

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

**J&K will pass resolution against ending Article 370 after polls: Omar Abdullah**

SRINAGAR, Aug 18 (Agencies): National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah has called for the first order of business for the upcoming Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly to be the passage of a resolution rejecting the changes imposed on August 5, 2019.

Abdullah stressed that this resolution should make it clear to both the people of India and the international community that the people of Jammu & Kashmir do not agree with the decisions made on 5 August 2019.

He added that this is a crucial step before beginning to undo what was done to the region.

In an interview with NDTV, he said "I believe the first order of business of the Legislative assembly of J&K should be to make it known (through a resolution) not just to the people of India but to the world at large that the people of J&K do not agree with what happened to us on August 5, 2019."

"And then we start undoing what was done to us," he said.

**Adv Manzoor Ganai resigns from DPAP**

SRINAGAR, Aug 18 (Agencies): Senior leader and Working Committee Member of Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), Advocate Manzoor Ahmad Ganai has resigned from the party.

"I had been quite aloof from all and every activity of the said party, and quit the party," Ganai said in a statement.

**Vice-Chairman DDC Kupwara resigns from PC after being denied ticket**

SRINAGAR, Aug 18 (Agencies): Vice-Chairman District Council Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad along with his workers on Sunday resigned from Peoples Conference after being denied a ticket for contesting forthcoming elections from Lolab Assembly segment.

In a statement issued to news agency—Kashmir News Observer

## Kolkata Police summon ex-BJP MP, 2 doctors for 'revealing' rape victim's identity

KOLKATA, Aug 18 (Agencies): Kolkata Police have issued summonses to former BJP MP Locket Chatterjee and two renowned doctors for allegedly spreading rumours and disclosing the identity of the woman doctor who was raped and murdered at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital, an officer said.

Apart from these three persons, the police have



also issued summonses to 57 others for spreading wrong information about the incident, he said.

Dr Kunal Sarkar and Dr Subarna Goswami were issued summonses to appear before officers of the Kolkata Police

Headquarters in Lalbazar at 3 pm on Sunday, he added.

These people have been accused of revealing the identity of the victim, spreading rumours and fake news, the officer said.

When contacted, renowned cardiologist Dr Sarkar said he has received the summons from the police asking him to appear before the officers at Lalbazar.

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## Wife of fallen DySP Humayun Bhat reflects on pride and loss after Kirti Chakra Award

SRINAGAR, Aug 18 (Agencies): It's a heart-wrenching tale of sorrow, but one that is tinged with a great deal of pride. Fatimah Ali embraces her one-year-old son as she reflects on the Kirti Chakra award announced posthumously for her husband, Deputy Superintendent of Police Humayun Bhat.

The prestigious peace-

time gallantry award was given to Bhat for displaying "rare courage" during a gunfight with terrorists in Kokernag in South Kashmir last September.

"I am so proud of the sacrifice made by my husband," Fatimah says in a choked voice.

The 32-year-old was one of the four brave officers who lost their lives during the fierce encounter with terrorists

on September 13, 2023.

Col Manpreet Singh, Major Ashish Dhonchak and Sepoy Pardeep Singh also made the supreme sacrifice during the gunfight with terrorists in the mountainous region of Kokernag in South Kashmir.

Two senior Jammu and Kashmir police officers visited Fatimah and her son on Friday to

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## GCC urges centre to restore J&K's Statehood at the earliest

SRINAGAR, Aug 18 (Agencies): The Group of Concerned Citizens, J&K (GCC), a non-political collective of civil society in J&K comprising of retired civil servants, academics and professionals from different fields on Sunday urged the centre to restore

J&K's statehood at the earliest.

### Statehood

While welcoming the Election Commission

of India's (ECI) decision to hold Assembly elections in J&K, the GCC said that it would pave a for an elected government after a huge gap of continuous central rule.

However, it said that the UT government will not be empowered to

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## BJP will contest Assembly Elections with full strength in J&K: Ravinder Raina

JAMMU, Aug 18 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Ravinder Raina declared the party's intent to contest the upcoming elections with "full strength."

Raina expressed confidence that the people of Jammu and Kashmir would vote overwhelm-



ingly for the BJP, leading to the formation of a BJP

government.

He clarified that while the BJP will run independently in Jammu, it may form alliances with some independent candidates in Kashmir, but will not align with any political parties in Jammu.

On former Jammu

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## Former Minister Choudhary Zulfikar joins BJP in Jammu

JAMMU, Aug 18 (Agencies): Ahead of the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, former minister and a prominent Gujjar leader, Choudhary Zulfikar Ali Sunday joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in Jammu.

According to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), union minister and election in charge G K Reddy along with other senior lead-



ers welcomed him and his supporters into the party fold.

The development comes days after the

Election Commission of India announced schedule for assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, starting September 18.

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## DPAP dismisses news of Azad's return to Congress

JAMMU, Aug 18 (Agencies): The Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) spokesperson on Sunday clarified that the party Chairman and senior leader, Ghulam Nabi Azad, is not rejoining the Congress Party.

In a handout issued here, DPAP chief spokesperson Salman Nizami said that rumours are being spread by the Congress leaders of Jammu and Kashmir for



the last two weeks that Ghulam Nabi Azad and his party is joining Congress.

"It is also being spread that Azad was approached by the

Central Congress leadership to join the Congress Party," Nizami said, adding that as chief spokesperson of the DPAP, on behalf of the party Chairman, he cleared that ever since Azad left the Congress Party, neither he (Azad) has approached any Congress leader nor any Congress leader has ever approached him directly or telephonically.

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## Doda to vote in first phase, last date for nomination filing on Aug 27

JAMMU, Aug 18 (Agencies): Doda District Election Officer Harvinder Singh said that the code of conduct has come into force with the three constituencies of the district voting in the first phase on September 18.

During a press conference on Saturday, Harvinder Singh said that the last date for the filing of nominations is August 27.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the schedule for the election in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on August 16. The polling in the UT will be held in three phases on September 18, 25, and October 1.

Singh said that the notification of the polling will be issued on August 20 and the last date for withdrawing candidature will be on August 30.

"A model code of conduct was enforced when the date was announced. We have convened training and interactive sessions with political parties," the district election officer said.

According to the ECI, the counting of the votes will take place on October 4. The election body has directed the enforcement agencies to be impartial and transparent for smooth

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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

**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.

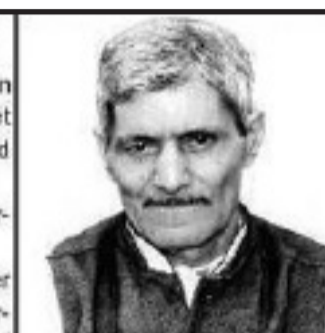
**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Sdn. Rajinder Kour (Mother)  
S. Abhijot Singh (Son)  
S. Swarn Singh and Sdn. Surjit Kour (Chacha and Chachi)

Sdn. Amardeep Kour and S. Ravinder Pal Singh (Sister and Brother in law)  
Mob: 9419238000, 9419106710

**MASVAAR AND VAHERWAR**

One year have passed since you left us suddenly in deep sorrow and tears. Fragrance of your sweet memories is as fresh as ever. Your legacy of love and strength lives in our hearts.



**Late Sh. Poshker Nath Koul (Bedil)**

We pay respectful Homage and pray to God for eternal peace to your noble soul.

**MASVAAR AND VAHERWAR** of our beloved father **Late Sh. Poshker Nath Koul (Bedil)** will be performed on 18th and 19th August 2024 at Genesha Bahadur Chawalgam Kulgam Kashmir.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-**

(Son & Daughter-in-law)  
Sh. Pamposh Koul & Archana Koul  
Dain Posh Koul (Son)

Nitya Koul (Grand Daughter)

Mob. 9797659041, 9622047310

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Lalita Devi** W/o Mohan Lal D/o Late Shri Dina Nath Kapoor Resident of Quarter No. 34/01 Jagti Colony Nagrota Jammu departed for heavenly abode on 11-08-2024 (Sunday).



**SMT. LALITA DEVI**

**10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 20 August 2024 (Tuesday) at Muthi Ghat near (DSE) Jammu at 8:00 AM

**Mourn** will be held at above address.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Shri Mohan Lal (Husband)  
Son and Daughter in Laws

Mr. Tej Krishan and Mrs. Sunita Devi  
Mr. Sanjay Kumar and Mrs. Reeta Kumari and our entire Parivar.

**Grand Children:** Deepak Khatri, Chahat Khatri  
**MOBILE NO. 6006243301, 7006575612**

**10TH DAY/13TH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Major Puran Dev Singh Sambyal** S/o Late Chander Udhay Singh R/o 136 Khajoor Niwas Dogra Hall Kacchi Chawni Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 7/8/2024.



**Puran Dev Singh Sambyal**

**10th Day** will be performed on 16-8-2024 at our residence at 11am.

**13th Day** will be performed on 19-8-2024 at 12.30 pm at our residence.

**Grief Stricken:**

Smt Asha Jambwal (Wife)

Mr Bhanu Dev Singh Sambyal (Son)

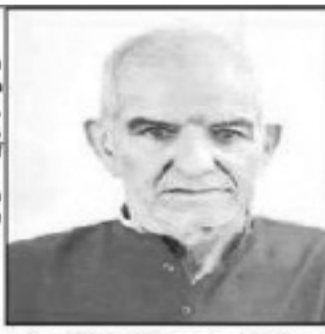
Mrs Payal Jasrotia Sambyal (Daughter-in-law)

Master Adhiraj Dev Singh Sambyal (Grandson)

Contact No: 9796688038/ 9596816140

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With overwhelming grief and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Makhan Lal Bhat** of Nagam, Tehsil Chadura, Distt. Budgam, A/P House No. 1, Hello Kids Lane, Buta Nagar, Behind Radio Sharda. He passed away on 15th of August, 2024 (Thursday).



**Shri Makhan Lal Bhat (Nagam)**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 24th August, 2024 (SATURDAY) at Muthi Ghat, Jammu at 8.30 A.M.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. Kaushiya Bhat - BHABHI

**SONS & DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW**

Lenin Kumar Bhat & Asha Bhat (9906130745)

Ashok Kumar Bhat & Bita Kumari (9419163526)

Vijay Gagarine Bhat & Pupy Bhat (9650029018)

Shiban Krishan Bhat & Vijay Kumari (9697518207)

Surinder Krishan Bhat & Renu Bhat (9419131577)

Sweety Bhat & Veer Ji Bhat

**GRAND CHILDREN**

Ashish Bhat & Shivani Koul Bhat (9906369296)

Rahul Bhat & Shivani Jhirwal Bhat (9667829941)

Deepshikha Bhat

Vika's Bhat & Priya Darshani Bhat

Amit Koul & Anisha Bhat Koul

Mayur Bhat & Priyanka Bhat

Saransh, Agastya, Vedaant, Divita, Devaanish & Vihaana

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Sheela Saraf** W/o Sh. Mad Lal Saraf R/o Nal East Anantnag/Reop Nagar, Jammu at present Dwarka, New Delhi on 12th August, 2024.



**Smt. Sheela Saraf**

**10TH DAY** will be performed on 21st August, 2024 at 8.30 am at 3ree Ghat Shankar Mandir Trust, T Block Phase-1, Sector-109, New Pura, Vihar Gurugram and assembly will be held at Sarangha Apartments, Flat No-735, Sector-7, Plot-13, Dwarka, New Delhi at 9 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Moti Lal Saraf (Husband)

Ranu & Sanjay Koul (Sons) (Daughter and Son-in-Law) 9717359969

Pitcho Pandit (Brojji) (Sister-in-Law) 9906073357

Veena & M.K Koul (Daughters) (Sister-in-Law and Brother-in-Law) 9419194683

Hiralal Koul (Brother-in-Law) 9358806745

Kundan Ji & B.L. Jod (Sister-in-Law & Brother-in-Law) 9419190003

Babli Koul (Sister-in-Law) 9797579244

Urmila & Kewal Ji Saraf (Sister-in-Law and Brother-in-Law) 9706223093

Neha & Deepak Saraf (Daughter-in-Law and Son) 9823706496

Shweta & Robin Raina (Daughter and Son-in-Law) 9786174614

Kamla Koul & Shadi Lal Koul (Sons) 6045336304

Ashish Koul, Rukar Koul (Sons), Ekaksh Saraf and Veda Raina (Grandchildren) 9717696904

**Samast Saraf, Koul (Sons) and Thapoo Parivar of Anantnag**

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**Samast Saraf, Koul (Sons) and Thapoo Parivar of Anantnag**

# Congress has legacy of serving and strengthening people: Bhalla

## Top News Report

SAMBA, Aug 18: JKPC Working President, Raman Bhalla Sunday claimed that Congress will form next Government in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Accompanied by Sanjeev Sharma Distt President Samba, Ex MLA Devi Dass, Bhalla addressing public meeting in Ramgarh Constituency at Panchayats Sadho and Keso organized by EX Minister Yashpal Kundal said that J&K people eagerly waiting Congress Govt. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Sarpanch Som Nath, Suresh Sharma, Vinay Sharma, Mehra Sharma, Sunil Bhagat, Parkash Chand, Ashok Kumar, Capt Rashpal, Chand Sharma, Insp. Yashpal, Anchal Bhagat and others. On this occasion Ex MLA Devi Dass and Vice Chairman JKPC SC Deptt was appointed election observer for Samba, Ramgarh, Akhnour, Ramnagar and Kathua constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said Congress since 2014 has been continuously fighting anti-people policies of the Centre and LG's Administration in J&K UT, besides defeating the challenges faced on various fronts especially, misleading politics of



BJP. "Party is supreme and every worker is bound to further strengthen it at grass roots level and serve people as Congress has the legacy of serving and strengthening the people," Bhalla said.

Former Minister said Congress will form next government in Jammu and Kashmir. He said BJP despite knowing very well that bureaucratic rule has never been alternative to democratically elected Government deliberately deprived people of J&K from democratically elected Govt. He said now with intervention of Supreme Court, finally people of Jammu and Kashmir will vote for assembly elections and they will teach a lesson to BJP in J&K. He said Congress Party is serving people with dedication and without self interest. Congress leader said he and his party is available for service at people 24x7.

Bhalla said that Con-

gress will manage major win in the J&K. He said people are fed up of the anti-people, anti-poor, anti-trader, anti-employee and anti-farmer policies of BJP Government. They will definitely show this party its place in the Assembly elections. Noting that Jammu and Kashmir still awaits full statehood, He alleged the recent moves by the Union government have only added to the powers of the Lieutenant Governor there, "making a mockery of the powers of a duly elected state Assembly. Expressing confidence that the Congress will bounce back in a revitalized form on the J&K's political scene, Bhalla said Congress enjoys support of all sections of society and are eagerly waiting for Congress Govt.

Bhalla said that leadership has started working on a revival plan and the cadre is being revitalised

to carry on the party's political campaign with renewed vigour. He said that Congress is a movement that will surge back. The utterances of leaders of regional parties are inconsequential. It's time for involving youth in the party, their involvement will regenerate the pillars of the Congress Institution. "The J&K needs humane handling and promotion of genuine democratic process which cannot be achieved by inspired fragmentation of votes in a particular region of J&K," he said.

Bhalla reminded since 1947, the Congress has been India's beacon of hope. Our policies brought about rapid industrialization in a predominantly agrarian economy, transformed India from a famine-struck country to one that exports food grains to countries around the world, laid the scientific and technical foundations for India's

rise as a global software powerhouse, and built world class institutions in research and higher education whose graduates are seen as at par with the world's best. Even as liberalisation and reforms caused economic growth to boom under successive Congress governments, our social welfare policies ensured that every citizen was able to participate in the India story, added Bhalla.

Former Minister Yashpal Kundal in his address said that Congress has been the most vocal and active champion of the progress of the backward and oppressed classes and castes over the last seven decades.

However, caste discrimination is still a reality. The people belonging to the SC, ST and OBC communities have not yet been able to catch up with the rest and are still left behind. While OBC, SC and ST constitute nearly 70 per cent of India's population, their representation in high-ranking professions, services and businesses is disproportionately low. No progressive modern society should tolerate such inequality or discrimination based on ancestry and the consequent denial of equal opportunity. Congress will bridge historical inequities by implementing pro-weaker sections of society, added Kundal.

# Dimple leads protest against PDD, demands to cut short electricity charges



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 18: Under the leadership of President Sunil Dimple, Mission Statehood workers, along with a significant number of traders, staged a protest on Janipur High Court Road in Jammu, vehemently opposing the current operations of the Power Development Department (PDD) and the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department.

The protesters voiced their grievances against the escalating electricity rates in Jammu and Kashmir, demanding an immediate reduction in the per-unit price of electricity from Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Sunil Dimple strongly criticized the PDD for issuing incorrect electricity bills that have burdened poor families, alleging that the privatization of the electricity department has led to a lack of accountability.

He highlighted the harassment faced by innocent, economically disadvantaged families, who are often subjected to disconnection of their

power supply due to erroneous bills.

The protest also brought attention to the acute scarcity of drinking water in Jammu City, accusing the PHE department of failing to meet the water supply needs of the residents.

Dimple alleged that the situation is exacerbated by the PDD's imposition of long-duration power cuts during the peak of summer, which has left the public struggling in the heat without adequate water or electricity.

Additionally, Dimple criticized the defunct state of critical infrastructure, including transformers, jumpers, and street lights in various wards, particularly noting the poor condition of the Gladni Grid and Janipur infrastructures.

These issues, according to Dimple, have caused frequent electrical fluctuations, leading to damage to household electrical appliances such as fans, air conditioners, and other domestic devices.

Dimple further pointed out inefficiencies in the management of electricity billing, alleging that bills

are being wrongly issued without proper SMS notifications, and that the system for uploading and tracking paid bills is flawed. This has led to residents receiving bills for amounts they have already paid, creating confusion and financial strain. In his demands, Dimple called for the return of major power projects like Salal, Uri, and Rattai to Jammu and Kashmir's control, asserting that local needs should be prioritized over supplying electricity to other states.

He also called for the government to waive electricity bills for poor families and provide 500 units of electricity per month free of charge to all residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

The protest, supported by other leaders including Biloo Pahlwan, Arun Verma, S Kala Singh, Sudershan Sharma, and Rinku Sharma, was a powerful demonstration of public dissatisfaction with the essential services in the region, highlighting the urgent need for reform and accountability in the PDD and PHE departments.

# 7th HR Conclave concludes at IIM Jammu



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 18: The 7th HR Conclave at IIM Jammu, held from August 17-18, 2024, kicked off with a focus on "HR Evolution: Crafting the Next Decade." This event aimed to delve into the future of Human Resources (HR), addressing the significant shifts and challenges anticipated in the next ten years. It brought together a diverse group of industry leaders, academicians, and students to engage in discussions on various aspects of HR that are expected to evolve and shape the business landscape.

The importance of HR in startups was a central theme. Industry experts emphasized the need for strategic HR practices that can help startups build scalable and adaptable organizational foundations. As startups often face rapid growth and change, HR's role in establishing a strong, resilient culture and processes becomes crucial.

HR in startups should focus on agility, innovation, and the ability to pivot quickly in response to market demands. Ms. Rajita Singh, Chief People Officer at Kyndryl, highlighted the need for critical thinking and innovative HR solutions over traditional, routine tasks.

With Gen Z entering the workforce, organizations need to understand and leverage their

unique strengths and expectations. The panel explored how companies can effectively integrate Gen Z employees into their teams, ensuring that their digital fluency, adaptability, and desire for meaningful work are harnessed to build a future-ready workforce.

Organizations should create environments that are flexible, tech-savvy, and aligned with the values of Gen Z, such as inclusivity and purpose-driven work. This generational shift requires HR to rethink traditional management practices and adapt to the changing dynamics of the workforce.

The healthcare industry faces a critical debate: Should the primary focus be on profitability or public health? The panel debated this issue, ultimately concluding that both are essential for the sustainable success of healthcare organizations.

A balanced approach is necessary, where profitability is pursued without compromising on the quality and accessibility of healthcare services. This ensures that healthcare organizations can remain viable while also serving the public good.

The integration of technology in hiring processes was another important topic. Experts discussed how digital tools, such as AI and machine learning, can enhance recruitment by improving efficiency, accuracy, and candidate

experience. However, they also emphasized the importance of maintaining human insights and judgment in the hiring process.

The future of hiring lies in a hybrid approach, where technology is used to streamline processes and gather data, while human expertise is applied to make nuanced decisions that technology alone cannot achieve.

The first day of the HR Conclave concluded with a cultural night, featuring performances by artists from the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL). This event provided a relaxed atmosphere for attendees to network and continue discussions from the day's sessions in a more informal setting. The cultural night was not only a celebration of local art and culture but also an opportunity to strengthen connections between participants, fostering a sense of community and collaboration.

The successful start of the 7th HR Conclave set the stage for another day of enriching discussions. The focus on inclusive leadership and the future of healthcare delivery highlighted the importance of evolving HR practices to meet the demands of a changing world.

The conclave underscored the critical role that HR will play in shaping the future of organizations, especially in the context of startups, a multigenerational workforce, and industries like healthcare that are undergoing significant transformation.

Overall, the event provided valuable insights and practical strategies for navigating the complexities of HR in the coming decade, ensuring that organizations are well-equipped to thrive in an increasingly dynamic business environment.

# PoJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti hails Transfer of Evacuee's land on proprietary basis

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 18: PoJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti on Sunday hailed the decision of UT of J&K regarding Transfer of Evacuee's land on proprietary basis in favour of displaced persons of PoJK 1947, 1965 & 1971 and West Pakistan Displaced Persons.

President of Samiti Dr. Deepak Kapoor in an exclusive interview thanked LG Manoj Sinha and Centre Government for such an order which shall benefit around 30,000 such original families whose number

has increased to 1.5 lakh now.

PoJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti was pressing for this demand since long and recently on 27th June, 2024 submitted a memorandum to Divisional Commissioner Jammu addressing to LG of J&K for favouring this demand & various other issues like 254-C and regularisation of displaced persons colonies for which favorable actions from the Govt. are still awaited.

He also appreciated the Govt. for making this whole process time framed upto 6 months.

# Lecture On Cyber Crime at Salani, Poonch

## Top News Report

POONCH, Aug 18: Indian Army conducted a lecture on Cyber Crime on 18 Aug 2024 at Salani with an aim to raise awareness about Cyber Crime among youth and local populace. The youth of nation are the highest subscribers of internet and cyber platform in this nation. Keeping this in mind, the lecture focused on generating awareness among the locals especially youngsters about ill effects of cyber platforms and how cyber platforms can be misused leading to cybercrime and the remedies that can be



adopted to counter the same. Locals were also advised to keep their mobile phones sanitized on frequent basis in order to avoid spreading of malware which may compromise their personal information. Also, students & staff were sensitized

against banned apps, promulgated by Indian Government. During the lecture a good participation from the youth was observed and many queries were cleared by the representative of the Indian Army on cyber hygiene.

# Apni Party's door-to-door campaign gains momentum in Samba

## Will continue to fight against the mafia system to protect resources for locals: S Manjit Singh

## Top News Report

SAMBA, Aug 18: Apni Party Provincial President Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has intensified the door to door campaign in Samba district, following the announcement of the legislative assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, after a gap of 10 long years.

"The elections have provided an opportunity to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to elect a Govt of their choice and hold the autocratic regime accountable for misdeeds that led to the suffering of the common masses in the last ten years," said S. Manjit Singh, addressing a public meeting here in a village in Vijaypur, Samba.

As a part of an ongoing aggressive election campaign, the Former Minister said that the people want an elected



Govt that would be powerful enough to initiate developmental works and generate employment opportunities.

He said that the present Govt has failed to do the needful for public welfare and the deci-

sions that it took in these years were mostly unilateral and without the consultation of the public representatives.

"All the anti-people policies created a void in the Governance due to which the people of both

the regions sought the restoration of statehood as well as the holding of elections," he added.

He further stated that the Apni Party has made its commitment to the people to launch a public welfare scheme, uplift

their livelihood and provide them employment opportunities.

"Jammu has suffered badly under the present regime after the downfall in tourism in the tourist destinations across the region and lack of interest shown by the Govt. There is a poor road connectivity, no effort was made to revive the hotel and transport business in Jammu has sunk the local economy and this situation has compelled youth to migrate to other states in search of a job," he said.

He said the Apni Party wants to end the discrimination with the regions and wants to develop both the regions equally.

"We want to protect the resources for the locals of Jammu and will not allow any interference from the non-local contractors. We will fight against the mafia system," he stated.

## EDITORIAL

STUDENTS  
GUIDANCE

First of all, the essential information or data concerning the individual, who needs personal or psychological guidance, should be collected. It may be concerned with his physical, intellectual, social and emotional development, academic or scholastic achievement; personality characteristics, interests and aptitudes, family and school background and other environmental conditions. Thus an adequate picture of the background and personality make-up of an individual should be drawn in the mind for the solution of the problems, faced by individual.

Now the problem of the individual is analysed in the relations with the collected information. The causes lying within the individual or his environment are detected. For having a correct diagnosis, a personal interview or other techniques may also be adopted and more information if needed may also be acquired.

In view of the detected possible causes the remedial measures are chalked out. The Guidance worker now thinks about the personal guidance that may be provided for the individual in getting rid of his trouble.

By establishing proper rapport, the Guidance personnel makes the individual realize the main cause of his difficulty or trouble sometimes, on this bases he is made to realise or even think about the possible change in his behavior or attitude. For this purpose so many valuable techniques like suggestion, initiation, sympathetic, affectionate advice, sublimation or catharsis, psychoanalysis or other psychological theory can be adopted. The sole purpose of such guidance is to help or assist the individual in getting rid of his difficulty either by modifying his behavior or bringing some changes in his environment.

After rendering personal guidance to an individual, it is essential to evaluate the progress or outcome of such guidance through personal interview, contact or any other suitable technique. It is such follow up programme that helps in knowing the strength and weakness of the administered personal guidance. It may also suggest the need of further guidance to him or any alternation in the proposed guidance.

The knowledge about the above mentioned process of personal guidance is not only needed by the guidance personnel specially appointed in the school, but the head-master and teachers also make themselves acquainted with it teachers with their unique position in the school, are able to develop close contacts with children and may be able to know the real cause of a trouble. With a little training, they learn the art of rendering personal guidance to their students.

Therefore our schools are acquired to play their due role in this direction. In every school, the head of the institution should try to organise a personal guidance programme with the active help of his staff and co-operation of the parent and state guidance services.

Guidance assists the students to understand him and it helps the student to get maximum out of the school, to become acceptable to other students, in making a careful choice of subjects and courses for himself, in developing good study habits in the student, to make a proper choice about occupation.

It provides for special provision for the education of gifted students, slow learners and handicapped students and it helps the students in developing better personal social and emotional relationships.

## Hey, let's make some better things worse

By: Krishna Shastri  
Devulapalli

“Give us something, and we'll make it worse.”

These (roughly) were the words from a few years ago of a talented singer whose voice is the only thing I like about him. Despite my reservations, his simple pronouncement was so succinctly accurate and undeniably profound that I thought it ought to be on a plaque somewhere. He was referring to a popular show on which he was serving as judge. (But he could just easily have said “Give us anything, and we'll make it worse.”) It was the Indian edition of a long-running international show, ‘repurposed’ for that unique beast we fondly refer to as ‘Indian taste’. One of his grouses, what with our land being our ancient land, was that the judges were made to perform, too, from time to time. Because, you see, our audience would like it. It would be cute. And that was everything. Meaning, the folks who had been hired for their expertise in a particular field, for the express purpose of deciding if a participant had what it took, meant to be impartial figures, would also perform alongside the amateur participants now and then, thereby rendering the term ‘judge’ meaningless, but so what? Also Read - Anita

Katyal | Phogat vs Saina in Haryana polls? Sonia, Jaya seen mending fences Advertisement Unfortunately, the chaps who took this ‘creative’ decision are right. Our audiences would like this. In fact, what they would have liked even more was if the judges were made to mud wrestle dressed in tutus in a pit in the middle of the set. While singing. In fact, what would work even better would be to do away entirely with the participants, for they are unknowns, and we in our wise land look down on anyone fame-challenged, hire more celebrity ‘judges’ and make them sing while cooking, tightrope walking and bare-knuckle boxing. Now that, dammit, would be a show! But would it be the show they bought? Which brings us to the question: why buy the rights of an internationally popular show, if that's not what you want? Also Read - Pavan Varma: Long way to go to make India a sporting nation Why not come up with an original format - ideally suited for ‘Indian taste’ as per market analysis, algorithms, data thingamajigs and the Vastu Shastra - for a music-centric show that has judges being shot out of cannons, clashing mid-air to sing a duet? If you think about it, it's the same with everything else. We revel in buying, taking,

borrowing, co-opting - when we can't outright steal, which is our first preference - ideas from all over, good ones, mind you, from fields as varied as architecture, film-making and cookery, and making them worse. Also Read - Patralekha Chatterjee | Dhaka lesson: No stable future if youth lack jobs Give us a good book. We'll do an Indian version that's worse. Hand us a tune, a movie, a dish, a building, a pristine beach, an idyllic hill town, a syllabus, a revered monument, why, even a massacre memorial - no problem, we'll make it worse. (Was there any need at all in this world for Gobi Manchurian?) And we will hail our new version as being the superior one and defend it till we are blue in the face. And anyone not agreeing with that point-of-view is anti-national. Also Read - Farrukh Dhondy | Peddlers of hate & some with violent mental disorders trigger UK attacks We are like that snottosed kid who cannot resist instantly dismantling the shiny new toy car he has been gifted, part by part, looking at the rubble, denying his own destructive idiocy, and going ‘There, that's much better.’ What makes us this way? Why do we have this pathological need to tweak, alter, remodel, ‘improve’, revise, convert, modernise? Why do we fix

things which ain't broke? There's two parts to this, I'd think. To take apart something that's already done is easy. You need to be no more qualified than the kid with a screwdriver and hammer left alone with his new toy. But, if for a moment, we just stuck to art, or popular art, which is more or less what the singer was talking about when he made that astute observation, what is this ‘Indian taste’ that he speaks of that artists have to keep in mind when they create for our market? What changed from the time when the Brihadeeshwara, the veena, the Panchatantra and Pahari art were deemed fine as they were, okay for ‘Indian taste’? I'll sign off with something that a friend, a quintessential Indian, did many years ago, to prove my point. Wanting some quotes on creativity by well-known names, which he wanted to use at some office seminar, when my friend sought my advice on account of Google not being all-pervasive, I gave him a handy book of quotes. A few days later, my friend showed up again. He looked disappointed. “Your quotes didn't go so well,” he said. “They're technically not mine,” I countered. “But why?” He showed me a piece of paper.

## Phogat vs Saina in Haryana polls? Sonia, Jaya seen mending fences

By: Anita Katyal

Will it be Vinesh Phogat vs Saina Nehwal in the upcoming Haryana Assembly elections? This possibility cannot be denied given the Congress stand as well as former badminton champion and Bharatiya Janata Party member Nehwal's statements following Phogat's disqualification from the final wrestling bout at the Paris Olympics. As soon as news about Phogat's disqualification was flashed, the Congress moved in quickly to accuse the government-controlled Wrestling Federation of India of denying her necessary facilities during her preparations for the Paris games. The Opposition charged that Phogat was discriminated against because she was among those who led last year's street protests demanding an investigation into allegations of sexual harassment of women wrestlers by former WFI president and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. The Congress war cry soon resonated with people in Haryana with khap panchayats and farmers coming out in Phogat's support. Well aware that the Congress is all set to make the Phogat episode the centrepiece of its election campaign, the BJP swung into action. Besides sending top lawyer Harish Salve to Paris to take up Phogat's case on behalf of the Indian Olympic Association, there was a timely interview by Saina Nehwal heaping praise on the Modi govern-

ment for improving facilities and budgets for sportspersons after it came to power in 2014. The interview was tweeted by MyGovIndia, leading to speculation that the BJP may field the former badminton champion in the Haryana election. Also Read - Krishna Shastri Devulapalli | Hey, let's make some better things worse Advertisement # The growing proximity between the Congress and the Samajwadi Party has had an unusual fallout: a rapprochement, though still at a delicate stage, between estranged friends Gandhis and Bachchans. This was evident during the recent Budget Session of Parliament when Congress leader Sonia Gandhi and Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan were seen greeting each other which was followed by a combined protest by the two parties when there was an exchange of hot words between the celebrity film star and Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar. It was interesting to see Sonia Gandhi stand back while Jaya Bachchan held forth before the media after the Opposition walk-out. This renewed friendship has clearly baffled the Congress. The day the pictures showing Sonia and Jaya in the same frame came out, those in the party who had taken potshots at Amitabh Bachchan being ignored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Ambani wedding were running for cover. Meanwhile, a discreet message has been conveyed to the Congress party's social media team to delete any such tweets against the Bachchans.

Also Read - Pavan Varma: Long way to go to make India a sporting nation # For the last 10 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah exercised total control over the government and the Bharatiya Janata Party organisation. Ministers and party leaders kept a low profile, afraid to speak up or express their view publicly for fear of reprisal. But there has been a sea change after the BJP failed to get a majority on its own in the last Lok Sabha election. Party leaders are now feeling emboldened to air their grievances publicly as there is all-round acknowledgement that the BJP did not fare as well as it had hoped to do because of centralisation of power and the preference given to lateral entrants from other political parties. Dissidents in various state units are even feeling brave enough to call up media-persons to complain about the internal affairs of the party. It started with Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and now it is the turn of Assam and Karnataka where the appointment of B.S. Yediyurappa's son B.Y. Vijayendra as state party president has failed to end the infighting in the party. Also Read - Patralekha Chatterjee | Dhaka lesson: No stable future if youth lack jobs # Where is the fiery Congress youth leader Kanhaiya Kumar? The former student leader-turned politician has clearly dropped out of sight after he lost to Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Manoj Tiwari in the recent Lok Sabha election. Kanhaiya has not been seen or

heard ever since his resounding defeat. During his poll campaign, Kanhaiya Kumar would often declare that he had forced the Prime Minister and home minister to campaign in Delhi's northeast constituency where he was battling it out against the BJP candidate. Kanhaiya would often state that after he wins, top BJP leaders will be forced to camp here on a regular basis. People, both inside and outside the Congress, refer jokingly to Kanhaiya's election speeches and point to the irony of the situation. Also Read - Farrukh Dhondy | Peddlers of hate & some with violent mental disorders trigger UK attacks # While sport shooter Manu Bhaker has predictably become an instant celebrity after she won two bronze medals at the Paris Olympic games, her coach Jaspal Rana has also come in high praise for he is said to be responsible for transforming her into a world-class champion. Naturally, both Bhaker and Rana have been inundated with congratulatory messages while media-persons have been queuing up to interview them. But surprisingly there has been no congratulatory message for Rana from Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami even though the shooting coach belongs to the hill state and his shooting academy is based in Dehradun. Dhami was, however, quick to tweet, heaping praise on Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh for winning a bronze in the 10-metre air pistol mixed team event and also when she won her first medal. But no mention of Rana.

## SNM organises blood donation camp

Top News Report

SAMBA, Aug 18: To spread the message of "Blood should flow in veins, not in drains" Sant Nirankari Mission (SNM) Branch Samba organised a voluntarily Blood Donation Camp at Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhawan Samba. Devotees from Branch Rajpura, Ghagwal also participated in this camp. A total of 155 Units of blood donated in this camp.

The Camp was inaugurated by Rajesh Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Samba. While speaking on the occasion he applauded and congratulated the efforts of



Sant Nirankari Mission towards the Humanity. He said irrespective of caste color and religion Sant Nirankari Mission is

doing selfless service for all the sections of society. Today Mission is uplifting the Human Values and spread Love, Peace and

Harmony. Ajit Singh Zonal Incharge Sant Nirankari Mission Jammu said that under the Blessings

of Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj nearly 600 camps organized by the mission throughout the year pan India. He also highlighted the other Socio-Economic activities of the Mission.

K C Bhagat Mukhi Samba welcome the Chief Guest and Donors presented on the occasion.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Ranjeet Singh MD SC/ST/BC Corporation, JKUT, Dr Naveen Akhtar, from Blood Bank GMC Jammu. The camp was held in collaboration with blood & transfusion dept. of Govt. Medical College Jammu, District Hospital Samba and JKACS.

## Shubham Khajuria slams double century as J&K takes huge 1st innings lead of 309 runs against Chhattisgarh

Top News Report

CHENNAI/JAMMU, Aug 18: Talented opening batter Shubham Khajuria scored a magnificent double century, while Sahil Lotra scored splendid century to guide Jammu and Kashmir to a huge first innings lead of 309 runs over Chhattisgarh in the ongoing prestigious Buchi Babu Invitational Cricket Tournament, being organised by Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA), here. Jammu and Kashmir declared their first innings at 587/49 declared in 156 overs against Chhattisgarh's score of 278 runs, thus gaining a huge first innings lead.

Chhattisgarh were struggling at 46/2 in their

second essay.

Earlier, Shubham Khajuria scored a mammoth 202 runs off 368 balls, studded with 17 fours and 8 sixes, while Sahil Lotra scored 107 off 192 balls with 9 fours and 2 sixes. Skipper Paras Dogra scored 73 off 132 balls with 7 delectable boundaries and Abdul Samad contributed 58 off 70 balls with 9 fours and one six.

Shubham Khajuria, in particular, showed a stellar grit and tenacity and played with sublimity, solidity, elegance and brilliance.

Earlier, on day-1, Chhattisgarh opted to bat first against Jammu and Kashmir and started brightly as the openers put on 52 for the first wicket. Ayush Pandey

(138) and Amandeep Khare (65) also put on 143 for the third wicket, but in what was a pattern across the grounds, wickets fell much more quickly towards the end of the day. They were eventually bowled out for 278.

For J&K, Abid Mushtaq was the pick of the bowlers, who took 4 wickets by conceding 47 runs in 17.4 overs, while Sahil Lotra and Vishal Kumar bagged 3 and 2 wickets respectively and Yudhvir Singh claimed one wicket.

**BRIEF SCORES;** Chhattisgarh 278 (Ayush Pandey 138, Abid Mushtaq 4-47) v Jammu and Kashmir 587/9 (Shubham Khajuria 202, Sahil Lotra 107, Paras Dogra 73, Abdul Samad 58, Mayank Yadav 2/87).

## LJP (R) announces eleven candidates for various assembly constituencies in Jammu region

Promises employment opportunities, upliftment of weaker sections, upgraded health care and education system

Top News Report

SAMBA, Aug 18: Lok Janshakti Party (R) J&KUT President Rafiq Malik has geared up political activities in Jammu region with a series of public meetings. Addressing media persons at Ajay farms near TVS agency, Swankha

President Samba, Mohinder Pal Singh Jammu Province Secretary, Shehbaz Malik State Youth President, Arbaz Malik State Vice President Youth Wing, Qadar Malik State General Secretary Youth Wing, M. K. Bhat State President Migrant Cell, Gurdev Singh State President Sikh Minority.

Baramulla constituency. Speaking on the occasion, Malik said that the people were in distress and there was a feeling of alienation among the people because the administration was not responding to them nor the issues of public concerns were addressed. "The admin-



Morh, Vijaypur Malik said, "We are holding regular public meetings at various places across Jammu region to educate people about the policy and programs of Party that would come into force, if the Party forms the next Govt in Jammu and Kashmir," said Malik.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include RK Bali State Advisor JKUT, Varun Bali State Sr Vice President JKUT, RP Singh State Sr General Secretary, Shakeel Ahmed State General Secretary, Vikram Singh State General Secretary, Dickey Singh State Coordinator, Puran Chand Malhotra State Secretary, Sanju Bhagat State Secretary, Lakhvinder Singh State Secretary, Inder Manhas Jammu Province President, Kamaljeet Jammu Province Vice President, Inderjeet Singh Dist

On this occasion, Malik announced name of contesting candidates which includes Shahbaz Malik, State Youth President JKUT from Jammu East constituency, Sidhant Bali from Jammu West, Inderjeet, District President Samba from Vijaypur constituency, Iqbal Singh, State Youth Vice-President from R.S Pura Jammu-South Constituency, Rajinder Verma from Marh constituency, Ravinder Manhas from Samba constituency, Puran Chand Malhotra, State Secretary JKUT from Nagrota constituency, Sanju Bhagat, State Secretary JKUT from Ram Nagar constituency, Mohsin Imtiyaz, District President Doda from Bhadrawah constituency, Mahraj Krishan Bhat, State President Migrant Cell JKUT from Habakadal constituency, Ashik Hussain Ganie from

istration has created an atmosphere where what the public says has no value and it violates the basic democratic values of the country. Therefore, the elections in Jammu and Kashmir were important to elect a Govt of the choice of the people," he added.

Malik said that the people have lost their faith in the traditional parties for their hollow slogans and divisive politics that has created an atmosphere of misunderstanding in the society for one reason or the other. He said that "For last 70 years, the traditional parties exploited the people on regional or religious basis and returned to power from time to time, but they hardly ensured equitable development, employment, and protection of resources of the people in their respective areas."

## Sat Pal Bittu meets AICC SC Department Chairman, discusses welfare initiatives



Top News Report

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, Aug 18: Sat Pal Bittu, Vice Chairman JKPC with Rajesh Liothia Chairman of the AICC SC Department, in New Delhi today.

The meeting focused on discussing various welfare initiatives and schemes for the upliftment of the Scheduled Caste community in

Jammu Kashmir and Laddakh. During the meeting, Sat Pal Bittu emphasized the need for effective implementation of existing programs and explored possibilities for new initiatives to address the challenges faced by the community. The Chairman assured support and cooperation in implementing these initiatives.

## Shan demands Shiv Sena (Shinde) candidate from Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR Aug 18: Tilak Shan, the President of Shiv Sena (Shinde) for Chenab Valley & District Kishtwar in Jammu & Kashmir, has made an appeal to Krishna Reddy.

As part of the NDA alliance, Shan emphasized the need for the Shiv Sena (Shinde) faction to be given a fair chance in the upcoming elections. He requested that the BJP refrain from declaring a candidate for the Kishtwar constituency, allowing Shiv Sena (Shinde) to contest the seat.

Shan pointed out that Shiv Sena (Shinde) had supported the BJP in the last MP election,



and now, in return, they should be given the opportunity to field a candidate in Kishtwar constituency No. 51. He expressed confidence that Shiv Sena (Shinde) could secure a significant victory in this constituency if given the chance, and he hopes for a positive response from the alliance leadership.

## Ajeet Bhagat welcomes Rajesh Kumar Shavan appointment

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Aug 18: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Senior leader, Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat welcomed the appointment of local officer Rajesh Kumar Shavan as the District Development Commissioner (DDC)/ Deputy Commissioner (DC) of the Kishtwar District and said that he will fulfill the expectations of the local people.

Bhagat said that people hope that with Rajesh Kumar Shavan becoming the District Development Commissioner (DDC) / Deputy Commissioner of Kishtwar District, he will understand the basic



problems of the people and fulfill their hopes and aspirations to solve them.

The National Conference leader also said that like the Jammu and Kashmir new Director General of Police DGP, he too would organize a Janta Darbar to listen to the people's problems and resolve them.

Ajeet Bhagat said that being a local District Development Commissioner (DDC)/ Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan understands the ground reality very well and can solve the basic problems of the people very well.

Bhagat said that in view of this, the expectations of his appointment have increased to a great extent among the common people.

The senior leader of the National Conference also said that he hoped to keep his doors fully open to the common people who would go a long way in bridging the gap between the common people and the Administration.

## JKBS hails Panchayat Inspector Kewal Mandi on being honoured with award



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 18: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha members at its meeting held in Trikuta Nagar here on Sunday under the chairmanship of Mr Hans Raj Loria, hailed and congratulated Panchayat Inspector Kewal Mandi on being honoured with award by the Tehsildar Chakroli and the Principal, Govt Higher Secondary School Chakroli for his hard work.

While speaking during the course of meeting, the JKBS General Secretary

R.L.Kaith said, Hard work teaches us discipline, dedication and determination. It is certainly important because it is only through hard work that we can achieve the goals of our life. Thus, we all must work hard like Panchayat Inspector Kewal Mandi.

where blood supply to a part of the heart is blocked and that's why it is also called brain attack. The other type is hemorrhagic in which there is bleeding in the brain, informed Dr Sanjay Mishra.

## World Senior Citizens Day celebrated with informative health talk at Max Hospital

Top News Report

CHANDIGARH/JAMMU, Aug 18: Max Super Specialty Hospital, Mohali, celebrated World Senior Citizen Day by organizing health talks and free health checkup camps today.

Around xxx senior citizens from the community actively took part in it. The health talks are conducted in association with the Senior Citizen Association, Mohali.

Talking on 'Understanding urological health in elderly', Dr. MS Randhawa, Associate Director Urology at Max Super Specialty Hospital, Mohali said, "As we age, our bodies undergo several changes, including within our urological system. Urinary incontinence, the involuntary leakage of

urine, is one of the most common urological problems in older adults. This condition occurs in both sexes but is more prevalent in women due to changes associated with pregnancy, childbirth, and menopause. The types of incontinence include stress, urge, overflow, and functional, with differing causes and treatments. Management approaches include lifestyle modifications, pelvic floor muscle exercises, medication, and in some cases, surgery."

"BPH, or enlarged prostate, primarily affects elderly men. Management often involves lifestyle changes, medications to reduce gland size or relax the bladder, minimally invasive therapies, or surgical procedures in advanced cases."

Dr. MS Randhawa further said, "UTIs are bacterial infections that can affect any part of the urinary system. Though they can occur at any age, the risk increases with age, particularly in post-menopausal women due to changes in urinary tract anatomy and hormone levels. UTIs are typically treated with antibiotics, hydration, and over-the-counter pain relief."

Kidney and bladder stones form when minerals crystallize in the urine. While they can occur at any age, the risk increases in older adults due to decreased kidney function and changes in diet and fluid intake. Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in men, with the risk increasing with age. Early stages typically present no symp-



toms, but advanced stages may cause difficulties in urination, blood in semen, erectile dysfunction, and discomfort in the pelvic area. Regular screening is vital as it can detect cancer early, improving treatment outcomes. Management includes watchful waiting, radiation therapy,

hormone therapy, surgery, and chemotherapy, asserted Dr. MS Randhawa.

Sanjay Mishra, Director Neurology while speaking on 'Stroke: Symptoms & treatments' said that stroke is emerging as the new epidemic Worldwide with 1.5 to 2.0 million new

stroke cases being reported across the Globe every year. The actual numbers are bound to be higher, as many of these patients never reach health care facilities.

"Everyday around 3000-4000 strokes happen in India and not more than 2-3% are treated. World-

wide incidence rate of stroke in 60-100 cases per 100,000 population per year, whereas in India it is close to 145-145 cases per 100,000/year. India accounts for 60% of all stroke patients globally. The reason for increased incidence in India is lack of awareness about the disease per se and the methods of prevention. He also shared that Stokes are responsible for more deaths annually than those attributed to AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria combined and yet it remains a silent epidemic."

Stroke is of two types: ischemic and hemorrhagic. Ischemic stroke means that the blood supply to a portion of the brain is cut off due to a clot with resulting brain damage. It is similar to heart attack

Meanwhile during the health check camp the free tests of PSA and uroflowmetry were also offered.

## Rakhi 2024 | Shetty sisters Shilpa and Shamita: We celebrate each other everyday

In the run up to Raksha Bandhan, August 19, actors-sisters Shilpa and Shamita Shetty open up about their Rakhi traditions and how their relationship has evolved over the years. While they didn't really celebrate the festival as children, the two share that they enjoy celebrating the festival now.

"We would just visit our cousin's house, have a good time and then head home," shares Shilpa, who is married to businessman Raj Kundra. "But since I married a Punjabi, I now celebrate the festival with enthusiasm."

Shamita, who plans to visit her older sister and her family for Rakhi, adds, "Because I live alone, I like to celebrate every



festival with my family. I come to Munki's (Shilpa's nickname) house and spend the day with them," she says, adding, "It wasn't ingrained in us that bhai

ya ladke hi raksha karte hain. My sister is very protective. So, I never felt the absence of a brother."

Agreeing with her sister, Shilpa

says, "We were raised with the mindset of 'Whatever happens, you have to stick with each other'. For us, it's the bond of blood that ties us together."

Reflecting on their evolving relationship from childhood, Shamita recalls, "I have so many memories of sibling fights (laughs). But now, with age and maturity, we have come to understand each other and are really there for each other."

Shilpa adds, "Growing up, you look at your younger sibling as a child. Chote bhai-behen hote hi irritating hain. I just kept waiting for her to grow up so that we can be friends. Our relationship has really evolved and thank God for that. I don't think we can do without each other!"

## Kangana says she 'never said anything which isn't true': 'Unjust people fear me'



Actor-politician Kangana Ranaut has opened up about what people 'misconceive' about her and shared that they are actually quote 'scared' of her. Speaking on Raj Shamani's podcast, Kangana said that she doesn't regret any of the statements she has made so far, adding that she has never said anything that isn't true. Kangana also said that she has 'never started a fight' with anyone.

Kangana says unjust people are scared of her

The actor said she doesn't think people misunderstood her, adding that they 'are scared of me'. She also said that people who are 'dishonest, who have

wronged others, who are unjust, they see me and they are so scared of me, they fear me'.

Kangana doesn't regret anything she said so far

Talking about her statements and if she regrets any of them, Kangana said, "If my statements are so absurd, can you come up with even one where... no, never, I have never said anything which is not true, never... I've never ever picked up a fight with anybody, but I've been messed with I'm the one to put an end to a fight, that I make sure. But I've never started a fight."

Kangana on joining politics

When asked the

reason for joining politics, Kangana said, "I don't sit and manifest. Life will take you to the place that you deserve because you're not sitting and manifesting. If you sit and manifest, doors will get closed because you want to be only in that hole. Come out of that hole. I did my best, I wasn't scared of anybody. I refused fairness cream endorsements worth ₹10-15 crore for. Why should I do fairness cream? It is racist."

Kangana next film Fans will see Kangana next in Emergency, a project she helmed entirely. It stars Anupam Kher, Mahima Chaudhary, Milind Soman, Shreyas Talpade, Vishak Nair, and the late Satish Kaushik in pivotal roles. Based on the period when an emergency was imposed in the country in 1975, it stars Kangana as the former Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi.

The political drama, which explores a significant and controversial period in Indian democracy, is set to hit theatres worldwide on September 6, 2024. Produced by Zee Studios and Manikarnika Films, the film is set against the backdrop of one of India's most tumultuous political periods, and promises to be a portrayal of historical events.

## Usha Uthup on returning to stage after husband Jani Chako Uthup's death

Singer Usha Uthup, who recently lost her husband, is back on stage. Talking about how she is dealing with her husband's passing, Uthup tells us, "It was a terrible moment for me. I lost my husband. It was really sad." Uthup's husband Jani Chako Uthup died on July 8 following a massive heart attack. He was 78 years old.

The 76-year-old says she is determined to return to stage and has had a few performances this month. "It took a lot of courage for me to come back to doing live shows just after a span of a few days [after her husband's passing]. What could I have done? They were shows I had already accepted," she says.

She shares that she did not want to just sit at home and is

doing what her late husband would have wanted her to do. "I don't believe in sitting at home and crying because it makes no sense. He [her husband] was the one who helped me grow and pursue my career. He never interfered in my life and always said, 'Go and sing!' I am doing that and it has brought me a lot of peace," she adds.

She further says, "I am okay as long as I am singing. It is the only thing that makes me forget about those horrible things. Music unites and brings a smile on everyone's face."

The singer feels that by performing on stage, she can feel better and keep her husband with her in her own way. "I have always been a positive thinker. I am looking forward to doing many more big public shows.



The way to keep him alive is through my music and performances."

Uthup will soon perform with her mentee actor-singer Sushant Divgikar for a live show on August 24 in Delhi. "Sushant is such a brilliant singer. She was a little child when we first

met. I have seen her singing get better with time, she has matured into a wonderful performer.

She has a certain magic in her, while doing both male and female voices. I am nothing but excited to work with her one more time," she wraps up.

## Celina Jaitley recalls man flashing private parts when she was a kid

Actor Celina Jaitley has shared some incidents from her childhood and growing up years when she had stones thrown at her and was catcalled.

Taking to Instagram, Celina shared a picture of herself when she was in class 6 and revealed how a man 'flashed' her at that age. She also shared that she was blamed for whatever unpleasant situation she had to face. Her post comes days after the rape and murder of a doctor inside a Kolkata hospital.

Celina recalls getting catcalled

Celina captioned her post, "THE VICTIM IS ALWAYS AT FAULT: In this pic I was in 6th grade only when boys from a nearby university started to wait outside my school. They would follow the school rickshaw making catcalls all the way home everyday. I pretended not to notice them and few days later because of that they started throwing stones at me in the middle of the road to get my attention. Not one bystander batted an eye."

Celina shares a man flashed her his private parts

She added, "I was told by a teacher: It was because I was 'too westernised and did not wear loose clothes and did not tie my hair in two braids with oil it was my fault!' It was also at this age when a man first flashed his private parts to me while waiting for the school rickshaw in the morning. For many years I blamed myself for this incident which I kept to myself running the words of the teacher again and again in my mind that it was MY FAULT!"



When wire of her scooty's brakes were cut

"In 11th grade I still remember they cut the wire of my scooty's brakes because I was not acknowledging the university boys who heckled and called me rude names & left lewd notes on my scooty. My male class mates got scared for me and told our teachers. My class teacher called me and told me, 'You come across as a FORWARD type of girl, riding a scooty and wearing jeans to extra classes with short open hair that's why boys think you are of a loose character'. It was always my fault," Celina continued.

When some boys passed derogatory remarks on her grandfather

"I still remember that day jumping off my scooty to save myself because of my brake wires being cut off. I was hurt badly and yet it was

my fault. My Scooty was damaged I was both physically and psychologically hurt. I was told it was MY FAULT! My retired Colonel Grandfather who fought two wars for our country had to take to escorting me back n forth to school... I still remember those boys who chased me even damaging my scooty they also passed derogatory remarks on my retired colonel grandfather making fun of him," she said further.

"Nana stood and stared at them and then he turned away shook his head and I could read his face as he walked away with me. His disgust at the very people he laid his life on line for. It's time to stand up and ask for our right to be protected WE ARE NOT AT FAULT! HOW MANY OF YOU GIRLS RELATE? #kolkatadoctordeath #kolkata #womensrights #celinajaitly," concluded her note.

## Bhumi Pednekar and Samiksha Pednekar reveal their sisterly superpower

Actor Bhumi Pednekar might be a big star today, but for her baby sister, content creator Samiksha Pednekar, she will always be "my sister first". Ahead of Raksha Bandhan, Samiksha says, "Growing up, Bhumi was always like this idol for me. I wanted to do what she was doing, and would follow her around during school. She is perhaps the only person I have looked up to growing up. She is my North star and continues to be so."

Bhumi's protective side comes up as Samiksha is mentioned and she says, "I would act as a shield between her and anything bad. Our relationship transitioned from being just sisters to friends after Samiksha went to law school. We became soulmates, travel partners and today, we are also business partners," the actor says. Ask them about their childhood and Bhumi says, "I was more proper while Samiksha was the brat." Both sisters agree that the actor was the parents' favourite growing up, and Samiksha adds, "I still feel she gets more prefer-



ential treatment."

One striking feature about the Pednekar sisters is their uncanny resemblance, but they don't agree with it. "We never thought we looked alike at all. It's actually a very recent phenomenon. But it happens on a daily basis, now more than ever. We have accepted that maybe we do look alike, but we don't see it," says Bhumi, while Samiksha adds, "Even when we step out internationally, people really think we are twins. People confuse me as Bhumi very often. Sometimes I give into it as I can't explain it all the time."

The sisters reveal that they are each other's problem-solvers too. "Bhumi has been my sounding board for everything. So, if I am ever stuck anywhere, she has to sort the problem. I don't know how, but she always somehow magically comes up with a solution. She is my favourite agony aunt. Whenever I am not feeling complete, I listen to her voice more than the voice in my head. On my low days, a lot of my self-love comes from her," Samiksha shares, while Bhumi adds, "I am very impulsive and Samiksha is way more rational than me. In our fraternity, even

the smallest of things can have an impact on your mental health, but Samiksha keeps me sane."

While they are each other's cheerleaders, the sisters also have some complaints. "Bhumi is very bad with maps. Whenever we are travelling abroad and Bhumi is the one taking us to a place, we are never reaching there. She truly can't understand the maps," quips Samiksha.

The actor retorts saying, "I am very particular about time, and she isn't. Her five minutes turn into hours and that's what I tolerate about her." Yet, the sisters do have a superpower. "We can look at each other and have a full conversation without using words," reveals Samiksha.

Reflecting on their Raksha Bandhan memories, Bhumi shares, "Ever since we were young, our mother would make us tie rakhi to each other. So, for us Raksha Bandhan is not gender bound. It's about two siblings supporting, protecting and being there for each other. Samiksha and I, in the truest way, personify that."

## Mirzapur star Rasika Dugal says she is tired of crying scenes

Rasika Dugal is not interested in doing the same crying scenes in every other project that is offered to her. The actor was in conversation with agency, where she said that she would read a script backward, and sure enough there would be some crying scene in them. She also credited OTT space for providing her with a wider audience and reach in recent years.

During the interview, the actor shared, "There was a time I could read the script backward and know that in the last ten



pages, there will be at least two crying scenes definitely for me. It has

[changed], a little of that femme fatale has happened and I am happy

about it."

The actor also talked about the rise of streaming shows and how it has given her a wider reach. "Clearly the streaming services for a lease of life for me because there were many films that I had done which hadn't seen the kind of release they deserved. There were many small films. Besides the fact that I got a lot of work, and through shows like Mirzapur I got to access a wide audience. This is when I felt that streaming services are a space for smaller films to find

an audience," she added.

Rasika has acted in a number of critically acclaimed films including Qissa, No Smoking, Hamid and Manto. The actor got widespread attention for her role in the Prime Video show Mirzapur, where she played the character of Pankaj Tripathi's wife. She was also part of shows like Made in Heaven, Delhi Crime and A Suitable Boy. She was last seen in Sekhar Home, which stars Kay Kay Menon, Ranvir Shorey.

## 10 killed, over 20 injured in bus-tempo collision in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr

BULANDSHAHR, Aug 18 (Agencies): Ten people were killed and over 20 others were injured after a bus and a tempo collided in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr on Sunday.

According to the police, 25 people were travelling in the tempo, and ten of them died in the accident in the Salempur area.

According to reports, the private bus hit the tempo while attempting to overtake another vehicle, causing the tempo to overturn.



The injured were rushed to nearby hospitals with the help of locals. While the tempo was completely crushed in the accident, the front portion of the bus was also damaged.

The incident led to anger among the locals, and they blocked the road. The cause of the accident is yet to be ascertained by the police. A probe has been launched.

## CM Siddaramaiah convenes CLP meeting in wake of governor granting permission to prosecute him

BENGALURU, Aug 18 (Agencies): Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has convened a Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting on August 22 in the wake of Karnataka Governor Thawarchand Gehlot granting permission to prosecute him in the alleged site allotment scam in Mysuru Urban Development Authority.

According to a statement issued by the chief minister's office, the meeting will be held in Vidhana Souda conference Hall.

Talking to reporters, Karnataka Minister for Information Technology and Biotechnology,



Priyank Kharge said, "Since there is a huge uproar about the governor's role, we need to apprise our people. Ultimately they are public representatives; 136 MLAs need to know what is happening."

"The meeting is related to the MUDA developments. The chief minister will brief the Congress legislators about the facts of the case and will chalk out a strategy to fight the case legally and politically," a source

in the CM House told agency.

Gehlot granted permission to prosecute Siddaramaiah, acting on the complaints by three private individuals.

In the MUDA 'scam', it is alleged that compensatory sites were allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi in an upmarket area in Mysuru, which had higher property value compared to the location of her land which had been "acquired" by MUDA.

MUDA had allotted 14 sites to Parvathi under a 50:50 ratio scheme in lieu of 3 acres of her land, where MUDA

developed a residential layout.

Under the controversial scheme, MUDA allotted 50 per cent of developed land in lieu of undeveloped land acquired from several persons for creating residential layouts.

BJP leaders have claimed that the MUDA 'scam' is of a magnitude of Rs 4,000 crore to Rs 5,000 crore.

The Congress government on July 14 constituted a single-member inquiry commission under former High Court Judge Justice PN Desai to probe the MUDA 'scam'.

The chief minister has denied any wrongdoing.

## Trinamool MP summoned by cops over "sniffer dog" claim in rape-murder probe

KOLKATA, Aug 18 (Agencies): The Kolkata Police today summoned Trinamool Congress MP Sukhendu Shekhar Ray for allegedly spreading misinformation about the details surrounding the brutal rape and murder of a post-graduate trainee doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

Mr Ray had claimed that a dog squad was sent to the crime scene three days after the body of the victim was found on August 9.

"The information that the sniffer dog was sent after three days is completely wrong. A sniffer dog was sent twice on August 9 and then on 12. A notice has been sent to Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy," the Kolkata Police said in a statement.

The summons follows closely on the heels of the Kolkata Police issu-

ing notices to actor-turned-politician and BJP leader Locket Chatterjee and two doctors - Kunal Sarkar and Subarno Goswami - over misinformation surrounding the incident.

Mr Ray, 75, barely 12 hours ago, had raised serious questions about the conduct of the investigation and expressed his dissatisfaction with the handling of the case by calling for the custodial interrogation of both the former Principal of RG Kar Medical College, Dr Sandip Ghosh, and Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal.

"CBI must act fairly. Custodial interrogation of Ex Principal and Police Commissioner is a must to know who and why floated suicide story. Why wall of hall demolished, who patronised Roy to be so powerful, Why sniffer dog used after 3 days.



100s of such questions. Make them speak," Mr Ray posted.

The call for Commissioner Goyal's interrogation has, however, not been universally accepted within the party. Kunal Ghosh, another prominent Trinamool leader, strongly opposed the demand.

"I also demand justice in the RG Kar case but strongly oppose this demand regarding CP. After getting the information, he has tried his

best. Personally, CP was doing his job, and the investigation was in a positive focus. This kind of post is unfortunate, that too from my senior leader," Mr Ghosh said.

Mr Ray was one of the first TMC leaders to announce his participation in the nationwide midnight protest over the rape and murder. He made the announcement on X, expressing solidarity with the protesters.

"Tomorrow I am going

to join the protesters, particularly because I have a daughter and little granddaughter like millions of Bengali families. We must rise to the occasion. Enough of cruelty against women. Let's resist together. Come what may," Mr Ray posted.

Mr Ray's stance, however, led to speculation about his position within the party. When questioned by a user on X about the potential consequences of his actions, including the possibility of being expelled from the Trinamool Congress, Mr Ray responded: "Please need not worry for my fate. Blood of a freedom fighter flows in my veins. I'm least bothered."

Besides the Trinamool leader, the Kolkata Police sent notices to BJP's Locket Chatterjee and two prominent doctors.

## Udaipur stabbing: Family members of victim claim they are not allowed hospital visit, take out rally



JAIPUR, Aug 18 (Agencies): Family members of the boy whose stabbing by a classmate triggered communal violence in Udaipur took part in a rally in the city on Sunday, alleging that they were not being allowed to see the victim at the hospital.

A large number of people, including family members of the boy, were part of the rally that began at Udaipur's Mukherjee Nagar Chowk. Raising slogans, the rally reached

MB Hospital, demanding that the family members be allowed to see the boy.

Udaipur SP Yogesh Goyal said, "There was some confusion that family members cannot meet the boy. But, they are allowed to do so."

His condition is stable but critical and soon a medical bulletin on him will also be released, Goyal said.

The SP said that while mobile internet services continue to remain suspended considering the law and order situation,

markets were open on Sunday. Additional police force has also been deployed in the area.

A class 10 student allegedly stabbed another boy—both minors—at a government school on Friday, triggering communal violence in the city.

A mob set fire to cars and pelted stones as news of the stabbing spread. Members of some Hindu outfits also protested the stabbing incident.

Later, the house of the boy was razed by the district administration using JCB machines on Saturday in the presence of police personnel. The house was built on forest land, officials said.

The district administration issued prohibitory orders banning the assembly of people in the city.

## Harbhajan Singh's open letter to Bengal government over rape-murder probe

NEW DELHI, Aug 18 (Agencies): Former Indian cricketer and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Harbhajan Singh today wrote an open letter to West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, expressing his "deep anguish" over the delay in justice for the Kolkata rape and murder victim.

The letter came a week after a 31-year-old trainee doctor was raped and murdered at the seminar hall of the government-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

The August 9 incident has sparked widespread outrage and protests across the country.

Mr Singh said the letter, which was also addressed to the citizens of India, was a call for "justice and introspection".

"This unspeakable act of violence, which shook the conscience of all of us, is not just a heinous crime against one individual but a grave assault on the dignity and safety of every woman in our society. It is a reflection of the deeply rooted issues within our society and a blatant reminder of the urgent need for systemic change and action by



the authorities," he said in the two-page letter, which was also shared on his official X (formerly Twitter) account.

"The fact that such an atrocity could occur within the premises of a medical institution, a place dedicated to healing and saving lives, is both shocking and unacceptable," Mr Singh said.

He said that more than a week has lapsed and we are yet to see any "concrete action", adding that it has led the doctors and the medical community to protest on roads.

"Their (doctors) protests are understood and I wholeheartedly support the medical community in their fight for their cause of justice," he said.

"The medical community is already working in challenging conditions.

With such incidents, how can we expect them to perform their duties with dedication when their own safety is so gravely compromised?" the Rajya Sabha MP asked.

He urged the West Bengal government and the investigating agency, CBI, to take immediate and decisive action to ensure that the perpetrators of this "vile act" are brought to justice swiftly.

Mr Singh also said that such incidents are reported from different parts of the country and "have become regular columns" on newspapers and TV programmes.

"The governments must implement comprehensive measures to prevent such occurrences in the future," he wrote.

## Bengaluru student, returning from party, raped by biker who gave her lift

BENGALURU, Aug 18 (Agencies): A woman was allegedly sexually assaulted in the early hours of Sunday by an unknown biker whom she had hitchhiked, a senior police officer said.

According to the Additional Commissioner of Police (East Zone) Raman Gupta, the woman, who is a final year degree student in a



city college, was returning home to Hebbagodi

after a get-together in Koramangala.

"A man from whom she had taken a 'lift' made a criminal assault and raped her. We have registered a rape case and started an investigation," Mr Gupta told reporters here.

He said prima facie it appeared she had gone for a get-together in Koramangala.

"There is only one suspect. The man who gave her a lift is suspected to

be the rapist and our investigations are on," the officer said.

According to Mr Gupta, he and other police officers visited the spot and spoke to the victim and her relatives.

"We gathered all the information and have formed five teams. We are carrying out the investigation further and soon the culprit will be arrested," he added.

## Privatisation of IAS is 'Modi's guarantee' for ending reservation: Rahul slams lateral entry recruitment

NEW DELHI, Aug 18 (Agencies): Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday termed as an "anti-national step" the government's move of recruiting public servants through lateral entry, alleging that the reservation of SCs, STs, and OBCs is being "openly snatched away" by such an action.

The former Congress president also alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "attacking the Constitution by recruiting public servants through the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh instead of the Union Public Service Commission."

Gandhi's attack came after it emerged that 45

specialists would soon join key posts of joint secretaries, directors, and deputy secretaries in different central ministries.

Usually, such posts are manned by the officers of all-India services—the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), and Indian Forest Service (IFoS)—and Group A services, among others.

"Reservation of SC, ST, and OBC classes is being openly snatched away by recruiting through lateral entry on important posts in various ministries of the central government," Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X.

"I have always said



that the underprivileged are not represented in all the country's top posts, including the top bureaucracy. Instead of improving it, they are being pushed further away from the top posts through lateral entry," he said.

"This is a robbery of the rights of talented youth preparing for UPSC and an attack on the concept of social justice, includ-

ing reservation for the underprivileged," he alleged.

The SEBI is a vivid example of what representatives of a few corporates will do by sitting on decisive government posts, where for the first time a person from the private sector was made the chairperson, Gandhi said in an apparent reference to the conflicts of interest allegations

against SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch.

The INDIA bloc will strongly oppose this "anti-national step" that hurts both the administrative structure and social justice, Gandhi said.

"Privatisation of the IAS is Modi's guarantee for ending reservation," he said.

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Saturday advertised 45 posts—10 joint secretaries and 35 directors pr deputy secretaries—to be filled through the lateral entry mode on a contract basis.

It is the biggest tranche of lateral recruitment being undertaken by the Centre, an official said.

## Paetongtarn Shinawatra becomes Thai prime minister after royal signoff

*Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the third Shinawatra to hold the job, after her billionaire father and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra, became Thailand's prime minister after receiving a royal letter of endorsement.*

BANGKOK, Aug 18 (Agencies): Paetongtarn Shinawatra, daughter of the divisive former leader Thaksin Shinawatra, became Thailand's prime minister after receiving a royal letter of endorsement Sunday, two days after she was chosen by Parliament following a court order that removed her predecessor.

She replaces another leader from the same Pheu Thai Party, at the head of a coalition that includes military parties associated with the coup that deposed the party's last government.

Paetongtarn is the third Shinawatra to hold the job, after her billionaire father and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra. Both were removed from office and forced into exile in coups, although Thaksin returned to Thailand last year as Pheu Thai formed a government.

She received the letter of appointment in a ceremony at the party's headquarters in Bangkok, attended by senior members of parties in the governing coalition and her father, who has no formal role but is widely seen de facto leader of Pheu Thai.

The father and daughter held hands as they walked in with beaming smiles. Both wore white civil servants' uniforms, which are used for royal and state ceremonies.

Paetongtarn thanked the king, the Thai people and lawmakers, saying she will perform her duties "with an open mind," and will "make every square inch of Thailand a space that allows Thai people to dare to dream, dare to create and dare to dic-



tate their own future."

Paetongtarn became Prime Minister days after the Constitutional Court removed Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, after less than a year in office. The court found him guilty of a serious ethical breach for appointing a Cabinet minister who had been jailed for contempt of court after an alleged attempt to bribe a judge.

Paetongtarn is also Thailand's second female prime minister after her aunt, and the country's youngest leader at 37.

Speaking to reporters after the ceremony, Paetongtarn said she is determined to push forward key policies such as economic stimulus, improvement for universal healthcare and promoting cultural "soft power" on the global stage.

She did not initially mention Srettha's signature proposal for a digital cash handout of 10,000 baht (about \$275) to 50 million citizens to spend at local businesses in order to boost the economy.

The project has been criticized as an ineffective way to contribute to sustainable eco-

nomical growth, and has faced several hurdles that include its sources of funding.

When pressed by reporters, Paetongtarn said she still has an intention to push forward a major economic stimulus for Thailand, but she will need to "continue to listen to opinions." She also said she will ask for her father for advice when she needs, but insisted that she would make her own decisions. "I am my own person. I have my own things and my own goals that I have to achieve in the future, but of course all the comments from him (have) value to me," she said.

Pheu Thai is the latest in a string of populist parties affiliated with Thaksin, who was ousted in a 2006 military coup, which triggered nearly two decades of deep political divisions that pitted a mostly poor, rural majority in the north that supported Thaksin against royalists, the military and their urban backers.

Parties linked to Thaksin won the most seats in every national election from 2001 until 2023, when it lost to the more progressive Move Forward Party.

Pheu Thai was able to form a government after Move Forward was blocked by the military-appointed Senate, partnering with former rivals in what was widely interpreted as a political bargain with the conservative establishment to stop Move Forward from forming a government.

The same day, Thaksin returned from exile and briefly reported to prison to for an eight-year sentence on charges related to corruption and abuse of power. He was moved almost immediately from prison to the hospital on grounds of ill health, and about a week after that the king reduced his sentence to a single year. He was released on parole in February after spending six months serving time in the hospital.

Since his release, Thaksin has maintained a high profile traveling the country, making public appearances.

On Saturday, Thaksin's lawyer Winyat Chatmontree posted on Facebook that Thaksin was among the convicts granted a royal amnesty by the king on the occasion of his birthday in late July. It took effect Sunday, which means Thaksin is free ahead of his original parole schedule.

However, the amnesty does not protect Thaksin from an ongoing case for defaming the monarchy, which was indicted in June after being originally filed in 2016. It has been seen by some analysts as a warning from Thaksin's enemies that he should tone down his political activities.

## Ukraine says it repelled Russian missile attack on Kyiv

KYIV, Aug 18 (Agencies): Ukrainian forces said they thwarted a Russian missile attack on the capital Kyiv where air raid sirens sounded before dawn on Sunday.

"This is the third ballistic missile attack on the capital in August with a clear interval of six days between each attack," the Kyiv City Military Administration posted on Telegram after the early morning barrage.

Simultaneous to the missile attack, drones were spotted heading to Kyiv. "All enemy drones were destroyed far outside the city," it added.

No damage or casualties were reported from the attack, which the administration said had "most likely used North Korean ballistic missiles of the KN-23 type".

The United States and Seoul have accused North Korea of providing ammunition and missiles to Russia for its war in Ukraine.

Kyiv has repeatedly called for its allies in the West to provide more air-defence systems.

Last weekend, a 35-year-old man and

his four-year-old son were killed in an overnight Russian missile attack near Kyiv. Three other people were seriously injured.

Concern has deepened after Moscow vowed a "tough response" to the recent Ukrainian advance into Russian territory.

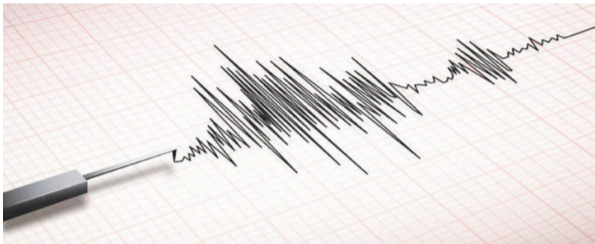
Two and a half years after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Kyiv's troops last week launched a major counter-offensive into the Kursk region, sending more than 120,000 people fleeing.

Ukraine claims to have seized more than 1,100 square kilometres of Russian territory in the biggest attack by a foreign army on Russian soil since World War II.

On Saturday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that his army was reinforcing its positions in the Russian region of Kursk with the operation "proceeding exactly as we expected".

On the other side of the front line, Russian air defences destroyed five Ukrainian drones in the Belgorod, Kursk and Rostov regions on Saturday night, the Russian Defence Ministry said.

## 7.0 magnitude earthquake hits off far east coast of Russia



PETROPAVOSK-KAMCHATSKY, Aug 18 (Agencies): A powerful earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.0 struck in the Pacific off the far eastern coast of Russia near a major naval base early Sunday, but there were no early reports of damage or injuries.

The quake prompted a tsunami warning that was later lifted. The earthquake occurred 18 miles (29 kilometres) below the surface and its epicenter was about 63 miles (102 kilometres) east of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, the US Geological Survey said. Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky is a port city of more than 1,81,000 people surrounded

by volcanoes and sits across a bay from an important Russian submarine base.

The US National Weather Service's Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre in Honolulu initially warned that hazardous tsunami waves were possible for coasts within 300 miles (480 kilometres) of the earthquake epicentre, but later announced the threat had ended.

The centre said minor sea level fluctuations could occur in some coastal areas near the earthquake site for several hours.

## UK plans to treat extreme misogyny as form of terrorism



LONDON, Aug 18 (Agencies): For the first time, the United Kingdom government is planning to treat extreme misogyny as a form of terrorism.

The Telegraph reported that UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper has issued an order to review the country's counter-terrorism strategy to address violence against women, identify gaps in the current laws, and study emerging ideologies.

This move will put violence against women in the same bracket as far-right extremism.

Under the proposal, it would be compulsory for school teachers to refer students they suspect of extreme misogyny to the government's counter-terror program.

The local police will assess anyone who is referred to the program to see if they display signs of radicalisation and need to be deradicalised.

Speaking with The Telegraph, Cooper stated, "For too long, governments have failed to address the rise in extremism, both online and on our streets, and we've seen the number of young people radicalised online grow. Hateful incitement of all kinds fractures and frays the very fabric of our communities and our democracy."

The Labour MP added, "Action against extremism has been badly hollowed out in recent years, just when it should have been needed most."

"That's why I have directed the Home Office to conduct a rapid analytical sprint on extremism, to map and monitor extremist trends, to understand the evidence about what works to disrupt and divert people away from extremist views, and to identify any gaps in existing policy that need to be addressed to crack down on those pushing harmful and hateful beliefs and violence," he stated.

This comes after a senior police official warned last month that social media influencers like Andrew Tate could radicalise youth into extreme misogyny in the same way terrorists draw in their followers.

Calling it "quite terrifying," Deputy Chief Constable Maggie Blyth stated that the Online Safety Act needs to advance further and that rapid actions should be taken in order to protect children.

Earlier last month, the UK's National Police Chiefs' Council released a report on violence against women and girls, calling it a "national emergency."

## Vietnam's new leader arrives in China on first overseas trip since taking the helm

BEIJING, Aug 18 (Agencies): Vietnamese leader To Lam started a three-day visit to China on Sunday in his first overseas trip since assuming his country's top post about two weeks ago.

Lam arrived in the morning in Guangzhou, an industrial and export hub near Hong Kong, Chinese state media reported. His agenda included visiting sites in the southern China city where former Vietnamese communist leader Ho Chi Minh spent time,

the state-owned Global Times newspaper said in a social media post.

He is to meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping and other senior officials during his trip.

Lam was confirmed as general secretary of Vietnam's Communist Party, the top leadership position, on Aug. 3. He also has held the largely ceremonial title of the nation's president since May. Lam succeeded Nguyen Phu Trong, who died on July 19 after 13 years as general secretary.



The new leader is expected to continue his predecessor's strategy of balancing ties with China, the United States and Russia, Yu Xiangdong, the director

of the Institute for Vietnam Studies at China's Zhengzhou University, wrote Saturday in the Global Times.

"The fact that Lam chose China as his first

overseas visit destination since taking office is a sign that Vietnam attaches great importance to its relations with China," Yu said in an opinion piece. "But at the same time, judging from experience, the country is not by any means going to give the U.S. the cold shoulder."

Though they have long ties as one-party communist states, Vietnam and China have sparred repeatedly over territory that both claim in the South China Sea. A Vietnamese coast

guard ship recently took part in joint drills in the Philippines, which has had a series of violent encounters with China over disputed territory in the same waters.

China also briefly invaded parts of northern Vietnam in 1979.

Still, Vietnam has benefited economically from investment by Chinese manufacturers, which have moved production to the Southeast Asian country in part to skirt U.S. restrictions on solar panels and other exports from China.

## Educational Institutions reopen after a month in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Aug 18 (Agencies): Bangladesh on Sunday reopened all educational institutions, including universities, secondary schools and colleges, across the country after more than a month of closure due to violence centring the student-led protests that led to the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The educational institutions in Bangladesh were closed indefinitely on July 17 to ensure the safety of students in the wake of clashes that erupted during the recent movement demanding reform of the job quota system.

The Ministry of Education on Thursday issued a directive to reopen the institutions under its jurisdiction.

All the educational institutions reopened on



Sunday, after a month of closure.

According to Somoy Television, a Bengali news channel based in Dhaka, "All concerned have been asked to take necessary steps to resume academic activities in all the educational institutions from August 18 following the instruction of Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus," a notification signed by deputy secretary Mosammat Rahima Akhtar, said on August 15.

In the morning, school students in uniform were seen going to their institutions, many accompanied by guardians, the Daily Star reported.

Many points of Dhaka city are witnessing severe traffic congestion due to the reopening of educational institutions.

The working week is from Sunday to Thursday in Bangladesh.

Initially, classes were scheduled to resume on August 4 in all government primary schools,

except in the 12 city corporations and Narsingdi municipality, but this was also postponed.

Meanwhile, the postponed Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent examinations will be resumed from September 11.

According to the revised routine, the exams will be completed on October 23.

Classes at public universities have been suspended since July 1 when teachers went on strike in protest of a new pension scheme.

After the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5, the educational institutions were declared open on August 7, but the academic activities could not be resumed fully due to the low attendance of students.

## A crocodile attacks and wounds a zookeeper in Jerusalem



JERUSALEM, Aug 18 (Agencies): A crocodile attacked a zookeeper in Jerusalem on Sunday, leaving him hospitalized with severe injuries on his upper body, officials said.

Israeli police said a security guard at the zoo likely saved the man's life by firing stun bullets at the crocodile. It was not immediately clear if the animal was

injured. Jerusalem's Ein Kerem Hospital said the 45-year-old man was immediately taken into surgery.

The zoo first opened in 1939 in the city center as a petting zoo and moved to southern Jerusalem in 1992. Today it hosts dozens of species from around the world and an aquarium.



# Banks woo depositors with special schemes amid contest with markets



MUMBAI/JAMMU, Aug 18: With deposit growth slowing down, banks are racing to mobilise funds through special deposit schemes and other innovative plans to meet the credit demand in the system. Many banks have reported a decline in deposits during the quarter ended June 2024 as customers are now looking at alternative avenues like the capital markets to park their funds for better returns.

State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest bank, registered a fall in deposits to Rs 49.01 lakh crore in the June quarter of FY25, compared to Rs 49.16 lakh crore in the March 2024 quarter. Bank of Baroda reported a fall in deposits from Rs 13.26 lakh crore to Rs 13.06 lakh crore in the June quarter. Other banks also reported a similar trend during the June quarter.

Among private banks, HDFC Bank's deposit base remained flat at Rs 23.76 lakh crore on a sequential basis in June 2024.

CASA deposits and impact on bank strategies According to bank officials, current and savings bank (CASA) deposits declined during the quarter. SBI's CASA deposits fell to Rs 19.41 lakh crore from Rs 19.14 lakh crore in March 2024. "The decline in deposit growth has forced some banks to raise deposit rates in certain buckets. Credit growth is now outpacing deposit growth. Customers are now focusing more on the capital market where returns are far higher than bank deposits. They were seen breaking fixed deposits

to invest in mutual fund schemes," said a bank official.

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) latest data shows that credit growth rose by 15.1 per cent as of July 2024, compared to 14.6 per cent on a year-on-year basis. However, deposit growth declined to 10.6 per cent from 12.9 per cent a year ago.

SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara said that the current phase of credit growth outpacing deposits is temporary. "We have seen that when alternative options are available, people have gone to markets but bank deposits remain the channelling source. We had a similar situation in 2007 when loans outpaced deposits, but it was a temporary phenomenon which we should be able to navigate with our investment book," he said while unveiling the bank's quarterly results last week.

Banks launch special deposit schemes

In order to mobilise higher deposits, banks have been launching special term deposits. Recently, lenders such as SBI, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, RBL Bank, and Bandhan Bank have launched special retail deposit schemes. Banks are also focusing

on niche segments for deposit mobilisation. In July, SBI launched 'Amrit Vrishi'—a scheme that offers 7.25 per cent interest on deposits for 444 days. Bank of Baroda also launched the 'Monsoon Dhamaka' deposit scheme, offering interest rates of 7.25 per cent for 399 days and 7.15 per cent for 333 days.

Amid concerns over the shift of household savings from banks to alternative investment avenues, resulting in slower deposit growth compared to credit, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das recently asked lenders to garner deposits through innovative product offerings and use their wide branch network.

Alternative investment avenues are becoming more attractive to retail customers, and banks are facing challenges on the funding front with bank deposits trailing loan growth, he said. "Banks are taking greater recourse to short-term non-retail deposits and other instruments of liability to meet the incremental credit demand," Das said.

Govt's focus on small deposit mobilisation

Last week, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asked banks to take the old-fashioned route to

bring back focus on mobilising "small deposits" and not just big deposits in order to reverse the slow-down in deposit growth rate.

"It's right that credit is going through digital format and collection of deposits is not. Huge big deposits have always been a very lazy banker's job, but the trickles which come are going to be the bread and butter money to lend regularly. So that trickle (small deposit mobilisation) was the emphasis a long, long time ago...the requisite small deposits, that's also one of the very critical jobs of the bank. It might be grinding monotony but that's where your bread and butter lies," she said.

However, slower growth in deposits has led to an increase in the cost of funds for banks, which has forced banks to raise their lending rates. Recently, SBI raised its marginal cost of funds (MCLR) by 10 basis points (bps) across all tenors. In the last three months, SBI has raised MCLR by up to 30 bps in some of the tenors.

Mutual funds vs. bank deposits

Analysts said equity schemes of mutual funds had given four to five times more returns than bank deposits, prompting people to focus on the capital market for higher returns. After adjusting for inflation, they were hardly getting two or three per cent returns from bank deposits. Mutual fund players said that the notion that the slowdown in bank deposits due to higher subscription to mutual

funds seems to be misinformed. They said that the shift of money from bank deposits to mutual funds will not affect banking system liquidity as the money remains in the banking system.

"Prima facie it seems that bank deposits and mutual funds are competing with each other, but there will be no impact on the banking system liquidity because of money flowing into mutual funds," said Sandeep Bagla, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Trust Mutual Fund.

He attributed strong returns, ease of investing, the ability to invest regularly in the market through systematic investment plans (SIPs), and growing awareness among retail investors as the primary reasons for higher retail participation in mutual funds.

"In the last seven years, the returns from equity markets and equity-oriented mutual fund schemes have been very strong and so people are looking to earn those returns and are investing in mutual funds. The fact that one can invest regularly in the market at all levels through SIPs has also resulted in a lot of savings moving into SIPs," Bagla said.

The data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed that the contribution of systematic investment plans (SIPs) touched an all-time high of Rs 23,332 crore in July. The net assets under management of the mutual fund industry grew by 6.23 per cent to touch a record high of Rs 64.97 lakh crore as of July 31, 2024.

# Cong Party Launches Assembly Election Campaign in Chhamb with a Mega Rally



Top News Report

CHHAMB, Aug 18: The Congress party officially commenced its assembly election campaign in the Chhamb constituency with a large rally held in Village Thanger, under the leadership of senior Congress leader Satish Sharma. The event marked a significant moment in the campaign, drawing thousands of Congress workers from the Chhamb constituency. The rally also celebrated the appointment of Shri Tariq Hameed Karra as the new President of the Jammu and Kashmir Congress. The party workers expressed their enthusiasm and readiness to contest the upcoming assembly elections under his experienced leadership, confident that the Congress party would secure a decisive victory and form the next government in Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking at the event, the workers expressed their belief that under the leadership of Satish Sharma, the Congress party would achieve a resounding victory in the Chhamb constituency. They voiced their optimism that the party would top the electoral results across the

state. Satish Sharma, addressing the gathered crowd, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the people of the Chhamb constituency for their overwhelming support. He stated that the strong turnout at the rally was a clear indication that the Congress party is poised to defeat the BJP in Chhamb with a significant margin, a result he expects to be replicated throughout Jammu and Kashmir. He reaffirmed the party's commitment to contest the assembly elections with full enthusiasm under the seasoned leadership of Shri Tariq Hameed Karra. Sharma also extended his congratulations to Shri Raman Bhalla and Shri Tara Chand on their appointments as Working Presidents of the Jammu and Kashmir Congress. He further emphasized that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are ready to vote against the BJP, signaling an end to what he described as a decade of dictatorial rule that has adversely affected the lives of the region's residents. Looking ahead, Shri Satish Sharma outlined his priorities for the Chhamb constituency should he be elected as MLA. His plans include securing a separate 3% quota for residents of both ALC and IB, launching special recruitment drives for border areas, addressing issues related to mining, ensuring compensation for land acquired by the Defense Ministry, promoting border tourism, providing adequate staff to all government institutions within the assembly, regularizing daily wagers, addressing concerns over smart meters, passing

a resolution to end the Agniveer scheme, and issuing new ration cards. Several prominent figures were in attendance at the rally, including Kuldeep Raj Verma (former MoS), Parveen Sharma (Senior District Vice President), Prabhu Singh (Senior District Vice President), Prem Singh Chib (Block President Khour), BD Sharma (Ex-Director Health), Captain Viru Ram (Pradhan All India Barwala Biradari), retired DySP Ashok Sharma, Ramesh Verma (Ex-Corporator), Gian Singh (Block President Chowki Choura), Bachan Singh, Sham Lal Verma (Block President Mairi Mandrian), Choudhary Sham Lal, Captain Vijay Sharma, Captain Prakash Bhagat, Captain Sham Singh, Ex-ZEO Surinder Kumar (Member Ramdasia Sabha), Swaran Singh (Ex-Sarpanch), Sukhdev Sharma (Ex-Sarpanch), Naresh Pal (Ex-Sarpanch), Shamsheer Singh (Ex-Sarpanch), Captain Surinder Sharma, Sehdev Singh (Ex-Sarpanch), Anuradha Devi (Ex-Sarpanch), Rano Devi, Satin Sharma (Block President Kharah Balli), Chundi Lal Sharma (president Brahman Sabha), Ved Prakash Sharma, Vijay Singh, Gittan Singh, Vijay Sharma, Chetan Sharma, Nirmal Singh, Sunil Singh, Vishal Buvra, Ashwani Sharma, Rajinder Sharma, Sharuv Sharma, and Bhawani Dev, among others. This rally sets the tone for what promises to be a vigorous and determined campaign by the Congress party in the lead-up to the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections.

# Interaction With ESM And Veer Nari Thanamandi, Rajouri

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Aug 18: To remain connected with Veer Naris and Veterans, an interaction was conducted at Thanamandi, Rajouri District under Operation Sadbhavana by Indian Army to address grievances, healthcare support, pension related issues and well-being of Veer Naris, Veterans and their families. The basic objective

behind the meeting was to honour and resolve the problems of Veer Naris and Ex-Servicemen. During the interaction, the invitees were acquainted with the various initiatives undertaken by Army for the welfare of Veer Naris and Ex-Servicemen in the nearby areas. The gathering was made aware of latest Government policies, pre-recruitment rallies and other welfare related measures

planned in upcoming months. Ex-Serviceman pledged that they will motivate youth of their area to join Armed forces to be part of mainstream, keep them away from illegal activities like drug peddling and keep in touch with civil administration. A free Medical Camp was also organized to help Veer Naris and Ex-servicemen in leading a normal and healthy life, which is otherwise challenging considering

the terrain and weather conditions. Free health check up & medicines were provided to the patients. Requisite consultation, vaccination and medicines were provided for the people to help the invitees avail medical treatment benefits. Additionally, a lecture was also organized during this medical camp to emphasize on importance of good eating habits, balanced diet plan and maintaining personal

hygiene and sanitation to increase happiness quotient amongst the gathering. The meeting provided a platform for open dialogue and constructive discussions on various issues and the way forward for creating a congenial environment between jawan and AVAM. The event also served to strengthen the bond between Indian Army and the Veer Naris and Veterans of this region.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Kolkata Police summon ex-BJP MP, 2 doctors for 'revealing' rape victim's identity

"Yes, I have received the summons. But at the moment, I am out of town and have informed the Kolkata Police about that. I do not know why they have called me, but it seems that some of my comments on social media have elicited certain reactions nationally and internationally... maybe because of that," Sarkar told agency.

Dr Goswami, Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Purba Bardhaman district, said he is yet to receive the summons.

Speaking to agency, he said, "I am yet to receive anything. I do not know why Kolkata Police will issue summons to me when they are not investigating the case. I have been saying that I will cooperate with the probe in every possible manner. I didn't reveal the identity of the victim or spread any rumour."

Chatterjee, the former BJP MP of Hooghly constituency, said she has not received any summons yet.

"It would have been better if they had shown the same promptness while investigating the case. Everyone wants justice for the woman," she said.

Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal, during a press conference on Friday, had said there has been a lot of rumour-mongering which has affected their investigation and posed threat to law and order.

### Wife of fallen DySP Humayun Bhat reflects on pride and loss after Kirti Chakra Award

offer their support. The award will be

given at an investiture ceremony by President Draupadi Murmu. The date is yet to be announced.

In the small, sunlit room adorned with a large portrait of her husband, Fatimah reminisced about their cherished moments. "He was not just a police officer; he was my partner, my friend, and the father of our son," she recalled.

Ali Ashar looks at his father's portrait, his lip movement perhaps saying "daddy". This fills Fatimah with both joy and sorrow.

Determined to raise her son with the values of bravery and integrity that Humayun embodied, she recently accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at Kashmir University, a role provided to the Next of Kin of fallen officers.

"I don't wish to be called the widow of Humayun. My marriage was the finality of my life, and I will always be his wife," says Fatimah, who holds an MPhil in Clinical Psychology.

Fatimah recounted the harrowing moment she received a video call from Humayun on that fateful day. "His last words to me were, 'Baby, I am hit. I love you, I am sorry, please take care of Ashar for me,'" she recalls him telling her.

Their final audio conversation was filled with love and hope, with Humayun assuring her, "I will make it for you and Ashar. I am coming home, baby."

But the reality struck! "He did come home, but in a different way," Fatima says, tears rolling down her cheeks.

Earlier this year, Fatimah had the opportunity to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the region "It was reassuring to see that the government acknowledges the bravery of my husband."

"The saga of his valour will be a precious treasure for my son as he grows up in this world," she asserted, as she spoke of her commitment to keeping her husband's legacy alive.

As she navigates the complexities of grief and motherhood, Fatimah stands

### GCC urges centre to restore J&K's Statehood at the earliest

discharge its responsibilities towards the people and that the statehood to J&K should be restored at the earliest.

It also called for the conduct of free and fair elections, saying the UT administration would do so under the supervision of ECI in letter and spirit.

The GCC statement said that people of the UT have suffered a lot due to lack of representation since 2018.

In this behalf the statement made a mention of the commitment made by PM and HM about restoration of statehood and hoped that this commitment will be honoured without any more delay, said GCC vice chairman and the former advisor to the governor, Mr. Khurshid Ganai.

### BJP will contest Assembly Elections with full strength in J&K: Ravinder Raina

and Kashmir Minister Chowdhary Zulfikar Ali's joining the BJP, Raina welcomed him warmly. "He is a very big political leader of J&K. With his joining, the BJP will get strengthened," Raina noted.

Meanwhile, senior BJP leader and former CM, Nirmal Singh revealed that the party has drafted a preliminary version of its election manifesto.

He stated that once finalized, it would be submitted to the central government.

Singh also commented on the impact of

Article 370, asserting that its removal has curbed separatist and Pakistani interference, leading to improved peace in the region.

He expressed optimism that the electorate would exercise their democratic rights and that the BJP is poised to secure a majority in the J&K Assembly polls.

### Former Minister Choudhary Zulfikar joins BJP in Jammu

Choudhary Zulfikar, who has previously been associated with various political parties including the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), has held significant positions like cabinet minister in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

He was also a founding member of Altaf Bukhari-led Apni Party, where he served as vice president. A prominent Gujjar leader, Zulfikar hails from Rajouri and has strong footing in Pir Panjal region.

A day ahead of joining the BJP, he met home minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Saturday.

### DPAP dismisses news of Azad's return to Congress

"Thus, these rumours are totally baseless and false, just to create confusion and break our party," the DPAP leader said.

He stated that Azad has requested all party leaders and workers not to get into this trap and has also requested that the media persons not to give any importance to these rumours.

Notably, Azad, on September 26, 2022, floated the new political outfit DAP with three agendas in Jammu and Kashmir, including the restoration of full statehood, the right to land, and employment to native domiciles.

Azad ended his over-five-decade-long association with Congress on August 26,

2022, and launched DPAP.

### Doda to vote in first phase, last date for nomination filing on Aug 27

and fair polling, ensuring a level playing field.

There are a total of 90 assembly constituencies, of which 74 are general, nine are ST, and seven are SC. There are 87.09 lakh total electors, including 44.46 lakh are male, 42.62 lakh are female, 169 are transgender, 82,590 PwDs, 73943 are very senior citizens, 2660 are centenarians, 76092 are service electors, and 3.71 lakh are first-time voters.

Jammu and Kashmir will witness elections after a gap of ten years, as the last assembly election was held in 2014. The PDP-BJP coalition government fell in June 2018 when the latter withdrew support to the then-Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti.

In December of last year, the Supreme Court directed the Centre to conclude the election process by September 30, 2024.

### Vice-Chairman DDC Kupwara resigns from PC after being denied ticket

(KNO), Haji Farooq, who was elected VC of DDC Kupwara in 2020, said that he has announced his resignation from the party due to its conduct.

"It is with great pleasure that I along with my whole cadre (workers and sympathisers) disassociate myself from JKPC with immediate effect," Farooq said. Farooq resigned from the party, a day after PC nominated Mudasar Akbar Shah as constituency In-Charge for Lolab Assembly segment. Mudasar is likely to be PC candidate from Lolab.

## Finance Minister calls for reforms in multilateral development banks at Global South Summit

NEW DELHI, Aug 18 (Agencies): Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has called for views on actions needed to reform multilateral development banks (MDBs), and how the global south can collaborate better to raise the issue of debt distress faced by the low income countries.

She was addressing the finance ministers' (virtual) session of the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit. Sitharaman said high debt service costs have constrained resource available for financing developmental needs, particularly in low income countries.

"It is critical that the financing requests made to MDBs are met with speed and agility. This will require reforms at operational levels as



well as identifying new additional sources of finance," the minister said.

She reiterated that dedicated concessional windows should be made available for middle income countries to address climate-related challenges on private capital mobilization.

"MDBs need to engage with credit trading agencies and explore how to better incentivise the

flow of private capital or development financing," said the finance minister.

Citing the World Bank's June 2024 report, which states that by the end of this year, one in four developing economies will be poorer than they were before the pandemic, she highlighted that growth remains insufficient to drive progress in development and poverty reduction.

## Discount brokers' market share rises to 64.6% amid surge in new demat accounts



NEW DELHI, Aug 18 (Agencies): Discount brokers continue to chip away market share from traditional/full-service brokerages, with top five of them raising their market share to 64.6% in July, up from 58.1% in the year-ago period.

Meanwhile, brokerages added 4.5 million new demat accounts in July, taking the total to 167 million in the month, up 35% year-on-year at 123 million and 3% jump on a monthly basis. This has the average monthly account additions of 3.9 million so far in the current fiscal, as per the data from traditional brokerage Motilal Oswal sourced from the exchanges and NSDL and CSDL.

Top five discount brokers accounted for 64.6% of total NSE active clients in July, up from 58.1% in July 2022, increasing the number of active clients on the NSE by 3.2% to 45.7 million in July, the brokerage said.

Groww topped Zerodha to become the top brokerage in terms of clients in August 2023, and continues to add more clients and market share in July, recording 4.9% month-on-month rise in its client count to 11.5 million, and increasing its market share 40 bps to 25.1%. In July 2023, Groww had 18.8% market share and topped Zerodha next month with 19.9% market share.

On the other hand, Zerodha continued to lose share as it added only 1.7% more clients to 7.8 million in the reporting month, and lost 25 bps to 17.1%. Zerodha at its peak had a market share of 19.8% in July 2023 and since then has been losing.

Angel One saw a 3.8% growth in its client count to 7 million, adding 10 bps to market share to 15.3%. Upstox clocked a 2.7% rise in its client count to 2.7 million, and controlled 6% market share and 5Paisa lost 44 bps of its market share to 1.2%.

On the other hand, traditional brokers led by ICICI Securities, which is being delisted, reported client count at 1.9 million, and lost 10 bps to 4.2%. IIFL Securities added 0.5 million clients and had 1% market share.

While the proposed F&O curbs has had its impact on NSE volume, it did in fact help BSE raise its volume share. The market share of BSE in the total cash segment came in at 7.1% in July, up from 6% in July 2023.

## Genetic connections between Alzheimer's disease, heart conditions found

NEW DELHI, Aug 18 (Agencies): A new study has uncovered genes that could be related to heart conditions and Alzheimer's disease, suggesting that the two could have similar origins.

Researchers said that evidence increasingly links people having the heart condition with a quicker cognitive decline and a 26 per cent increased risk of dementia, affecting one's memory and thinking, and interfering with daily activities. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia.

Coronary artery disease is a condition in which blood flow to the heart is restricted due to narrowing of blood vessels.

Even as abnormal levels of fat in blood and inflammation could be possible shared risk factors between having coronary artery disease and developing Alzheimer's disease, the researchers at Edith Cowan University, Australia,

said that the processes underlying the link remain unclear.

In this study, they employed genetic methods to examine the intricate relationship between heart disease and Alzheimer's disease.

The team chose to study seven heart disease-related factors, such as coronary artery disease and angina, and 13 lipids, including cholesterol - both 'good' and 'bad'.

Previous studies have long suggested lipids to play a role in the development of Alzheimer's disease, she said.

"Our comprehensive analysis reveals a significant and positive global genetic correlation between Alzheimer's disease and three lipid traits: LDL ('bad' cholesterol), triglycerides, and total cholesterol," the authors wrote in the study published in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences.

not all, may have a more direct genetic link with Alzheimer's disease, they said.

However, many of the lipids that the authors studied were genetically related with coronary artery disease.

"Specifically, we found significant genetic correlations between coronary artery disease traits and lipid profiles such as HDL, LDL, triglycerides, and total cholesterol, aligning with the existing literature that underscores the genetic interplay in cardiovascular risk factors," they wrote.

By applying genetic approaches to gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between Alzheimer's disease and coronary artery disease, we have uncovered novel insights into the underlying mechanisms linking these conditions, corresponding author Emmanuel Adewuyi, from Edith Cowan University, said.

## IMF's Gita Gopinath shares key reforms India needs for economic growth

NEW DELHI, Aug 18 (Agencies): Dr Gita Gopinath, the First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said that India will remain one of the fastest growing G20 economies in terms of major economies of the world.

She also shared her insights on the key reforms that India needs to focus on to achieve stronger economic growth.

In an exclusive interview, Dr Gopinath discussed various aspects of the economy and the steps the government can take to boost growth, particularly in light of the IMF's medium-term growth projection of around 6.5% for India.

Structural reforms for economic growth Dr. Gopinath mentioned the importance of a broad spectrum of structural reforms, highlighting that while some may take longer to yield results, others can be implemented more quickly to spur growth.

One critical area she identified is improving the business environment in India. Simplifying regulations, reducing red tape, and making it easier for businesses to operate are crucial steps to encourage private sector investment, both domestic and foreign.

She pointed out that



states like Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, which rank high in terms of business climate, are also the top destinations for foreign direct investment in India.

"The 2 bright spots in India are Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. And both of them also rank high in terms of business climate. So there's a strong correlation over there. That in implementing that, country-wide would be very helpful," she said.

This correlation, according to Dr Gopinath, underscores the need to implement such business-friendly environments across the country.

Labour and infrastructure reforms

Labour reforms also feature prominently on Dr Gopinath's list of priorities. India has introduced new labour codes, but their implementation remains a work in progress.

She highlighted the need for both central

and state governments to work together to enforce these reforms effectively. The aim is to create a more flexible labour market, which would make it easier for businesses to hire and manage workers, ultimately leading to job creation and economic growth.

In addition to labour reforms, Dr Gopinath mentioned the importance of continued investment in public infrastructure, especially digital infrastructure.

"Public infrastructure investment, digital infrastructure investment, that's a lot that's been done, but a lot more is still, of course, needed, and that's another area," she added.

Trade policies and global integration

Trade restrictions are another area of concern for Dr Gopinath. She highlighted that this decade presents a significant opportunity for India, as the world is looking to diversify mar-

kets and supply chains.

To take advantage of this, India needs to be seen as a trade-friendly nation. Lowering trade barriers and integrating more deeply into global supply chains will be essential for India to attract investment and drive growth.

Dr. Gopinath cautioned against the rising tide of trade protectionism globally, noting that trade has historically been beneficial in reducing poverty, maintaining growth rates, and facilitating technology transfer.

"The only way you're going to get that is if you're also going to be seen as being trade friendly because that's usually the path to getting into global supply chains," she said.

Evaluating government incentives

When asked about the government's production-linked incentives (PLIs) and employment-linked incentives (ELIs), Dr. Gopinath acknowledged the government's focus on key sectors but urged caution.

She suggested that while these incentives are important, it is essential to conduct a thorough cost-benefit analysis to ensure that they deliver the desired outcomes without putting undue strain on public finances.

The success of these

incentives, according to Dr Gopinath, will depend on their implementation and the broader business environment.

For instance, coupling these incentives with labour market reforms could provide the flexibility needed to create more jobs. However, she noted that it is still too early to assess the impact of these policies fully.

Addressing job creation challenges

One of the most pressing challenges India faces is job creation. Dr Gopinath shared some concerning figures, noting that India will need to create between 60 million and 148 million additional jobs by 2030 to meet the demands of its growing population.

Achieving this will require a multifaceted approach, encompassing improvements in the business environment, private investment, labour market flexibility, and human capital development.

She underscored the importance of not limiting the focus to just one sector, whether it be manufacturing, services, or high-tech industries. Instead, a comprehensive strategy that supports all sectors will be necessary to generate the scale of job creation required.

## Mid-tier banks boost fixed deposit rates to 8.50% to attract depositors

MUMBAI, Aug 18 (Agencies): Borrowing a leaf from their larger peers who have been wooing depositors with attractive pricing for medium-term fixed deposits of up to 7.30% return per annum, several mid-tier banks are now doing the same offering as much as 8.50% at the peak and over average 20-30 bps more than the larger banks.

Mid-sized banks, which have launched special deposit drive include RBL Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Federal Bank, Bandhan Bank, and Tamilnad Mercantile Bank among others to increase in deposits.

Continuing slower growth of deposit mobilisation for more than two months had the regulator Reserve Bank and even the North Block mandarins getting worried about asset liability mismatch. People were pulling out money from banks and parking them in equities and mutual funds and even derivatives since the pandemic-induced crash in March 2020 and the subsequent recovery from June of that year. Since then the stock market and mutual funds

have been giving much higher returns on their money.

While credit growth has been averaging 15-16% system-wide, deposits accretion has been far lower averaging at 11-12% for the past few years. In FY24, credit growth was at 19.3% and deposit growth was 14.7%, forcing banks to offer higher prices for term deposits.

Kochi-based Federal Bank has unveiled a limited period fixed deposit scheme offering 7.35% for a 400-day money, 7.40% for 777 days, and 50-month tenor for callable deposits. It is offering an additional 0.50% to senior citizens. If you put in non-callable deposits above Rs 1 crore, it is offering 7.50% for 400 days; 7.55% for a 777 day money.

RBL Bank is offering 8.10% for 500-day money and 8.60% for senior citizens. Pune-based Bank of Maharashtra is offering 7.25% for 777 days tenor in a limited period offer. Turticorin-based Tamilnad Mercantile Bank is offering 7.50% on fixed deposits for 400-day tenor and 8% for senior citizens.

In June and July large lenders

like State Bank, HDFC Bank, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, Canara Bank, Bank of India, Central Bank of India and Punjab National Bank, among others, launched special fixed deposit schemes to mobilise deposits at a faster pace to support credit growth.

Some of these large banks, in the meanwhile have also hiked their lending rates as well to protect their margins, which analysts war will fall by 25-30% this fiscal as deposit pricing keep on rising.

The banks, which have increased their loan pricing — so far only MCLR-based loans which are typically short term corporate loans include SBI which earlier this week upped the MCLR loan rate by 10 bps across tenors. Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, and Uco Bank had also hiked their MCLR based loans by 5 bps.

Typically banks earn more when their interest expense, which is what they pay for their funds is lower. In a normal scenario, banks price deposits/liabilities lower than their assets/loans to protect their margins/

spreads.

In the current scenario, banks are forced to raise domestic deposits at higher prices, because even raising money from outside is no longer lucrative as the interest in the overseas markets are also at decadal high. According to rating agency Crisil, banks profitability is set to moderate due to higher cost of deposits given the continued re-pricing at elevated rates. Deposit costs are expected to increase 25-30 bps this fiscal after having risen 140 bps since the start of the rate tightening cycle in May 2022. As a result, net interest margin (NIM) is likely to compress 10-20 bps this fiscal to 3-3.1%.

In contrast, if the Reserve Bank cuts repo rate it would trigger faster repricing of loans downwards as over 40% of advances are linked to an external benchmark, primarily the repo rate. Together, these factors indicate a compression in net interest margin (NIM) in fiscal 2025 and transmission on the assets and liabilities sides will continue into fiscal 2026, the agency said.

## New algorithm analyses tongue to predict diabetes, stroke with 98 per cent accuracy

NEW DELHI, Aug 18 (Agencies): Researchers have developed a novel computer algorithm that can predict various diseases like diabetes or stroke, just by analysing the colour of the human tongue with 98 per cent accuracy.

The imaging system developed by Middle Technical University (MTU) and the University of South Australia (UniSA) in Australia can diagnose conditions such as diabetes, stroke, anaemia, asthma, liver and gallbladder issues, Covid-19, and other vascular and gastrointestinal diseases.

"The colour, shape, and thickness of the tongue can reveal a litany of health conditions," said Ali Al-Naji, adjunct Associate Professor at MTU and UniSA.

"Typically, people with diabetes have a yellow tongue; cancer patients a purple tongue with a thick greasy coating; and acute

stroke patients present with an unusually shaped red tongue," he added.

The breakthrough was achieved through a series of experiments using 5,260 images to train machine-learning algorithms to detect tongue colour.

Researchers received 60 tongue images from two teaching hospitals in the Middle East, representing patients with diverse health conditions. The AI model matched tongue colour with the correct disease in nearly all cases.

The paper published in Technologies describes how the system analyses tongue colour to provide real-time diagnoses, demonstrating that AI can advance medical practices significantly.

Al-Naji explained that AI is replicating a 2,000-year-old technique from traditional Chinese medicine, where the tongue's colour, shape,

and thickness are used to diagnose health issues.

For example, people with diabetes typically have a yellow tongue, while cancer patients show a purple tongue with a thick greasy coating. Stroke patients often present with an unusually shaped red tongue. A white tongue can indicate anaemia, severe Covid-19 cases are associated with a deep red tongue, and an indigo or violet tongue suggests vascular or gastrointestinal problems or asthma.

The study used cameras placed 20 centimetres from a patient to capture tongue colour, and the imaging system predicted health conditions in real time.

Co-author, UniSA, Professor Javean Chahl noted that this technology could eventually be adapted for use with smartphones, making disease screening more accessible.

## Overwhelmed with love, wrestler Vinesh Phogat wants girls to excel in sports, assures support

*Mahavir Phogat also thanks the countrymen for showering affection and expressing solidarity with Vinesh*

HISAR, Aug 18 (Agencies): Visibly physically exhausted, a poignant looking Vinesh Phogat reached her native Balali village amid a rousing welcome by men and women who waited for around 14 hours in Charkhi Dadri district.

Vinesh accompanied by her family members including mother Prem Lata, uncle and coach Mahavir Phogat, fellow wrestler Bajrang Punia and others, arrived in the village around 1 am after midnight.

Addressing the villagers, Vinesh feeling overwhelmed and trying to control her emotions said, "I will preserve your honour and faith you have reposed in me till my last breath".

She said, "I don't know whether I am capable of this love and honour or not. But I will always be indebted to you for this honour and affection you have showered on me. I promise you



that I will always preserve this honour".

Vinesh made an emotional appeal to the villagers to provide all the opportunities to the girl so that they can excel in their chosen fields. "I want from the bottom of my heart that every house in my village has a girl who excels in sports and even breaks all the records set by

me. I urge all my elders to give the opportunity to my sisters to make their mark in their chosen field as they have all the potential to achieve big. But they need your blessings, support, faith and encouragement," she said.

Vinesh also thanked the countrymen and added that she would always be indebted to the country and the soil of her native

village that gave her so much honour and love. "I am always ready to teach my sisters in my village whatever I have learnt in wrestling and pray that they go higher than me. It will be a proud moment for her when they bring honour to the village and the country," she said.

The villagers and gram panchayats of Balali village and many adjoining villages honoured her in the function organised in the village temple at night.

Vinesh's uncle and coach Mahavir Phogat also thanked the countrymen for showering affection and expressing solidarity with Vinesh.

Amit Sangwan, former sarpanch of Balali village, who was present at the function said that she did not make any announcement regarding her plans about her wrestling career.

## Let's leave it to gods: Chopra on 90m throw

NEW DELHI, Aug 18 (Agencies): Having missed out on breaching the elusive 90m mark at the Paris Games, two-time Olympics medallist Neeraj Chopra has left that widely debated matter "to the gods". After all, Chopra has been chasing that milestone for years and the wait got longer when his only legal throw of 89.45m got him a silver at the Paris Olympics earlier this month.

A back-to-back medal at the Summer Games was a monumental feat for an Indian athlete but Chopra's throw was way short of Arshad Nadeem's sensational 92.97m that comfortably secured a historic gold for the Pakistani.

Nursing a long-standing groin injury, Chopra managed to be on the podium and now he will be seen in the Lausanne Diamond League starting August 22.

After a busy couple of days post the Olympics final on August 8, Chopra started training in Switzerland and is determined to finish the season on a high despite being restricted by injury.

"I need to leave it to gods now," he said when asked about his target throw in the foreseeable future. "I just want to prepare well and see where the javelin goes. There has already been talk

about 90m, now I feel just let it be. In Paris, I thought it would happen and it could have happened. Now I will give my 100 per cent in the next two or three events and see what happens," he said.

Following the season-ending Diamond League in Brussels on September 13-14, Chopra will consult the doctors on his groin injury with surgery being the most likely option. The 26-year-old has been managing the injury since winning gold in the World Championships last year.

With Arshad producing an Olympics record throw in the final, Chopra needed to up his game but he said he could not do that because of his physical state.

"I felt I could increase the distance. My two throws in qualification and final, they were second and third best throws and my season's best as well. To increase distance I need to be injury-free. In my mind I know I need to give a 100 per cent but because of the injury I am not able to do that. My body and mind stops me from making that extra effort. What is most important in training is throwing sessions which I have not been able to do as much as I would have liked to. If you can't throw regularly then you are not able to work on your technique. I need to throw as much as I can. The rest is all fine," he said.

## Kamran Akmal bashes PCB for 'international mockery' due to no crowd in Karachi Test

KARACHI, Aug 18 (Agencies): Former Pakistan cricketer Kamran Akmal has lashed out at Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for hosting the second Test against Bangladesh at National Bank Stadium in Karachi. Notably, due to the ongoing construction work at the stadium as part of the preparations for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, the PCB has not allowed the crowd the game.

However, the decision hasn't gone down well with Akmal who called it a joke for Pakistan cricket that matches are played without any crowd. The former wicketkeeper-batter said that the board could've arranged the game in some other stadium as Pakistan have many options.

"The second Test match will be played in Karachi. So I think you know that there is a renovation going on in Karachi. They are preparing a stadium for the Champions Trophy. So it will be a joke of Pakistan that Test matches are being played in Pakistan without a crowd. And we don't just have 2-3 stadiums; we also have Faisalabad Stadium. We could have played there too; it is a top-class stadium. So much cricket has happened there," Kamran said in a video uploaded from his You-

Tube channel

Further speaking ahead, Akmal suggested that Multan stadium would've been a good option calling PCB's decision an international mockery of their cricket.

Pakistan's unbeaten record over Bangladesh

"There is a stadium in Multan. And you know that Multan Stadium is very good. And the crowd also comes there. So you know that this is your stadium; you could have put another Test match at one of these two venues. So it would have been good. So I think it will be an international mockery of our cricket. These things should not happen," he added.

Meanwhile, Pakistan will take on Bangladesh in the first Test beginning from August 21 at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi. Bangladesh arrived in Pakistan four days in advance to prepare for the series due to the ongoing political turmoil in their country. Notably, Pakistan have an unbeaten record over Bangladesh having beaten them in 12 out of the 13 matches played between the two teams. Hence, the Shan Masood-led side will be eager to continue their dominant record in the upcoming series as well.

## Jaspal Rana blasts NRAI selection policy: 'No system to protect shooters'

NEW DELHI, Aug 18 (Agencies): Double Olympic-medallist shooter Manu Bhaker's coach Jaspal Rana has strongly criticized the National Rifle Association of India's (NRAI) "ever-changing" Olympic selection policy, stating that it has harmed promising talents and will continue to do so if consistency is not maintained. Rana, a pistol legend with three Asiad gold medals, emphasized the need for a fixed policy, highlighting that the current system fails to support shooters and often leads to their decline.

Rana pointed out that the selection policy changes every six months, which creates uncertainty and makes it difficult for shooters to prepare. He suggested that the federation should decide on a policy and stick to it, regardless of whether it is right or wrong. This consistency, he believes, will significantly improve the performance of shooters.

"The (federation's) selection policy changes every six months. I met the sports minis-



ter and told him 'get the selection policy from the federation. Let them decide... whatever they decide, right or wrong, we are not discussing that, and then stick to it'.

"You will see the difference (in the performance of shooters)," said the decorated marksman.

Rana cited examples of talented shooters like Saurabh Chaudhary and Jitu Rai, who faded away quickly despite their initial success. He also mentioned Arjun Babuta, who finished fourth in Paris and is now

struggling to regain his form. Rana questioned why there is no effort to support these shooters and help them regain their position.

The NRAI had amended its selection criteria in 2021, reducing bonus points for quota winners and reintroducing trials. However, Rana argued that even with these changes, there is no consistency, and the federation's approach remains unclear. He emphasized that Olympic and world medallists need protection and support to

continue performing at the highest level.

"Where is (pistol shooter) Saurabh Chaudhary, where is (Asian Games gold medallist pistol shooter) Jitu Rai? Does anybody talk about them? No. Are you talking about (10m air rifle shooter) Arjun Babuta, who finished fourth in Paris? He missed the medal by a fraction," the firebrand 48-year-old asked.

"Nobody is thinking how to get him back on the platform (again)," said Rana, who was allegedly told to leave the Karni Singh ranges by the federation's High Performance Director Pierre Beauchamp during the Paris Olympics Selection Trials.

Rana's concerns are particularly relevant for Manu Bhaker, who won two bronze medals in Paris but will have to fight for a place in the national squad once she returns from her break. He advocated for a system that allows Olympic medallists to compete in every trial, ensuring they receive the necessary facilities and support to continue their success.

## Lifter Mirabai, coach Sharma eye Asian Games, CWG medals

*Mirabai had won a bagful of medals including gold in the 2017 World Championships and CWGs but the Asian Games medal is missing from her trophy cabinet.*

CHENNAI, Aug 18 (Agencies): Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu fell short of a bronze medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics just by a kilogram. The Tokyo Games silver medallist was the favourite to add to her tally in the recently concluded quadrennial event but that was not to be. The loss might be heartbreaking but it failed to break the 30-year-old weightlifter's spirit.

Quickly moving on from the Paris defeat, Mirabai and head coach Vijay Sharma have set their eyes on upcoming events including the 2026 Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. Currently, on a much-needed break, the duo is expected to reunite in a couple of months to chalk out future roadmap.

"It's been years since I have taken a long break so I have taken one month's leave. Similarly, Mira is on a two-month break. I will spend time with my family while she also plans to make up for the lost time by being with her family in Manipur," Coach Sharma told this daily from his hometown Modinagar, Uttar Pradesh.

She finished fourth in the women's 49kg last week as she could not lift 114kg in her third and final clean and jerk attempt. Mirabai lifted a total of 199kg



(88kg in snatch+111kg in C&J) at the South Paris Arena. It was 3kgs less than what she heaved at the Tokyo Olympics (202 kg) for a silver medal. Surodchana Khambao from Thailand bagged the bronze for her effort of 200kg (88 kg + 112 kg).

China's Hou Zhihui defended her title by smashing the clean-and-jerk Olympic record. She lifted an overall weight of 206kg (89kg + 117kg). Romanian Mihaela Cambei took home the silver with a total of 205kg (93kg + 112kg).

"I am not done yet. The same is true with Mirabai. The lifter might have taken a break but she will work on her fitness and strength. It will not be apt to talk

about the next Olympics in 2028 but yes we will prepare for the 2026 CWG and Asian Games. Both of us want to win more medals for the country and we will continue our quest for it," added Sharma.

Mirabai had won a bagful of medals including gold in the 2017 World Championships and CWG (2018 and 2022) but the Asian Games medal is missing from her trophy cabinet. It might have spurred her on to continue in the same vein leaving behind the Olympic failure.

As she won't, Mirabai was not dejected despite the medal slipping away from her. "It was going good, whatever the coach said I did. It is just destiny that

I did not get a medal, I did my best," she had said with a smile on her face. It looks like the former world champion will look to add another chapter to her glorious career when she returns to the weightlifting platform after a couple of months.

Academy for future

Apart from coaching his trainees at the national camp, Sharma intends to produce world-class lifters at his yet-to-be officially inaugurated academy in Modinagar. While he was away on national duty, the facility started functioning with around 30 lifters training at the place.

"It has been a dream to give top facilities to aspiring lifters and this academy will fulfill it. Although it has not been inaugurated yet but its been functional for a month now. It has all the facilities a weightlifting academy can offer including two coaches, a sauna and a steam bath. The equipment are world-class. My aim is to train lifters between the age group of eight and 11 as that is the perfect age to groom world beaters. But that doesn't mean I will not work with national campers. I hope to look after both jobs simultaneously," signed off the coach.

## CA to celebrate 150 years of Test cricket with AUS vs ENG one-off match in 2027



NEW DELHI, Aug 18 (Agencies): Cricket Australia (CA) has announced to host a special Test between Australia and England to commemorate 150 years of Test cricket in 2027. Notably, CA released the men's hosting rights schedule for home Tests till 2031 on Sunday, August 18. While finalizing the schedule, CA revealed the hosting of the special Test between the oldest rivals of the game at the historic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) to celebrate cricket's most respected format.

Notably, the first-ever Test match was played from March 15-19 between Australia and England in 1877 at MCG where Australia emerged victorious by 45 runs. CA CEO Nick Hockley expressed his excitement for the highly anticipated sesquicentenary calling it a wonderful celebration of the pinnacle format.

"The 150th anniversary Test match at the MCG in March 2027 will be a wonderful celebration of the pinnacle format of the game at one of the world's great sporting arenas and we can't wait to host England on that occasion," CA CEO Nick Hockley told cricket.com.au. Notably, CA earlier hosted the centenary Test between the two teams held from March 12-17 in 1977. It was a grand occasion at the MCG as every living men's cricketer who had played either Australia or England in an Ashes was invited to watch the game.

CA hosted centenary Test in 1977

In a major coincidence, Greg Chappell's Australia beat Tony Greig's England by 45 runs, the same margin by which Australia had won the maiden Test. Meanwhile, Australia and England will ignite their rivalry down under ahead of the sesquicentenary Test in Ashes 2025-26. Notably, Australia have retained the urn since 2017 with England last holding it in 2015.

Furthermore, the Three Lions are yet to win a Test in Australia since 2011 having suffered 0-5, 0-4 and 0-4 series losses in the last three Ashes tours. However, England have given tough competition to Australia at home with their last series loss coming in 2003 against their arch-rivals.

The Kangaroos managed to draw the series 2-2 on the last two occasions and hence will be hungry to continue their dominance at home in the upcoming series.

# Sahai deliberates with C S Azad RD of RBI J&K, Ladakh in 63rd Empowered committee meeting

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 18: Rahul Sahai Chair PHDCCI Jammu expressed sincere gratitude to Chandra Shekhar Azad, Regional Director (RD), RBI J&K and Ladakh, for giving PHDCCI the opportunity to present various suggestions, recommendations, and issues concerning the trade and industry sectors in Jammu.

Rahul Sahai said PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry has actively conducted numerous programs on crucial topics such as TReDS, Udyam registrations, and CGTMSE, serving as a vital bridge between the government and entrepreneurs in policy advocacy. However, as we move forward, we would like to highlight several pain areas that continue to affect trade and industry in Jammu.

Firstly, Sahai said that it has been observed that enterprises with slightly shaky CIBIL scores are facing significant challenges in securing loans. Many are compelled to seek funds from open markets at exorbitant interest rates. We urge that decisions be made based on the actual ground position of these entities, allowing for some calculated risk to be



taken. It's often seen that those in genuine need of financial support are overlooked, while those less in need are repeatedly offered loans.

Secondly, Sahai welcomed the introduction of a new assessment model for MSMEs in the recent union budget. This model will enable public sector banks to develop in-house capabilities for evaluating MSME businesses based on their digital footprint, rather than relying on external agencies. We would appreciate insights on how banks plan to implement this model in practice.

Rahul Sahai said, "The union budget also introduced a mechanism to support stressed accounts, ensuring continued bank credit for MSMEs during periods

of financial difficulty. This measure is crucial for preventing closures of small businesses during tough times, and we look forward to understanding how this will be operationalized."

Rahul Sahai appealed to banks, under their CSR mandates, to consider funding drug de-addiction centres in Jammu, such as the one established by JK Police in Sunjwan. This is a pressing social issue, and additional contributions are needed to support this cause.

Regarding TReDS, Sahai recommended that the RBI should suggest that government and semi-government departments, both at the state and central levels, be included on TReDS platforms. This would enable enterprises to access bill

discounting facilities for payments due from the government.

Rahul Sahai said With the reduction in the turnover threshold for mandatory onboarding on TReDS from Rs 500 crore to Rs 250 crore in the budget, we request that all banks ensure compliance by requiring customers to declare their registration on the platform.

Sahai said Additionally, we seek clarification from SIDBI regarding the establishment of new branches in MSME clusters, as announced in the budget. This initiative aims to enhance the bank's reach, providing direct credit within three years, with 24 new branches scheduled to be opened this year alone.

Sahai mentioned that

Some other significant announcements in the budget include the introduction of a credit guarantee scheme for MSMEs involved in manufacturing, facilitating term loans for equipment and machinery without collateral. Another scheme aims to pool credit risks for MSMEs within clusters, offering guarantee covers of up to Rs 100 crore.

Furthermore, the limit for Mudra loans has been increased from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh for those with a history of timely payments is also a welcome step.

Rahul Sahai said New business opportunities for banks have also been outlined, including financial support for setting up irradiation units within the MSME sector, the facilitation of NABH-accredited food quality and safety testing labs, and the creation of e-commerce export hubs to help traditional artisans access international markets. Banks should tap these new areas.

Sahai thanked Regional Director RBI and appreciated for his attention to these matters and look forward to your continued support in addressing the challenges faced by the trade and industry sectors in Jammu.

# Natrang presents hardest political satire 'Topian'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 18: Natrang presented a hardest political satire 'Topian' written by Mani Madhukar under the direction of Neeraj Kant in its weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre' at its studio.

Most appropriate and timely presentation on the contemporary political scene of the country, the play is a dig on the lusty politicians who can change colors faster than a chameleon just to ensure that they remain in power. For them, mission is to be befool the public and for that they have the requisite theatrical art, know-how, expertise and the excellence to transform themselves to any color or attire as per the situation and the requirement.

Human civilization has witnessed lot of social and political revolutions, each time thinkers and philosophers have sold new political thoughts and doctrine of governance. But ironically the same faces have made their way to power just by hiding real faces in new masks. They have been changing color of their caps and not their mind set.

In the backdrop of the story of two neighbors who pledge to change the political scene are shown looking for alternatives. Each time they come



across a person they meet only those wearing different caps and attire offering them variety of manifestos.

Each time they identify him as a different person and expect a different ideology from him. This way they succumb to his tactics. Over the time when they find that nothing is changing, the slogans of socialism are furthering the divide between rich and poor, quality of life is deteriorating day by day and the security of life and property is at the mercy of God. Both muster courage and strip the person selling those dreams. Surprisingly inside clothes they find that he is the same person and every time he used to come to them in different attire.

The playwright has successfully portrayed that the politicians are the

same; they only change their caps and their colors just to befool public. They can be friends and the enemies at the same time, their equations and confrontations change for lust of power.

This absurd play posed a big challenge before the young actors of Natrang but interestingly their handling of the characters surprised many. Aadesh Dhar played the central character of the play who frequently changes into different colors was beautifully portrayed by him. The two neighbors were played by Mihir Gujral and Kushal Bhat. Both gave engrossing performances. The lights of the play were designed by Neeraj Kant whereas Vishal Sharma scored the Music of the play. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen

# Jalil Ahmed Sheikh nominated as Tehsil President EJAC Gool

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Aug 18: Employees Joint Action committee (EJAC) nominated senior trade union leader Jalil Ahmed Sheikh as Tehsil President for Gool. This decision, made by District President EJAC Ramban Ch.Ashraf Hussain with the Consent of Many Employees Association of District, Ramban, comes as a strategic move to reinforce EJAC presence and address the evolving challenges faced by Employees in the region.

Jalil Sheikh a seasoned Senior Leader, will now assume the responsibilities of Tehsil President for Gool. Mr Jalil is having vast experience as trade union leader as well as a good academician.

The official announcement was made through a press release issued today by District President EJAC Ramban Ch.Ashraf Hussain State President J&K EJAC Wajahat Hussain Durani, General Secretary Sajad Ahmed Paray, Provincial President Kashmir Mohammed Amin Khan, Provincial President



Jammu Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh, emphasized the importance of Mr. Jalil Sheikh leadership in strengthening the EJAC stance in Ramban. "In order to strengthen EJAC in Ramban and make it more robust in dealing with the emerging challenges confronting teachers, Senior Trade Union Leader Jalil Ahmed is appointed as the Tehsil President Gool with immediate effect," the official order stated.

This strategic move reflects the commitment of EJAC to enhance its capabilities and effectiveness in serving the Employees community. Jalil Sheikh extensive experience and leadership qualities are expected to contribute significantly to the Forum's objectives in the Ramban.

# Doda's healthcare professionals join nationwide outrage, demand justice for Kolkata colleague

Many other organizations also join in support of their solidarity



Top News Report

DODA, Aug 18: In a demonstration of solidarity and protest, the Doda's healthcare professionals joined by the students of Govt ANMT School Doda, Sakhi One Stop Centre, Parisha & Palash Child Care Institute, Doda Civil Society, Women Hub for Empowerment & Tejas Ek Pahal Foundation (NGO) organized a peaceful candle march to condemn the horrific rape of a 31 years old PG trainee doctor at RK PG Medical College in Kolkata.

The event which was organized on the call of All J&K National Health Mission Employees & JK Medical Employees Federation Doda, commenced from CMO Office Doda and marched through different routes of Doda Town and later on proceeded to Clock Tower Dossa road chowk with a significant turnout of women and assembled there for hours. The participants holding placards, walked in silence with candle in hands a symbol of grief for the rape victim and a demand for justice.

While addressing the large gathering, Sr Vice President of JKNHMEA Jammu Division Faizan

A Trambo expresses his deep anguish and outrage over the incident, "This heinous crime is not just an attack on an individual but on entire womanhood. We demand that the perpetrators be brought to justice without any delay, he said".

Trambo also emphasizes the need for stronger laws and their strict enforcement to prevent such crimes in the future, adding that the peaceful protest was also aimed to raise awareness about the increasing dangers faces by the healthcare workers particularly females and the urgent need for legal reforms to safeguards their lives while they service the public.

Others speakers which includes President NHM Employees Association Doda Dr Nasir Masood, President MEF Doda Hoshyar Singh, President Doda Development Front Ishaq Ahmed Dev and Chairman Tejas Ek Pahal Foundation (NGO) Akash Parihar in their speeches strongly condemned the barbaric act where a PG Medical Student has been brutally raped & murdered, demand fast track investigation of the matter and stern punishment to those behind this heinous crime.

Meanwhile, among others the candle march protest was also joined by Sandhya Rathore (Centre Administrator, Sakhi One Stop Centre & Mission Shakti Doda), Dr Sanya Khan (Gender Specialist), Humerah Balwan (Gender Specialist) both from Sankalp Women Hub for Empowerment Doda, Chander Rekha (Superintendent Palash Doda) and Sangeeta Rani (Incharge Parisha), who in their messages also conveyed their solidarity with the victim's family and demand just for the PG trainee. Their participation underscores that the collective commitment to addressing issues of women's safety and ensuring that such incidents are not tolerated.

# Two teachers, minor girl die in car accident in Reasi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 18: Two teachers and a minor girl died in a fatal car accident in Reasi on Sunday afternoon, said an official. The official said that an Alto car bearing registration number JK20B 1024 rolled down into a deep gorge near Chamelu Morh, Chassana area of Reasi, resulting in instant death of two occupants and critical injuries to two others.

Upon evacuation of the injured duo to a nearby hospital, a minor girl eventually succumbed, taking the toll to three. The official identified the deceased trio as Ghulam Din and Mohd Amin, both teachers by profession, and the minor girl as Sumera Ghulam - all residents of Hamusan area of Chassana tehsil in Reasi.

"The another injured, also a minor, identified as Sajad Ghulsum, has been taken to a nearby hospital for treatment," added the official.

Confirming it, a police official said that they have taken cognisance of the incident for further investigations.

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