

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Day after jumping into Jhelum, woman's body retrieved in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Aug 17 (Agencies): Body of a woman, who had jumped into river Jhelum on Friday, was retrieved Saturday morning in north Kashmir's Baramulla, reports said.

Quoting an official news agency KNC reported that a rescue operation was launched by SDRF Baramulla at Drangbal after a woman (name withheld) from Shalkote Rafiabad jumped into the river yesterday.

"After many hours of strenuous efforts the body was retrieved today," the official said.

"The body has been handed over to the family for last rites," added the official.

Cloudburst hits Keller village in south Kashmir's Pulwama; rescue ops on

SRINAGAR, Aug 17 (Agencies): A cloudburst struck Achgoza village in Keller area of south Kashmir's Pulwama, resulting in increased levels in streams, and causing flash floods in the area, reports said.

This threw the life out-of-gear in the region, news agency KNC reported.

Rattled people were seen standing on their entrances and the streets, watching the heavy flow of water going down the street.

Reports said that a cloudburst occurred at Chowan Keller and caused a flood-like situation in Achgoza as water has entered many residential houses and other structures.

Till now, no damages or injury to human life have been reported from the area, a joint team of Revenue Department, SDRF and Police have launched a rescue operation to ensure safety of the locals.

This is a developing story and would be updated as more details are reported.

Tarun Chugh's book, "Modi's Governance Triumph: Reshaping India's Path to Prosperity" released

NEW DELHI, Aug 17 (Agencies): On Saturday, BJP's National General Secretary, Tarun Chugh's book, titled 'Modi's Governance Triumph: Reshaping India's Path to Prosperity' was released. The book provides a detailed analysis of PM Modi's transformative governance and the challenges he faced, read a press release.

The event held was in New Delhi in the presence of Union Home Minister and Minister for Cooperation Amit Shah and Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy, said the handout.

It examines Modi's policies, including the



'Make in India' campaign designed to boost domestic manufacturing and attract foreign investment, it said.

This initiative is analyzed alongside the

implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), which has transformed India's taxation system, streamlining processes and promoting economic integration

across states, said the press release.

The book provides a nuanced critique of the challenges and controversies that have arisen during Modi's time in

office. The book offers readers a comprehensive view of how Modi's leadership has navigated complex socio-economic landscapes, said the handout.

It delves into how the Modi administration has addressed serious issues such as poverty alleviation, economic disparity and national security, ultimately positioning India prominently on the global stage, the handout said.

It details how Modi's vision for a self-reliant India has driven significant progress and fostered a culture of innovation. The narrative captures the essence of a

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Mudslide forces closure of Srinagar-Jammu National Highway



SRINAGAR, Aug 17 (Agencies): A mudslide near Dalwas area of Ramban along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway has forced the closure of the only all-weather road connecting Kashmir to the outside world, reports said on Saturday.

Traffic officials said that

the traffic from both the sides has been stopped and that the restoration work is underway.

The officials said that the traffic is expected to be resumed soon.

It has been raining in many parts across Jammu and Kashmir since early Saturday, with cloudburst reported from several areas too.

Heavy rain lashes part of J-K; MeT predicts more rainfall

JAMMU/ SRINAGAR, Aug 17 (Agencies): Heavy rainfall lashed parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday morning ending a prolonged period of dry weather in the Union Territory.

Srinagar Meteorological Centre has predicted intense spells of rain at a few places in Jammu and Kashmir with the possibility of heavy rain over a few places in the Jammu division for August 19 and 20.

"Possibility of flash floods, cloud bursts, landslides, shooting stones & mudslides at vulnerable places on

19-08-2024 & 20-08-2024," it said on August 16.

After the rainfall, the maximum temperature in Srinagar city was recorded at 21 degrees Celsius on Saturday, Gulmarg 15.4 Celsius, Jammu 28 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 17.9 Celsius, Banihal 20.6 Celsius, Katra 25 Celsius and Kupwara 21 degrees Celsius and as per the Srinagar Meteorological Centre

"It rained cats and dogs here starting from 5 am on Saturday. The garden outside our home became filled with

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GMC Srinagar doctors, students protest in solidarity with the slain Kolkata doctor



SRINAGAR, Aug 17 (Agencies): The otherwise quiet corridors of Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar reverberated with shock and anger today as doctors and medical students raised their

voices against the gruesome rape and murder of a doctor in India's Kolkata.

The tragic death of the young doctor has shaken the medical fraternity across the country, with demands

of justice and security to health professionals getting stronger.

The protest on Saturday saw a huge participation by students and faculty members within the premises of GMC

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Tourist couple smuggling charas from Kashmir granted bail by Bombay High Court

SRINAGAR, Aug 17 (Agencies): The Bombay High Court has granted bail to Cynthia Udanshive and her husband Jasar Shaikh, who were accused of smuggling large quantities of charas during their frequent family trips to Kashmir. The couple, arrested in October 2021, had been incarcerated for nearly three years, The Hindustan Times reported.

The couple, along with their child and Cynthia's parents, was apprehended by the Dahisar police at a Mumbai checkpoint. Authorities claimed to

have found 24 kilograms of charas hidden in their vehicle—a staggering amount that was reportedly smuggled back to the city after their trips to Kashmir. An additional 8 kg of charas was allegedly recovered from Cynthia's father, Bandu Udanshive, during the search. Investigations revealed that the family had been travelling to Kashmir under the pretext of family vacations and returning with substantial quantities of the narcotic.

Further deepening the case, the newspaper

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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

J&K police ASI found dead in Srinagar's Ahmad Nagar

SRINAGAR, Aug 17 (Agencies): An Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of police was found dead under mysterious circumstances in the Ahmad Nagar area of Srinagar, reports said.

Quoting police sources news agency KNC reported that an Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI), presently posted at the Ahmad Nagar police station was found unconscious in his room yesterday late night.

They added that the officer was immediately shifted to the hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Later, he was identified as Mohammad Shafi, a resident of Yaripora in south Kashmir's Kulgam.

The police have initiated an investigation into the matter, they said.

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Ravinder Singh (Billa)** S/o Lt. S. Aya Singh Sudan (Retd Dy. Registrar Cooperatives, Poonch Wale) R/o H No.76, Sector No.13, Lane 1, Guru Nanak Nagar, Jammu on 12/08/24.



S. RAVINDER SINGH (BILLA)

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS shall be held as per the following programme:

ARAMBH SRI AKHAND PATH, 17th August (Saturday) at 09:00am

BHOG SRI AKHAND PATH, 19th August (Monday) at 09:30am at our residence 76/13, Guru Nanak Nagar, Jammu.

ANTIM ARDAS at Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Guru Nanak Nagar, Jammu on 19th August, 2024 from 11a.m to 12:30 p.m followed by Guru Ka Langar.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sdn. Rajinder Kour (Mother)
S. Abhijot Singh (Son)
S. Swaran Singh and Sdn. Surjit Kour (Chacha and Chachi)
Sdn. Amardeep Kour and S. Ravinder Pal Singh (Sister and Brother in law)
Mob: 9419238000, 9419106710

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Shanti** Wife of Sh Jagar Nath Bhat at our residence Vinayak Nagar Muthi Sec 2 Opposite Pomposh General Store Ward No.66 originally from Nadimarg, Kulgam.



SMT SHANTI

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 21-08-2024 (Thursday) at 8 AM at Muthi Ghat.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Jagar Nath Bhat - Husband
Son and Daughter-in-law
Sh Bushan Lal Pandit & Smt Pamposh Pandit
Grand Sons & Granddaughters
Ratik, Niran, Arti, Simran & Suman Raina
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt Santosh Kumari & Sh Ashok Kumar Raina
Ph : 9797974068 9797408314

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Badri Nath Mengi** S/o Late Sh. Tej Ram Mengi R/o 192/3 Channi Himmat on 8th August 24.



Sh. Badri Nath Mengi

TENTH DAY will be performed on 15th August 2024 (Thursday) at 10 am at 192/3, Channi Himmat Jammu.

KRIYA will be performed on 18th August 2024 (Sunday) at 12 pm at 192/3, Channi Himmat Jammu.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Primala Mengi (Wife)
Vikas Mengi (Son)
Sanka & Deepak Narang (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Krishan Kumar Mengi (Brother)
Nooraj & Sangeeta (Nephew & Daughter-in-law)
Deeraj & Sakshi (Nephew & Daughter-in-law)
Pooja & Sumit (Niece & Niece's husband)
Grand Children: Anushi, Palak, Priyati, Shyika, Sanaz, Akshar, Vahin & Namish

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **Sh. GIRDHARI LAL TICKU** ORIGINAL RESIDENT OF 19 SHALLA KADAL SRINAGAR KASHMIR AT PRESENT 1F-44 VISHAL NAGAR, TALAB TILLO ON 10TH OF AUGUST 2024.



(GIRDHARI LAL TICKU)

10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 19TH AUGUST 2024 AT MUTHI GHAT JAMMU AT 9 A.M.

IN GRIEF:
CHANI TICKU W/O LATE S.N. TICKU (SHAB)
KUSUM & SATESH TICKU (DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON) 9419192524
SARAJI & VENAY TICKU (DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON) 9688141548
KIRAN & PRAVEEN TICKU (DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON) 9419229324
KUSUM & R.L. WAJZA (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW) 9419216228
URMILA & RAHUL KOLU (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW) +91 260 755-1888
GRAND CHILDREN: SUMAT & NEHA, ROHIT, SILKY & AMAR J, SHIVANI & AMIT J.
PAYAL & SIDHARTH J.DHARNI, SEEMANTIKA, KASTOOR, ARJUN.
GREAT GRAND CHILDREN: IYAN, AHAANA & HRHAAN.
SAMAST TICKU PARTNAR OF ERSTRINBLE 19 SHALLA KADAL, BAZAZ, CHARS, KOTHEDARS

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Rano Devi** W/o Late Sh. Sudershan Rattanpuri, residents of 305, Prem Nagar New plot Jammu.



Smt. Rano Devi

10th day will be performed on 17/08/2024 Saturday at 10:00 am at our residence 305, Prem Nagar, New Plot Jammu.

Kriya shall be performed on 18/08/2024 Sunday at 12 Noon at our residence 305, Prem Nagar, New plot Jammu.

UTHALA shall be performed on 19/08/2024 Monday at 6 pm at Kotli Bhawan Rehari Colony Jammu

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sat Paul Magotra (Brother in law)
Sons and Daughters-in-law
Someshwar and Manju
Suneel and Lata
Daughters and Sons in law
Anuradha and Bharat Bhushan
Nisha and Rajinder
Piyush and Yashvardan - Grand children (9419655655, 7006312376, 9419167703)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Avtar Krishan Koul** S/o Late. Sh. Gash Lal Koul R/o Batagund Handwara Kashmir presently at Flat: 20, Block:134 Lane No.23, Jagti Township Nagrota Jammu on 13.08.2024.



SH. AVTAR KRISHAN KOUL

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 22.08.2024 at 8 A.M. near Director School Education Muthi Camp Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Pammy Koul (Wife)
Smt. & Sh. Amit Koul (Daughter in law & Son)
Sh. Sahil Raina H/o Late Smt. Dimpay Koul (Son in law)
Smt. Shori Koul W/o Late. Sh. H.K. Koul (Sister in law)
Smt. & Sh. P. N. Koul (Sister in law & Brother)
Smt. & Sh. Rakesh Koul (Daughter in law & Son)
Smt. & Sh. Ravi ji (Daughter & Son in law)
Smt. & Sh. Sunil ji Pandita (Daughter & Son in Law)
Sh. Anil Koul (Son)
Smt. & Sh. Susheelji Kokroo (Daughter & Son in law)
Smt. & Sh. Deepakji Sogori (Daughter & Son in law)
Smt. & Sh. A.K. Raina (Sister & Brother in law)
Smt. & Sh. Rajesh Ji Ganjoo (Sister & Brother in law)
Smt. & Sh. Kundan Lal Koul (Sister in law & Brother)
Smt. & Sh. Raj Nath Koul (Sister in law & Brother)
Smt. & Sh. Ashok Koul (Sister in law & Brother)
Smt. & Sh. Vinod Koul (Sister in law & Brother)
Miss. Purni Koul (Grand Daughter)
MOURNING FROM MALUN SIDE will be observed at Community Hall, Lane 24, Jagti Township Nagrota, Jammu.
Contact Numbers: 9906206191, 6005360714, 9149538449
Sh. G.L. Pandita: 9796473666

BARKHI

We the family members and well-wishers honour the living memory of Prof. Usha Jayve Ermer HSD Govt College for Women, Candhinagar, Jammu. Ermer Principal, Govt College for Women, Uthampur and Principal, Govt Post Graduate College for Women, Parade Ground Jammu, beloved wife of Prof. Dr. Ravi Jayve Ermer V.P. (In-Pris Vice-Chancellor) International University School of Medicine, USA on her 84th Anniversary. Her Humbleness, Politeness, Wisdom and Sincere Love for well-meaning ever-lasting in our hearts.



Prof. Usha Jayve

Her Sacred anniversary shall be performed on 16th August, 2024 at her Bungalow - 60 Trikuta Nagar East 5C, Opposite Co-operative Public School, Street just adjoining Usha Medicate Market, Jammu upto 12 PM followed by Pasaad from 1:30 PM.
Deeply Loved and Remembered By:
Prof. Dr. Ravi Jayve - Husband
Sons & Daughter-in-laws
Ashish Jayve & Neeta Jayve
Puneet Jayve & Anika Jayve
Sister-in-law
Smt Chand Nani
Sisters & Brother-in-laws
Smt Veena Chandeta W/o Late Sh Vijay Chandeta
Smt Renu Uppal W/o Sh Satish Uppal
Smt Arju Manab W/o Sh Pardeep Manab,
Grand Children: Navaya Jayve, Anshika and Pulkit Jayve
In Remembrance:
Jayve's, Mengi's, Gandotra's, Marwah's, Sharma's, Bala's Sareen's & Kad's

Mobile Nos.
90702-58338,
94191-47646,
98581-99257

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 BULBULANKER ALI KADAL SRINAGAR KASHMIR AT PRESENT HOUSE NO. 108 BLOCK-B LANE 2/5 ROOP NAGAR ENCLAVE JAMMU (DOCTOR CHOLUDHARY LANE).



SMT. SHARIKA LABROO

THE 10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST 2024 AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR OFFICE OF DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDUCATION AT 9 AM.

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

MASVAAR & VAHERWAR

It has been a year since you left us, we truly miss your legacy and larger than life nature. Your life continues to inspire us. We cherish all your loving memories and pray for eternal peace of your noble soul.



Karamyogi Lt. Sh. MOHAN LAL PANDITA (Bhoba Sahab)

Masvaar and Vaherwar of our beloved **Karamyogi Lt. Sh. MOHAN LAL PANDITA (Bhoba Sahab)** will be performed on 17 & 18th August 2024 at Shiv Mandir Lane no 11, Jagti Nagrota.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY
Wife: Smt. Sharda Parvati
Brothers and Sister's in Law
Lt. Sh. Roshan Lal Pandita H/O Smt Jyoti Pandita
Sh. Shubam Lal Pandita H/O Smt. Sukesh Pandita
Sister's and Brother's in Law
Lt. Smt. Sharika Raina W/o Lt. Sh. Damodar Lal Raina
Smt. Sarika Koul W/o Sh. Bharat Bhushan Koul
Smt. Supriya Pandita W/o Bal Krishna Pandita
Smt. Shikha Mirza W/o Gopal Mirza
Sons and Daughter-in-law
Pankaj Pandita & Shalvi Pandita
Neeraj Pandita & Priyanka Pandita
Deeraj Pandita & Malvika Pandita
Avinash Pandita & Sakshi Koul
Daughter's & Son's in Law
Urvashi Raina W/o Sanjeev Raina
Rachna Koul W/o Atul Koul
Sujata Pandita W/o Himanshu Saini

Grandchildren
Krisna, Bhoomi, Diya,
Vidhi, Sai, Shrin, Dhanvi
M.No. 941970460, 7006296996,
9622296648

TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Bachan Lal S/o Lt. Sh. Lohri Ram R/o Qutabnizam R.S. Pura, Jammu** on 09-08-2024.



Sh. Bachan Lal (1952-2024)

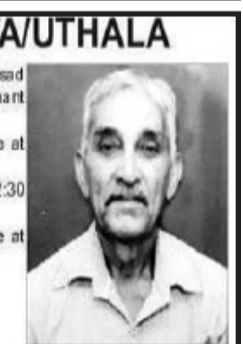
TENTH DAY will be performed on Sunday 18-08-2024 at our residence Qutabnizam R.S. Pura, Jammu at 11:00 to 01:00 pm

followed by Satsang (Guru Kabir Maharaj Ji)

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Bachno Devi (Wife)
Rajinder Kumar (Son)
Pardeep Kumar (Son)
Arjun Kumar (Son)
Damathia Family
Mob.: 9858502698

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Ram Saran S/o Lt. Sh Anant Ram R/o Village Kote.**



Sh Ram Saran

10th Day - Sunday, 18 Aug, 2024 at Village Kote at 11:30 a.m.

Kriya - Monday, 19 Aug 2024 at village Kote at 12:30 P.M.

Uthala on Saturday, 24 Aug 2024 at Village Kote at 2:00 PM

Grief Stricken:
Santosh Kumari (Wife)
Satya Devi (Taye)
Rajesh Kumar (Son)
Lalita Devi (Daughter-in-law)
Priyanka Sharma (Daughter)
Aditya Dev Sharma (Grand Son)
Daughter & Son in law
Pooja & Pawan Kumar
Asha Rani & Jagdish Sharma
Venu Kumari & Somi Sharma
Cousin: Deep Kumar, Shubh Kaur, Kewal Rattan, Anil Takayia
AND TAKAYIA FAMILY
Contact:
9797560107, 9419200636,
962222062, 9797303900,
7051607653

BARKHI

BARKHI OF OUR BELOVED LATE SMT. KAILASH SALATHIA W/O LATE SH. DEGAMBER SINGH SALATHIA WILL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE H.NO. 581, SECTOR-E, SAINIK COLONY, JAMMU ON SUNDAY 18TH OF AUGUST 2024 AT 12.00 PM.



SMT. KAILASH SALATHIA

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY - (SISTER-IN-LAW AND BROTHER-IN-LAW)
MRS. ROMILA SALATHIA & MR. RAJESHWAR SINGH SALATHIA
(DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND NEPHEW)
MRS. NEHA MANHAS & MR. AKHILESHWAR SINGH SALATHIA
ALL SALATHIA FAMILY
CONTACT NOS. 9697447777, 9419141019

BARKHI

One year has passed since you left us for heavenly abode. Your memories are still fresh. We feel your presence everywhere, every time. **BARKHI** of our beloved Mother **SMT PREM LATA** W/o Sh. Vijay Kumar Puri R/o Mahanpur will be performed on 19-08-2024 (Monday) at our residence.



SMT PREM LATA

GRIEF STRICKEN
Vijay Kumar Puri - Husband
Sanjeev Kumar Puri - Son
Smt Pooja Rani - Daughter in Law
Rajeev Kumar Puri - Son
Smt Sujata Kapoor - Daughter in Law
Sanjay Verma - Son in Law
Smt Jyoti Rani - Daughter
Seksham, Shriya, Ganvaya, Manasvi, Kayna & Khiansh - Grand Children
Contact No: 9417063223, 9419225376, 9697616100

A TEARFUL HOMAGE

One year has passed since you left for eternal journey. The void you left behind will remain forever. Your vivid, cheerful, charming and affectionate personality are etched in our memories that give us solace and will never fade.



SH. MOHAN KRISHEN WAKHLU

Masvar and Vehrvar will be conducted on 17th and 18th Aug at our residence at Ponichak, Jammu.
Sumitra Wakhlu (Wife)
Meenakshi Wakhlu (Daughter)
(Sons & Daghter-in-laws)
Sudhir & Sushma Wokhlu
Randhir & Renu Wokhlu
(Brothers and Babhis)
Pearay and Sarla Wakhlu
Roop & Nancy Wakhlu
PHONES- 9419218835, 9419175462

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Illegally acquired properties of notorious smugglers worth Rs 76, 72, 222 freezed by NCB

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Jammu Zonal Unit has taken decisive action against drug trafficking by freezing illegally acquired properties worth Rs. 76,72,222, belonging to several notorious smugglers.

This move is part of NCB's intensified efforts to combat the drug menace, particularly in the lead-up to the upcoming Legislative Assembly elections, where the potential misuse of drug funds could influence the

electoral process.

As the national nodal agency for drug law enforcement, the NCB is committed to disrupting the financial foundations of drug trafficking networks and dismantling their operations.

In a series of in-depth financial investigations, the NCB Jammu Zonal Unit uncovered substantial financial transactions linked to narcotics trafficking. The investigations spanned four major cases:

In case No. 02/2024, the NCB recovered various pharmaceutical drugs.

Following the recovery, a detailed financial investigation was conducted concerning the accused, Mohd Shabir, son of Md Yusuf from Delhi. This investigation led to the seizure of Rs. 15,03,750 in cash, which was determined to be illegally acquired through drug trafficking activities.

This case No. 09/2020 involved the recovery of 56,400 kg of Charas. The NCB's financial investigation focused on the accused, Mushtaq Ahmed Lohar, resulting in the freezing of assets worth Rs. 12,65,000.

These assets were identified as being obtained through illicit drug trade.

In case No. 11/2018, the NCB seized 60.215 kg of Heroin. The subsequent financial investigation into the accused, Paramjit Singh, uncovered illegally acquired assets totaling Rs. 23,39,740, which were then frozen by the NCB.

This case No. 03/2022 involved the recovery of 54.424 kg of Heroin. The financial probe targeted the accused, Tarshinder Singh from Nakodar, Jalandhar, and his associate, Happy alias Gabbar

Singh. The investigation revealed assets amounting to Rs. 25,63,732, which were promptly frozen by the NCB.

These actions highlight the NCB's commitment to addressing the financial aspects of drug trafficking, ensuring that the illegal gains of such activities are effectively neutralized. By freezing these assets, the NCB aims to disrupt the economic power of drug traffickers, thereby weakening their influence and preventing the potential misuse of drug money in the upcoming elections.

Budha Amarnath Yatra

BVP Kameshwar Shakha facilitates devotees at Kameshwar Temple

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: On the 9th day of the Budha Amarnath Yatra 2024, the Bharat Vikas Parishad Kameshwar Shakha Akhnoor played a crucial role in facilitating the devotees at the Kameshwar Temple, Akhnoor.

The event included the distribution of prasad in the form of fruits and the organization of a medical camp in collaboration with the Ayurvedic Medical College Akhnoor and the Sub District Hospital Akhnoor.

The program was held under the supervision of Romesh Sharma, Organizing Secretary of Prant, and Dr. Tilak Raj Gupta, President of the Kameshwar Shakha Akhnoor. Also present were Rakesh Gupta, Treasurer; Vijay Kumar Sharma, Secretary; and Sat Pal Sharma, Chief Patron, along with various other members of the Kameshwar Branch and respected citizens

of Akhnoor, including Pawan Sharma, Ashok Sharma, Ved Kumar, Raman Gupta, and Ashok Gupta. During the event, fruit prasad was distributed to over 2,000 yatra devotees, and a range of first aid and basic medicines were provided to

approximately 2,000 devotees. The Bharat Vikas Parishad Kameshwar Shakha Akhnoor, through the contributions of its members, successfully carried out this seva, showcasing a strong commitment to supporting the yatra devotees.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DENHQ/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites Open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.irps.gov.in with closing date-26.08.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs Bidders will be able to submit their original revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through payment modes available on www.irps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft/banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc are not allowed. For more information log on to www.irps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
01/08/2024	12.08.2024	26/08/2024 15:00 Hrs

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1.	146-2024-25-	Requirement of Wharf at Sultanpur Lothi Station on ADEN-2/FZR JUC - FZR section under ADEN-2/FZR.
		Advertisement Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of offer Period of completion
		7,00,85,550/- 5,00,400/- 60 Days 10 Months

Similar Nature of work: "Any civil work other than track work".

Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender No:-146-2024-25-ADEN-2-FZR Date: 06.08.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 250824

Work tirelessly to ensure resounding victory of NC: Sadhotra

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: In a significant development, Sunny Kant Chib, former State Youth Coordinator of Jammu Kashmir Apni Party and President of the Human Rights Council of India, J&KUT, along with his supporters, joined the National Conference during a joining ceremony held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu.

The joining programme was graced by Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, former Minister and Additional General Secretary of the Jammu National Conference. The programme was attended by several senior leaders of the National Conference, party workers, and supporters who welcomed Sunny Kant Chib and his team with open arms. Senior NC leaders Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Raghbir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural A, Naresh Bittu District President Jammu Rural B, Rakesh Singh Raka, Dilshad Malik, Rita Gupta Vice Presidents Central Zone, S. Tejinder Singh District President Jammu Urban YNC, Rakesh Sharma (Phalwan) District President Jammu Rural A YNC, Randhir Chib District Vice President Jammu Rural A, Som Raj Taroch Secretary Central Zone, Sahil Chib District Secretary



Jammu Rural A YNC, Nitish Gowsami Provincial Secretary YNC, Kuldeep Sharma, Ch. Rafiq were also present.

Welcoming the newly joined members, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra expressed his pleasure and highlighted the importance of the National Conference in the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. "The National Conference has always stood for the rights and development of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The addition of dedicated and passionate individuals like Sunny Kant Chib and his supporters strengthens our resolve to work for the welfare of our state," he said.

The senior NC leader emphasized the need for unity and collective effort to address the challenges faced by the region. He added, "Our party has a rich legacy of serving the people, and we are committed to continuing this tradition. The support and participation of leaders like Sunny Kant Chib will undoubtedly contribute to our mission of ensuring peace, progress, and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir."

Discussing the upcoming Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, Ajay Sadhotra appealed to party workers to mobilize and work tirelessly to ensure a resounding victory. "The upcoming Assembly elections are very crucial for the future of our state. I urge all party workers to connect with the grassroots, address the concerns of the people, and convey our vision of a prosperous and harmonious Jammu and Kashmir. It is imperative that we approach these elections with unity, dedication, and a clear focus on our shared goals," he stated.

Sunny Kant Chib, in his address, expressed his confidence in the leadership of the National Conference and its vision for the future of Jammu and Kashmir. "I am honored to join a party that has always been at the forefront of advocating for the rights and development of our people. I look forward to work with the leadership of the National Conference and contributing to the betterment of our society," he stated.

Among those who joined the party fold included Ramesh Lal Ex

Sarpanch, Daya Paul Ex sarpanch, Kasturi Lal Ex Sarpanch, Ashok Kumar Ex Sarpanch, Amarjeet Singh Ex- Naib Sarpanch, Sampuran Chand Ex-Naib, Kulwant Singh Ex- Sarpanch, Girdhari Lal Ex- Naib Sarpanch, Santosh Kumari Ex-Panch, Naresh Kumar Ex- Panch, Avtar Singh (Guddu), Sardari Lal Ex-Panch, Sushma Devi Ex-Panch, Kamal Kumar Ex- Panch, Som Nath Ex- Panch, Som Dutt Ex- Panch, Shashi Paul Ex- Panch, Kala Ram Ex Panch, Pritam Singh Ex- Panch, Thoda Singh Ex- Panch, Ashok Kumar Ex- Panch, Shashi Devi Ex- Panch, Shiv Dayal Ex Panch, Jyoti Wala Ex Panch, Thirith Ram Ex Panch, Parveen Ex Panch, Ajay Kumar Ex Panch, Shashi Paul Ex Panch, Raj Kumar, Soma Devi, Rakesh Kumar, Prem Nath, Harjeet Singh, Hans Raj, Tajinder Singh, Jeet Ram, Subash Kumar, Pawan Kumar, Kuldeep Raj, Balak Ram, Veera Ram, Gurmeet Kour, Gara Ram, Sunita Devi, Shakutla Devi, Bachno Devi, Raj Kumar, Hari Ram, Balwinder Singh, Parshotam Kumar, Baldev Kumar, Som nath, Sunil Kumar, Lal Singh, Keenati, Rattan Lal, Kapoor Chand, Deep Raj Thakur, Dev Raj, Parveen Kumar, Nikka Choudhary, Bitta, Sardar Thoda Singh, Sham Lal, Ajay Kumar, Sindro Devi, Kundan Lal, Balak Ram, Ravinder Kumar, Ramesh Lal, Jagat Lal,

Pritam Lal, Sukha, Gara Ram, Natha Ram, Sashi Kumar, Keemat Singh, Balvinder Singh, Deep Singh, Babi, Sunny Thapa, Rohit Kumar, Vishal Kumar, Sanju Kumar, Nikhil Kumar and Vidanth Singh.

Several BJP leaders, workers join NC

Farooq asks party workers to gear up for Assembly polls

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: In a significant boost to the National Conference (NC), Sukhjot Singh, Retired AEE from PWD, State General Secretary BJP OBC J&K, President of Bhartiya Modi Army JKUT, and a Member of the State Level Consultative Committee Food Corporation of India, along with numerous BJP workers, officially joined the National Conference today. The induction ceremony took place at the residence of Dr. Farooq Abdullah, President of the J&K National Conference, in Jammu.

Prominent NC leaders including Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, former Minister and Additional General Secretary, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu Province, Ankush Abrol, Joint Secretary Jammu Province, Raghbir Singh Manhas, District President Jammu Rural A, Dr. Vikas, Secretary Central Zone, Rakesh Sharma, District President Jammu Rural A YNC, Kuldeep Sharma and Dr. Harmesh Slathia were also present during



the joining programme.

Addressing the newly joined members, Dr. Farooq Abdullah welcomed them into the party fold. He asked the party cadre to gear up for the upcoming Assembly elections and to make people aware of the key achievements of the National Conference. He laid stress upon strengthening of Party base at the grassroots level to ensure a strong and united front in the elections.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah emphasized the Party's commitment to the development and prosperity

of Jammu and Kashmir and assured that the NC will continue to work tirelessly for the welfare of the people.

Among those who joined the party fold included Rajinder Singh Retd Headmaster, Prem Singh Retd Capt, Gurdev Singh Retd Education Department, Sumit Singh Rtd Capt, Manjeet Singh Social worker, Kulwant Singh Rtd Subedar, Santokh Singh Rtd Subedar, Gurnam Singh President Gurudwara Pandorian, Surinder Pal Singh Rtd Subedar, Gurmet Singh -Transporter, Mohinder

Singh Rtd Army person, Joginder Singh Ex Naib Sarpanch, Baiwant Singh Rtd Inspector, Gurprasad Singh Ex President Gurudwara, Charanjeet Singh Rtd Govt Employee, Raghbir Singh Rtd Subedar, Mohinder Singh Vice President Gurudwara, Manmohan Singh Rtd Chief Engineer, Balwinder Singh Rtd Halwadar, Gulchain Singh Rtd Subedar, Jasbir Singh Rtd Hawaldar, Capt Retd Naib Sarpanch, Indeerjit Singh Vice President Youth, Davinder Singh President Youth and others.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION UDHAMPUR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 60 of 2024-25 Dated 13.08.2024

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1.	Construction of lane from H/o Rattan Lal upto H/o Vinod Kumar Myattal Mohalla Bharat Nagar W. No. 1 & const. of lane from Post Office upto Amardeep School W. No. 1 Udhampur	3.70	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	02 Months	"D"	"District Plan Municipality"
2.	construction of tile flooring and construction of drain from Ho Ankush Gandotra to Shop of Wasim vegetable shop and one link Ward no 2 Udhampur	3.70	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	02 Months	"D"	"District Plan Municipality"
3.	Construction laying of tile from opposite shop of Shiv Rachnat Tent House to Mandir Baba Lal Dayal and two other links Ward no 4 udhampur	3.70	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	02 Months	"D"	"District Plan Municipality"
4.	Construction of boundary wall & beautification of Ramleela Ground W. No. 5 Barrian Udhampur	3.70	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	02 Months	"D"	"District Plan Municipality"
5.	Const. of drain from opposite shop of late Captain Charan Dass from H/o Nasib Singh to Retari Bowli both side and tile work of lane from H/o KK Koul to H/o Ashok Kumar House W. No. 6 Udhampur	3.70	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	02 Months	"D"	"District Plan Municipality"
6.	Repair of drain at various spots of Late Dina Nath to onwards H/o Ved Parkash to Jashpal W. No. 7 Udhampur	3.70	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	02 Months	"D"	"District Plan Municipality"
7.	Const. of lane and drain from shop of Munna Malik to H/o Neera Sharma W. No. 8 Udhampur	3.70	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	02 Months	"D"	"District Plan Municipality"
8.	Construction of lane and interlocking tile and slab from shop of Ashok Janta to Shop of Neeraj Advocate onwards Ward no 9 Udhampur	3.70	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	02 Months	"D"	"District Plan Municipality"
9.	Const. of lane by way of tile flooring near Mall V Mart to Veera Cable Gali W. No. 10 Udhampur	3.70	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	02 Months	"D"	"District Plan Municipality"
10.	Const. of road from main Jib road to house of Bodh Raj to Lohar Mohalla W. No. 5 (Under Distt. Plan)	24.20	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	04 Months	"B/C"	"District Plan"
11.	Const. of partially constructed room of F.F of PHC Hartaryan Udhampur	3.60	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	03 Months	"D"	"District Plan Health"
12.	Const. of X- Ray room at PHC Hartaryan Udhampur	10.65	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	04 Months	"B/C/D"	"District Plan Health"
13.	REPAIR AND RENNOVATION OF PHC PANCHARI (FIRST FLOOR)	23.98	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	04 Months	"B/C"	"District Plan Health"

Position of AAA:- Accorded
Position of T.S:- Accorded
Position of Funds:- Available

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

S. No.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	13-08-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 13-08-2024 to 20-08-2024, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting.	16-08-2024 at 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur.
4	Bid submission Start Date	14-08-2024 from 900 Hrs
5	Bid Submission End Date	20-08-2024 up to 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	21-08-2024 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan/ Bid Security/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur** as mentioned in the bid documents. The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.

No:- 6892-97
Dated:- 13-08-2024

DIP/J-4498/24

Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Udhampur

EDITORIAL

FUTURE IN
SPACE SECTOR

The space sector is on the cusp of a transformative era, driven by technological advancements, visionary goals, and an increasing recognition of the potential benefits that space exploration and utilization offer. As we look to the future, several key trends and developments will shape the space industry, influencing everything from scientific research and technological innovation to economic growth and international collaboration.

One of the most significant changes in the space sector is the rise of commercial spaceflight. Private companies such as SpaceX, Blue Origin, and Virgin Galactic are not only competing with traditional space agencies but are also driving innovation and reducing costs. SpaceX's reusable rocket technology, for example, has drastically lowered the price of accessing space, opening up new possibilities for commercial ventures. In the future, we can expect even greater involvement from private sector players, leading to more frequent and cost-effective space missions. This commercialization will likely include space tourism, private space stations, and the development of space habitats for extended stays.

The Moon, often considered a stepping stone for deeper space exploration, will see increased activity in the coming years. NASA's Artemis program aims to return humans to the lunar surface by the mid-2020s, with plans to establish a sustainable presence by the end of the decade. This will involve building infrastructure such as the Lunar Gateway, a space station orbiting the Moon, and setting up lunar bases. These endeavors are not only about scientific exploration but also about paving the way for future human settlement. The Moon's resources, such as water ice and rare minerals, could become crucial for long-term space missions and even terrestrial applications.

Mars is the next frontier for human exploration. Space agencies like NASA and ESA, along with private entities such as SpaceX, have set ambitious goals for sending humans to Mars. The timeline for Mars colonization remains speculative, with estimates ranging from the 2030s to the 2040s or beyond. Achieving this goal will require overcoming significant challenges, including developing life support systems, creating sustainable habitats, and ensuring safe travel across the vast distance. The potential for discovering signs of past life and understanding Mars' geology and climate will provide invaluable insights into the history of our solar system and the possibility of life beyond Earth.

The future of space exploration will heavily depend on our ability to utilize space resources. In-situ Resource Utilization (ISRU) involves using materials found in space, such as lunar regolith or Martian soil, to support missions and reduce reliance on Earth-based supplies. This could include producing water, oxygen, and fuel from local resources, thereby making long-duration missions more feasible and sustainable. Mining asteroids for valuable minerals and metals is another area of interest, with potential applications in various industries on Earth and in space.

Space research will continue to expand our understanding of the universe. The deployment of advanced telescopes and observatories, such as the James Webb Space Telescope, will allow us to observe distant galaxies, exoplanets, and cosmic phenomena with unprecedented detail. The study of microgravity environments in space stations will advance our knowledge in fields like material science, medicine, and biology, leading to breakthroughs that can benefit life on Earth. Additionally, space-based observatories will help us monitor and respond to threats such as asteroids and space weather.

As space exploration becomes more global, international cooperation will be crucial. Collaborative projects such as the International Space Station (ISS) have demonstrated the benefits of joint efforts in space. Future missions to the Moon and Mars are likely to involve partnerships between nations, combining resources, expertise, and technology. Developing comprehensive space policies and regulations will be essential to manage space traffic, protect the space environment, and ensure equitable access to space resources.

With the increasing number of satellites and space missions, the issue of space debris and environmental impact will become more pressing. Efforts to develop sustainable practices, such as debris mitigation strategies and responsible satellite end-of-life management, will be critical in preserving the space environment for future generations. Space agencies and organizations will need to implement and enforce policies to address these challenges.

The future of the space sector is poised for remarkable growth and innovation. The interplay of commercialization, scientific discovery, resource utilization, and international collaboration will define the next era of space exploration. As we venture further into space, it is essential to address the challenges and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead, ensuring that our efforts contribute to a sustainable and prosperous future both in space and on Earth.

Let's reawaken as a nation to sing the song of freedom

By: Ashwani Kumar

(Former Union Minister for Law and Justice)

SEVENTY-SEVEN years after its 'tryst with destiny', India has much to celebrate today. As the fastest-growing economy and the world's largest pluralist democracy that has succeeded in lifting millions of its citizens above abject poverty over the years, its voice is heard with respect in the chanceries of the world. Its imminent rise as the world's third largest economy, demonstrated scientific prowess, democratic resilience and an exceptional cultural heritage of harmonious coexistence are reason enough for every Indian to rejoice.

And yet, as we salute the 'Tiranga' in reverence on Independence Day and thereafter, we cannot forget that the road to national glory must navigate the harsh truth of unfreedom, violence and injustices that have scarred the soul of the nation. The heart-rending sight of a man dragging his wife tied to his motorcycle with none showing the courage to stop the horrendous ordeal of the helpless woman, the rape and murder of a young doctor inside a Kolkata hospital, the unspeakable pain of the nation and of its wrestler daughter who lost an Olympic medal over 100 grams of body weight despite her unremitting toil and discipline in the service of her chosen sport, and the forced migration of our youth to foreign lands for want of gainful employment, leaving behind old and often untended parents in the twilight of their lives, tell a painful story. Recurring and aggravated discrimination on account of



widening disparities in incomes, shameful display of wealth mocking the poverty of the wretched, continuing suicides by the impoverished, custodial torture of the helpless and murderous police encounters in and outside custody interrogate our claims as a welfare and liberal state.

The economic and social plight of the elderly on account of their neglect by children who caught up in the pursuit of unguided ambition and material gains, loss of dignity of the marginalised even in death, the wrecking of reputations, privacy and dignity in the media without a meaningful recourse and social consciousness generally immune to the misery of the destitute — this is not the Bharat of Bapu's dreams who, along with his compatriots, had envisioned an egalitarian society in which we could live in the shelter of each other, joined together in empathy. Heightened religious strife, escalating caste and regional conflicts, bitter political animosities beyond

ideological contestation and the abuse of state power to settle personal scores question the health of Indian democracy.

Having celebrated the anniversary of Independence — the day when we unshackled ourselves from the yoke of British colonialism and were reborn to freedom — we must ask ourselves whether we have vindicated the aspirations of a free people for justice and dignity. We must also reflect on whether the present state of our democracy can translate into reality the vision of our founders and ask ourselves whether the conduct of an elevating democratic politics is at all possible without its anchor in public and constitutional morality, as the Father of the Nation never tired of reminding us. The need to repurpose the nation's politics is compelling, and lest we forget the lesson of history, there can be no democracy without humanity; both are integral to each other. While we celebrate our freedom, let us think of the marginalised

masses whose sufferings question our gains beyond apology. Let us shed a tear for their unbearable pain born out of undeserved deprivation, denial and unending injustices.

In drawing attention to the bitter truth of our reality 77 years after freedom, the idea is not to apportion blame but to correct the nation's course for the future, as also to remind ourselves that the purpose of human life and freedom is to battle for succour to those bearing the brunt of misery in a life without hope.

While I yearn to sing the song of freedom aloud, I find my voice muffled by the deafening cries of pain and grief that 'well up like a lump in the throat'. The reality of hunger, poverty, exploitation and misery of the multitude does not leave me free to exult at this moment. My thoughts take me to the tireless exertions of our founding fathers who sacrificed themselves so that we may live with honour today and hereafter. They now lie in the dark, their dreams unrealised and memories maligned.

Let us endeavour collectively to ensure that our politics is inspired by magnanimity, without being held hostage to the 'vice of shallowness' and is inspired by high purpose. Let us answer the summons of the 'Tiranga' and honour its command without appropriating it for partisan ends. Indeed, this must be the moment of national reawakening, to shed the intellectual amorality of our politics and invest the powerless with power to script their destiny. Only then can we sing together the song of freedom. Only then will the power of joy overcome the stillness of despair.

Laapataa ladies & opportunistic BJP

By: JYOTI MALHOTRA

THE Trinamool Congress' 'laapataa ladies', a sarcastic reference to the Hindi movie by the same name, finally showed up at a march led by their leader and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata on Friday in support of the female doctor gruesomely raped and murdered a full eight days ago at a state-run hospital in the city.

Mahua Moitra, Saayoni Ghosh, Dola Sen, Satabdi Roy, Sharmila Sarkar, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, June Maliah — all women MPs — and minister Shashi Panja were among those flanking Mamata as they walked from Moulali to Dorina crossing in Kolkata, seeking to wrest back the narrative that India's only woman chief minister at present seems to have clearly lost in the last one week.

The Trinamool allowed the creation of an information vacuum into which the Opposition BJP walked right in.

For the first time in years, Didi seems to be on the back foot. She knows she's faltered. Her 11 women Lok Sabha MPs, many of them stars on social media, are keenly aware that when they refused to speak up in support of the victim, except for former journalist Sagarika Ghose, in the all-important hours and days after the grisly murder — the Trinamool allowed the creation of an information vacuum into which the Opposition BJP walked right in.

These smart women, the bane of the BJP in Parliament and in Kolkata, know that when they shut themselves up against their

better judgement — perhaps, as they waited for the Kolkata Police to carry out its investigation, or perhaps, waited to hear what their Dear Leader, Didi, first wanted to say on the subject — they waited too long. That, at least for the moment, that sense of trust that politicians constantly strive for in the minds of women and men they claim to lead, seems to be faltering. That for the first time in more than a decade, an element of doubt seems to have crept in.

Here's what we know. The rape-murder of the young woman took place between 3 and 5 am on August 9, when after working for 36 hours straight in the hospital, she decided to get some rest in a seminar room. The post-mortem report details the horror — that she was throttled to death (the thyroid cartilage was broken due to strangling), that there were deep wounds on her private parts which were, ostensibly, caused by 'perverted sexuality' and 'genital torture'. That she was bleeding from her eyes and mouth too. Pictures doing the rounds show her legs at awkward angles to each other — some say that that can't be possible unless the pelvic girdle is broken.

Strangely, though, for the next six days, all these bright young politicians, a galaxy of shining stars that include Mamata's nephew Abhishek Banerjee, occupied themselves in a variety of matters, including the fell blow to Vinesh Phogat in Paris. Didi, herself, is said to have spoken about the matter in Bangla in Kolkata — a bit like a peacock dancing in a dense jungle which few saw, and then disregarded. By then, events were taking on a life

of their own. The principal of the medical college resigned but was within hours given another plum assignment. Rumours about the police calling it a 'suicide' (they didn't) or that they cremated her without telling her parents (it was the family that cremated her) blew into the information gap. The X handles of all these women MPs, rightfully most vocal about things gone wrong, were strangely silent. Even when more than half of Kolkata was out on the streets that fetid night of August 14-15, seeking to "reclaim the night", thousands of women and men demanding justice, a right to life and safety, the Trinamool was missing in action. Their anger, passion and ardour that often stir up the Lok Sabha had either been spent or misspent. TV gave the girl a name: Abhaya, the Fearless One, invoking the name that was awarded to the girl, Nirbhaya, brutally raped in Delhi 12 years ago. Everyone remembered how that winter of 2012, when the Congress government of Sheila Dikshit sought somehow to save the girl, had turned out. Two years later, the Manmohan Singh government had lost power at the Centre, paving the way for the BJP.

Nirbhaya, many said, had shown the way for the fortunes of one political party. Clearly, the BJP believes Abhaya can do for it today what Prime Minister Modi has failed to do in the last 10 years, which is to persuade Bengal to vote for the BJP, or at least turn in its favour since there are no elections on the horizon. Not for nothing has Smriti Irani returned to the TV screens for the first time since she lost Amethi to the unfancied Kishori Lal Sharma in the recent

Lok Sabha polls.

But the BJP may still find that Bengal is somewhat different from the Hindi heartland states it has experience of conquering. Despite the growing admiration for Hindutva, the outrage on the streets of Kolkata today is less about the BJP and more about the sheer anger and helplessness it feels against the Trinamool. It is Didi, not the BJP, who invokes Bengal's women as its primary audience and asks for their votes. On August 14, hours before the midnight mob ransacked the hospital where the girl's murder took place, Saayoni Ghosh was applauding Mamata's 'Kanyashree' project which is full of schemes for the girl child.

For the moment, Mamata and the Trinamool are the focus of Kolkata's anger against the sheer corruption and mass helplessness that have begun to pervade the city as well as the state. Nothing seems to work, little seems to have changed. If this mass anger spreads to other parts of Bengal, Mamata knows what can happen — it's happened before, in Nandigram in 2007, when the CPM, then in power, refused to listen to the angry voices from the ground and lost power some years later — when she became the welcome beneficiary of that anger.

That's why Mamata led a march in Kolkata on Friday, along with her most articulate women MPs and MLAs. All of them understand that they must fight for Bengal again. That if they don't — and notwithstanding Mahua Moitra — the Trinamool MPs are in danger of being called Bengal's 'laapataa ladies' and its 'goongi gudiya's'.

AICRP-AF Srinagar Centre SKUAST-K starts training Programme on Agroforestry

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 17: The AICRP AF Srinagar Centre, Division of Silviculture and Agroforestry, Faculty of Forestry, Benhama Watlar Ganderbal, SKUAST-Kashmir, has commenced a three-day training program on Agroforestry aimed at promoting sustainable livelihoods.

The program, held in Budshunghi, the last village of Rajwar in Kupwara, located about 250 kilometers from the Faculty of Forestry in Ganderbal, is designed to empower the local farming community with scientific knowledge and practices.

The inaugural event began with a welcome address by Dr. Megna Rashid Bakshi, Assistant Professor of Silviculture and Agroforestry, who emphasized the importance of applying scientific methods on farmland to enhance overall production.

She urged participants, especially women, to consider becoming job providers rather than job seekers, noting that it is not feasible for the government to provide employment to all educated youth. Dr. Bakshi elaborated on the objectives of the training program, highlighting its significance for developing livelihoods and achieving

self-sustenance.

Dr. G. M. Bhat, Program Coordinator and Head of the SAF Division, provided insights into various aspects of the training and the crucial role of both men and women in agroforestry.

He discussed the program's design, which offers hands-on training to participants, and covered topics such as agroforestry tree species, intercropping methods, and sowing techniques.

Dr. Bhat stressed that agroforestry is the only viable option for achieving the government's goal of doubling farmers' income, as emphasized by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

During the event, hybrid maize seeds, six types of vegetable seeds, perennial fodder seeds, agricultural tool kits, and plant materials were distributed to selected tribal farmers from the village, identified by the local Namberdar.

Dr. M.A. Islam, in his address, underscored the importance of such training programs for fostering entrepreneurship among youth, particularly the educated unemployed, and expressed hope that the training would greatly benefit the farming community.

The inaugural event was attended by AICRP-AF scientists, officials, local Panchayat members, and 60 men and

women from the tribal community.

Dr. G.M. Bhat acknowledged the support of Honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganiae, Project Director AICRP AF Prof. Arunachalam, Nodal Officer A.K. Handa, Dean Faculty of Forestry Prof. S.A. Gangoo, and Associate Director of Research Prof. A.H. Mughal.

He also expressed gratitude to the sponsoring agency, CAFRI Jhansi ICAR, Government of India. Following the inaugural event, detailed presentations were given by Prof. G.M. Bhat, Dr. Megna Rashid, Dr. M.A. Islam, and Dr. Rafiq Mir to the participants.

Rich Tributes paid to Prof Bhim Singh on his birthday

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: Rich Floral Tributes were paid to Prof Bhim Singh, the founder of J&K National Panthers Party on his birthday in Shridhanjali Sabha organized at the party Office at Jammu.

His birthday was celebrated as Haq Insaaf Divas. JKNPP workers, well wishers and relatives of Prof. Bhim Singh remembered his great contributions for the whole of mankind.

Vilakshan Singh, President, J&K National Panthers Party Bhim said that Prof Bhim Singh was a politician par excellence. He never compromised in any situation however adverse the same may be.

He said that the death of Prof. Bhim Singh has created a huge void in the political arena. He said that Prof Bhim Singh always stood up for the cause of the poor and downtrodden. His sacrifices for the people of J&K are unparalleled.

Be it draconian Resettlement Act or the bill depriving the women of their status of being state



subject after marriage, Prof. Bhim Singh fought against all sorts of discrimination irrespective of caste, colour or creed of the deprived class.

Prof Bhim Singh was the most secular leader in the country. Once he was convinced that wrong has been committed to someone, he fought tooth and nail against injustice meted out to any person without caring for his religion, caste or creed.

Vilakshan appealed to the public to strengthen J&K National Panthers Party Bhim so that the unfulfilled dreams of Prof. Bhim Singh may be realized and justice may be provided to all sections of the society without any discrimination.

Singh said that J&K National Panthers Party Bhim is the only recog-

nized party in J&K which has always fought for the preservation of Dogra identity.

He said that in the present scenario being witnessed by the UT of J&K, the need of strengthening this regional party has increased manifold.

Vilakshan appealed to the voters of J&K to vote for the candidates of J&K National Panthers Party Bhim so that grievances of the public can be addressed in an effective manner and injustice being meted out to the public particularly the Dogras can be undone.

Others who spoke on the occasion were Naresh Chib, Rajesh Gondi, Balwan Singh, Ravinder Jangwal, Rakesh Gupta, Sanjeev Verma, Navin Bali, Vikas Kotwal, and others.

GGM Science College clinches first prize in Painting Competition on Partition of India at JU



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: GGM Science College has proudly secured the first prize in the prestigious one-day painting competition on the theme 'Partition of India' organised by the Ministry of Culture, The Indra Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Regional Centre Jammu & Kashmir in collaboration with the Department of History, University of Jammu.

The event, which drew participants from various colleges across the region, showcased an impressive array of artistic talent, creativity, and innovation.

The painting by Ishit Kour of BSc. Sem III from GGM Science College bagged the first prize.

The winning painting was lauded for its profound emotional impact, technical excellence and

thoughtful representation of the theme.

She was awarded a merit certificate and cash prize worth Rs. 2500.

The painting vividly captured the human experiences and historical significance of the 1947 partition, resonating deeply with both the audience and the judges.

The Principal of GGM Science College Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta expressed immense pride in the students' achievement, which not only brings honor to our college but also serves as a meaningful contribution to the ongoing discourse on our shared history."

About 08 students from the college were screened and shortlisted for the event by members of the cultural committee of GGM Science College Dr. Seema Gandotra, Prof. Yasmeen Mughal, Prof. Kiran Bala, Dr. Arti Sharma, Dr. Neha Sharma, Prof. Rajesh Bhardwaj, Prof. Mehnaz Bano and Prof. Reetika Rani under the supervision of Dr. Seema Rani Minhas, Convenor, Cultural Committee.

The competition provided a platform for young artists to express their ideas and contribute to the cultural vibrancy of the academic community. This accolade adds to the growing list of achievements by GGM Science College in the field of arts and culture, reinforcing the institution's commitment to nurturing talent across diverse disciplines.

JKMEF condemns tragic incident at RG Kar Medical College

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: The Jammu and Kashmir Medical Employees Federation (JKMEF) convened an emergency meeting today under the leadership of Sushil Sudan, President of the Federation and a member of the Pharmacy Council of India.

The meeting was called to address and condemn the recent tragic incident involving the rape and murder of a female PG doctor at RG Kar Medical College in West Bengal.

The Federation strongly criticized this heinous act and expressed profound concern over the incident, particularly given that it occurred in a state led by a female Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee. The Federation members expressed their solidarity with the medical fraternity and the family of the deceased doctor, and committed to supporting their pursuit of justice.

Sushil Sudan urged the Government of West Bengal to take stern

action against the perpetrator and all those involved in this brutal crime. The Federation called for stringent measures to ensure the safety and security of medical professionals, especially female staff, across the country. They emphasized the need for a safer work environment to foster better patient care and a fearless atmosphere for medical professionals.

In addition to addressing the West Bengal incident, Sushil Sudan also condemned a recent episode of manhandling of an on-duty doctor at the Accident Hospital in Vijaypur, District Samba. The meeting was attended by several key members, including Jaswinder Singh, Bharat Bhushan Bhagat, Bahadur Singh, Tejinder Singh (Publicity Secretary), Kulwant Singh, Sanjay Choudhary, and Sunil Chauhan.

The Federation continues to advocate for justice and better working conditions for medical professionals.

Department of Education GDC Women Kathua organizes lecture

Top News Report

KATHUA, Aug 17: A one-day seminar was organized by the Department of Education on the college campus, focusing on the topic "Importance of Unity in Diversity" as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. Dr. Rachna Devi, Head of the Department of Education, addressed the seminar, emphasizing the department's ongoing commitment to organizing various literary programs aimed at raising awareness among students. She highlighted the significance of strengthening unity in diversity by fostering democratic and social values among students.

During the seminar, Dalu and Tania, both from the 5th semester, presented a beautiful patriotic song that resonated with the theme of the event. Additionally, students Ms. Bharti, Suhani, Radhu, and Daali shared their insightful views on the importance of unity in diversity. Ms. Nirdosh captivated the audience with a poignant Dogri poem.

The program was organized under the guidance of the esteemed Principal of the college, Dr. Savi Behl. The seminar saw active participation from 50 students of the Education Department from various semesters, making it a memorable and impactful event.

Langadi Association Kerala starts South Asian Field Sport

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: The Langadi Association of Kerala has initiated the promotion of Langadi, a traditional South Asian field sport that combines elements of tag and hopscotch.

Originating during the Pandiyam Dynasty, where it was known as "Nondiyaaattam," Langadi has deep historical roots and cultural significance.

The game involves two teams that alternate between chasing (attacking) and defending roles across four innings. In each inning,

players from the chasing team must hop on one foot while attempting to score points by tagging as many defenders as possible within a nine-minute timeframe.

Langadi is celebrated for its dynamic gameplay and is particularly cherished in Maharashtra, where it is regarded as a sport that embodies the Marathi ethos.

The revival and promotion of Langadi by the Langadi Association of Kerala aim to preserve and popularize this traditional sport, highlighting its historical importance and cultural value across South Asia.

GDC Thannamandi concludes two-week long Plantation Drive



Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, Aug 17: The Department of Botany in collaboration with NSS and NCC Units, Red Ribbon and Eco Clubs, and Departments of Zoology and Environmental Studies of Government Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi concluded two-week long plantation drive organized under different campaigns to mark 78th Independence Day here on Friday.

During the fortnight, between August 1-16, over 100 plants of different species of medicinal, ornamental, indigenous and forest flora planted in the botanical garden and college campus under the patronage of Dr. Farooq Ahmed, Principal of College.

Dr. Ashaq Malik, Head Department of Botany, Prof. Supriya Gupta, NSS Programme Officer, Dr. Goher Iqbal, Incharge NCC, Dr. Shiraz Ahmed,

Head, Department of Zoology & Nodal Officer, Red Ribbon Club and Dr. Junaid Ahmed, Convenor, Eco-Club & Head Department of Environmental Sciences of GDC college co-ordinated the plantation drive under different campaigns including Swachhta Pakhwada, Ek Paidh Shaheedun ke naam, Ek Paidh Maa ke naam and One Plant for Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

While speaking on the concluding day, Dr. Farooq Ahmed, emphasized upon the need of planting more and more plants both within college campus as well as outside through outreach programmes to combat climate change and other environmental crises.

He appreciated the co-ordinating departments to celebrate Independence Day and pay tribute to national heroes by conducting extensive plantation drive.

He also lauded the role of Sharma Nursery Siot, Rajouri for donating over 60 plants to college for the cause as well as Tehsil Administration - Thannamandi for their collaboration to plant saplings under ek paidh shaheedun ke naam in college campus.

A large number of students especially from Biological Sciences, NSS volunteers, NCC cadets and faculty members participated in this drive. Prominent among others were Dr. Nazakat Husain, Dr. Naseem Ahmed, Dr. Abdul Haque Naimi, Rakesh Puri, Dr. Asif Lone, Dr. Nazir Ul Islam, Dr. Gulshan Rashid Bhat, Anuj Bali, Dr. Ather Aziz Raina, Prof Rummy Dar, Dr. Nagina Kouser and Prof Rizwana Kouser as well as students Abdul Razak, Mehreen Qureshi, Zohra Khatoon and Mehtab Khan, and local fund employees Rayaz Ahmed, Maqsood Ahmed, Mohd Arif and Ajaz Ahmed.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI MECH. G.W.D. DIVISION JAMMU
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
E-NIT NO GWD/61 OF 2024-25 DATED 16.08.2024

On behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu invites tenders by e-tendering mode from reputed and registered firms with Jal Shakti PHE/J&K Dept. J&K Govt. who have sufficient experience in the field of drilling and are well equipped with drilling Rigs suitable for ODEX method of drilling.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee (In Rs)	Qty.	Estimated cost (value of work) (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Validity of Rates
Deep Drilling of 125 mm dia Bore Hole by using ODEX method including providing & fitting of 125mm dia casing pipe alongwith construction of platforms at (03 Nos Locations) in the premises of JNV Kotranka of District Rajouri on Turnkey Basis (EPC) under Deposit (2024-25)	Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu	1000.00 (Non-Refundable) Deposited in Govt. treasury through e-challan under the receipt head 0215 in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. GWD Div. Jammu payable at Jammu mentioning name of work	03 Nos	Rs. 12.45 Lacs	@ 2% of the contract value in shape of Fresh CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PHE (M) GWD Division	31 st March 2025

- The complete bidding process shall be online.
- Bid documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 16.08.2024 to 23.08.2024.
- The pre bid meeting if desired by the participating firms shall be held in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu on 17.08.2024 (1300 hrs).
- The bids shall be submitted/uploaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 17.08.2024 (1400 hrs) to 23.08.2024 (1800 hrs).

GWD/2931-33
DATED: 16.08.2024

DIP/J-4652/24
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Mech. G.W.D. Division
Jammu

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION UDHAMPUR
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 63 of 2024-25 Dated 14.08.2024

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
1.	Const. of road from Seen Thakran (Narsola Bridge) to MS Jalmarha via PS Pagyal (State Plan)	167.14	3000/-	@2% of advertised cost	12 Months	"A"	"State Plan"

Position of AAA:- **Accorded**
Position of T.S:- **Accorded**
Position of Funds:- **Available**

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14-08-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 14-08-2024 to 28-08-2024, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting.	20-08-2024 at 1200 Hrs. in the Office of Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Ramban-Udhampur, Circle Udhampur.
4	Bid submission Start Date	16-08-2024 from 900 Hrs
5	Bid Submission End Date	28-08-2024 up to 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	29-08-2024 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Ramban-Udhampur, Circle Udhampur.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

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

Dated:- 14-08-2024

DIP/J-4593/24
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Udhampur

Showtime in Shimla

As the three-day International Film Festival of Shimla moves into its 10th edition, it stands as an epitome of inclusivity, showcasing 105 films from 27 countries

OTT may have brought the world of entertainment to our doorstep, but real cinema still remains out of our grasp. To bridge the gap between cinephiles' hunger for pure cinema and the avenues available for satiating the desire to watch quality cinema, the International Film Festival of Shimla was conceived by Pushp Raj Thakur, festival director, and Devkanya, creative director, among others.

As the three-day International Film Festival of Shimla moves into its 10th edition, it stands as an epitome of inclusivity and broad vision. Showcasing no less than 105 films from 27 countries with simultaneous screenings happening, it's an amalgamation of short films, animation features, documentaries and, of course, feature films. If the festival got rolling with Bandit Queen-fame actress Seema Biswas-starrer Mrs Tendulkar, directed by Alok Verma, which examining the life of an elderly widow, it will end on Sunday with yet another cinematic gem, The Borders Never Die, by Iranian filmmaker Hamidreza Arjomandi. A poignant look at families forced to cross borders due to the war in their homeland, it circles around the challenging journey of a Kurdish couple from Iraqi Kurdistan. Migration, a burning issue, is



also the subject of Iranian short film Survivor by Karim Azimi. In fact, a large number of films from Iran make the cut at the festival. Iranian cinema, which has been the toast of connoisseurs worldwide, is represented by Farshad Golsefidi's film Seven Citrus Aurantium, among others.

Films have been selected by illustrious jury members such as Bina Paul, Arik Moran, Sarv Chetan Katoch, and others, from online applications. The representation from India is as diverse as the diversity of our nation with films from as many as 22 states. Among the vast array of films from Maharashtra to Assam to Kerala to Tripura, also stands delectable and much-lauded Malayalam film Manjummel Boys, an engaging survival thriller.

The region finds a place of prominence with Indu Shekhar's Luv Ka Love from Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Madhusudan's Random Beats from Haryana and Kaina by Aaryaveer Singh, who happens to be from Chandigarh. And how can makers from the home state of the festival lag behind? From Himachal Pradesh, there is Dhroov Ki Ghaas by Preety Sharma, Ek Ajeeb Dastaan by Anuroop Chatterjee Pal, and Beyond Purpose, a documentary by Garun Dhiman.

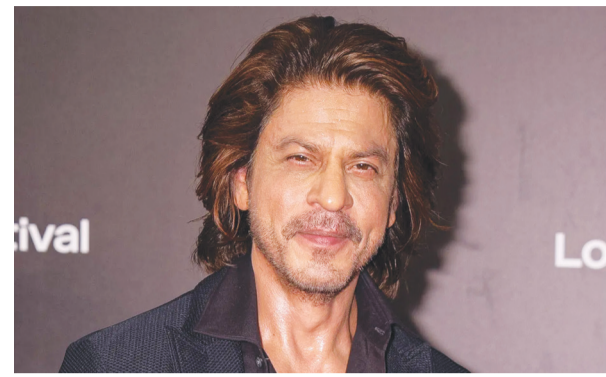
The main aim of the festival is to provide a platform to filmmakers and also to inculcate love for world cinema at a young age. For this purpose, a separate section, Bachpan, with a focus on films for children has been initiated. And for those already bitten by the cinema bug,

master classes with renowned filmmakers will deepen their understanding of cinema.

Cinema is as much a reflection of the current times as a record of times gone by. Big B's baritone voice resounds in Borders Create Widows, a documentary about the life of martyrs' families, directed by Maya Chandra. Usha Deshpande's Discovering Devika, a documentary on the first lady of Indian cinema Devika Rani, is yet another high-point. In the digital era, Manohar Singh Bisht's In Search of Fading Canvases, explores the dying art of painting billboards. Apart from being supported by the NFDC and Films Division of India, Bitchitra Collective: Indian Women in Documentary, a growing organisation of 400 plus filmmakers of Indian origin too makes a distinctive contribution to the festival. Nundri-sha Wakhloo and Daksh Punj's Brair Kani is one such film from the collective that explores an ancestral home in Kashmir through an attic!

Subjects that are being explored in the films at the festival cover an entire gamut. From existential ones to concerns like transgender issues, patriarchy and loneliness of the elderly... as Steve Martin said, "All of life's riddles are answered in the movies."

Shah Rukh Khan talks about his lifestyle: 'I go to sleep at five in the morning'



Actor Shah Rukh Khan has spoken about his lifestyle – how he goes to sleep at 5am but wakes up by 9 or 10am. Speaking with agency, the actor shared that after he reaches home from work at 2am he works out before going to sleep.

Shah Rukh opens up about his life

The actor said, "I go to sleep at five in the morning. When Mark Wahlberg gets up, I go off to sleep. And then I wake up about nine or 10 if I'm shooting. But then I will come home at 2am, take a bath and then work out before I go to sleep." As per the report, he eats only one meal. The actor works

out for only half an hour everyday.

Shah Rukh on his 'sabbatical'

Talking about his hiatus of four years, Shah Rukh added, "At the age of 55, I took a kind of sabbatical. During the pandemic, there was nothing else to do and I was telling everyone: learn Italian cooking and work out. I was working out. I built a body. After four years, people started missing me because before that I was too much in everybody's face."

Actor was recently honoured in Switzerland

Shah Rukh was recently honoured with a lifetime achievement award, the Pardo alla

Carriera, or Career Leopard, at the 77th edition of the Locarno Film Festival. During a conversation with Giona A Nazzaro, the artistic director of the Locarno Film Festival, he discussed his career and achievements. He opened up on his preparation work for his next film, King, and his collaboration with filmmaker Sujoy Ghosh.

What Shah Rukh had said about King

He had said, "There are certain kinds of film that I want to do; maybe it's more age-centric, and I want to try something for 6-7 years. I've been thinking about it, and I mentioned it to Sujoy one day while we were sitting. He works with us at our office, he's made some films for us. He says, 'Sir, I have a subject'. The next film I am doing King, I have to start working on it, have to lose some weight, do some stretching."

Reportedly, the film will also star Shah Rukh's daughter and actor, Suhana Khan.

Sherleen Dutt on choosing acting as a career

Honey Trap Squad actress Sherleen Dutt says she wasn't always sure about her career path, but with time realised her inclination towards acting. She said, "Growing up, I had various interests and ambitions. For instance, I once aspired to become an IAS officer. However, as I matured, my passions evolved, leading me to pursue acting. This journey was full of exploration and self-discovery."

She got the motivation from a combination of introspection and external influences. She added, "Watching films by directors like Anurag Kashyap and actors like Vijay Sethupathi inspired me deeply. Their work resonated with me, and I felt a calling towards the craft of acting. Spirituality and manifestation practices also played a crucial role in guiding my decisions." Sherleen confessed that she had often faced challenges of overthinking and self-



doubt. She shared, "To manage them, I practice mindfulness and meditation, which help

me stay grounded and focused. I also prioritise my tasks and take one step at a time."

Khushi Kapoor 'refreshingly' admits to getting work done on her face

Khushi Kapoor is breaking stereotypes and shattering stigmas as she embarks on her Bollywood journey! In a refreshingly candid move, the actor has openly confessed to undergoing plastic surgery, revealing that she got a nose job before stepping into the spotlight.

Khushi's confession The actor made the confession on Instagram while reacting to a user on an old video of herself. In the video, she is seen as a kid coming to an event with her mother and late cine icon Sridevi, with a video of making an entry for the premiere of her first film, The Archies.

A user wrote, "I'll be honest, khushi looks so similar to how she used to look. Like it genuinely js looks like she lost weight", while another wrote, "THANK YOU. she was 12 here, she also just got braces, she got lip fillers and that was that".



To this, Khushi wrote, "@archivekhushii lip filler and (nose emoji) hahaha"

Social media reacts Social media users were happy to read the confession. One user wrote, "Lmaoo this is real I just cross checked. Good that she's owning up to it. It's her money, she got it done for herself and isn't pretending to be natural so I hope plastic hate stops", while another wrote, "When it's so blatantly obvious there's no point denying it. However, lot of actresses do and their audacity is just unbelievable".

"So she should list every beauty treatment she has ever gotten? Lol," posted one user, with one mentioning, "You gotta own up to it if you dont wanna get trolled further! Also also owned up her lack of GK with that AIB video".

"If you know her She's never pretended and always been herself unlike her sister," wrote

another user, with one mentioning, "Better than Jhanvi who claims it is Rose Water and Malai".

Khushi Kapoor's career

Khushi, who's the daughter of Sridevi and Boney Kapoor, followed in her mother and sister Jhanvi Kapoor's footsteps to become an actor. She made her debut with Zoya Akhtar's The Archies, an Indian adaptation of the famous comics. She played Betty Cooper in the 2023 film, which also starred Suhana Khan, Agastya Nanda, Mihir Ahuja, Vedang Raina and others in the lead roles. The film received lukewarm reviews upon its release.

Khushi will soon be seen in the Hindi remake of Love Today with Aamir Khan's son, Maharaj actor Junaid Khan as her co-star. She is also rumoured to star in a film with Saif Ali Khan's son, Ibrahim Ali Khan.

Nick Jonas calls Priyanka Chopra 'world class': It's great to stay creative...

Singer-actor Nick Jonas has spoken about wife-actor Priyanka Chopra, calling her a 'world class' scene partner. In an interview with agency, Nick, who will be seen in The Good Half, also spoke about the film.

Talking about the movie, Nick said, "I love the script the moment I picked it up. the story as a whole and family dynamics, but also how funny it was. It's obviously a pretty heavy subject matter, but oftentimes in life, I feel like that is what happens. You end up laughing, so you don't cry."

When asked if he got any advice from Priyanka, Nick said, "I've got a pretty good scene partner at home. By pretty good, I mean, like, world class. I don't often do scene work together. We just talk about characters. It's great to stay creative at home, and then you can bring that into the workspace."

The Good Half, a comedy-



drama film has been directed by Robert Schwartzman. It also stars Brittany Snow, David Arquette, Alexandra Shipp, Matt Walsh, and Elisabeth Shue. Last month, taking to her Instagram stories, Priyanka Chopra shared the poster of the film and wrote, "Can't wait! #TheGoodHalf" and tagged Nick.

Recently, she accompanied Nick to the premiere of The Good Half in Los Angeles. She

had also written on Instagram, "Cannot wait for you all to experience this beautiful poignant, touching movie with incredible performances. I may or may not be slightly biased, but @nickjonas, you are phenomenal in this one."

Priyanka and Nick got married in a Christian and a Hindu ceremony in Jodhpur's Umaid Bhawan Palace on December 1 and 2 in 2018. In January 2022,

the two announced that they welcomed daughter Malti Marie Chopra Jonas via surrogacy.

Recently, Priyanka wrapped the shooting of her upcoming film The Bluff. She had shared a glimpse on Instagram of the wrap-up featuring her family including Nick, Malti Marie her mother Madhu Chopra and the cast of the film. The Bluff which is directed by Frank E Flowers also features actor Karl Urban.

It is set in the 19th-century Caribbean and follows the story of a former female pirate, played by Priyanka, who must protect her family when the sins of her past catch up to her. Produced by Russo Brothers' banner AGBO Studios and Amazon MGM Studios, the film promises to be a thrilling adventure. Apart from The Bluff, Priyanka is also set to star in Heads of State alongside John Cena and Idris Elba.

Through a song, AP Dhillon expresses anger over Kolkata doctor's rape and murder



Indo-Canadian Punjabi singer AP Dhillon has expressed his anger and disappointment over the horrific rape and murder of the 31-year-old doctor in Kolkata through a song.

Dhillon took to his Instagram stories and wrote, "Woke up today wanting to let my thoughts out the only way I know how..." along with a clip with a tribute song with heartbroken emojis. In the song, the Excuses hitmaker asked for justice for the victim and talked about

the innate power of women and how society continues to fail.

In the video, Dhillon is seen singing with the lyrics, "She has saved many lives and souls. God, how could her fate end so tragically? She was not safe even in a place where everyone knew her. Today, we all ask you, is it a curse to be born a girl in this world? For the women who have transformed the world, society has refused to change around them, though they have swum oceans worth of progress, society has barely moved an inch. What happened 12 years ago continues to happen today. Why do we still have to march for women to live in peace?"

A string of Bollywood personalities, including names such as Alia Bhatt, Twinkle Khanna, Kangana Ranaut, Soni Razdan, Ayushmann Khurrana, Kriti Sanon, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Parineeti Chopra, Preity Zinta, Mimi Chakraborty, and Richa Chadha, have demanded justice for the victim.

'Terrorism, extremism and separatism serious threats to our societies': PM Modi at Global South Summit

Flags concerns over consequences of global uncertainties on developing countries, especially in areas of food and energy securities

NEW DELHI, Aug 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday flagged concerns over the consequences of global uncertainties on developing countries, especially in areas of food and energy securities.

In his opening remarks at the third Voice of Global South Summit, Modi also assured the participating countries of India's unwavering commitment to extend full support to them in various key areas, including in the domain of digital public infrastructure.

India hosted the summit in a virtual format.

"Today we are meeting at a time when there is an atmosphere of uncertainty all around. The world has not yet completely come out of the impact of Covid. On the other hand, the situation of war has created



challenges for our development journey," Modi said.

"We are not only facing the challenges of climate change, but now there are also concerns about health security, food security, and energy security," he said.

The prime minister also referred to challenges of terror-

ism, extremism and separatism. "Terrorism, extremism and separatism remain serious threats to our societies," he said.

"Technology divide and new economic and social challenges related to technology are also emerging," Modi said.

He said, "The global governance and financial institutions

created in the last century have been unable to meet the challenges of this century.

Modi said the Voice of Global South Summit has become a platform to discuss issues relating to development.

During India's leadership of G20, it made the agenda of the grouping based on expectations, aspirations and priorities of the Global South, the prime minister said.

Modi also said that India took forward G20 in a development-oriented approach.

The strength of the Global South lies in its unity, Modi said, adding, "On the strength of this unity we will move towards a new direction".

"Voice of Global South Summit is a platform where we are giving voice to the needs and aspirations of those who have been unheard till now," he added.

UP govt didn't do fair job: Mayawati reacts to High Court order on assistant teachers' appointment



LUCKNOW, Aug 17 (Agencies): Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati on Saturday welcomed Allahabad High Court's order on preparing a fresh selection list for the appointment of 69,000 assistant teachers in Uttar Pradesh and said it proves the state government "did not do its job fairly."

The court has set aside the selection lists issued in June 2020

and January 2022, which included 6,800 candidates, and directed the Uttar Pradesh government to prepare a fresh selection list for the appointment of 69,000 assistant teachers within three months.

Reacting to the order, Mayawati, in a post in Hindi on X, said, "The high court's decision to cancel the selection list of 69,000 teacher candidates selected in

2019 in UP and prepare a new list within three months proves that the government has not done its work fairly and honestly."

"It should be ensured that the victims, especially those from the reservation category, get justice."

Slamming the BJP dispensation in the state, she said the Uttar Pradesh government has been under much criticism since its "records over paper leaks in recruitment for government jobs are not clean and clear."

"Now, due to lack of proper recruitment of assistant teachers, it is natural that it will have a negative impact on the education system. The government must pay attention to this," the BSP chief said.

Maharashtra man flashes woman, she injures his private parts with metal spatula

THANE, Aug 17 (Agencies): As the country reels under the Kolkata rape and murder case, a 26-year-old woman took matters into her own hands to stop a man's unwanted advances by injuring his private parts with a metal spatula in Maharashtra's Thane district, news agency reported today, while citing an official.

The man, identified as 30-year-old Anil Satyanarayan Raccha, was rushed to the hospital and is currently receiving treatment.

The official stated that the accused was intoxicated when he attempted to misbehave with the woman at her residence in the Bhiwandi area.

As per the police, both the man and woman knew each other.



The incident took place at around 4:30 pm on Friday when Raccha went to her house and tried to make sexual advances. He also allegedly flashed her.

To protect herself from the unwanted overtures, the woman raised an alarm, rushed to her kitchen, and picked up a metal spatula. She hit Raccha with the spatula and injured his genitals, the official stated, citing the FIR.

Wounded Raccha, ran

out of her house to seek medical assistance. He has been hospitalised, the official stated.

Based on a complaint by the woman, the Bhiwandi police have lodged a case against Raccha for outraging the modesty of a woman, sexual harassment, and trespass under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The accused has not been arrested as he is still in the hospital, the police official stated.

'I have done no wrong to resign': Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah on Governor's sanction to prosecute him

BENGALURU, Aug 17 (Agencies): Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday ruled out his resignation, following the Governor granting sanction to prosecute him, in connection with the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment 'scam', and said he had done no wrong to step down.

Terming Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot's decision as "anti-Constitution and against law", he said. It will be questioned in court and that he will battle it out legally.

"It is a big conspiracy to dislodge the elected government. They (BJP) have done this in several states including Delhi, Jharkhand. A conspiracy has been designed to destabilise the elected government in Karnataka also.

The Central government, BJP, JD(S) and



others are involved in this conspiracy," Siddaramaiah told reporters here.

"High command (of Congress) is with me, the entire Cabinet and the government is with me. All Congress MLAs, MLCs, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members are with me....I have done no wrong to resign," he asserted.

Accusing the opposition of wrong doings and behaving illegally and anti-Constitutionally, he further said, "They are using Raj Bhavan as a

political pawn. The Governor is functioning like a puppet in the hands of the Central government."

The Governor has accorded sanction against the Chief Minister under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 for the commission of the alleged offences as mentioned in the petitions of Pradeep Kumar S P, T J Abraham and Snehamayi Krishna.

Stating that such a decision by the Governor was expected, Siddaramaiah said, "We had expected this, I too had expected this. When the Governor on July 26, the very day he received the petition, issued me a show cause notice. What does it mean?"

He said, "There has been a petition seeking sanction for prosecution against JD(S) leader (now Union Minister) H D Kumaraswamy since November, also there are petitions against former BJP Ministers Shahshikala Jolle, Muruges Nairani, and Janardhana Reddy. Leaving all of them, if the notice was issued to me, what does it mean?"

"In November, sanction was sought against Kumaraswamy (also former CM) by Lokayukta in an alleged case regarding issue of mining licences, after an inquiry. He was not

issued a notice. What does it mean -- that the notice is issued to me (by the Governor)? It is a big conspiracy," he added.

on a petition filed by advocate-activist T J Abraham, Governor Gehlot had issued a "show cause notice" on July 26 directing the Chief Minister to submit his reply to the allegations against him within seven days as to why permission for prosecution should not be granted against him.

The Karnataka government had on August 1 "strongly advised" the Governor to withdraw his "show cause notice" to the Chief Minister and alleged "gross misuse of the Constitutional Office" of the Governor.

It had also advised him to reject the said application by denying prior approval and sanction as requested by the petitioner Abraham.

Section of Sultanganj-Aguwani bridge over Ganga collapses in Bihar

PATNA, Aug 17 (Agencies): A portion of the under-construction Sultanganj-Aguwani Ghat-bridge connecting Bhagalpur to Khagaria district collapsed and fell into the Ganga river in Bihar on Saturday.

This is the third time that the under-construction bridge has collapsed since its construction work started.

The devotees capture the entire incident in their mobile phone cameras and uploaded it on social media sites, raising concern over the quality of the construction material. "There was a loud sound, and the superstructure of the under-construction bridge fell into the river," eyewitnesses said.

The bridge is being constructed by a private firm—SK Singha Construction Private Limited—at an estimated cost of Rs.1,710 crore to connect Sultanganj in Bhagalpur with Aguwani Ghat in Khagaria district.

The bridge is being constructed to ease traffic congestion on the Vikramshila bridge, a critical link in the region.

The bridge collapses again in two months span

The last time a portion of the bridge had collapsed on June 4, 2023.

The earlier collapse of the structure between pillar numbers 10 and 12 in Khagaria side led to widespread criticism of the state government.

Taking a serious note of the incident, state government penalised S K Singha Construction Private Limited and mandated that the bridge be built at the company's expense. Later the Patna high court issued directives to rectify design if need be.

Another section of the bridge between pillar numbers 5 and 6 on the Bhagalpur side collapsed on June 30, 2022. Frequent incidents of collapse of the under-construction bridge have already delayed the dream project of Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar.

Although no clarification has been issued by the construction firm. Experts, however,

claimed that misalignment was the possible reason behind the repeated collapse of the under-construction bridge.

The foundation stone for the 3.16-km bridge was laid on February 23, 2014, with construction beginning on March 9, 2015.

The state government allocated Rs.1,710 crore to the project, highlighting its significance as a major infrastructure initiative.

Meanwhile, a senior official of the state government came out with a clarification that the section of the bridge collapsed when labourers were doing work on the bridge.

However, no casualties have been reported.

UP man abducts toddler, throws her into drain after 'rape attempt'



MEERUT, Aug 17 (Agencies): A man allegedly kidnapped a two-year-old girl in an attempt to "rape" her. He then threw her body into a drain after the girl's family started

chasing him, police said on Saturday.

The accused has been identified as Moish (20).

According to the Superintendent of Police Ayush Vikram Singh, the incident hap-

pened on Friday evening when the accused abducted the minor who was sleeping with her family members outside her house in the Sadar area.

When the family members woke up, they chased the accused to save the girl from his clutches, but Moish threw the girl in the drain and fled, he said.

The accused has been arrested and an investigation is underway, Singh said, adding that the girl's body has been sent for post-mortem.

Jaipur man killed in road rage after his scooty collides with e-rickshaw

JAIPUR, Aug 17 (Agencies): A 36-year-old man was beaten to death by an e-rickshaw driver and two others following an argument here, police said on Saturday.

The incident happened late Friday when Dinesh Swami and Jitendra Swami from Swami Basti were travelling in a scooty, they said.

Their scooty collided

with an e-rickshaw in Shastri Nagar area leading to a scuffle between Dinesh and the rickshaw driver. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-II) Bajrang Singh said.

After the incident both the drivers left for their respective homes but Dinesh's condition deteriorated after reaching home and he died, he said.

Singh said that there

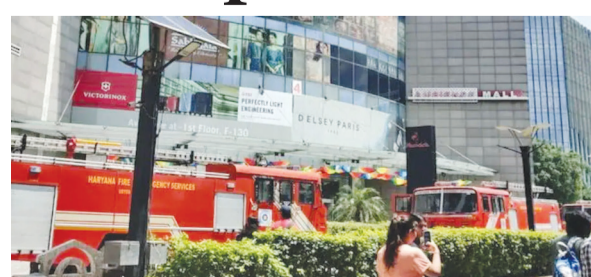
were three people in the e-rickshaw and one of them, identified as Shahrulkh, was arrested while efforts are underway to nab the two others.

Meanwhile, after the man's death locals assembled outside Shastri Nagar police station demanding arrest of the accused.

Police have assured prompt action in the matter.

Gurugram's Ambience Mall receives bomb threat, search operation underway

GURUGRAM, Aug 17 (Agencies): Ambience Mall in Gurugram was evacuated on Saturday after it received an email claiming that a bomb had been planted on the premises, police said. Bomb and dog squad teams are at the spot and a search operation is underway, they said. Ambience Mall management received a bomb threat email at 9.27 am,



police said.

The email, which was sent from hidden-bones101@gmail.com, stated, read, "I planted bombs in the building

because I hate my life. The people behind this attack are Paige and Nora," Assistant Commissioner of Police, DLF, Vikas Kaushik said nothing suspicious had been found in the search operation so far.

"We have sanitised 70 per cent of the mall and our teams, including the bomb disposal squad and the dog squad, are thoroughly check-

ing every corner of the mall... nothing suspicious has been found (so far)," he said.

In an official statement, Gurugram Police appealed to the general public to not panic.

It said so far, such emails have been found to be hoaxes meant to scare people and it is making efforts to track their source.

Woman and two children among 10 killed in Israeli strike in southern Lebanon

BEIRUT, Aug 17 (Agencies): An Israeli strike in southern Lebanon early Saturday killed at least 10 Syrian nationals, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry.

The strike on Wadi al-Kfour in Nabatieh province is among the deadliest in Lebanon since the Hezbollah militant group and Israeli military started trading strikes on Oct. 8, a day after Hamas attacked southern Israel and sparked the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. Hezbollah maintains that it will stop it attacks once a ceasefire is reached in the Gaza Strip.

Among the dead were a woman and her two children, the ministry said. Five others were wounded, of whom two were in critical condition.

Avichay Adraee, an Arabic-language spokesperson for the Israeli military, said the strike in the southern province targeted a weapons depot belonging to



Hezbollah.

Mohammad Shoab, who runs a slaughterhouse in Wadi al-Kfour said the area struck was an "industrial and civilian area," that contained factories producing bricks, metal, and aluminum, as well as a dairy farm.

Hezbollah has not immediately commented on the strikes.

The Lebanese government and international governments have scrambled for weeks to put an end to the monthlong clashes, with the region on a knife edge since July.

An Israeli strike last month in southern Beirut killed Hezbollah's top commander, whom Israel accused of leading a rocket attack on the Israeli-

occupied Golan Heights that killed 12 youths. Hours later, an explosion widely blamed on Israel killed Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh.

Both Tehran and Hezbollah vowed to retaliate, but have not yet launched strikes as diplomatic endeavors continue as well as Gaza ceasefire talks in Qatar.

Hezbollah Israel fought a six-week war in the summer of 2006 that ended in a draw. Hezbollah's military capabilities have developed significantly since then.

More than 500 people have been killed in exchanges since Oct. 8, most of them fighters with Hezbollah and other armed groups but also including around 100 civilians and noncombatants. In Israel, 22 soldiers and 24 civilians have been killed. Tens of thousands of people have been displaced on both sides of tense frontier.

Hurricane Ernesto makes landfall on Bermuda as a Category 1 storm



SAN JUAN, Aug 17 (Agencies): Hurricane Ernesto made landfall on the tiny British Atlantic territory of Bermuda early Saturday as residents hunkered down.

The wide category 1 storm was directly over the the wealthy territory at 6 a.m. Saturday, with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph (140 kph). The U.S. National Hurricane Center warned of strong winds, a dangerous storm surge and significant coastal flooding.

It said some 6 to 9 inches (150-225 centimeters) of rain was expected to fall on Bermuda. "This rainfall will likely result in considerable life-threatening flash flooding, especially in low-lying areas on the island," it said.

Due to the large size of the storm and its slow movement, hurricane-strength winds are expected to continue until Saturday afternoon, with tropical storm-strength winds continuing well into Sunday, the Bermuda government said. Ernesto is moving toward the north-northeast at around 9 mph (15 kph).

The NHC reported life-threatening surf and rip currents on the east coast of the United States and said they would reach Canada during the course of the day. Ernesto is forecast to be near or east of Newfoundland by Monday night.

Bermuda power utility BELCO said that as of late Friday, power was

out to 31% of its customers. It described itself as being in "an active state of crisis."

"Our crews are no longer out in the field working as it is no longer safe for them. They will now rest until it is deemed safe for them to begin restoration efforts," BELCO added.

In preparation for the storm, officials in the wealthy British territory had suspended public transportation and closed the airport on Friday night.

"Hurricane Ernesto seriously threatens our community," National Security Minister Michael Weeks said. "This is not a storm to be taken lightly."

Bermuda is an archipelago of 181 tiny islands whose total land mass is roughly the size of Manhattan.

According to AccuWeather, it's uncommon for the eye of a hurricane to make landfall in Bermuda. It noted that, before today, since 1850 only 11 of 130 tropical storms that came within 100 miles (160 kilometers) of Bermuda had landfall.

The island is a renowned offshore financial center with sturdy construction, and given its elevation, storm surge is not as problematic as it is with low-lying islands.

Ernesto previously battered the northeast Caribbean, where it left hundreds of thousands of people without power or water in Puerto Rico after swiping past the

U.S. territory as a tropical storm.

More than 180,000 out of nearly 1.5 million clients were still without power more than two days after the storm. Another 170,000 were without water as the National Weather Service issued yet another severe heat advisory, warning of "dangerously hot and humid conditions."

"It's not easy," said Andrés Cabrera, 60, who lives in the north coastal city of Carolina and had no water or power.

Like many on the island, he could not afford a generator or solar panels. Cabrera said he was relying for relief only "on the wind that comes in from the street."

Officials said they hoped to restore power to 90% of nearly 1.5 million customers in Puerto Rico by Sunday, but have not said when they expect power to be fully restored.

Of 152 locations of critical infrastructure without electricity that are being prioritized, 36 now have power, said Juan Saca, president of Luma Energy, a private company that operates the transmission and distribution of power on the island.

In the neighboring U.S. Virgin Islands, crews also were working to restore power, with 80% of customers back online.

Ernesto is the fifth named storm and the third hurricane of this year's Atlantic hurricane season.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has predicted an above-average Atlantic hurricane season this year because of record warm ocean temperatures. It forecast 17 to 25 named storms, with four to seven major hurricanes.

Donald Trump ropes in Tulsi Gabbard to prepare for debate with Kamala Harris

WASHINGTON DC, Aug 17 (Agencies): Gearing up for his debate with US Vice President Kamala Harris, former President Donald Trump, and has brought in the former Democratic congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard to help sharpen his attacks, the New York Times reported citing two people aware with Trump's schedule.

She joined Trump's practice session at the latter's private club and home, Mar-a-Lago. Donald Trump and Kamala Harris are set to face off in the ABC News debate on September 10.

Gabbard, who left the Democratic Party after her 2020 presidential run and has rebranded herself as a celebrity among Trump's base of support, has long been friendly with Trump and was also speculated to be his running mate for some time.

Gabbard's involvement in Trump's debate preparation, was partly because of her own performance in a 2019 Democratic presidential primary debate, when Gabbard eviscerated Harris in a memorable onstage encounter.

Karoline Leavitt, a spokeswoman for Trump, confirmed Gabbard's involvement in an email, NYT reported.

Leavitt said the former presi-

dent has "proven to be one of the best debaters in political history as evidenced by his knockout blow to Joe Biden. He does not need traditional debate prep but will continue to meet with respected policy advisers and effective communicators like Tulsi Gabbard, who successfully dominated Kamala Harris on the debate stage in 2020." Though Trump says he "doesn't need to" prepare for debates, the former President has spent more time this year practicing for debates than he did in either 2016 or 2020, the New York Times reported citing advisers who have worked with him.

He still doesn't do traditional debate prep. Nobody played Mr. Biden in his sessions ahead of their CNN debate on June 27.

Ahead of his CNN debate with Biden in June, Trump sat with advisers for blocks of time or informally on plane trips and discussed potential topics and lines of questioning. In more formal sessions at Mar-a-Lago, aides have sat in chairs opposite him, playing the role of moderators.

Representative Matt Gaetz of Florida asked especially combative questions, according to a person who was in the room. Other lawmakers, including his eventual running mate, Senator JD Vance of Ohio, have also



spent time with Trump on policy topics.

Biden's halting and disjointed performance in his June debate with Trump ultimately led him to him dropping out of the race. Trump's aides are expected to handle preparations similarly for his debate with Harris, scheduled for September 10, NYT reported.

Notably, Gabbard brings some key qualities to Trump's role: She's a woman, at a moment when Trump is for a second time facing a woman as his general election rival; she's a former House member, giving her policy experience; and, perhaps most importantly for Trump, she has been on a debate stage with Harris and delivered a stinging attack against her record as a prosecutor, agency reported.

However, Gabbard's attacks on Harris in the July 2019

debate, all came from the left.

She alleged that Harris, when she was a district attorney in San Francisco, "put over 1,500 people in jail for marijuana violations and then laughed about it when she was asked if she ever smoked marijuana." She also accused Harris of having obstructed evidence that could have let an innocent man leave death row, doing so only when a court "forced her to." Harris, on the other hand, replied that she was "proud of making a decision to not just give fancy speeches, or be in a legislative body and give speeches on the floor, but actually doing the work."

Following the debate, Harris mocked Gabbard's low standing in the polls. Eventually, Harris dropped out of that race in December 2019, and Gabbard did the same months later, in March 2020.

Outgoing Japan PM Fumio Kishida may meet Joe Biden in US next month: Report



TOKYO, Aug 17 (Agencies): Outgoing Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is finalising plans to visit the US in late September for the UN General Assembly and a possible meeting with President Joe Biden, agency reported on Saturday.

The visit may take place for several days starting on September 22, the report said, citing multiple government sources it did not identify.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry and Prime Minister's Office did not

respond to calls and requests for comment by agency.

Kishida on Wednesday dropped out of the leadership race for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), meaning he will step down as prime minister when his term as party leader ends in late September.

The date of the LDP election is not yet set. It could be as early as September 20, in which case Kishida would likely address the General Assembly after Japan's parliament, where the LDP has a

majority, has chosen his replacement as prime minister, according to the Yomiuri.

Some in the Japanese government think Kishida's successor should not develop close ties with Biden, the newspaper said.

Biden, who dropped out of November's US presidential election, was replaced as the Democratic Party nominee last month by Vice President Kamala Harris. She faces the Republican candidate, former President Donald Trump.

Homesick student in Canada to US vice president: Kamala Harris' journey

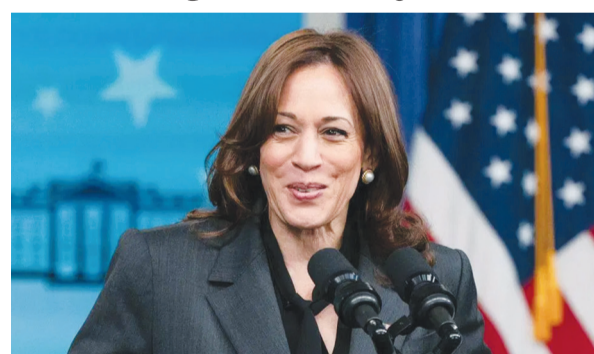
MONTREAL, Aug 17 (Agencies): Kamala Harris spent her adolescence in Montreal often pining for her California hometown, but former Canadian classmates remember the American presidential candidate as an outgoing student with a big smile, who loved dancing.

It was in 1976 at the age of 12 that the vice president and Democratic candidate in this year's US presidential race discovered the harsh, cold winters of Canada's second-largest city.

Her divorced mother uprooted her and her sister Maya from their California hometown of Oakland to take a job researching cancer at Montreal's Jewish General Hospital.

"The thought of moving away from sunny California in February, in the middle of the school year, to a French-speaking foreign city covered in twelve feet of snow was distressing, to say the least," Harris recounted in her 2019 memoir.

The first woman, first African-American and



first Asian-American to become vice president of the United States, Harris has said little about her years in Canada and her biography on the White House website does not even mention them.

Although she didn't speak French when she arrived in Montreal, her mother insisted on enrolling her in a French-language school. After struggling to pick up French, she transferred to a bilingual school with artistic and musical programs and then to Westmount High School, an English-language public high school, where she graduated in 1981.

A diverse public school Harris was "very friendly, very outgoing. Nice to everybody," former classmate Anu Chopra Sharma told agency, describing her friend as a bright student who

took the time to help others. "We all had a tough time with French because we weren't native French speakers," she commented.

French is spoken by the majority in the province, but in the 1970s and 1980s tensions between English and French speakers peaked as a Quebec nationalist identity tied to the language of Moliere took shape -- marked by two failed referendums on Quebec independence.

Westmount High School, located in a wealthy and English-speaking borough of Montreal, accepted students from nearby neighbourhoods and so "a lot of the kids were working class," said former art teacher Mara Rudzitis.

The student body was

also ethnically diverse, drawing from Caribbean, Indian, Pakistani and Chinese immigrant communities.

'Always had stuff to say'

Active and very sociable, Harris, now 59, was at the time a member of various clubs and participated in a school fashion show.

As a young girl, born to a Jamaican father and an Indian mother, she found sisterhood in disco dance troupes "Super Six" and "Midnight Magic," according to a school yearbook.

Old photos show Harris and fellow dancers in glittery costumes busting a move. "She was always smiling, laughing, as you see her today. She was getting along with anybody," said her friend Dean Smith.

Rudzitis remembers a "very smart" teenager with a lot of friends, who loved learning and spending time in the art room during lunch breaks. She was eloquent and "always had stuff to say," she added, delighted to see her former student aspire to the presidency of the

United States.

It was also during her years in Canada that she decided on a career as a prosecutor, eventually working her way up to district attorney of California.

"When I was in high school, I had a best friend who I learned was being molested," Harris recounted in a September 2020 campaign video. "A big part of the reason I wanted to be a prosecutor was to protect people like her."

Her friend Wanda Kagan had stayed with Harris's family for several months after revealing she had been abused by her stepfather.

While Harris appeared to have made the best of her time in Canada, she admitted in her memoir to feeling "homesick" for the United States. "I felt this constant sense of yearning to be back home," she said.

Once she had completed her Canadian studies, she returned to the United States, where she attended Howard University in 1982, a historically black school in Washington that has been called the "Black Harvard."

Jammu District Kabaddi Association hosts inaugural ceremony of Gold Cup Tournament

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: The Jammu District Kabaddi Association hosted the inaugural ceremony of the much-anticipated Gold Cup Kabaddi Tournament on Saturday.

The event marks a significant milestone in the district's sporting calendar, aiming to promote and elevate the traditional sport of Kabaddi across the region.

The ceremony, held at Kabbadi field M A Stadium Jammu witnessed an enthusiastic gathering of players, coaches, sports enthusiasts, and dignitaries.

The Chief Guest for the event, Rajeev Sharma, Member Jand K Sports Council and Rohit Shas-



tri reputed astrologers and Baljinder Singh Divisional Sports Officer Jammu are guest of honour along with other guests, Kuldeep Kumar Gupta General Secretary J and K Amateur Kabaddi Association, Surinder Mohan, S.S Gill, Sangram Singh, Ajay Gupta,

Anil Sharma, Jeet Singh, Sudesh Raina, Manik Sharma and Dharamjeet. Singh inaugurated the tournament with a ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by a spirited opening match that set the tone for the competition. Rajeev Sharma praised

the Jammu District Kabaddi Association for its efforts in organizing the Gold Cup, emphasizing the importance of such events in nurturing local talent and fostering a sense of community through sports. "Kabaddi is not just a sport but a reflection of our cultural heritage. This tournament is an excellent platform for our youth to showcase their skills and sportsmanship," He remarked.

Secretary of the Jammu District Kabaddi Association, Sanjeet Sharma expressed gratitude to all participants, sponsors, and supporters for their contributions to making the event a reality. "The Gold Cup is a testament to our com-

mitment to the development of Kabaddi in Jammu. We are excited to see the best teams compete and bring glory to the district," Sanjeet Sharma stated.

The Gold Cup Kabaddi Tournament will feature teams from various parts of the district, competing over the next two days. The matches promise to be a display of strength, strategy, and sheer determination, with the winning team set to take home the prestigious Gold Cup trophy.

The Jammu District Kabaddi Association invites all sports lovers to come and support the teams, enjoy the thrilling matches, and be a part of this grand celebration of Kabaddi.

Senior Citizens of Paddar presents memorandum to Justice Teshi Rabstan

Top News Report

DODA, Aug 17: The Senior Citizens of Sub-Division Paddar, under the banner of the J&K Senior Citizens Council for Peace and Civil Rights, led by Abdul Majeed Bichoo warmly welcomed Justice Teshi Rabstan, Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, during his visit to Higher Secondary School Paddar in Atholi. The citizens took this opportunity to present a memorandum highlighting several pressing issues of the region.

In a memorandum, the people urged for the establishment of a permanent court at Atholi, citing

the unique topography and ancient history of the area, which has existed for over 14 centuries.

They also raised concerns about the inadequate compensation provided for land acquired by various government agencies, calling for revised rates that reflect current market values.

The delegation expressed apprehension over the potential relocation of the District Court Complex from Kishtwar, noting that such a move would cause significant hardship to rural residents of the district, which covers a vast area.

They emphasized the need for retaining the court within Kishtwar township to better serve

the local population.

The memorandum also highlighted the benefits of legal clinics in the area but stressed the need for improved access to these services. Furthermore, they pointed out the difficulties faced by residents in obtaining birth and death certificates due to the lack of internet connectivity in interior regions.

Abdul Majeed Bichoo, President of the J&K Senior Citizens Council for Peace and Civil Rights, the delegation expressed hope that the visit of Justice Teshi Rabstan would bring attention to these issues and lead to positive developments for the people of Paddar.

KCCI opposes Arbitrary change of Airport Parking policy

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 17: KCCI in its latest communication invited the attention of the Airport Authority to the undesirable new Airport Vehicle Entry/parking system introduced at the Srinagar Airport some time ago. It reminded Director AAI about The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) the meeting held with him on 5th August, 2024. The matter of arbitrary charges and harassment caused to commercial as well as private vehicles was discussed in detail.

Further, KCCI in its meeting held on 6th August, 2024 sought the intervention of the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir who assured of his support in arriving at a resolution of the controversy.

The KCCI believed that the matter of multiple entry / parking charges had been partly resolved. It was assured that the remaining issues of entry/parking / exit would be further addressed after the Independence Day Celebrations were over. However, it has been noticed that the problem has only worsened with KCCI receiving numerous complaints from commercial operators as well as private travellers against the unjustified and arbitrary charges being forcibly recovered.

despite the assurances to the contrary. The KCCI had demanded and again repeats its demand that the newly installed Toll Post be removed at once.

The un-called for long wait and traffic jam cause huge inconvenience to tourists. Business and private travellers, moreover, in view of the tourism activity having revived after many decades of lull. The new policy is earning us a bad reputation because such system nowhere else exists.

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) has received reports that in case the issue of drop time was not reviewed it would not be possible for commercial transporters to continue their services beyond Gate No 1 / Security Check Gate. Similar sentiments are being

expressed by local travellers.

KCCI believed that it is unheard of in any part of the country or the World that a toll post beyond a parking area exist. Why and under what circumstances the toll post has been put in place is baffling.

The KCCI believed that "One Nation One Policy" applies to the whole of India but why a different undesirable Parking policy has been adopted in Kashmir is not only discriminatory but undesirable as well.

The KCCI demanded that the newly introduced policy be forthwith withdrawn and the policy that existed previously restored at the earliest otherwise it will be termed as a "Kashmir Entry Cess" KCCI is hopeful about the issue getting resolved at the earliest.

GDC Neeli Nallah organizes Poster making competition

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Aug 17: Red Ribbon Club Government Degree College Neeli Nallah, Udhampur launched an intensified IEC Campaign for HIV/AIDS Awareness in collaboration with J&K Aids Control Society in which a Poster making competition was organized on "International Youth Day" on the theme "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development".

The event was conducted under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Seema Arora, Principal of the college. The purpose of the program was to create awareness among the students about this deadly disease.

A total of 15 students displayed their posters showcasing their creativity and depicting their ideas. Their exceptional artwork conveyed a

powerful message about community leadership in combating fatal disease.

Speaking on the occasion, the Principal emphasized the importance of knowing about AIDS for keeping one self away from this dreaded disease.

She deliberated on the causes and consequences of AIDS and made the students aware as to how can everyone play an active role in propagation of AIDS awareness among the common masses of the nation and entire world.

The Principal appreciated the efforts of the participants and congratulated them. Dr. Sunil Tanoch (HOD Sociology) was the Convenor of the event.

Others present in the event were Dr. Maansi Sharma, Prof. Rekha Sharma, Prof. Shaista Yasmeen, Rajeshwar Singh Jamwal.

Seva Foundation organizes free medical and health screening camp at Maratha Basti

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: In a remarkable initiative aimed at promoting community health, Seva Foundation successfully organized a Free Medical and Health Screening Camp at Maratha Basti, Trikuta Nagar. The camp provided vital healthcare services to the residents, ensuring that quality medical attention reached those in need.

The camp featured a comprehensive range of services, including consultations with a General Physician and an Orthopaedic Specialist. In addition to expert medical advice, the camp offered free tests and free medicines to all attendees, ensuring that the community received holistic healthcare without any financial burden.

The esteemed panel of

healthcare professionals included Dr. Ashwani Kumar (MS Ortho) from SDH Bishnah, who provided specialized orthopaedic care.

Dr. Kapil Gupta (MD Medicine) from SDH Kot Bhalwal, who offered expert consultations on general medical conditions.

Sh. Gurpreet Singh, Pharmacist from Urban Health Centre Nanak Nagar, who distributed the medicines and explained the patients about the intake of medicines.

The camp was organized by Seva Foundation in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Jammu. Vikas Pandita, Chairman of Seva Foundation, expressed his gratitude to these departments for their invaluable support in

making the camp a success.

The camp's organization was spearheaded by dedicated volunteers, including Pankul Abrol, Rohan Sharma, Nitish Gupta, Ishan Sharma and Karan Sharma.

Rohan Sharma provided detailed insights about the camp, highlighting its significance to the local community whereas Nitish Gupta made a heartfelt appeal to the youth, urging them to join Seva Foundation's initiatives in Blood Donation, Environmental Awareness, Medical Camps, Cleanliness Drives, and other Awareness Programs.

Seva Foundation remains committed to its mission of delivering accessible healthcare to all and will continue to organize such initiatives in the future.

JD(U) to contest in Assembly Elections in J&K

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Aug 17: The JD(U) Party high command convened a significant meeting in Delhi, attended by key leaders including G M Shaheen.

After extensive deliberations and a thorough analysis of the current political landscape, the JD(U) Party High Command has made a crucial decision regarding the upcoming assembly elections.

The party has resolved to contest the elections independently, choosing not to form any pre-poll alliances or collaborations with other political

entities.

This decision underscores the party's commitment to presenting a distinct and robust political vision to the electorate.

G M Shaheen, alongside the entire JD(U) National leadership, highlighted the importance of offering a clear and undiluted choice to the voters of Jammu and Kashmir.

The party's focus will be on addressing the pressing issues faced by the people and ensuring comprehensive development and prosperity in the region.

By contesting the elections independently, the JD(U) Party believes

it can more effectively advocate for the interests and aspirations of the people.

The party's campaign will be rooted in transparency, accountability, and a steadfast dedication to the welfare of the citizens.

The JD(U) Party urges all its members, supporters, and well-wishers to unite and work tirelessly to achieve a resounding victory in the forthcoming assembly elections.

The party is confident that, with the support of the people, it will emerge as a strong and effective force for positive change in Jammu and Kashmir.

Wadhwa delivers lecture in D.B.N Vidya Mandir

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: A special assembly was organized by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel House at D.B.N Vidya Mandir, Mubarak Mandi, under the guidance of Principal Vishu Dogra and teachers Mehak Sharma, Anandita Thakur, and Priya Sharma.

The highlight of the event was an enlightening lecture delivered by

Kewal Krishan Wadhwa, a well-known social activist.

Wadhwa's session focused on the critical importance of environmental preservation. He emphasized the need to keep the environment green through planting trees and adopting eco-friendly practices. His talk underscored the significance of banning single-use plastics and opting for handmade bags

instead of poly bags, as part of the Swacchta Pakhwada initiative.

The session was informative and engaging, leaving a lasting impact on the students regarding their role in environmental conservation. The assembly concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Principal Vishu Dogra, expressing gratitude for Wadhwa's valuable insights and contributions.

FROM PAGE 1

Tarun Chugh's book, "Modi's Governance Triumph: Reshaping India's Path to Prosperity" released

nation that, under Modi's leadership, has sought to overcome historical challenges and embrace opportunities for growth and development, read the handout.

In its concluding chapters, the book presents a forward-looking perspective on India's trajectory. It outlines an ambitious vision for the country's future, with a particular focus on the year 2047, marking the centennial of India's independence. The book envisions a future where India is not only a global economic powerhouse but also a model of inclusive and sustainable development, the handout said.

During the book release, Amit Shah emphasized the significance of the insights contained within the book, stating, "In the face of evolving global challenges, we must look to leaders like Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji, whose governance has not only met the moment but set a new standard for transformative change. The principles of good governance articulated in this book will be instrumental in guiding our ongoing efforts to ensure that the benefits of our democracy reach every citizen," Shah said.

G. Kishan Reddy praised the book's depiction of visionary leadership, noting, "The extensive research and analysis presented in 'Modi's Governance Triumph' serves as a testament to the power of forward-thinking leadership in steering the nation towards unprecedented levels of prosperity and resilience. The book's portrayal of progress and innovation is a clarion call for continued advancement and collaboration."

Tarun Chugh, reflecting on the purpose of his work, encouraged readers to extract valuable lessons from his analysis, asserting, "As we delve into the pages of 'Modi's Governance Triumph,' let us draw inspiration from the transformative achievements and challenges discussed therein. By embracing these lessons, we can work collectively to build a more inclusive, sustainable and forward-looking society."

He further added, "While we celebrate the significant milestones reached under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to address the future challenges with unity and resolve."

Heavy rain lashes part of J-K; MeT predicts more rainfall

water in a flash. The skies were clear on Friday evening. It is still raining, although, with less intensity," Shahida, from Budgam, told ANI. Roads were damaged in the Kangan area

of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal following heavy rainfall in the town.

A local told ANI, "Many areas have been affected due to floods following heavy rainfall...Naib tehsildar inspected the spot but no senior official has arrived at the spot... We request the administration to build check dams, and drains which have been encroached should be opened to allow the water to flow."

Shopkeepers have also begun clearing the mud outside their shops. On August 15, a cloudburst in the Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir triggered a flash flood.

The cloudburst was reported in Arin area of North Kashmir's Bandipora. The heavy rainfall caused widespread flooding, submerging many areas. However, there were no reports of casualties.

GMC Srinagar doctors, students protest in solidarity with the slain Kolkata doctor

Srinagar. The placards read, "Justice for Our Sister", "Safety for Doctors", and "End Violence Against Women". The interns marched solemnly while raising slogans,

demanding immediate action against the culprits.

A student at GMC Srinagar said, "We are here not as doctors but as human beings, pained to the core by the senseless violence that has taken the life of one of our own. This is not just an attack on a doctor; it is an attack on the dignity and safety of women everywhere. We demand that the authorities leave no stone unturned in bringing the culprits to justice."

They have also raised the bigger issue of doctors' safety, especially those who need to put in long hours at work in not-so-easy environments, reported news agency KB.

"We are committed to saving lives, but we are always under the threat of violence, be it in hospitals or outside. This cannot continue. The government should come up with more stringent laws and a safe working environment for all health workers," another GMC student said.

Similar protests erupted in different medical colleges and institutions in the country following the tragic incident in Kolkata.

The IMA has called for nationwide solidarity and demanded that the government take urgent action to ensure doctors' protection and a stringent punishment for the perpetrator of the crime.

Tourist couple smuggling charas from Kashmir granted bail by

Bombay High Court

reported the Mumbai police arrested their alleged supplier, Gulzar Khan, a resident of Kashmir, linking the smuggling operation back to the region. The family's connection to Kashmir and their repeated visits were crucial aspects of the investigation.

The couple sought bail on the grounds of parity, noting that Cynthia's mother, Clara Udanshive, had already been granted bail in September 2023. Gulzar Khan, the alleged supplier, had also been released due to procedural failures on the part of the police. The defence highlighted that despite being imprisoned for over two-and-a-half years, their trial had yet to commence, and there were no indications that it would proceed soon.

Justice NJ Jamadar, while reviewing the case, accepted the arguments presented by the defence. He emphasised the excessive pre-trial incarceration of almost three years and acknowledged the improbability of the trial concluding in a reasonable time. "Given the large pendency of cases, it is extremely unlikely that the trial can be concluded within a reasonable period," the court ruled according to the newspaper. The judge further noted that statutory restrictions on bail lose their weight when individuals are subjected to long periods of imprisonment without trial.

The bench also cited non-compliance with Section 52A of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, as a key factor in granting bail to Jassar Shaikh. The section mandates that samples of the narcotic must be taken before a magistrate in a reasonable period, a procedure the police had reportedly failed to follow.

AIPEF Federal Council meeting highlights issues facing power sector

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: A significant Federal Council meeting of the All India Engineers Federation (AIPEF) took place in Nagpur, Maharashtra. Chaired by Er Shailendra Dubey and with Er P. Ratnakar Rao serving as Secretary General, the meeting was attended by several key figures, including Er. Sachin Tickoo, Vice Chairman of AIPEF and General Secretary of JKEEGA; Rajeshwar Jammwal, Vice President of JKEEGA; and Ankush Gupta and Ankush Sharma, Provincial Secretaries of JKEEGA.

The session focused on pressing issues facing power engineers and employees in the power sector.

The discussions centered on the threats posed by privatization, both



direct and indirect, particularly through joint ventures and tariff-based competitive bidding (TBCB) in the transmission sector.

The meeting also addressed the shortcomings of central public sector units (PSUs) like RECPDCL, which are responsible for implementing smart metering projects across the country.

A key concern raised was the failure to replace faulty smart meters and

compromised quality control, resulting in numerous meters being damaged and honest consumers facing issues such as non-billing or cumulative billing errors.

Additionally, the problem of non-communicating meters and poor data management was highlighted, exacerbating the challenges faced by power sector employees who are now dealing with inadequate infrastructure managed by underper-

forming implementing agencies.

In terms of human resource issues in Jammu and Kashmir, the meeting expressed strong resentment over the ad-hocism and non-regularization of engineers and employees in the Power Development Department.

The resolution called for urgent action from the management of the power sector and political leaders to address these issues. It was noted that

the assured career progression scheme for Gazetted Engineering Services, implemented across the country, has yet to be adopted by the Jammu and Kashmir government.

Engineers in the region are facing prolonged suspensions and are being held accountable for infrastructure challenges and manpower shortages, with approximately 800 out of 2500 engineering positions currently vacant.

The AIPEF strongly urged the central government to avoid introducing privatization measures, citing the adverse effects on both employees and consumers.

The federation's appeal emphasized the need for better management and support for power sector employees to ensure effective and fair service delivery.

Director Agriculture Jammu inspects Mushroom Development Scheme, highlights key advances, innovations

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: Director Agriculture Jammu Arvinder Singh Reen on Saturday made a significant visit to the Mushroom and Spawn Section at Krishi Bhawan Jammu, to inspect the ongoing developmental work in mushroom cultivation.

During the visit, the Director reviewed the progress made in various aspects of mushroom production and spawn development, interacting with the staff to discuss current challenges and future plans.

This visit highlights the department's commitment to enhancing agricultural productivity and promoting mushroom farming as a viable livelihood option for farmers in the region.

During his visit, Director Reen was given an overview of the latest advancements in mushroom cultivation techniques and the ongoing research in spawn production.

He visited the Controlled

Conditioned Cropping Room, where 1,600 bags of Button Mushrooms are currently undergoing incubation and casing. He also inspected the Milky Mushroom Cropping Room.

Mushrooms not only offer a lucrative income alternative for farmers but also play a vital role in enhancing food security due to their substantial nutritional benefits, stated Director Reen.

He highlighted the critical role of mushrooms in sustainable agriculture and the department's commitment to integrating innovative technologies into mushroom production.

The Director was also briefed on the latest initiative under the Spawn Production Scheme, which focuses on introducing Paddy Straw Mushroom (*Volvariella volvacea*) to the region.

This initiative includes ongoing spawn production and cultivation trials aimed at expanding the variety of high-value crops available to local farmers.

He advised the staff to encourage progressive mushroom growers from the region, to adopt advanced technologies and practices in mushroom cultivation.

He underscored the importance of these innovations in improving yield quality and operational efficiency.

The Director also inspected the modern spawn production facilities, praising their role in ensuring the availability of disease-free, high-yield spawn. He commended the Mushroom and Spawn Section for its exceptional work and dedication.

The team of officers, including Deputy Director (Central) Dr. Ashwani Sharma, Agriculture Chemist Dr. Aman jyoti Sharma, Mushroom Development Officer Raghuvir Pal Kochar, Spawn Production officer Verinder Dogra, Subject Matter Specialist Kewal Sharma, besides staff of the department accompanied the Director during the visit.

Resident Doctors Association of ASCOMS Medical College and Hospital joins nationwide protest

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: The Resident Doctors Association (RDA) of ASCOMS Medical College and Hospital has expressed its strong solidarity with the nationwide protests following the tragic rape and murder of a resident doctor at RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata. This grievous incident has sparked a significant wave of protests across the country, reflecting deep concern within the medical community.

In response, the RDA, along with faculty and staff of ASCOMS Medical College and Hospital, is actively participating in these demonstrations. As part of the protest, all non-essential and elective hospital services, including outpatient departments (OPD), operating theaters (OTs), and ward services, have been suspended.



This heartbreaking event has profoundly affected the ASCOMS community, highlighting the urgent need for improved safety measures for healthcare professionals.

The RDA is calling on government authorities and medical bodies to address these safety concerns with immediate effect and to implement robust measures to protect healthcare workers. The collective response

underscores the medical community's united resolve to combat violence and ensure a safer working environment for all professionals.

The unity demonstrated by the ASCOMS Medical College and Hospital community is a powerful statement against such acts of violence and a plea for meaningful action to safeguard those who dedicate their lives to caring for others.

Illegal mining is continuing unabated in rivers, ravines in Kathua: Manuj Kesar

Top News Report

KATHUA, Aug 17: Chairman of Sparsh India Foundation, Manuj Kesar, while expressing his opposition to the ongoing illegal mining in Kathua, said that illegal mining is continuing unabated in the rivers and ravines in Kathua.

All these illegal activities are done by mining mafias, who have full support of mining as well as police, due to which illegal mining work is done in broad daylight. It is free for all in the unrestricted Basantpur area.

Every day, hundreds of overloaded trucks of

minerals are being sent from Kathua to Punjab via Lakhapur and Kidiya. Miners use trucks and tippers to transport sand and gravel without any fear.

Hundreds of truckloads of minerals are being sent to Punjab without royalty payment receipts. But the mining department and police are not imposing any stop.

Manuj Kesar has demanded from the Director Mining Department and DGP Police Department that illegal mining should be stopped soon so that the ravines and rivers can be protected from the mining mafia.

Mubassir Latifi assumes charge as I/C DIG (Pers) at PHQ

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 17: Mubassir Latifi, on Saturday assumed charge as the In-charge Deputy Inspector General of Police (Pers.) at Police Headquarters (PHQ), succeeding DIG Shri M Suleman Choudhary.

A formal handing over and taking over of charge ceremony was held between the officers.

Latifi has served the department in various capacities including DySP SOG Sopore, DySP Hqrs. Jammu, SDPO Shopian, SDPO Nowshera, Addl SP Jammu, SP South Jammu, SP Ramban, SP Kulgam, SP Rajouri, SP Crime Jammu, AIG (Pers) PHQ, AIG (Prov/Tpt) PHQ, CO-IRP-15th Bn., and CO-IRP-10th Bn.

District Jammu Rollball C'ship from August 27

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: Rollball Association of Jammu and Kashmir is conducting District Jammu Rollball Championship from August 27 and 28, 2024 at M.A. Stadium, Skating Rink, Jammu.

About 150 players are likely to participate in the aforesaid Championship which is being organized with the collaboration of Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, a hand-out issued here today said. Only registered players will be allowed to participate in aforesaid Championship, it added.

Those interested players have been advised to report to contact Madhu Sharma (7006037804), Vishali Bagal (9086569018) and Rohit Charak (788962412).

Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre holds free multi-speciality health camp

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre organised a free Multi-Speciality Health Camp here on Saturday.

The camp featured prominent specialists including Dr. S. K. Bali, specialized in kidney diseases (Nephrology), Dr. Jaspreet Singh, a diabetologist and endocrinologist, and Dr. Suby Kakkar, a dermatologist and cosmetologist, Dr. Sudesh Gupta, a Ayurvedic Surgeon from GAMC Akhnoor and Dr. Shailesh, GAMC Akhnoor.

A total 351 of patients benefited from the expertise of 16 doctors at this camp.

In addition to these specialized services, the health camp also provided free consultations in Physician (Allopathy), ENT, Gynaecologist, Dental Surgeons, Orthopaedics, Eye Specialist, Gynaecologist and Physiotherapist.

Distinguished guests including Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Balwinder Singh, President Rotary Club, Ramnik Singh, R. S. Jammwal, Sunil Thussu, Manjit Singh, Dr. Neeru Kharu graced the event with their presence.

Arvind Karwani commended the Centre's efforts in alignment with Swami Vivekananda's vision and urged public support for such humanitarian initiatives. He also came forward to help us in any way possible.

The camp also facilitated 50 haemoglobin tests, 85 free blood sugar tests and distributed medicines free of charge.

For other information contact us on number 9596984032. Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu provides cultural, educational and medical services following the ideals of Sri Ramakrishna Dev, Maa Sarada and Swami Vivekananda.

ABVP JU demands Justice for Rape and Murder Victim Mamta Banerjee resign as a CM of West Bengal: Sannak

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu University unit on Saturday staged a fervent protest and burnt effigy of Mamata Banerjee outside the Central Library in Jammu University to express its outrage and condemnation of the horrific rape and murder incident in Kolkata. The students demanded swift and stringent action from the government to address the growing menace against women.

Addressing the gathering, State Joint Secretary Sannak Shrivats emphasized the deep-rooted frustration among students over the government's perceived inaction in the wake of this



heinous crime.

Mamta have to Resign and demands President rule in Bengal because Bengal law an order is not in control of state government

ABVP asserted that the lack of concrete steps to prevent such atrocities is unacceptable and demanded immediate measures to ensure the safety of women.

University Vice Presi-

dent Shivam Sharma shows deep concern over the rising number of crimes against women in a state where the Chief Minister herself is a woman is extremely worrying.

Mamata Banerjee is hand in glove with those who provide protection to criminals who commit rape, murder and criminal acts in West Bengal.

The protest served as

a platform for students to voice their anger and demand accountability from the authorities. The ABVP called upon the government to implement stringent laws and policies to deter such crimes and provide adequate support to victims.

The students vowed to continue their fight for justice and urged the public to join the movement for a safer society for women.

CSIR-IIIM celebrates 142nd Birth Anniversary of Col. R.N Chopra

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu celebrated 142nd Birth Anniversary of Col. R.N.Chopra, the Founder Director of IIIM, here today. To commemorate his birth anniversary, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu along with Scientists, Technical & Administrative Staff, Scholars and other workers paid reverential homage to him by offering floral tribute over the statue of Col.R.N.Chopra. The CSIR-IIIM family proudly commemorated his Birthday to cherish the vision & excellence of this great son of the soil.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed while addressing the staff, on the occasion, recalled Colonel Chopra's great contributions toward advance-



ment of Indian systems of medicine. The recommendations of the Committee on Indigenous Systems of Medicine at which he had presided brought focus on the Indian systems and the process for their consolidation started during his time only. Dr. Ahmed said, "Though the integration of Indian and Western Systems still remains a far cry but a beginning was made by him for preparing the Ayurvedic and Unani pharmacopoeias through the respective committees chaired by him" and added that Col.R.N.Chopra was a pride of Jammu, known

as father of Indian Pharmacology, who at that time when no facilities were available, had done quite remarkable work on Cannabis and other potential medicinal plants. He had for the first time introduced the Mentha arvensis, to India, and brought it under cultivation by which India became its largest exporter in the world.

Dr. Ahmed entrusted his S&T colleagues of CSIR-IIIM that real tribute to this great scientist would be if we endeavour hard to accomplish his dreams of doing cutting edge science for globalization

of our indigenous knowledge which would have far reaching impact particularly in the healthcare system.

Prominent among many other present were Er. Abdul Rahim, Head RMBD & IST and Head Branch Lab. Srinagar, Dr. Shashank K Singh, Sr. Principal Scientist, Dr. Dhiraj Vyas, Head, Plant Sciences and Agrotechnology Division (PSA), Dr. Deepika Singh, Head, Quality Management & Instrumentation Division and Dr. Saurabh Saran, I/C Technology Business Incubator and AIC.

Vinesh Phogat returns to grand welcome after Paris Olympics heartbreak

Phogat had to stay back in Paris after she had appealed to Court of Arbitration for Sport for a joint silver which was eventually dismissed on Wednesday

NEW DELHI, Aug 17 (Agencies): Celebrated wrestler Vinesh Phogat received a grand welcome on her return to the country with hundreds of supporters gathering outside the IGI airport, showing immense solidarity with her here on Saturday.

Stars such as Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and panchayat leaders received Vinesh, who endured a heartbreaking exit at the Paris Olympics where she was disqualified for being overweight on the day of her 50kg final.

Heavily garlanded, Vinesh stood in an open Jeep and thanked all the supporters. "I thank the entire country," she said, her hands folded in humility.

There was a thick security cover as Phogat, who was found



100 grams overweight, landed in the national capital. The huge caravan will follow Vinesh to her village Balali in Haryana. Vinesh had to stay back in

Paris after she had appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport for a joint silver which was eventually dismissed on Wednesday. London Olympics bronze

medal-winning shooter Gagan Narang, who was the chef de mission of the Indian contingent in Paris, called her a champion, posting a photo with Phogat at the Paris airport. Both of them were on the same flight to Delhi.

"She came as a champion on day 1 into the games village and she will always remain our champion. Sometimes one doesn't need an Olympic medal to inspire a billion dreams.. @vineshphogat you have inspired generations. Salute to your grit," Narang posted on X.

"Vinesh is returning to the country. People have come here at the (Delhi) airport to welcome her. People are also waiting to welcome her at our village. People are excited to meet Vinesh and encourage her," her brother Harvinder Phogat said.

Paralympics: Devendra Jhajharia optimistic about India's 25-medal haul in Paris

NEW DELHI, Aug 17 (Agencies): Despite the suspension of star para-shuttler Pramod Bhagat, the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) president Devendra Jhajharia remains optimistic about India's prospects at the upcoming Paris Paralympics. Jhajharia expressed confidence that the Indian contingent would achieve its ambitious target of securing at least 25 medals, even as the absence of Bhagat casts a shadow over the team.

The Indian contingent, consisting of 84 athletes across 12 disciplines, is set to compete in the Paralympics scheduled in Paris from August 28 to September 8. Bhagat, a gold medalist at the Tokyo Paralympics and a five-time para world champion was recently handed an 18-month suspension by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) for violating anti-doping regulations, making him ineligible for the Paris Games.

Speaking to agency Bhasha,

Jhajharia, a two-time Paralympics gold medal-winning javelin thrower, acknowledged the significance of Bhagat's absence but reiterated that the medal target remains unaffected. "Pramod Bhagat is undoubtedly a star athlete, but our target of 25 medals is based on the current contingent of 84 players. Pramod Bhagat is not included in this calculation," he said. "His absence is unfortunate, but we cannot do anything about it."

Jhajharia, who has been closely monitoring the athletes' preparations, expressed confidence in the team's abilities. "You may think I am exaggerating, but I have seen the practice sessions of our players. We have worked hard on their physical fitness and mental strength," he asserted. India ranked 24th at the Tokyo Paralympics, bringing home 19 medals, including five gold. This time, the PCI has set its sights on improving that tally and breaking into the top 20 in the medal standings.



The Indian contingent for Paris is larger than the previous Games, with athletes competing in new disciplines, including Blind Judo, Para Sailing, and Para Cycling. Jhajharia expects the athletics team to deliver the highest number of medals. "We have 38 track and field athletes, and I am expecting the most medals from them," he said.

Additionally, the contingent features 47 debutants, and Jhajharia hopes new stars will emerge. "Despite this being

these players are very confident and mentally strong," he added.

Bhagat's suspension, announced by the BWF earlier this week, followed a ruling by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) Anti-Doping Division, which found him in breach of anti-doping regulations due to three whereabouts failures within 12 months.

Bhagat's appeal to the CAS Appeals Division was rejected last month.

"Because of Harsh steps I have taken...": Jay Shah's straight talk on Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan



NEW DELHI, Aug 17 (Agencies): The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has made it mandatory for all the centrally contracted players, who are fit and off national duty, to participate in domestic cricket. Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer are the ones who have already been at the receiving end of the Board's fury for not playing domestic cricket when possible. The two players were excluded from the list of central contracts that was announced by BCCI earlier this year as they missed out on domes-

tic games despite being fit and also away from international circuit.

Both Iyer and Kishan are part of the upcoming Duleep Trophy that is set to start on September 5. BCCI secretary Jay Shah has said that the two players have taken the decision as a result of BCCI's harsh action.

"If you look Duleep Trophy squad, apart from Rohit and Virat rest are going to play. It's because of the harsh steps I have taken, Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan are playing Duleep Trophy," Jay

Shah told agency.

"We have been little strict. When Ravindra Jadeja had got injured, I was the one who called him and asked him to play a domestic game. It's certain now, whoever gets injured and goes out, can only come into the Indian team after proving his fitness in domestic cricket," he added.

Notably, the likes of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Hardik Pandya and Jasprit Bumrah have been allowed to rest as part of workload management. India now play their next game after a month. They will be taking on Bangladesh in a two-match Test series, starting September 19.

"It doesn't make sense to add to Virat and Rohit's load by asking them to play domestic cricket. They run the risk of getting injured. You also need to look at England and Australia. None of their top players play domestic cricket. We must treat our players respectfully and not treat them like servants," said the BCCI secretary.

5Km in 30 minutes, gym, batting: How India star Sarfaraz Khan has kept fitness in five months of no cricket

NEW DELHI, Aug 17 (Agencies): After making his debut in the India-England Test series in February, Indian domestic run-scoring stalwart Sarfaraz Khan hasn't played a competitive match in five months. The 26-year-old batter last played in the fifth and final Test of the series, where he scored 56 off just 60 balls in India's only innings. Sarfaraz - who had a prolonged wait before his Test debut - isn't guaranteed a middle-order slot for India, as Virat Kohli and KL Rahul are set to return. Yet, the batsman has kept up a gruelling practice routine, and aims to get among the runs in the ongoing Buchi Babu cricket tournament.

"There is nothing called off-season for me," said Sarfaraz to agency, speaking about his fitness regime. "I would wake up by 4.15 am and by 4.30 am, I will start the day with long-distance running. It was very helpful to improve my fitness because by the end of the month, I was able to run 5 km in half an hour.

"...once I'm done with my running, I would hit the gym. So the first half of the day was allotted for fitness and fielding drills. The batting part would begin in the evening," elaborated Sarfaraz.

Sarfaraz came under widespread criticism for his bulky figure and fitness concerns ahead of his selection, but quickly put the doubts to bed, as he piled up 200 runs in his first three Tests.

With India's World Test Championship (WTC) 2023-25 cycle continuing with two Tests against Bangladesh in September, a spot in the XI is not guaran-



ted. However, Sarfaraz is ready to put in the hard yards first. Sarfaraz is representing Mumbai in the Buchi Babu Invitation Cricket Tournament 2024, before he plays for India B in the rebranded Duleep Trophy.

Sarfaraz explained why getting match practice is more important for him.

"I've not had this level of practice in Mumbai because of the rains. You are just facing a bowling machine, side-arm throwers or sometimes bowlers in indoor facilities. But I don't like batting indoors because the ball comes nicely onto the bat. It is not the case on turf because it will challenge you a lot," said Sarfaraz.

Having had to wait till February 2024 to make his Test debut despite averaging nearly 70 in first-class cricket, Sarfaraz has maintained that he heads into games with no expectations.

"I have zero expectations... But I'll be ready if the opportunity arises. That is what I've been doing all along and I don't see any reason to change that," he said.

Salman Butt questions Pakistan's coaching staff for players' sub-par fitness

ISLAMABAD, Aug 17 (Agencies): Former Pakistan cricketer Salman Butt questioned the national team's coaching staff for the below-par fitness levels of players. Notably, Pakistan's poor fielding grabbed attention during their dismal T20 World Cup 2024 performance. The Babar Azam-led side gave away easy runs in the Group game against the USA and ended up suffering an embarrassing loss.

They further lost their next game against the arch-rivals India as they failed to chase down a low score of 120 which put them on the verge of elimi-

nation. Pakistan were eventually knocked out of the tournament with two wins to their names from four matches against Ireland and Canada.

Commenting on the team's poor fielding, Butt said that following the T20 World Cup debacle, the focus shifted on the junior level cricketers who were asked to toil hard but the same coaching staff is still there.

"Entire Pakistan is talking about the fitness of the team and it brought a storm in Pakistan, players at the junior level were asked to run. This came after people said players weren't fit in the T20 World Cup 2024.

No one questioned the physios or trainers, but instead, they started making players at the district level push hard for fitness. Those who made errors are still there," said Butt on YouTube Channel.

Further speaking ahead, Butt praised Babar Azam for proving his fitness for the past two years alongside scoring runs. The former opening batter also asserted that it's the responsibility of players to maintain their fitness.

"Babar Azam scored truckloads of runs in the last 2 years, he proved his fitness, he ran on the field, and scored runs while

batting first as well as second innings. Things should go up but they are getting broken in the middle, which is wrong. So, this is the responsibility of the players to maintain their fitness," he added.

Meanwhile, Pakistan will take on Bangladesh in two-match Test series beginning from August 21.

Babar hasn't been in the best of forms since 2023 in the longest format having no half centuries to his name. Hence, the former will be eager to get amongst the runs and help his team continued their unbeaten runs against the Bangla Tigers.

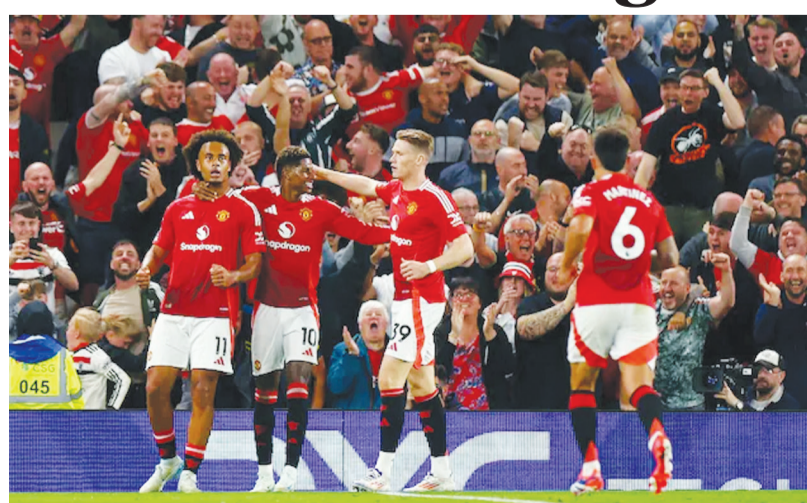
Premier League: Manchester United beat Fulham 1-0 after late Zirkzee debut goal

MANCHESTER, Aug 17 (Agencies): The Premier League 2024-2025 opener saw Manchester United carve out a positive start to their campaign on top of a narrow 1-0 win over Fulham on August 17 at the Old Trafford stadium, courtesy of a late goal from the side's new signing, Joshua Zirkzee. After what had been a majorly tight game, United's new number 11, Zirkzee netted a goal in the 87th minute of the game to give Erik ten Hag's side a win over Marco Silva's Fulham.

As far as the positives are concerned for the Red Devils, the match saw United boast a much more poised possession play in

the match which Ten Hag had long been aiming to implement in the squad. United also featured their other two big summer signings, Noussair Mazraoui, who started the match at the left-back position, and also Matthijs De Ligt, who came on in the 81st minute of the game.

Ten Hag still mixing things up. On the other hand, United showcased a lack of clinical finishing to their game against Fulham, which saw them come close to scoring multiple times across the full-length of the game but struggle right in front of the goal. Surprisingly, Ten Hag had only brought on Zirkzee, their major forward option in the



squad, only in the 61st minute of the game. Till then, United had

been playing with Bruno Fernandes enjoying the more central

attacking role along with the occasional Marcus Rashford filling in from the left.

This might make one wonder whether Erik ten Hag is yet to have full trust in using Zirkzee as a starting option, specifically with Rasmus Hojlund yet to make a return from injury.

Defensive resilience. United boasted a rather composed backline, with the likes of Harry Maguire being the true standout of the match. After a couple of tumultuous years at United, Maguire seemed to have finally found his element under Erik ten Hag. Maguire often became the final and the most trustworthy

man at the United defence against Fulham, and was also significantly impressive with his occasional forward runs.

Although, United's other centre-back, Lisandro Martinez, did produce a few slips at the back in the match, the backlog was often covered by none other than Casemiro, who certainly started off his redemption journey on a strong foot forward. De Ligt, despite his short time on the field against Fulham, managed to show some promising touches. With Leny Yoro out injured, this United defence has given a good and confident highlight for coach Ten Hag to take breather out of.

President KPC condemns elections without addressing fundamental issues of KP community

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: Kundan Kashmiri, President of the Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC), expressed deep frustration and sorrow over the announcement of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

He described the announcement as a cruel reminder of the ongoing plight of the Kashmiri Pandits, who have been living in exile for over three decades.

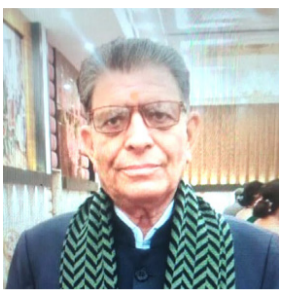
For the Kashmiri Pandit community, the upcoming elections are not just an exercise of democratic rights but a painful continuation of their disenfranchisement and the erasure of their cultural and historical legacy.

Kundan Kashmiri emphasized that the

Kashmiri Pandits were forced out of their homes in the early 1990s due to a wave of terrorism that specifically targeted their community. Since then, they have lived as unrecognized refugees in their own country, cut off from the land they once called home. Despite their contributions to the nation and their unwavering commitment to India, their voices have been consistently ignored in the political discourse surrounding Jammu and Kashmir.

He condemned the announcement of elections without addressing the fundamental issues faced by the Kashmiri Pandit community as a betrayal by the government and politicians in power.

He further stated that



conducting elections without considering the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits would only serve to legitimize the actions of those who drove them out. It is a mockery of justice to hold elections in a region where a significant portion of its original inhabitants have not been properly rehabilitated.

Kundan Kashmiri called on the Government of India to recognize that democracy is not just about the majority but about protecting the

rights of minorities and ensuring their safety and representation.

The silence of the government on the issue of displaced Kashmiri Pandits, he said, speaks volumes. It is not enough to focus on development and integration without addressing the core issue of Kashmiri Pandit rights, as the indigenous people of Kashmir. Holding elections without ensuring their proper rehabilitation is akin to erasing their history, culture, and existence.

Kundan Kashmiri made a strong appeal to the Government of India, demanding justice and the right of Kashmiri Pandits to return to their homeland, to live together as a community in one place with dignity and under the protec-

tion of the Indian Constitution. He insisted that the elections in Jammu and Kashmir should not proceed without a comprehensive plan for the consolidated rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits. Anything less, he warned, would be a failure of democracy and a betrayal of the principles on which India stands.

In his concluding remarks, Kundan Kashmiri urged the nation to rise in support of the Kashmiri Pandits' rightful demand for justice, declaring that the time for empty promises is over and that decisive action is now required. For displaced Kashmiri Pandits, he asserted, these elections hold no meaning without addressing their long-standing grievances.

SPPND GDC Samba felicitates Abhishek Sharma former DC Samba



Top News Report

SAMBA, Aug 17: Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Government Degree College Samba hosted a heartfelt felicitation ceremony to honor the Abhishek Sharma, former Deputy Commissioner, Samba.

The event celebrated his significant contributions to the college and the local community during his tenure.

The ceremony commenced with traditional lamp lighting followed by a warm and respectful felicitation of former Deputy Commissioner, Samba, with Principal Dr. Twinkle Suri presenting him with a memento in recognition of his outstanding service.

In her welcome address, the Principal appreciated the immense contribution of former DC Samba towards the development of Samba district and exhorted that his tenure set high standard

of excellence and dedication leaving a lasting legacy and that the leadership shall be remembered with respect and gratitude.

She highlighted that under his leadership the district administration facilitated varied initiatives of the college like internships, infrastructure development, and establishment of Gyan Vatika—a book reading club among others.

The students of the college further enriched the ceremony with a patriotic group song and a solo Dogri performance by the talented Mridula Jasrotia, showcasing their artistic skills and patriotic spirit. A special segment of the program was dedicated to recognizing the achievements of the RDC Cadets, Senior Cadet Captain Naman Singh Jamwal, Senior Cadet Captain Sneghi Sambhal and Cadet Captain Aniket who were felicitated for their exemplary service

and dedication.

The highlight of the event was former DC's address, where he reflected on his time at the college and expressed gratitude for the support and collaboration from the college administration.

He reiterated that India is a culturally rich and diverse society, wherein teamwork is important to achieve milestones and the students should imbibe this in their day today lives.

The ceremony concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Banpreet Kaur, Coordinator IQAC, who expressed collective gratitude for the contributions of former DC and the continued support of all attendees. Dr. Shaveta Chowdhary compered the proceedings of the event.

The college faculty extends its deepest gratitude to Abhishek Sharma (IAS) for his exceptional service and wishes him continued success in his future endeavors.

Ladakh pushes forward: 5th meeting reviews progress on 4G Saturation Projects held

Top News Report

LEH, Aug 17: The Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, UT of Ladakh Dr Pawan Kotwal convened a follow-up meeting to review the implementation progress and development of 4G Saturation Project in the Union Territory of Ladakh. This meeting follows a previous one held two weeks earlier, reflecting the administration's commitment to accelerating the projects implementation. The project which includes the installation of 241 4G BTS/Tower sites, aims to extend voice and data connectivity to the remote districts. The meeting took place at the Civil Secretariat, Leh.

The discussion and deliberations focused on the developments since the last meeting, evaluating the measures taken to overcome the challenges identified earlier, including geographical barriers, adverse weather conditions, and logistical constraints. The meeting highlighted the importance of continuing the momentum and proposed further strategies to address any

remaining bottlenecks. To ensure consistent progress, it was resolved to strengthen the task force established in the previous meeting, with additional resources dedicated to weekly monitoring and reporting.

Dr Pawan Kotwal reiterated the critical importance of the 4G Saturation Project in bridging Ladakh's digital divide, emphasising its potential to drive economic growth, enhance education, and improve healthcare service through telemedicine. The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to fast-track the completion of the 4G saturation Project, recognizing its transformative impacts on Ladakh's journey towards becoming a digitally inclusive region.

The meeting was attended by Amit Sharma, IAS, Secretary (IT/ Telecom) Administration of UT of Ladakh; Vikram Singh, IAS, Secretary (PDD); Santosh Sukhadeve, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Leh; Kacho Feroz Khan, Executive Councillor LAHDC Kargil; Dhawan Rawat, IFS, Wildlife Warden,

Leh; Tundup Spalzung, SE (PDD); Shrikant Bala-saheb Suse, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Kargil; Sandeep Govil, Director (Mobile) BSNL Board; Saurabh Tyagi, CGM (T), BSNL, J&K Circle; Kush Kumar, PGM, BSNL, J&K and Ladakh UT; Hari Om Solanki, General Manager, BSNL, Leh; Siva Rao, Vice President, M/s Pace Digitech, Bengaluru; Kewal Kundan, Area Manager, TCS, Leh; Brigadier, AS Bains, CSO, HQ 14 Corps; Col Tega Singh, Deputy Chief Signal Officer, HQ 14 Corps; Army 14 Corps (Signals): Col Sudeep Mishra, SM, Director Wks, (BRO, Himank); Lt Colonel Harbir Singh Gill, Joint Director, Works (BRO, Himank); Maj Ankur Laghate, Officer Commanding, 55RCC; Ram Krishan, AE (Civil) Kargil; Baljinder Lakha, AE (Civil) Mulbek; Col. Porje; General Manager (Kargil), NHIDCL; Aaqib Nazir Wani, Manager (Kargil), NHIDCL; Skalzung Dawa, Project Manager IT/Telecom, UT Ladakh. The officials stationed outside attended the meeting through VC.

AAP Jammu mourns demise of Retd Maj Gen Jamwal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: A condolence meeting of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Jammu, was held at the AAP Party office in Laxmipuram, Chinore, within the Jammu North Assembly Constituency.

The gathering was convened to express profound grief, sorrow, and pain over the passing of the esteemed "Dogra Warrior," Retired Major General Rajinder Singh Jamwal. Even in his later years, Maj Gen Jamwal served as a think tank for the Aam Aadmi Party in Jammu and Kashmir, dedicating his life to the upliftment of the masses.

AAP leaders paid tribute to Maj Gen Jamwal, describing him as a symbol of simplicity, honesty, and integrity. His unwavering commitment to serving the downtrodden and marginalized communities of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state was highlighted as a testament to his lifelong dedication to social justice.

The attendees prayed for eternal peace for



the departed soul and extended their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, offering them strength and courage to bear this irreparable loss.

The meeting was attended by prominent AAP members, including S. Deep Singh (Founder & National Council Member), Farooq Ahmed Bandy, R.S. Chauhan, Sakinder Azam, Nirmal Mahna, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, S. Ravinder Singh, Amit Langer, S.S. Jamwal, Agya Kour, Ram Pal Khajuria, Romesh Lal Bhagat, Adv. Arvind Bhandral, Adv. Dalvinder Kumar Bhagat, Suresh Bhagat, Ashni Matoo, S. Ranjodh Singh, G.N. Khan, Sandeep Parihar, Sham Lal Thakur, and others.

Rally to address issues of senior citizens on Aug 21

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: To celebrate World Senior Citizens Day, the Senior Citizens Support Club, in collaboration with various organizations and social groups, will host a significant rally on August 21.

The participating groups include Duggar Manich, Nami Dogra Sanstha, representatives from Chambers of Commerce & Industry, SCSS Club, Chowdi, FANS represented by Maj. Gen. SK Sharma, JK TV channel, DADAA represented by Janak Khajuria, Team India of Zowrawar Singh, educational institutions, and cultural activists.

Over 350 volunteers, including members from educational institutions, the Senior Citizens Support Service Club, Dogra organizations, and other social activists, will take part in the event. The walk will commence from two locations: the park adjoining the cremation ground in Channi Himmat and Panj Mandir,

Channi Himmat, at 9 AM, and will converge at the Panch Mandir grounds in Channi Himmat, Jammu, by 10 AM.

The rally aims to garner support through social media to raise awareness about the challenges in geriatric care and to unify organizations and social groups around the common goal of improving the care and dignity of the elderly.

The managing committee, formed by the club, is responsible for organizing the rally to ensure extensive local and regional coverage, enhancing the rally's impact and reaffirming the Senior Citizens Support Service Club's commitment to restoring the dignity of the elderly.

Dr. Kasturilal Lal, the chairman of the club, endorsed the initiative to use social networks to inform the public about issues related to geriatric care. He highlighted the immense psychological trauma experienced by the elderly due to isola-

tion and the neglect from families who are often preoccupied with personal gain.

The challenges faced by the elderly include material exploitation, financial deprivation, property grabbing, abandonment, verbal humiliation, and emotional and psychological torment.

To address these issues, the club suggests creating clubs, libraries, and recognition programs for the elderly to appreciate their contributions. However, it is emphasized that traditional social institutions, such as family kinship, neighborhood bonding, community participation, and sensitivity from relatives, are crucial for restoring the dignity and well-being of the elderly.

This rally is a call to action for a more equitable and efficient provision of services and support for those in need, reaffirming a commitment to the well-being and respect of the elderly.

Sajad Reshi welcomes Assembly elections in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 17: Er. Sajad Reshi, IT Head of the J&K BJP Minority Morcha, has welcomed the Chief Election Commission of India's decision to conduct the upcoming Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir in three phases.

The polling is scheduled for September 18, September 25, and October 1, with the counting of votes set for October 4.

Er. Reshi praised the decision as a significant step in strengthening the democratic process in Jammu & Kashmir. He highlighted that the phased approach to the elections would ensure a smooth and organized process, facilitating better management and participation by the people in this crucial democratic exercise.

He also noted the positive reception of the announcement by the local populace, viewing it as a reaffirmation of the Election Commission's commitment to upholding democratic principles



in the region.

Er. Reshi expressed confidence that the upcoming elections would be conducted fairly and transparently, paving the way for a brighter and more prosperous future for the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

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