Prof. Anita Kotwal, Prof. Archana Bhat Staff Members and large number of students were also present.

## GGM Science College organizes awareness rally celebrating Independence Day



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: The NSS and NCC units of GGM Science College organized an awareness rally on 12th August 2024 to celebrate Independence Day and Swachhata Pakhwada. The event aimed to foster a sense of national pride and promote the importance of cleanliness among students and staff.

The rally was held under the guidance of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, who has been a driving force behind these initiatives at the college. In his address, Prof. Gupta highlighted the significance of cleanliness as a tribute to the sacrifices of the nation's freedom fighters and encouraged the youth to take an active role in maintaining a clean environment.

The event was meticulously organized by NSS Programme Officers (POs) Dr. Rahul Kait and Dr. Neha Sharma, along with NCC Associate NCC Officers (ANOs) Lt. Prof. Devinder Kumar Sharma and Dr. Shafia

Saleem. Prof. Sunita Kumari, Prof. Shalini Sharma, Dr. Chaman Lal, Dr. Vinod Kumar Bakshi, Dr. Brinder Kumar, Dr. Pawan Kumar, Prof. Mona Sethi, Prof. Kiran Bala, Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Prof. Neha Mahajan, Dr. Gaurav Gupta, Dr. Rohit Bhardwaj, Dr. Mateen, Dr. Altaf Ahmed, Dr. Sheetu Raina, Dr. Lakwinder Singh, Dr. Bhkam Pal Singh, Prof. Ram Krishna, Prof. Ameer, Prof. Ankush Raj, Prof. Vipin, Prof. Kamaljeet, Prof. Priti Verma, Dr. Suram Singh, Prof. Rajive and other faculty members were also present, supporting the rally and motivating the students.

The rally, which took place outside the college premises, saw enthusiastic participation from NSS volunteers and NCC cadets, who marched through nearby areas, spreading messages of patriotism and cleanliness.

The rally concluded with a pledge by all participants to uphold the principles of Swachhata and contribute to a cleaner and greener India.

## Teachers' Association formed at GDC Rajouri

### Top News Report

RAJOURI, Aug 12: In a remarkable demonstration of democratic principles and mutual consensus, the teaching staff of Government Degree College (GDC) Rajouri has successfully elected their representatives for the ongoing session. This significant event highlights the institution's dedication in fostering a collaborative and inclusive academic environment.

The election process, conducted with utmost transparency and fairness, which has led to the following appointments: Dr. Ahsan Ul Rehman Rizvi from Department of Arabic has been unanimously appointed as the Chairman of the Association for the entire session. Dr. Rizvi's overall leadership and vision is anticipated to guide the committee towards achieving its desired goals effectively.

Prof. Khaleeq Ahmed, Head of the Department of Sociology, has been unanimously elected as the Staff Secretary. His extensive experience and unwavering commitment to the institution make him an exemplary choice for this pivotal role.

On the occasion Prof. Khaleeq articulated his vision for the college, emphasizing the importance of both rights and duties, and pledged to work tirelessly for the betterment of the students



and the institution.

He expressed his determination to contribute to the college's journey towards excellence and become the strength of the Principal.

Dr. Khalid Rayaz has been appointed as the Joint Secretary. His dedication to academic excellence and his proactive approach is expected to greatly benefit the teaching community.

While extending gratitude to the Staff, he assured the staff to work hard to maintain the exiting prestige of the Institution and to ensure transparency, integrity, and dedication.

Moreover it was also decided that Prof. Khaleeq Ahmed and Dr. Khalid Rayaz shall work as Secretaries for six months each.

After the declaration of result, a presidium was formed where Prof. Murtaza Ahmed HOD Political Science was nominated as Media Secretary while Prof. Muhammad Shoket, HOD Education was appointed as Treasurer. Waqar Ahmed

Gorsi, Chief Librarian is nominated as Secretary Hospitality and Protocol.

The election for the Teachers' Association was meticulously supervised by the Election Commission, ensuring a fair and democratic process. The commission was led by Prof. Shoket Hussain Head Department of Chemistry, serving as the Chief Election Commissioner. He was ably assisted by Prof. Mohammad Iqbal Raina and Dr. Riaz Ahmed Mirza, who served as Election Commissioners.

These appointments reflect the collective trust and confidence that the teaching staff places in their newly elected representatives. The institution eagerly anticipates a productive and harmonious session under their leadership.

Principal of the College Prof. (Dr.) K. K. Sharma Congratulates to the Teachers body. While extending best wishes he hoped that this body may play the instrumental role for the progress of the institution.

## Sports play crucial role in fostering discipline, teamwork, healthy lifestyle among youth: Uday Chib

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: Uday Bhanu Chib, General Secretary of Indian Youth Congress, graced the closing ceremony of the 2nd Dodge Ball Jammu District Championship held at Bagwati Stadium Jammu.

The Championship held from 10th to 11th August, witnessed an enthusiastic participation of around 175 players from across the district. The championship featured intense matches, highlighting the talent and enthusiasm of the players. The event also aimed at promoting



dodge ball as a sport in the region and encouraging more youth to take up sports actively.

In his address, Uday Chib, who was the Chief Guest, commended the remarkable turnout and the high level of competition displayed by the

participants. "The energy and dedication shown by these young athletes are truly commendable. Sports play a crucial role in fostering discipline, teamwork, and a healthy lifestyle among the youth," he stated.

Uday Chib emphasized

the importance of sports in youth development and nation-building. "Engaging in sports not only promotes physical fitness but also instills values of perseverance and sportsmanship. It is essential to provide our young talents with ample oppor-

tunities and platforms to showcase their skills and grow," he added.

Uday Chib acknowledged the efforts of the organizers, coaches, and volunteers who made the event a grand success. "Organizing such events requires immense dedication and hard work. I applaud the efforts of the organizers for providing a platform for our young athletes to shine," he said.

The senior Congress leader also took the opportunity to reiterate the commitment of the Indian Youth Congress towards the upliftment and empowerment of the

youth. "Our focus remains on creating avenues for the youth to excel in various fields, including sports. We will continue to support and encourage initiatives that contribute to the holistic development of young individuals," he affirmed.

The closing ceremony concluded with the distribution of medals and certificates to the winners and participants. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and anticipation as the young athletes celebrated their achievements and looked forward to future opportunities.

## Tiranga March To Celebrate Independence Day at Pallanwala

### Top News Report

In a vibrant display of patriotism, the Indian Army organized a Tiranga March in the border areas of Pallanwala to commemorate India's Independence Day. The event commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag at the local Panchayat Ghar, thereafter the Tiranga March saw enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and local residents, all joining in to celebrate the spirit of freedom.

The event was marked by a deep sense of national pride as the tricolour fluttered high, symbolizing the unity and strength of the nation. The Tiranga March was not only a tribute to India's rich history but also an effort to instill a sense of national fervour among the younger generation. The Indian Army's initiative was greatly appreciated by the local community, who expressed their gratitude for the efforts made to keep the spirit of independence alive in this remote region. The Indian Army remains committed to fostering a strong bond with the local population, and events like these play a crucial role in strengthening the ties between the armed forces and the citizens they protect.



## Dhoni, Kohli, KL Rahul contribute memorabilia to Cricket for Charity Auction

**MS Dhoni, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul and other cricketing stars have contributed historic cricket memorabilia for the Cricket for Charity auction. KL Rahul and Athiya Shetty are organizing the unique auction of cricket memorabilia.**

NEW DELHI, Aug 12 (Agencies): In a remarkable initiative blending the passion for cricket with philanthropy, iconic cricket stars Rahul Dravid, MS Dhoni, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul and many other renowned Team India and international cricketers have contributed their historic memorabilia for a charity auction benefiting the Vipla Foundation.

KL Rahul and Athiya Shetty are organising this unique auction of cricket memorabilia, "Cricket for a Cause: To Benefit the Vipla Foundation," an organization committed to empowering underprivileged communities across India. The auction will feature rare and iconic cricket items, making it a must-attend event for cricket enthusiasts and philanthropists alike. The auction will take place online on Pundole on 23rd August 2024 at 6:30 PM IST, offering cricket enthusiasts a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to own exclusive pieces of cricketing history while supporting a noble cause.

Vipla Foundation has been empowering women and children for over 36 years, and has a special school for the hearing impaired and intellectually disabled. The school complex features state-of-the-art infrastructure such as smart classrooms, speech therapy rooms, a library, a canteen, a dining area, a play area and many other such facilities. The Cricket for a Cause auction is an initiative to support the school to provide qual-



ity education to special children from disadvantaged communities. Vipla Foundation's Trustee, Mana Shetty says,

"This is not just an auction; it's an opportunity for all of us to come together and make a difference. It's heartwarming to see the cricketing legends come together for such a noble cause. Every item tells a story of passion, hard work, and triumph. By participating in this auction, you're not just owning a piece of cricket history—you're supporting a cause that can change lives. Every contribution counts, and together, we can create a brighter future for so many children and women. Please join us in making it a success."

The auction features 27 extraordinary items, each with deep historical significance, generously donated by the legends of the game. Highlights include:

MS Dhoni's Signed Cricket Bat (IPL 2024): A symbol of leadership and composure, this bat represents Dhoni's unmatched

ability to steer his team through high-pressure moments.

Virat Kohli's Signed Team India Jersey (ICC World Cup 2019) and Signed Batting Gloves (ICC World Cup 2019): Worn by Kohli during his last ODI World Cup as captain, this jersey embodies his excellence and leadership that propelled India to the semi-finals.

Rohit Sharma's Signed Cricket Bat (ICC World Cup 2023): The bat from the tournament where Rohit broke records and led India to an unbeaten streak into the finals.

KL Rahul's Signed Cricket Bat (ICC World Cup 2023) and Signed Batting Gloves (ICC World Cup 2023): Used in his extraordinary match-winning knock against Australia, this bat is a testament to his resilience and skill.

In addition to these marquee items, the auction catalogue includes treasured jerseys, gloves, and cricket bats from other cricketing greats like Rahul Dravid's Signed Bat

(India's Tour of England 2011), Jasprit Bumrah's Signed Team India Jersey (ICC World Cup 2023), Ravichandran Ashwin's Signed Jersey, Shreyas Iyer's Signed Cricket Bat, Yuzvendra Chahal's Signed Rajasthan Royals Jersey (IPL 2024), Rishabh Pant's Signed Gloves and Cricket Bat, Sanju Samson's Signed Rajasthan Royals Jersey (IPL 2024), Ravindra Jadeja's Signed Chennai Super Kings Jersey, a Signed Lucknow Super Giants Cricket Bat (IPL 2024) featuring autographs from the entire LSG team and international players; Jos Buttler's Signed Rajasthan Royals Jersey (IPL 2024), Quinton de Kock's Signed Wicket-Keeping Gloves (IPL 2024), Marcus Stoinis' Signed Cricket Bat, Nicholas Pooran's Signed Lucknow Super Giants Jersey (IPL 2024). These items starting bids are from Rs 50,000 to a ₹3,50,000.

Renowned for curating and selling high-quality art, antiques, and collectibles, the premier auction house, Pundole, will host this auction in support of the Vipla Foundation, bringing together the worlds of cricket and philanthropy. Cricket fans worldwide are encouraged to visit Pundole's website to view the complete catalogue and register for this momentous auction. With items that capture the essence of cricketing brilliance and legacy, this auction presents a rare chance to own a piece of history while making a meaningful contribution to society.

## Olympics: Record 4th place finishes in Paris in a 'what if' campaign for India

NEW DELHI, Aug 12 (Agencies): India's campaign at the Paris Olympics finally came to an end as they finished with six medals, which included five bronze and one silver. As a result, the nation ended in the 71st spot in the overall medal tally. The performance of the contingent didn't live up to the expectations set in the previous edition in Tokyo, where the athletes returned home with a record seven medals, including one gold, two silver and four bronze.

However, India could well have had their best ever campaign at the Games, had it not been for their consistent fourth place finishes. They had as many as six fourth placed finishes at the sporting extravaganza, as several athletes came within touching distance of a podium finish but missed it by a whisker.

India's tryst with fourth place finishes began with shooter Arjun Babuta, finishing with 208.4 points in the 10m Men's Air Rifle final. The 25-year-old missed the bronze as he scored 9.5 on his final shot and had missed out on a medal.

Manu Bhaker misses historic hat-trick The second fourth place finish was suffered by Manu Bhaker who opened India's account at the Games with a bronze in the 10m air pistol event. She further added the second medal in the nation's tally by clinching another bronze in the 10m air pistol mixed team event alongside Sarabjot Singh.

The 22-year-old had the chance to complete a historic hat-trick at the Games but narrowly missed out on the feat, finishing fourth in the women's 25m pistol event.

More heartbreak was on the cards with the Indian mixed archery team consisting of Ankita Bhakat and Dhiraj Bommadevara losing to the USA in the bronze medal match 2-4. The Mixed skeet team represented by Maheshwari Chauhan and Anant Jeet Singh Naruka also continued the rendezvous with a fourth place, losing against China in the bronze medal match.

Lakshya Sen etches name in history

but misses bronze

Lakshya Sen was the fifth victim of the dreaded position who lost to Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia in the bronze medal match in the men's singles badminton event. However, the 22-year-old etched his name in history books, becoming the first male player to qualify for the semi-final in Olympics.

Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu also failed to win her second successive Olympic medal by 1 kg, finishing in fourth place in the women's 49kg category. The 30-year-old lifted a total weight of 199 kg across snatch and clean and jerk lifts, losing third place to Thailand's Surodchana Khambao, who lifted 200 kg.

Hence, India could well have finished with 12 medals had it not been for several fourth-placed finishes. As a result, Paris witnessed India's highest fourth place finishes in the Olympics ever. In the previous edition in Tokyo, the women's hockey team and golfer Aditi Ashok were the only two who finished their campaign in fourth place.

Earlier, in Rio 2016, Abhinav Bindra, Dipa Karmakar and the pair of Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna were the ones to finish fourth. At London 2012, when India registered their then-highest medal tally of six, only one athlete finished fourth and it was shooter Joydeep Karmakar. The chapter of Paris will always be remembered as what could've been for India. The tryst with the fourth place finish somehow took some shine off the nation's third-best performance at the Games. However, it was a campaign full of several youngsters proving their mettle at the grandest stage, hinting at India's bright future ahead in the mega event. The 117-member strong contingent will return from Paris with some having tasted glory with a podium finish while others will return with lessons and determination to convert their disappointment into a medal in the next edition. The Indian tricolour will continue its push towards the top in the Olympics as the nation's golden chapter has just begun.

## She's my mother too: Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem replies to Neeraj Chopra's mother following win at Paris Olympics

CHANDIGARH, Aug 12 (Agencies): Pakistan's javelin throw star Arshad Nadeem has expressed gratitude towards Neeraj Chopra's mother, Saroj Devi, following his historic win at the Paris Olympics 2024.

After Nadeem won the gold medal in javelin throw, beating Chopra, Saroj Devi made headlines with her kind words, referring to Nadeem as "like her son".

Nadeem, who returned to Pakistan to a hero's welcome, replied to Saroj Devi's remarks with a priceless reply that has won the hearts of millions. Speaking to the Pakistan media,



he said, "A mother is a mother for everyone, so she prays for everyone too. I'm grateful to Neeraj Chopra's mother. She's my mother too. She prayed for us, and we were just two players from South Asia who performed on the world

stage." Nadeem's mother, Raziah Parveen, also added, "Woh bhi mere bete jaisa hai. Woh Nadeem ka dost bhi hai, bhai bhi hai (He is like a son to me. He is Nadeem's friend and also like a brother).

## Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli likely to play Duleep Trophy, says report. Only player exempted is...

NEW DELHI, Aug 12 (Agencies): After a disappointing ODI series against Sri Lanka, the Indian men's cricket team gears up for a gruelling Test schedule, also the start of Gautam Gambhir's stint as head coach in red-ball cricket. Gambhir has profoundly expressed the importance of domestic red-ball cricket and he is keen to implement the same for Indian national team players ahead of the start of the Test season. A report has claimed that Gambhir is keen to see the likes of Shubman Gill, KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, as well as seniors like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli participate in the Duleep Trophy.

A report in agency suggested that India's star players like Shubman Gill, KL Rahul, Axar Patel, Ravindra Jadeja, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Surykumar Yadav, Kuldeep Yadav have all been asked to play in the Duleep Trophy. The only man who has been given an exception is ace



pacer Jasprit Bumrah. He has been given a long break from cricketing assignments, as part of workload management.

As the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) picks the Duleep Trophy squads, the report has stated that Kohli and Rohit are also set to be named in the roster. Ishan Kishan is also likely to be picked for the Duleep Trophy. But, veteran stars like Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara are unlikely

to get the nod.

India's next Test assignment against Bangladesh starts September 19. The Duleep Trophy campaign is to begin on September 05. The selectors are reportedly undecided on the inclusion of Bumrah to India's Test squad for the first two matches against Bangladesh too as India are scheduled to play 10 Test matches in the next 4 months, with 5 of them to be against Australia.

The selectors could decide to give Bumrah a rest but Mohammed Shami is expected to find a spot in the team, having been out of action since the conclusion of the ODI World Cup last year. Duleep Trophy format:

The Ajit Agarkar's panel is to pick the four squads - India A, India B, India C and India D - for the tournament. The old zonal format has been done away with. The matches will be played in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh. The BCCI is also reportedly planning to keep one round at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

The Duleep Trophy schedule, however, will also have some overlap with the Bangladesh series, as the domestic tournament is scheduled to conclude on September 24. India's first Test against Bangladesh begins on September 19.

The board is also planning a short camp before the start of the Test series in Chennai.

## New Zealand pick 5 spin options for Tests against Afghanistan, Sri Lanka

*Bracewell will shoulder the spin duties alongside left-armers Mitchell Santner, Ajaz Patel and part-timers Glenn Phillips and Ravindra.*

AUCKLAND, Aug 12 (Agencies): New Zealand on Monday named a strong squad, which includes five spin bowling options, for next month's one-off Test against Afghanistan and the ensuing two-match rubber against Sri Lanka.

While the one-off Test against Afghanistan will be played in Greater Noida, India, from September 9-13, the Black Caps will fly to Sri Lanka for the two ICC World Test Championship matches, starting September 18 and 26, respectively.

Veteran pacer Tim Southee will lead the side which includes the likes of Kane Williamson, Devon Conway, Glenn Phillips and Rachin Ravindra, while Tom Latham continues to be the vice-

captain.

However, head coach Gary Stead hinted that if conditions call for a different balance, the skipper too may have to sit out for a game or two.

"Test tours to the sub-continent can ask some really tough questions of pace bowlers due to the nature of the pitches and the heat and humidity," Stead said.

"While we're going over with an open mind around conditions, there is an understanding that all our bowling options may be needed across the different Tests.

"Tim and I have discussed this, and the need during these overseas tours to balance the work-loads of the pace bowlers, including him-



self, to ensure the team is best served, he added.

Spin bowling all-rounder Michael Bracewell returned to the squad for the first time in 18 months after an Achilles injury, which was followed by a broken finger in February, had kept him out

of action.

Bracewell will shoulder the spin duties alongside left-armers Mitchell Santner, Ajaz Patel and part-timers Glenn Phillips and Ravindra. "Michael had to show plenty of resilience to rehabilitate from his injuries and

force his way back into the BLACKCAPS across all three formats," Stead said.

"His all-round skills, and ability to take the ball away from the left-hander make him a great asset, especially on what we expect will be turning wickets in India and

Sri Lanka," he added.

Pacers Will O'Rourke and Ben Sears have been rewarded with maiden overseas Test call-ups.

The 23-year-old O'Rourke claimed 11 wickets in his first two Test outings, including the best match-figures by a New Zealander on Test debut (nine for 93 v South Africa in February) before a groin injury ruled him out of the second Test against Australia.

Sears, on the other hand, debuted in the second Test against Australia in March, claiming four for 90 in the second innings.

New Zealand currently occupy the third spot in the ICC WTC points table behind last edition's finalists, Australia and India.

"We know how important the points in Sri Lanka will be to our chances of pushing forward for a final spot in England next year.

"We managed one win from the two Test series in challenging conditions in Bangladesh last December and are keen to build on that.

"The whole squad is looking forward to test their skills in the longest form of the game in the sub-continent," he said.

Squad: Tim Southee (captain), Tom Blundell, Michael Bracewell, Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Will O'Rourke, Ajaz Patel, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ben Sears, Kane Williamson, Will Young.



## Four climbers of MAJK summit UT Kangri peak in Ladakh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: Four climbers of Mountaineering Association of J&K led by Sumit Khajuria successfully summited UT Kangri peak (6070m) in Ladakh on 11th August, 2024.

The other summiteers were Shashi Kant, Mallikarjun Singh and Sourav Deep Singh. The fifth member of the team Sonam Sidharth could not attempt the peak because of a twisted ankle.

Earlier, the team was flagged off from Jammu for Leh jointly by former Home Secretary of India Anil Goswami and former MLA Ashwani Sharma on 1st August, 2024. After proper acclimatisation at Leh through height gain-



ing treks for five days the team headed to the targeted mountain. Since the team was ideally acclimatised and fighting fit it headed straight to the Base camp (5320 m) on the first day.

The next day was planned as a rest day but viewing the excel-

lent weather condition for climbing the next morning and their own physical fitness and high spirits the team decided to have a go on the peak. The team along with two sherpa guides, fully equipped with mountaineering gear embarked upon

the final destination from the base camp at about 10 AM and instead of snow climbing preferred the scree slope which though very tiring was safer. Finally after a grueling climb of about six hours the team unfurled the National Flag and the flags of J&K Sports

Council and Mountaineering Association of J&K on the peak at about 4pm. After enjoying the scenery around for about half an hour on the peak the team returned to the base camp for a well deserved rest.

The next day the team descended to Rumtse village where from they boarded a taxi and reached Leh.

Meanwhile, members of Mountaineering Association of J&K headed by its President Zorawar Singh Jamwal and General Secretary Shwetika Khajuria have congratulated the team for the grand success of the expedition. The team shall be suitably honoured in a function to be organised in a couple of days, they announced.

## IIM Jammu inaugurates ninth batch of Capacity Building Program

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu in collaboration with the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce (DICC), under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India, commenced the Ninth batch of the Capacity Building Program on Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) on Monday at Jagti Campus heralding a new chapter in entrepreneurial empowerment.

The ninth batch comprised of 32 participants from various parts of the country ranging including individuals from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Among the notable attendees for the inaugural ceremony were Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, Chairperson, Centre for Small Business Development Units (SBDU), Dr. Anuja Akhouri, Program Director, IIM Jammu, and Dr. Jaganth G, Program Director, IIM Jammu.

Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, Chairperson, Centre for Small Business Development, IIM Jammu, provided an insightful overview of the program, highlight-



ing the achievements of previous initiatives. He reiterated IIM Jammu's unwavering commitment to fostering a healthy business ecosystem in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, acknowledged the invaluable support from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Govt of India, DICC, and the Dept. of Skill Development, J & K, Govt. of J & K. He explained that the program's primary objectives are to create and scale businesses, generate job opportunities, and encouraged the participants to actively engage with peers, identify challenges, and discuss value chain enhancements with experts at IIM Jammu.

The inaugural session featured brief introductions from the participants, offering insights into their backgrounds and aspirations, which

enriched the diverse tapestry of the program. Dr. Anuja Akhouri, Program Director, IIM Jammu, delivered the vote of thanks and provided a brief overview of the upcoming sessions lined up for the participants.

Present on the occasion were Dr. Naren Karunakaran, Consultant, SBDU, Dr. Vivek Sharma, Chief Innovation Officer, IIM Jammu. The ceremony concluded with the rendition of the national anthem, symbolizing unity and collective aspirations. The event was coordinated by the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) Team at IIM Jammu.

The Capacity Building Program on Small Business Development Units by IIM Jammu sets the stage for transformative growth, empowering aspiring and existing entrepreneurs to realize their dreams and contribute meaningfully to the socio-economic development of the nation.

## GDC RS Pura in collaboration with Municipal Committee organizes Nukkad Natak



Top News Report

R S PURA, Aug 12: The Government Degree College (GDC) R S Pura, in collaboration with the Municipal Committee of Ranbir Singh Pura, proudly organized a vibrant Nukkad Natak (street play) aimed at raising awareness about Swachhhta Pakhwada.

The event took place on Monday at RS Pura, drawing a large crowd from the college, students and staff of the college also participated.

The Nukkad Natak, Swachhhta Pakhwada, was performed by the talented Professionals of the Nukkud Natal, who showcased their acting skills and dedication to

social causes and also Sung Dogri Songs.

The play was centered around the theme of Swachhhta Pakhwada, highlighting the importance of Swachhhta. The performance captivated the audience with its engaging storyline, powerful dialogues, and thought-provoking messages.

Principal of GDC R.S. Pura, Prof. (Dr). Preetpal Kour, addressed the gathering, emphasizing the significance of using art as a medium to educate and inspire change within the community.

"Nukkad Natak is a powerful tool to communicate important social messages directly to the public. We are proud of our stu-

dents for their dedication to this cause and their commitment to making a difference in society," said Principal. The event was also graced by the presence of Dignitaries from Municipal Committee, who appreciated the efforts of the students and encouraged the community to support such initiatives.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks, who expressed gratitude to all the participants, organizers, and the audience for their enthusiastic support.

Dr. Neena Gupta, Dr. Chanchal Angral, Prof. Rajinder Shara, Dr. Kiran Pathania, Prof. Jugal Kishore, Prof. Rakesh Choudhary and Prof. Roopali Salathia.

## DPS Jammu students bag gold medals in 8th Pencak Silat Federation Cup 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: Mahika Sharma (X-G) and Rigved (X-G), both students from Delhi Public School (DPS)

2024.

The management of DPS Jammu under the leadership of President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC- Dr. Ritu Singh, Director- S.S. Sodhi



Jammu brought laurels to the school and their parents by clinching gold medals each in a recently concluded 8th Pencak Silat Federation Cup 2024 organized by Pencak Silat Federation of Ladakh U.T. held at Leh from 2-4 August,

along with Principal-DPS Jammu extended their best wishes to the winners, their parents and coach, Suresh Kumar for their achievement.

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

## BADC felicitates veterans of Paramilitary Forces



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 12: Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (JK-BADC), a registered organization dedicated to the welfare of border residents, felicitated retired soldiers of the paramilitary forces ahead of Independence Day.

In a simple but impressive program, the BADC Chairman and former Vice Chancellor honored Haji Mohd. Ayum Khan, the President of the Confederation of Ex-CAPFWA (Central Armed Forces Welfare Association), the organization that has been spearheading the movement for the welfare of retired Central Armed Forces Personnel.

Other team members of the veterans' association, including over 50 retired soldiers, were also given letters of appreciation for the selfless service they

rendered to the nation. In his welcome address, the BADC Chairperson appreciated the role played by the paramilitary forces in defending the national security.

He said that the Central Paramilitary Forces are no less than our brave soldiers of the army.

Dr. Shazad stated that to neutralize terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and to deal with Naxal-affected areas, the paramilitary forces of India have played a very significant role and added that, unfortunately, successive regimes did not acknowledge their contribution.

Former VC assured the veteran soldiers' association that BADC would continue to highlight the genuine demands of the retired paramilitary personnel and would also contribute to their welfare with its own resources.

Haji Mohd. Ayum Khan, President of the Associa-

tion, thanked the BADC Chairperson and said that citizens and social organizations must not forget the supreme sacrifices made by the martyrs of the Central Armed Forces and should support the cause of the association. Other team members of the veterans' association, including Vice President Mohd. Sadaq Badhana and General Secretary Mohammad Sher Khan, also put forth their views and requested the government to address their long-pending demands.

Other prominent people who attended the program included former PRI members such as Khalid Chouhan, ex-Sarpanch of Salani; Subash Sharma, former Sarpanch of Panchayat Gholad; Molvi Qayoom Bakerwal; Zabeer Dulhi; Raqeeb Pathan; Haji Mahroof Jatt; Asim Jatt; and Molvi Farooq.

## GDC Mahanpur celebrates National Librarian's Day

Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Aug 13: Government Degree College (GDC) Mahanpur celebrated National Librarian's Day with a series of events that honored the legacy of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, the father of library science in India. The celebration aimed to recognize the importance of libraries in education and to encourage the academic community's engagement with library resources.

The event commenced with a solemn floral tribute to Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, acknowledging his monumental contributions to the field of library science. Faculty members, students, and library staff participated in the ceremony, reflecting on the significance of his work in revolutionizing library services and access to information.

Following the tribute, the college librarian Nisha Bhagat, delivered an insightful presentation showcasing the rich array of library sources available at GDC Mahanpur.

The presentation highlighted the college library's extensive collection of books, e-resources available through college

library website, Library OPAC, Important Links, current updates and the various services provided to support the academic needs of students and faculty.

In a gesture of appreciation, gifts were distributed to the dedicated library staff for their continuous efforts in maintaining and enhancing the library's services.

The event concluded with the announcement of the "Best Reader of the Year" award, which was presented to a deserving student Ajay Sandhuria of semester 3rd who demonstrated exceptional dedication to utilizing the library's resources for academic excellence.

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