

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Former J&K Minister Abdul Haq Khan Rejoins PDP After Two Years

SRINAGAR, Aug 20 (Agencies): Former Jammu and Kashmir minister Abdul Haq Khan returned to the PDP on Tuesday, two years after he resigned from the party. Khan served as minister for rural development, panchayati raj, and law and justice in the PDP-BJP coalition. He had distanced himself from the PDP after the state government fell in 2018.

Khan rejoined the PDP in the presence of party chief Mehbooba Mufti, who visited his residence due to his ill health, a party leader said.

Khan was elected to the erstwhile legislative assembly of Jammu and Kashmir from Kupwara district's Lolab constituency twice in 2008 and 2014.

2 girls sexually assaulted in Thane school, big protests, CM steps in

THANE, Aug 20 (Agencies): Two girls, aged 3, were allegedly sexually assaulted by a cleaning staffer in a girls' toilet in Maharashtra's Thane district. Massive outrage was seen on Tuesday at the Badlapur station in Thane as protesters held a rail roko protest against the alleged assault of 2 kindergarten students.

The co-ed school where the girls studied was also vandalised by protesters. A police case was filed, and the cleaning staffer was arrested.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has assured to fast-track the case, adding that a special probe team to investigate the case has already been formed.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis ordered the formation of an SIT (Special Investigation Team) led by top police officer Arti Singh will probe the incident.

The assault occurred on August 12-13, when the girls had gone to use the toilet.

The incident came to light after both girls refused to go to school because they were scared after what had happened to them. When the parents asked them the reason behind their behaviour, they told them of the sexual assault that took place at the school.

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India, Malaysia ink key pact on recruitment, elevate ties to comprehensive strategic partnership

NEW DELHI, Aug 20 (Agencies): India and Malaysia on Tuesday elevated their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim held extensive talks focusing on expanding cooperation in several sectors, including trade, investment and defence.

A pact on promoting recruitment of Indian workers in Malaysia and protection of their inter-



ests was one of the at least eight agreements inked between the two sides.

The pact on recruitment of Indian workers

assumes significance as illegal immigration and human trafficking from India to Malaysia are among major concerns of the two governments.

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Tarigami writes to CEC for allowing advts to print media during MCC

JAMMU, Aug 20 (Agencies): CPI(M) leader Mohamad Yousuf Tarigami has submitted a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner of India, Rajiv Kumar Ranjan regarding challenges faced by the print media fraternity due to implementation of the Model code of Conduct (MCC) in Jammu and Kashmir. "With the MCC in place, advertisements related to development have been suspended from the date of announcement of polls, until the completion of



elections. While the adherence to the MCC is crucial, it is important to consider the severe impact this decision has on the already struggling print media industry in the region," he explained in the letter. Tarigami pointed out

that the print media fraternity had also endured significant financial losses for the period of MCC imposed during recent Parliamentary elections, and they are now facing similar circumstances. "Given the importance of a vibrant and functional media in a democracy, and in view of the financial challenges faced by the print media fraternity, it would be highly appreciated if an exception to permit advertisements distribution is made at

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ECI issues notification for first phase of J&K polls

SRINAGAR, Aug 20 (Agencies): The Election Commission of India on Tuesday issued notification for 24 assembly seats of Jammu & Kashmir where voting will take place on September 18.

The ECI issued the election notification after the Lieutenant Governor, in a separate notification, called upon each

of these 24 constituencies to elect members of Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951, news agency KNO reported.

The poll-body issued notification for Pampore, Tral, Pulwama, Rajpora, Zainapora, Shopian, D.H. Pora,

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Amarnath Yatra ends with 12-yr footfall high of 5.1 lakh devotees

SRINAGAR, Aug 20 (Agencies): The annual Amarnath pilgrimage concluded on Monday with over 5 lakh pilgrims paying obeisance at the shrine in Himalayas.

The yatra ended as "Chari Mubarak", the silver mace believed to be of Lord Shiva, reached the cave shrine where prayers were held on the occasion of Shravan Purnima, coinciding



with the festival of Raksha Bandhan.

The Chari Mubarak, carried by mahant swami

Deependra Giri, had started its journey from Dashnami Akhara

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Security grid to be bolstered in Jammu hospitals

JAMMU, Aug 19 (Agencies): Security grid in Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) Jammu and Shri Maharaja Gulab Singh (SMGS) Hospital Jammu besides other associated hospitals would be bolstered.

Decision was taken at a meeting of senior faculty,

convened by Principal and Dean, Jammu GMC, Dr Ashutosh Gupta to review the security scenario within the hospital premises.

During the meeting, as per the officials, it was unanimously decided that 20 armed police personnel would be deployed

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BSF Man Makes History As First CAPF Officer To Complete Ironman Triathlon

NEW DELHI, Aug 20: A 35-year-old BSF officer has become the first CAPF officer to successfully complete the Ironman challenge, one of the toughest triathlon events across the globe.

Assistant Commandant Harish Kajla joined the

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Kolkata rape-murder case: SC orders formation of national task force for safety of doctors

NEW DELHI, Aug 20 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the formation of a national task force to suggest measures for the security of medical professionals across the country, observing that the safety of doctors is the "highest national concern".

A bench headed by CJI



D.Y. Chandrachud, which has taken suo moto cognisance of the rape and murder of a junior doctor at the state-run R.G. Kar

Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata earlier this month, termed the incident "horrific" which raises "systemic issue of safety of doctors across the country".

"We are deeply concerned with the fact that there is an absence of safe conditions of work

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Power Of Constitution Can Defeat 'Dictatorial Regime's Arrogance': Cong On Lateral Entry U-Turn

NEW DELHI, Aug 20 (Agencies): The Congress on Tuesday claimed that the Centre's move to withdraw the advertisement for lateral entry in bureaucracy was due to the campaign by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and INDIA bloc parties, and said this shows that only the power

of the Constitution can defeat the "arrogance of a dictatorial regime".

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi asserted that the Congress will protect the Constitution and the reservation system at all costs and foil "conspiracies" of the BJP.

The remarks came after

Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh wrote to Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) chairman Preeti Sudan and asked her to cancel the advertisement so that marginalised communities get their rightful representation in government services.

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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

India's military leadership convene to chart the future of the country's military

NEW DELHI, Aug 20 (Agencies): The Indian Army's top brass gathered in New Delhi on Monday for a crucial discussion chaired by General Upendra Dwivedi, the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS). This marks the first high-level meeting under General Dwivedi's leadership since he assumed the role of COAS on June 30, 2024. The meeting, which will continue through August 20, is being attended by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chiefs of the Indian Army's seven commands.

The primary focus of the discussion on Monday was on charting the course for the Indian Army's future and aligning with the government's vision to make India a developed country, a significant global player and one of the most desirable countries to live in by 2047.

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CS takes stock of security, other arrangements for upcoming Assembly Polls

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 20: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Tuesday held a meeting of top Civil Administration and Police Department to take stock of the security arrangements made for smooth conduct of assembly elections here in the UT. Besides the DG Police and Principal Secretary, Home the meeting was also attended by Spl DGP; Spl DG Crime; ADGPs; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu; Secretary, Transport; IGP Jammu/Kashmir; Transport Commissioner; DIGs; Deputy Commissioners; SSP-sand other concerned officers.

Outstation officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

The Chief Secretary took this occasion to



impress upon the concerned to make robust arrangements for additional companies of CAPFs required in each district.

He asked for identification of feasible locations for camping these security forces which are amenable in terms

of basic amenities like water, power, toilets and others.

Dulloo also sensitized the administration to look into the security and accommodation of contesting candidates. He advised for making adequate arrangements for such protected persons

along with other requirements for their campaigning and electioneering.

He implored upon the Transport Department to make prior roadmap in collaboration with the respective districts for making available the requisite number of buses, LMVs and HMVs for fer-

rying polling staff, security forces and other poll materials.

He enjoined upon the respective Divisional Commissioners to personally monitor these activities along with specifying places, carrying out necessary repairs, if any before the actual dates of polling there. He directed for submitting the daily reports about the progress made on this account.

Moreover the Chief Secretary took appraisal from the concerned Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and Transport Department about their preparedness and plans to meet the requirements. He asked them to observe utmost coordination with each other so that this democratic exercise completes in a very congenial manner with large participation of public.

Tiranga Rally taken out by Muslim Rashtriya Manch at Jammu



Top News Report

Jammu, Aug 20: J&K "Muslim Rashtriya Manch" took out Tiranga Rally at Jammu on Tuesday.

Tiranga Rally led by All India Convenor "Muslim Rashtriya Manch"(MRM) Abu Bakar Naqvi was taken out in Gandhi Nagar Jammu.

The rally which was organised in connection with 'Har Ghar Tiranga' programme was formally flagged off by all India Convenor MRM Abu Bakr Naqvi. Besides others, the rally was attended by Gulshan Kumar(Organiser J&K, Ladakh), Mir Nazir Ahmed(Convenor J&K, Ladakh UT's), Adv. Malikzada Mohd Shahzad(Legal advisor J&K, Ladakh UT's).

Slogans like Meri Mati Mera Desh, Madray Watan Hindustan Zind-

abad, Aek Hind Jai Hind, Aadhi Roti Khayenge, Bachon Ko Padayeingay, Taleem Zandgi Kay Liye, Zindagi Watan Kay Liye, Muslim Rashtriya Manch Zindabad were raised on the occasion.

The rally passed through different roads and concluded at Auqaf Market Jammu.

Expressing his views on this occasion, Abu Bakr Naqvi said the purpose of "Tiranga Rally" is to unite all the people together by religion and nation. "It was aimed at infusing the spirit of patriotism in the hearts of the citizens and join in the walk for peace and prosperity of the country," Naqvi said.

The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' is a campaign under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to encourage people to bring the Tiranga, "bringing the Tricolor(flag) collectively

as a nation in the 78th year of independence thus becomes symbolic of not only an act of personal connection to the Tiranga but also an embodiment of our commitment to nation building Naqvi added.

In addition, a plantation drive was organized by the MRM crew at Muthi, near the DSE office in Jammu.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion included, Ali Mohd Chechi (Co-Convenor J&K), Mohd Aslam Maik (Co-Convenor Intellectual Wing), Shahid Kalas (Co-Convenor Jammu province), Fayaz Ahmed Wani(Secretary Jammu Province), Rayees Ahmed Sheikh(Secretary Jammu Province), Mohd Ashraf Choudhary(Convenor Youth distt Jammu) and others.

Panthers Party (Bhim) announces first list of candidates for Assembly Elections

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 20: Vilakshan Singh, President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (Bhim), has announced the party's first list of candidates who will contest the upcoming assembly elections. This announcement highlights the party's commitment to representing diverse constituencies and addressing key regional issues with dedicated leadership. In the first list party has declared the names of 17 candidates from Kashmir Province.

The candidates who shall contest assembly elections on the mandate of JKNPP (Bhim) are Syed Mohammad Qurashi for Karnah, Munir Ahmed Khan for Kupwara, Peerzada Mudasir Rashid Shah for Lolab, Abdul Ahad Najar for Pattan, Gh. Nabi Khatana for Kangan (ST), Farooq Ahmed Dar



for Ganderbal, Mehraju Din Dattu for Khan-yar, Hakim Arif Ali for Zadibal, Ali Mohammed Dar for Beerwah, Abdul Rashid Para for Charri-Sharief, Mohd Aqib for Pampore, Gh. Nabi Shiekh for Tral, Mushtaq Ahmed Khan for Zainapora, Hakikat Singh for Shopian, Mohd Amin Naik for Kulgam, Mohd Rafiq Wani for Anantnag West, Ab. Hamidullah Najar for Anantnag Assembly Constituency.

While briefing the media, Vilakshan demanded that adequate security should be provided to the leaders of the party. He said that the list of the leaders of JKNPP (Bhim) has already been submitted to the Director General of Police. Singh said that UT administration is subjecting JKNPP (Bhim) leaders to step motherly treatment. He said during the parliamentary elections also no security was provided

to the leaders of JKNPP (Bhim) with an intention to deprive them of their right to effectively participate in electoral process. He said that JKNPP (Bhim) is being discriminated with as the party has always stood up for the deprived class.

During the press briefing, Vilakshan emphasized the party's long-standing commitment to social justice and regional integrity. "The Jammu and Kashmir National

Panthers Party (Bhim), under the legacy of Prof. Bhim Singh, has always been dedicated to the upliftment of the poor and downtrodden. Prof. Bhim Singh devoted his entire life to serving humanity, championing the preservation of our pristine Dogra identity against attempts by certain Kashmir-based parties and Congress to undermine it," said Singh.

He continued, "Prof. Bhim Singh fought tirelessly for every citizen, regardless of caste, religion, or region, and never discriminated between Dogras and Kashmiris. As we move forward, JKNPP (Bhim) is committed to carrying forward his legacy, ensuring justice and equitable development for all. I appeal to voters to support our candidates, as we are the only party committed to deliver justice and development right to their doorsteps."

Lecture by Dr. Manmohan Vaidya held at IIM Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 20: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the aegis of its Hindi Rajbhasha Samiti, hosted a special guest lecture by Dr. Manmohan Vaidya, All India Executive Committee Member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), on the profound topic "Indian Concept of India" on Tuesday, Mandapam, Auditorium. Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu also graced the occasion. Present on the occasion was Shri Rupesh Kumar Mehta, PrantPracharak, J& K, RSS.

Dr. Manmohan Vaidya, a distinguished scholar and an influential figure in India's socio-cultural landscape, delivered a thought-provoking lecture that delved into the Indian concept of nationhood and the rich cultural heritage that shapes the country's identity. He emphasized the critical need for India to define its national identity, stating that unless the people decide who they are, they cannot determine the direction they need to take. He described Bharat as unique in its spiritual essence, which transcends cultural boundaries and forms the core of its identity. He highlighted that India has a culture that celebrates diversity, and this diversity must be seen as a strength in defining the nation's path forward. Without a unified understanding of this identity,

he suggested, the nation struggles to find its direction. His insights underscored the importance of self-awareness in India's journey of rebuilding and progress, drawing parallels with other nations like Japan and Israel that have successfully defined their identities and paths forward. His lecture urged the audience to reflect on India's unique spiritual and cultural strengths and to contribute to the nation's development with a clear sense of purpose and direction.

In his address, Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, welcomed Dr. Manmohan Vaidya and emphasized the significance of such discussions in an academic setting. He remarked, "Unless we decide who we are as a people, we cannot determine the direction we need to take. Bharat is a land with diverse perspectives, yet we lack a unified understanding of our identity, which has led to a lack of clear direction. The true essence of Bharat lies in its spiritual foundation and cultural ethos." He also reflected on the remarkable growth of IIM Jammu, which has expanded from 47 students to over 1,000 in a short span of time, along with an array of programs. He emphasized the importance of engaging with opportunities like Dr. Vaidya's lecture to gain deeper insights into India's core thought process. He urged everyone to prioritize the nation

above all and to seek guidance on how they can better contribute to India's progress.

The program commenced with the lighting of the lamp, followed by a welcome address by Dr. Anuja Akhouri, Co-Chairperson, Hindi Rajbhasha Samiti, IIM Jammu. The event concluded with a Q&A session, where participants engaged in an insightful dialogue with the esteemed speaker. The event was coordinated by the Hindi Rajbhasha Samiti, IIM Jammu. Present on the occasion were Dr. Ashish Kumar, Chairperson, Student Affairs, IIM Jammu, Dr. Nitin Upadhyay, Chairperson, IT, IIM Jammu, Dr. Rashmi Ranjan Parida, Chairperson, Admissions, IIM Jammu, Dr. Sarbjit Singh, Chairperson, International Relations, and Cmdr. Kesavan Baskaran, CAO, IIM Jammu.

The event concluded with the National Anthem, leaving the attendees inspired and more connected to the roots of Indian civilization. The event served as a testament to the shared values and heritage that unite the attendees, significantly enhancing their sense of belonging and commitment. It highlighted the integral role of India's rich cultural legacy in shaping the nation's future, reinforcing the importance of preserving and celebrating these traditions as the foundation for continued progress and unity.

NC sole guarantor for welfare of masses: Bimla Luthra

Support NC to ensure better future in J&K, says Vijay Lochan

Top News Report

SAMBA, Aug 20: J&K National Conference is sole guarantor for welfare of the masses especially for the women folk, and if people will pave way for this party to enter power corridors in J&K, their problems will vanish forever like a dream.

This was stated by Bimla Luthra, State Vice President Women Wing and former MLA Jammu while addressing a Convention of Party's Women Wing at Lower Kotli in Bari Brahmana.

The meeting was organized under the chairmanship of Sodagar Gupta, District President Samba JKNC Samba. The meeting was arranged by Rajni Devi District President Women Wing, JKNC Samba with the main support and dedication of Block President Shushma Devi. In the meeting, Vijay Lochan, Chairman JKNC SC Cell Jammu was the Guest of Honour, Mohinder Singh, Sr. leader Samba; Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone Block presidents Swarn Singh Charak (Block Bari Brahmana), Prem Singh (Block Parmandal), Joginder Kumar (Block Vijaypur) and Bua Dutta (Block Samba); Sat Paul Block (Rangarh); Ajay Sharma (Vice President



Samba); Bharata Bushan (Secretary Central Zone Jammu); Nar Singh (President Labour Cell Jammu); Puran Chand Ex President MC (Bari Brahmana); Jaswant Singh (District Secretary Samba); Rahul Attri (Youth leader); Rajeshwar Singh (Youth leader) and Raju Padgotra were also presented.

Earlier, Rajni Devi apprised the senior NC functionaries about pitiable condition and the problems related to widow pension, inflation, kitchen budget and above all sky-rocketing unemployment in J&K.

Bimla Luthra, who was the Chief Guest of the convention, said that there is no doubt that the National Conference is the sole guarantor of people's interests and for adding persistency,

NC cadre has to maintain close contact with the people for knowing their problems and finding ways to resolve them on priority. She asserted that the women's wing has always watered the values of the National Conference and is like a strong pillar which always stood by the party leadership to make it a force to reckon with in J&K.

Bimla Luthra said that National Conference has always stood for women rights and will continue to do the same as it is indigenous to the party's norms and ethos. She castigated BJP leadership over its failure to contain inflation in the country. "Household budgets are dwindling under directionless policies of helmsmen but there is no one to rectify the err", she said, adding that women

are the worst sufferers of unprecedented rise in prices of essential commodities as every day they have to think of doing new compromises to sustain life, reflecting the failure of government. She said that under NC Government, there was 50 percent seats reserved for girl students in J&K but under the incumbents there is only rhetoric and nothing else.

Vijay Lochan, Chairman JKNC SC Cell, in his address, voiced concern over the plight of marginalized sections in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that they are facing step-motherly treatment under the current dispensation. He stressed that only the National Conference can guarantee equitable development and justice for all, regardless of their background.

EDITORIAL

Assembly
Elections

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections represent a pivotal moment in the region's political landscape. As one of the most strategically important and politically sensitive areas in India, these elections not only determine the local governance but also reflect broader national issues and sentiments.

The political history of Jammu and Kashmir has been marked by its unique status within India. Initially granted special autonomy under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, the region saw significant changes in its political structure after August 5, 2019, when the Indian government abrogated Article 370, effectively revoking the state's special status and reconstituting it as a Union Territory. This move was followed by a reorganization that split Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories: Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections are held to elect representatives to the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir, which functions as the legislative body of the Union Territory. The elections are crucial for several reasons.

The region had been under President's Rule since 2018, following the dissolution of the Assembly. These elections are seen as a step toward restoring democratic governance and giving a voice to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The major political parties in Jammu and Kashmir include the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC), the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the Indian National Congress (INC). Local parties and independent candidates also play a significant role. The political landscape is further complicated by the unique regional dynamics between Jammu, Kashmir Valley, and Ladakh.

The elections are influenced by various factors, including regional aspirations, national security concerns, and the socio-economic development agenda. The BJP's focus on integration and development contrasts with the NC's and PDP's emphasis on restoring autonomy and addressing historical grievances. Additionally, the emergence of new regional players and independent candidates adds complexity to the electoral scene.

Economic development, infrastructure, and governance are major campaign issues. There is a strong focus on improving basic services, creating employment opportunities, and enhancing infrastructure in the region.

The security situation remains a critical concern. The region has faced challenges related to insurgency, militancy, and cross-border terrorism. Political parties often highlight their strategies for maintaining law and order and ensuring the safety of the citizens.

The abrogation of Article 370 has been a contentious issue. While the BJP supports the move as a step toward national integration, regional parties advocate for greater autonomy and are critical of the changes.

Issues related to human rights, political freedom, and the impact of prolonged security measures are also prominent. Parties and candidates address these concerns, aiming to balance security with individual freedoms.

The election process involves several stages. The Election Commission announces the election schedule, and parties launch their campaigns, highlighting their platforms and candidates.

The elections are conducted in phases to accommodate the region's diverse geography and security requirements. Voter turnout is a significant factor, with efforts made to ensure that all eligible voters participate.

After the voting phase, the counting of votes takes place, and results are declared. The formation of the government follows based on the majority obtained by the parties or coalitions.

The outcome of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections will have far-reaching implications.

The results will influence the political stability of the region. A stable government is crucial for addressing development needs and maintaining law and order. The elections will also reflect the region's stance on national integration and autonomy. The response of the electorate will provide insights into their aspirations and expectations from the central government. The elected representatives will be responsible for implementing policies and programs aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of the region. Effective governance is key to addressing the needs and concerns of the people.

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections are a significant event in the region's political calendar. They represent a crucial opportunity for the people to voice their opinions and shape their future. As the election unfolds, the focus will be on ensuring a fair, transparent, and peaceful process that reflects the democratic aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

After PM's talk of a secular civil code, can govt publish a draft?

By: Aakar Patel

In his August 15 address from Delhi's Red Fort, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that his government would work towards changing India's personal laws. He said: "After 75 years of a communal civil code, it is crucial to move towards a secular civil code. Once this shift takes place, it will eliminate religious discrimination and will bridge the gap felt by ordinary citizens." The personal laws govern marriage, divorce and inheritance. The BJP has had a curious relationship with this subject from the founding of the republic. Dr B.R. Ambedkar had proposed modest changes to the Hindu personal law, especially on the question of inheritance for women. He identified the two dominant forms of traditional inheritance law and modified one of them to make inheritance fairer for women. This was not acceptable to the RSS' political formation. Also Read - Shikha Mukerjee | As public trust wanes, Didi faces her biggest challenge Advertisement In its 1951 manifesto, the Jan Sangh opposed the Hindu Code Bill, saying that social reform should not come from above but from society. In 1957, it said that such changes were not acceptable unless rooted in ancient culture. "Riotous individualism" would ensue as a result, it claimed. In its manifesto of 1958, the party wrote: "Joint family and indissoluble marriage have been the basis

of Hindu society. Laws that alter this basis will ultimately lead to the disintegration of society. The Jan Sangh will therefore repeal the Hindu Marriage and Hindu Succession Acts." Over time, as nuclear families became common and divorce became acceptable in society, the party dropped this position without explaining why. Also Read - Kishwar Desai | Graffiti art cheers post-riots London; Edinburgh is back, but with 'warnings' In its 1967 manifesto, it called for a uniform civil code. From here on, this appeared in all the party's manifestos and it promised its voters it would enforce it if it came to power. The BJP had an absolute majority in 2014 and 2019, and in both the elections it had promised a uniform civil code in its manifesto but it did not legislate it or produce a draft. Now that the party has been reduced to 240 seats in the Lok Sabha, the promise has been made again, but who is to fulfil it? Where is the draft law made by Mr Modi and his ministers? It does not exist, of course. In the many years that this country has seen a BJP government there has been no draft, only speeches. Also Read - Sanjaya Baru | Bangladesh's Yunus can 're-earn' his Peace Prize The reason that no draft exists is that it is not an easy problem to solve. For the BJP and its votaries, "uniform civil code" or "secular civil code" is a placeholder for the abolition of polygamy. But to get rid of it, the BJP will

have to target more than just Muslims. The aspects relating to Hindu undivided family are not the only ones that will have to be resolved. Most are familiar with Article 370, which the BJP long targeted and then gutted in 2019, but fewer are likely to know about the very next article, 371, which says that "no Act of Parliament in respect of religious or social practices of the Nagas (and) Naga customary law and procedure... shall apply to the State of Nagaland unless the Legislative Assembly of Nagaland by a resolution so decides". Also Read - Anita Katyal | Phogat vs Saina in Haryana polls? Sonia, Jaya seen mending fences What happens to a Secular Civil Code that may go against Naga customs? We do not know. The BJP doesn't either. In March 2018, the Nagaland Bar Association submitted a memorandum to Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio saying that several Central laws pertaining to personal laws in the state are "badly contradictory and opposed to the Naga social customs and practices. Apart from the provisions of Article 371A of the Constitution of India, legislative power in matters of personal law is vested with the state legislature". The laws mentioned were the Indian Succession Act, 1925; Special Marriage Act, 1954; Indian Divorce Act, 1869; Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1886; Guardians and Wards Act, 1890; and Family Courts Act, 1984. The Bar Association said these laws

"are required to be substituted by our own State Acts". Similar provisions in Article 371 safeguard customary law for Mizos (371G). Two things need to be considered now. First, there is no point in opposing or even commenting on the Prime Minister's call for a uniform or secular civil code till he produces a draft. He must be encouraged to show it, even if he is not pressed to explain why he didn't write and pass the law in the 10 years when he had a majority. The Opposition and communities threatened by the speech should consider holding back their response till they see what, if anything, he actually produces other than talk. The second thing to consider is why he is raising it at all given that his party is now in a minority. Why, similarly, was the Waqf Bill introduced when it was obvious that a BJP at 240 seats could not get it passed and its allies were not interested in furthering its Hindutva agenda? Why was a Broadcast Bill aimed at throttling such people as Ravish Kumar and Dhruv Rathee written when again it was clear that it would run into trouble? Both these proposed laws have run into the reality of India after June 4, 2024. The speech on secular civil code shows no understanding of the meaning of the election and the fading of the Prime Minister's halo. It shows no acceptance of the real new India, and so the government continues writing cheques that its parliamentary minority cannot cash.

As public trust wanes, Didi faces her biggest challenge

By: Shikha Mukerjee

Playing to the gallery will not serve West Bengal's feisty Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Public trust in her is waning and she doesn't know how to stop this erosion. The postponement of the football Derby as a mark of support to the ongoing protests and demand for justice that includes the vow to "Reclaim the Night" is one sign of that distrust. The refusal of a sprinkling of Durga Puja committees of the Rs 85,000 grant by the Mamata Banerjee government is another. These are signs of the of the spread of discontent and disappointment in Didi's response to the horrific gangrape and barbaric murder of a 31-year-old trainee doctor at the government-run R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital and public solidarity with the tens of thousands of women who spontaneously mobilised across 300 locations in West Bengal on August 14-15 night. Also Read - Aakar Patel | After PM's talk of a secular civil code, can govt publish a draft? Advertisement Football obsession is the stuff of epic tales of multi-generational loyalty to either the Mohun Bagan Athletic Club or its rival, East Bengal Football Club, in West Bengal. So is Durga Puja and the clubs and committees that organise the celebrations. When the football clubs decide to take a stand on a civil-political issue, it is an event even bigger than the Derby. Mamata Banerjee, who knows this, should have thought over her government's decisions on tackling the crisis that she has mismanaged big time. Also Read - Kishwar Desai | Graffiti art cheers post-riots London; Edinburgh is back, but with 'warnings' Instead of sitting across the table with the very seriously disturbed young doctors of R.G. Kar Medical Col-

lege and Hospital other medical colleges across the state to understand their protest and their fears, by not announcing a major overhaul of the medical college administration structure and a shakeup of the bureaucracy, the police and the political leadership, Mamata Banerjee has opted for policy changes that excluded women by discouraging them from night shifts. In doing so she confirmed the Opposition's point that Kolkata and indeed West Bengal was not safe for working women. Also Read - Sanjaya Baru | Bangladesh's Yunus can 're-earn' his Peace Prize By her mindless response to the R.G. Kar Medical College incident, she belied the National Crime Records Bureau data which ranked Kolkata as the safest of cities for women, where the incidence of reported crimes was comparatively the lowest. In doing so, she revealed her preferred fallback position, a ghastly patriarchal remedy for a problem that challenged the prevailing toxic masculinity of perceiving women as prey. Also Read - Anita Katyal | Phogat vs Saina in Haryana polls? Sonia, Jaya seen mending fences The decisions and her inaction, possibly born of a lack of confidence in her ability to take on the extremely sensitive and certainly volatile task of persuading the protesting doctors to return to work, and restore normalcy in healthcare services, will cost her dearly. For over a week, emergency and outdoor patient services have been disrupted not only in R.G. Kar Hospital, one of the busiest in the state, but in most of the government hospitals in West Bengal. The public, meaning patients and their families, have not voiced their discontent over the enforced deprivation of services. That tolerance could end any time and then it would be up to Mamata Baner-

jee to clean up the mess. Knowing all this, her choice of joining battle with the Opposition, going on a rally with her women warriors as a mark of her support to the women's organic mobilisation demanding justice and the necessary conditions for them to Reclaim the Night have been formulaic, in other words predictable. What Mamata Banerjee has not figured out yet is that time is against her for two reasons. First, ever since she became chief minister in 2011, the clock has been ticking; a generation has grown up on the promise and in the expectation of "Poriborton". "Abhaya" too, as the victim has been named by the public, grew up in the belief that Mamata Banerjee would deliver "Poriborton", because the doctor trainee and her colleagues all belong to that generation. The prolonged protest and disruption in healthcare services by the young doctors is part of a deeper malaise; anti-incumbency that invariably catches up with all ruling parties and governments that have remained in office for more than one five-year term. It does not mean that any one of the three Opposition parties in West Bengal, be it the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Congress or the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and its Left allies, are a better alternative. It does not mean that any of them could, as of now, singly or jointly, defeat the Trinamul Congress. It does mean, however, that Mamata Banerjee is possibly past her peak. The out in the open rumblings within the Trinamul Congress, from Abhishek Banerjee, who probably reads the pulse of the younger, more educated and ambitious generation better to the very senior leader of the party in the Rajya Sabha, Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, are indications that Didi has mismanaged the problem. There is no

denying that party governance under Mamata Banerjee's aegis has spread its tentacles within the bureaucracy, the police and the state administration. The Chief Minister, herself a captive of this parallel system, had railed against her party's high-profile and petty leaders who wielded power, managed illegalities, including usurping government land, running land mafias and construction syndicates, encroachments of urban spaces, at a meeting on June 24. The hawker eviction drive that followed was deliberately botched, forcing her to backtrack on her deadline of cleaned-up streets and vacated spaces. The Opposition's call for her ouster is rhetorical; so is her response. The real challenge to Mamata Banerjee is the spontaneous mobilisation by women, her most dependable vote bank since 2008, when she began her ascent to power. The other mobilisation, some of it politically organised or inspired, some of it not, of the younger generation is what should worry her most. The convergence of women, football fanatics and youth voters in support of the same cause can destabilise her. The bell, as it were, has begun to toll for Mamata Banerjee. All that separates her from serious trouble and certain victory is a bare two per cent of the vote share. The Trinamul Congress vote share went up by two per cent to 45.77 per cent, and the BJP's vote share declined by two per cent to 38.73 per cent in the just-concluded Lok Sabha elections. She may be correct in calculating that public attention will fade once the perpetrators of the heinous crime are charged and the legal process begins its slow crawl of pronouncing judgment. If, however, her actions are perceived as a breach of trust, breaking a promise of "Poriborton" she had made, it could prove to be politically expensive.

DPS schools celebrate Raksha Bandhan with army personnel at Military Hospital Satwari

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 20: In a heartwarming and deeply patriotic gesture, the staff of DPS Schools in Katra, Nagbani, and Jammu, under the visionary guidance of Ritu Singh, paid a special visit to the Military Hospital Satwari to celebrate the auspicious festival of Raksha Bandhan with the brave soldiers receiving treatment there.

This unique initiative was driven by Ritu Singh's unwavering commitment to fostering a sense of national pride and gratitude towards the armed forces. Recognizing the invaluable sacrifices made by our soldiers, she envisioned a celebration that not only honors the tradition of Raksha Bandhan but also brings comfort and joy to the heroes who stand guard for the nation.

During the event, the staff members under the



guidance of Ritu Singh tied Rakhis to over 300 patients, symbolizing the sacred bond of protection and brotherhood. The ceremony was made even more poignant with the application of Tilak on the soldiers' foreheads, followed by the distribution of sweets, spreading cheer and goodwill. The atmosphere was imbued with spirituality and serenity as a Pandit Ji performed the live

chanting of the Mahamrityunjaya Japa, invoking blessings for the soldiers' health and well-being.

Ritu Singh connected with the program virtually and extended her heartfelt Raksha Bandhan wishes to the sick army personnel. She offered prayers for their speedy recovery, reiterating her respect and admiration for their courage and resilience. Her virtual presence was a source

of immense encouragement and strength for all those present, reflecting her deep-seated values of compassion and service.

Speaking on the occasion, Ritu Singh emphasized the importance of standing by our soldiers not only on the battlefield but also in their moments of need. "Raksha Bandhan is a celebration of the bond of protection and love. Our soldiers

protect our nation with unwavering dedication, and it is our duty to protect them with our prayers and support. I am deeply moved by the dedication of the DPS staff who have made this day memorable for our brave soldiers," she said.

This initiative is a testament to Ritu Singh's leadership, which continually inspires the DPS community to embrace and uphold the values of respect, gratitude, and patriotism.

Her vision of engaging the school community in meaningful acts of service has once again brought light and hope to those who serve our nation selflessly.

The Raksha Bandhan celebrations at the Military Hospital Satwari will be remembered as a beautiful confluence of tradition, spirituality, and patriotism, all brought together under the inspiring leadership of Kunwari Ritu Singh.

Three-day Sankri Devta Mela to commence on August 30



Top News Report

PANCHARI, Aug 20: The three-day historic Sankri Devta Mela will commence on the August 30-31 & September 1, 2024 at village Meer in Block Panchari of the Udhampur district.

Parbhat Singh Katoch President, Sankari Devta Development Committee reported that the Sankri Devta Temple is located about 33 km from Udhampur in village Meer, en route to Pancheri block. The temple, which is believed to be more than 500 years old has idols of deities which are known to be of Shiva and Shakti. The famous Sankri Devta Mela is organised in August- September every year during which a huge number of people participate and take the blessings of Baba Sankri.

During the Mela, the atmosphere remained



filled with enthusiasm, festivity, and exuberance with people singing local folk songs and chanting bhajans. On the first day of the Mela, a dangal is being organized in which wrestlers from within and outside the UT take part. Besides, the youth services and sports department will organize various rural sports activities throughout the mela. The folk artists of Panchari and other adjoining regions will present folk songs and folk dances showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the Jammu region. On a concluding day, the Vaans such as Dudana-Vaan, Trishul, Gungraal, Gurj, and other Vaans are taken to the holy shrine, and ceremonial Pooja/Jaatar is performed, in which the various Deities are invoked, their glory is sung and their blessings sought. Prasad is also distributed to the devotees

on this occasion.

The Udhampur district administration has made elaborate arrangements for the event. Deputy Commissioner Udhampur has emphasized the importance of seamless collaboration among all district officers to provide all basic facilities to the people and urged the local mela committee members to actively participate in ensuring the event's grand success, recognizing the significance of public involvement in bolstering tourism and the local economy.

The district police have been asked to deploy an adequate number of personnel during the event to guarantee security. Additionally, various departmental stalls will be set up to raise awareness about government welfare schemes during the event.

BSP only credible voice of all regions of J&K: Rajesh Gupta

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 20: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) general secretary and media head Rajesh Gupta today accused the BJP of misrule over the past one decade, asserting that the BJP has not only failed to fulfil its promises but has also exacerbated the difficulties faced by the common people.

While addressing to media, here on Tuesday, the BSP leader said that people's miseries have increased manifold in the last 10 years under BJP rule, emphasizing the government's inability to deliver on its commitments.

Rajesh Gupta said that



the people were waiting eagerly for assembly elections now that time has come to teach a lesson to the BJP for failing to fulfil the promises made before coming to power at the Centre and in J&K.

Gupta said this Assembly election is very crucial that people should elect those who will ensure that their voice is heard.

"People of J&K want a credible voice to represent their aspirations and BSP is the only credible voice of all the regions of J&K," he added.

"The people of J&K remember BJP for unleashing countless miseries on the UT and its people. People still recount the numerous instances of BJP and its leaders committed from time to time.

The treacherous role played by the BJP and its leadership is an open secret," he said, adding, now the responsibility rests on people to choose between forces inimical to UT's integrity.

In the end, it is the people whose resolve will prevail," he said.

Wushu, Fencing, Handball selection trials held

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 20: The Department of Youth Services and Sports District Jammu organised Inter School District Level Selection Trial competitions in the sports discipline of Wushu U-19 Yrs boys & girls and Fencing under AAG Yrs boys & girls at MA Stadium Jammu and Inter Zonal District Level Selection Trials in the discipline of Handball U-19 Yrs. boys and girls at Dogra Ground Jammu.

The competitions are being organised under the patronage of Director Youth Services and

Sports JK UT Rajinder Singh Tara under the guidance of Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu Ved Parkash and the overall supervision of DYSSO Jammu Sunil Kumar Sharma along with in charge DYSSO Smt. Harvinder Kour.

The officials, convenors and other technical officials were deployed for the smooth conduct of this competitions.

The competitions are being conducted by experts including Yash Paul Sharma, Vishal Malhotra, Anil Shan and other technical officials of the department.

Anti Crime Bureau sanitizes Govt Schools in Panchayat Sarore

Top News Report

BISHNAH, Aug 20: NGO, Anti Crime Bureau on Tuesday under the supervision of its Chairman Sham Lal Gupta, sanitized Govt High Secondary School and Govt Middle School Sarore.

Team Members started sanitation and fogging drive at Government Schools in Panchayat

ers of both the schools appreciated steps of NGO and its chairman for considering and completing their demand at urgent.

Both the Sarpanches of Panchayat Sarore Upper and Lower Gopal and Vipin appreciated works of NGO Anti Crime.

State President of NGO Sahil Gupta was also present during this drive and briefed that NGO



Sarore, Block Bishnah.

On behalf of the volunteers of organization rooms, corridors of the school were sanitized. The drive was carried out to rescue children from various infections, the school administration thanked the Steps of the organization.

Principal and teach-

Anti Crime Bureau will continue to Sanitize the Govt Schools in coming time and NGO is Working without any govt aid in the society.

Volunteers Manmohan Singh, Sajjan Kumar, Rohit Kumar, Vansh Mehra, Rakesh Sharma and others were Present in the Sanitation Drive.

DSRS, JU organises lecture on 'The Cost of Freedom: Remembering the Horrors of Partition'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 20: The Department of Strategic and Regional Studies (DSRS), University of Jammu (JU) has organised a lecture on 'The Cost of Freedom: Remembering the Horrors of Partition' by Dr. Shreeya Bakshi, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Social Work, Central University of Himachal Pradesh and Dr. Ajay Sharma, Assistant Professor, Centre for Kashmir Studies, Central University of Himachal Pradesh.

The program started with lighting of lamp and Mantra Ucharan by MA Semester I student Sonali Punia.

Dr. Mohd. Monir Alam, formally welcomed the speakers and highlighted the journey and future projections of the department in organising such events of strategic and regional importance.

Dr. Shreeya Bakshi has done an extensive research on 'displaced people residing in J&K'. She elaborated on the impact of displacements

on 'West Pakistan Refugees and Pakistan Occupied Jammu Kashmir Refugees.' Dr. Shreeya highlighted how partition has led to the loss of culture, heritage, language and economics of displaced communities.

Dr. Ajay Sharma highlighted that "the partition of India is a story of unprecedented human displacement and forced migration. It is a story in which millions were uprooted from their original homelands and sought new settings and in new environments that were alien and resistive."

He argued that more than being a story of a violent divide based on faith and religion, it is also a story of how a way of life and ages of co-existence came to a sudden and dramatic end.

In his Presidential address, Prof. Virender Koundal, Director DSRS, emphasized that we must take lessons from the past so that the future of Bharat can be secured.

He stressed on writing history research based on authentic facts which can enlighten our future gen-

eration to make Bharat as a 'Vishav Guru' implementing the ideology of 'Vasudheiv Kutumbhikam'.

The vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Mohd. Monir Alam, Sr. Assistant Professor, DSRS. The proceedings of the program were conducted by MA Semester I student Vanshika Parihar. This program was attended by the department faculty Dr. Ganesh Malhotra and Dr. Ranjan Sharma, faculty from other departments of the university, Research Scholars and Postgraduate students.

IRCS distributes sanitary napkins in GHSS Domana

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 20: The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), J&K has undertaken a significant initiative to promote menstrual hygiene and health among young girls by distributing Sanitary Napkins in various girl's schools.

Likewise, on Tuesday, IRCS, J&K has distrib-

uted sanitary napkins at Govt. Higher Secondary School, Domana, Jammu ensuring that students have access to essential menstrual hygiene products. This initiative is part of the IRCS's ongoing efforts to enhance health and hygiene standards in remote and underserved regions.

Besides the distribution of Women hygiene mate-

rial, the team Red Cross Dr. Manpreet Kour, Medical Officer and Vironica Marwah, Field Officer, J&K also organized educational sessions to raise awareness about menstrual hygiene management.

These sessions covered topics such as the importance of using sanitary napkins, proper disposal methods, and

breaking the stigma associated with menstruation. Mahinder Sharma, Principal stated, "The distribution of sanitary napkins by the IRCS, J&K has been immensely beneficial for our students. The educational sessions have helped in dispelling myths and fears surrounding menstruation, making our girls more confident and informed."

Hockley trials from Aug 21

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 20: Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council is going to conduct open selection trials for raising J&K UT contingent Junior (Men) Hockey team prior to participating in 14th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship at Jalandhar from September 7 to 17, 2024.

The three days selection process shall take place at KK Haku Stadium Jammu from 4:00 PM onwards from August 21 to 23, 2024.

Players born on or after January 1, 2005 who are registered with Hockey India are eligible for selection trials. Players should bring Aadhaar card, school bona-fide Certificate, passport during the trials.

For any enquiries players can contact Dalvinder Singh hockey coach (9419236450), Jagjit Singh hockey coach (7006636082).

Climate crusader

At a recent conclave held in Delhi, actress-activist Dia Mirza highlighted the need to check plastic pollution and adopt sustainable measures to secure the Earth's future

Not many can live by what they preach! But that's not true for Bollywood's climate activist, UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador and United Nations Secretary-General Advocate for Sustainable Development —Dia Mirza!

At the recently held youth conclave in New Delhi by Yuva, a youth community engagement organisation driven by Gen Z, Mirza was part of a panel discussion, 'Greenwash, Gaslight and Gatekeep', along with four other climate activists. Dressed in a vibrant pink bandhni by Injiri, Mirza's sustainable fashion choices never fail to impress! The 600-seat auditorium at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, went gaga when she gave well-informed answers to all.

As Mirza discarded the popular belief that 'climate change won't affect us', she vouched for the elimination of single-use plastic. She said, "Climate change, biodiversity loss and plastic pollution are the three major threats. These are endangering life, health and peace. Plastic has reached even the purest of places like the placenta in a mother's womb or microfibres in deep ocean waters. If you believe that climate change will be partial in affecting human species, you are mistaken. My mother has chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and my child is asthmatic.

So, the notion that those in privileged positions aren't affected is wrong."

Mirza's campaign to combat plastic pollution started in her



own backyard. She has been carrying a stainless steel bottle ever since she swore to never use single-use plastic in any form. If she has stopped 10,000 plastic bottles from being dumped in the ecosystem, she sure has made a difference! She urged that even if half of the eight billion people in the world right now make a conscious decision of living responsibly, a chain reaction towards a greener and healthier Earth can begin. "Change occurs when we make individual choices. So, refuse single-use plastics. We need to go back to the basics, to our roots, because our ancestors knew how to respect the planet. We belong to the land where food was served in leaf plates and water in clay pots."

Highlighting how big brands used terminologies like sustainable designs and green events to 'green-wash' their capitalist desires, Dia explained, "In light of recent findings, carbon

credits have become the latest scam. For instance, the dilution of Forest Act of India is not right. You cannot fix or create what nature has already lost. When a 200-year old tree is chopped and you plant 40 trees to substitute it, you are a fool to believe that the damage has been repaired." Mirza also drew attention towards the amount of waste generated at big celebrations like wedding, sports events and mass trips to the hills. The actress commended the Himachal High Court's decision that all tourists entering the state must carry a large garbage bag.

She added, "For decades, the lobbies driven by consumerist approach have painted environmental action as obstructionism. It doesn't suit agendas of those who are destroying Mother Nature. There has to be responsibility and accountability because many are paying the price of deforestation in the name of development, and

tunnelling of Himalayas. It's a wake-up call if we need fans in hilly areas of Himalayas and air-conditioners in cities like London."

Taking a dig at the organisers of the recent Paris Olympics, Mirza said, "The Olympics committee claimed that they would make it a zero-plastic event, but the ground reality was completely different. Many people saw the bright red reusable plastic cups being used in the name of sustainability, but if you used plastic bottles to pour into those cups the whole purpose gets defeated."

We have overshot Earth's resources...

Dia Mirza, as UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador and United Nations Secretary-General Advocate for Sustainable Development, also attended the Youth Sabha 2047: Shaping India's Future event to mark International Youth Day recently. She said, "Everything we use in our daily lives comes from the Earth and has to go back to the Earth in a form that is healthy for all. A few days ago, we highlighted to the world that we had overshot the resources the Earth provides annually for all of us — it's called Earth Overshoot Day. This happened in August... we have four more months in this year left and we have already surpassed our consumption of what the Earth provides! That means we are stealing from our own children and grandchildren what they will require to live, to be healthy, to be happy."

Halle Berry says she broke 10 bones while filming action sequences



Hollywood star Halle Berry recently opened up about the serious injuries she has sus-

tained over the years shooting multiple action sequences. The actor said that she had at least broken ten bones.

Speaking to Netflix during a recent interview, Berry said, "Arm broken, broke ribs twice — two ribs one time, three ribs another time — broke tailbone, broke two toes and [my middle] finger." Her co-star Mark Wahlberg was shocked upon hearing the details. The two will soon be seen in the actioner, *The Union*.

Meanwhile, Mark Wahlberg said that his ego had been more hurt on a movie set, adding, "Torn meniscus, separated shoulder, ego bruised quite a few times — banged up," he added lightly.

Berry also opened up about the time she had to hold her breath underwater for the 2012 release, *Dark Tide*, and said, "I played a free diver. I had to hold my breath for almost two and a half minutes. And that felt like eternity. It felt like death was imminent."

On the work front, Halle Berry will next be seen in *The Union*, where she will share screen space with Mark Wahlberg.

Every blockbuster does not need sequel: Kabir Khan

After chatter about Kabir Khan dropping hints about the Salman Khan-starrer 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan' sequel started doing the rounds, the filmmaker said that every blockbuster does not need a sequel.

He strongly believes a sequel should only be made if a worthy story is found and is worth taking it forward.

Asked if he feels that every blockbuster needs a sequel, Kabir said, "Not at all. I am the first person to say that every blockbuster does not need a sequel. That is why, I have not made sequels in my life."

The filmmaker said that he has been told several times to make sequels of his popular films.

"Everytime I have had a successful film; people have said 'sequel bana lo'. They told me after 'New York', 'Tiger', and 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan', but I have never made it. So, I am the first one to say



that just because a film is successful, a sequel shouldn't be made.

"A sequel should only be made if you truly find a story worthy of taking that film forward," Kabir said.

He added never mentioning about 'working on the 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan' sequel'.

"All I have said is, yes, maybe. Sometimes, a good script comes up that is worthy of becoming a 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan' sequel. Then I would love to do it. But not only because it is one of the most successful films in the industry; therefore,

it needs a sequel. No," he shared.

'Bajrangi Bhaijaan', which was released in 2015, is currently the seventh highest-grossing Indian film and fourth highest-grossing Hindi film.

The film, which also stars debutante Harshaali Malhotra, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Nawazuddin Siddiqui, tells the story of Lord Hanuman, who embarks on a journey to take a mute six-year-old Pakistani Muslim girl separated in India from her mother, back to her hometown.

Of setbacks and comebacks

When life threw a curveball at Srikanth Bolla, the visually impaired entrepreneur and real-life inspiration behind the movie *Srikanth*, he smashed it out of the park

Until Rajkumar Rao-starrer biopic *Srikanth* hit the OTT platform earlier this year, little was known about the resilient and rebellious Srikanth Bolla. The visually impaired Bolla is an entrepreneur-industrialist, who founded Bollant Industries, which manufactures sustainable packaging products from waste. He was also the first visually impaired international student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, where he pursued a management course.

While the brilliant Rajkumar Rao impressed many with his refreshingly honest portrayal of Srikanth Bolla in the film, the real subject of the film is more spirited and defiant. "Nothing is impossible until it is done. I was a born hero, not made into one. I believed in myself and my abilities, and that has worked out quite well for me," said Bolla, who was in Amritsar to address young entrepreneurs at the Young Entrepreneur of the Year challenge hosted by Invictus International School. After the film's release, he feels happy when people recognise



him often. "It feels good to be acknowledged and when people tell me that they feel inspired by my story. I believe that loneliness is real poverty and my fight is against this loneliness that people with disabilities are subjected to. That is true inclusivity."

A life nothing short of setbacks and comebacks, Srikanth degree of self-awareness and knack of presenting harsh truths with a dose of humour is intriguing, as also inspiring. His nonchalance in talking about each aspect of his life is equally impressive. "I had a dream to

become a doctor, but I couldn't due to my visual impairment. So, then I manifested that I could marry one. And that I did," he shared, as he talked about how he courted his wife Veera Swathi, a doctor, for years before marrying. "I had thought that it was a robot or AI that was trying to connect with me online. It took me two years to realise that it indeed was a girl," he said.

Embracing one's vulnerabilities is never easy, but Bolla does that with a confidence that defines him. "I became

quite self-aware at a young age, realising that I may be visually impaired but I had a vision. When someone told me that you cannot do this thing, my immediate response to it was — I will do it. In a way, hardship has become an addiction for me, it's in my DNA now. So, I feel that all it takes in life to succeed is a 'no,'" said Bolla.

Born in a farming family in Andhra Pradesh's Seetharamapuram village, Bolla has sight impairment but never really let it come in his way. Whether it was a long walk to school every day or taking the state government to court over the access to study science for children with disabilities, he has remained resilient and stubborn, to break the mould and create his own path. Setting up Bollant Industries, Bolla is working towards empowering the marginalised through financial independence and turning waste into wealth. A strong believer in karma, he is all game for disruption. "Innovators are disruptors and they should be given a chance to find their purpose and a life of dignity," he believes.

Karan Johar 'deeply inspired' by 'Stree 2', celebrates its 'juggernaut' success

Filmmaker Karan Johar made a long note, acknowledging and appreciating the success of 'Stree 2'. The horror-comedy was released on August 15 and is currently doing fabulous business at the box office. KJo highlighted the same, and called the film's success a testament to the fact that a good "story and a deep rooted connect with audience will pay rich dividends at the ticket window".

In the caption of his Instagram post, the director tagged Maddock Films, the writer of the film, Niren Bhatt,

director Amar Kaushik, Jio Studios, and all the cast members, to congratulate them for the humongous success. He mentioned that the achievements of 'Stree 2' are historic, adding that he feels "deeply inspired" by the "belief, talent and strategy" of the team backing the film.

A part of his long post on social media read, "The JUGGERNAUT MEGA BLOCKBUSTER SUCCESS OF STREE2 is not just a celebration for @maddockfilms but must be viewed as celebration of Hindi cinema and Indian mainstream



cinema in the past few years Hindi cinema has been under scrutiny for combatting box office challenges the post pandemic audience has been evolving and

many times difficult to assess but the mega success of STREE 2 has not only validated the strength of a solid storytelling and rooted content but also affirmed that humongous conviction, bravado and focus on concept, story and a deep rooted connect with an audience will pay rich dividends at the ticket window (sic)!"

'Stree 2' emerged as the biggest Bollywood hit of the year within five days of its release. The film has collected over Rs 200 crore in five days at the box office,

and is not looking at slowing down anytime soon. It is also the highest-grossing film of Shradha and Rajkumar's career.

The film tells the story of a town's fight against a legendary ghost named 'Sar Kata', who attacks and kidnaps women. 'Stree 2' is a part of Maddock's supernatural universe, which includes titles like 'Munjya' and 'Bhediya'. The film also features stunning cameos by Akshay Kumar and Varun Dhawan, paving the way for the future of the supernature universe.

'Hypocrisy': Ashwini Vaishnaw faces flak for U-turn after lateral entry rollback

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's belief in social justice was behind the lateral entry ad being rolled back.

NEW DELHI, Aug 20 (Agencies): Days after defending the UPSC's advertisement for lateral entry into bureaucracy, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday did a U-turn following its rollback, saying the move was against social justice. The volte-face by Vaishnaw, who had said the reform would improve governance, saw several users on social media calling him out for his "hypocrisy".

"The difference between reel and real life," Congress's Jairam Ramesh tweeted. Congress national spokesperson Shama Mohamed also took a swipe, "Both the implementation and withdrawal are being hailed as masterstrokes under this government."

Last week, amid mounting opposition criticism over the UPSC's ad for lateral entry without reservations, Vaishnaw defended the move and assert-



ed that it was the UPA government that had developed the concept.

"INC hypocrisy is evident on lateral entry matter. It was the UPA government which developed the concept of lateral entry. The second Admin Reforms Commission (ARC) was established in 2005 under the UPA government. Veerappa Moily chaired it," Vaishnaw said.

Vaishnaw also said Manmo-

han Singh entered the government through lateral entry in 1971 as the economic adviser and went on to become the Prime Minister.

However, as the UPSC rolled back the ad following a letter from Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh, Vaishnaw sang a different tune.

The Union Minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had always firmly believed in social

justice, and lateral entry should be aligned with principles of reservation.

"His (PM Modi) programmes have advanced the welfare of the weakest sections of our society. It shows PM Modi's commitment to social justice," he tweeted.

Later, speaking to reporters, Vaishnaw sought to turn the tables on the Congress, which claimed that the move to withdraw the ad was due to the campaign by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi.

"A decision has been taken to implement principles of reservation in the very transparent method of lateral entry in UPSC. During the UPA government, principles of reservation were not taken into consideration... Did Congress keep the principle in mind at that time? They should answer that," Vaishnaw said.

7 dead, 6 injured as auto-rickshaw rams into stationary truck in MP's Chhatarpur



CHHATARPUR (MP), Aug 20 (Agencies): Seven persons, including a one-year-old child, were killed and six others injured after an auto-rickshaw rammed into a stationary truck from behind in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh early on Tuesday, officials said. The accident took

place under the Civil Line police station limits when the rickshaw was going towards Bageshwar on Khajuraho-Jhansi highway around 5 am, a police official said. "Thirteen persons were travelling in the auto-rickshaw and seven of them were killed while six others injured after the vehicle collided with

a truck on Jhansi-Khajuraho Road," Superintendent of Police (SP) Agam Jain said.

The victims were going from Mahoba (in Uttar Pradesh) to Bageshwar Dham in Chhatarpur, he said.

Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Akhil Rathore said that as per the initial information, the CNG-run auto-rickshaw rammed into the stationary truck from behind.

Three seriously injured persons are being referred to Jhansi for further treatment, he said.

The deceased were identified as autorickshaw driver Prem Narayan (46), one year-old Asma, Janardan Yadav (45), Manu Shrivastava (25), Govind Shrivastava (35) and Nanni Bua (42) and Lalu (age not known), the officials said.

Delhi High Court refers Swamy's plea against Rahul Gandhi's citizenship to PIL bench

NEW DELHI, Aug 20 (Agencies): The Delhi High Court on Tuesday referred BJP leader Dr. Subramanian Swamy's plea regarding Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's citizenship to the bench handling public interest litigation cases led by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan. The decision comes after Swamy sought judicial intervention to push for action on his complaint against Gandhi.

Justice Sanjeev Narula observed that Swamy had not demonstrated any enforceable legal right to invoke the court's writ jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution. He suggested that the case could be considered under PIL jurisdiction.

The controversy dates back to August 2019, when Swamy penned a letter to the Centre, accusing Gandhi of violating constitutional provisions by allegedly declaring himself a British citizen in documents submitted to the British Government. He claimed that Gandhi, an Indian national, may have violated Article 9 of the Indian Constitution and the Indian Citizenship Act of 1955, which strictly prohibits Indian



citizens from holding dual citizenship.

"Gandhi's nationality was listed as British in a UK-based company's annual returns for 2005 and 2006"

According to Swamy, Gandhi's involvement with a UK-based company, Backops Limited, which was registered in 2003, is at the heart of the issue. Swamy alleged that in the company's annual returns for 2005 and 2006, Gandhi's nationality was listed as British, raising serious questions about his Indian citizenship. "If he declared himself a British citizen, it could mean forfeiture of his Indian citizenship," Swamy alleged.

In April 2019, the Central Government sent a notice to Gandhi titled "Complaint regarding citizenship," seeking clarification on the matter. Despite this,

Swamy contends that there has been no significant progress or resolution to his complaint. He has repeatedly requested updates from the government but claims that his inquiries have been met with silence.

Swamy's petition, filed through Advocate Satya Sabharwal, requests that the Centre be directed to make a decision on his complaint without further delay and to issue a final order on the matter.

The Supreme Court dismissed a plea to bar Rahul Gandhi from contesting the 2019 General Elections over the same citizenship issue in May 2019. The court also questioned the basis of the allegations, with a judge reportedly remarking, "Just because a document mentions him as British, does it automatically make him a British citizen?"

Bengal in state of flux, people lost faith in present government: Governor CV Ananda Bose

KOLKATA, Aug 20 (Agencies): Terming the alleged rape and murder of a woman doctor in a Kolkata hospital as the "most shameful moment" for society, Governor C V Ananda Bose claimed that West Bengal is in a "state of flux" and the people have "lost faith in the present government".

Referring to a recent rally organised by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to demand justice for the deceased trainee doctor, Bose questioned her stance and alleged that her statements were merely rhetorical.

In an interview with agency, Bose said, "Bengal is in a state of flux. Students have lost faith in the government, youths are scared and women are in a state of despair. There is a feeling that the government, which is supposed to protect the citizens, is not doing its role."

"The postgraduate trainee doctor was allegedly raped and murdered while on duty at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital here on August 9.

The healthcare services were severely affected at state-run hospitals across West Bengal as the ceasework agitation



by junior doctors to protest against the incident entered the 12th day on Tuesday.

They sought justice for the victim and legislation for better security at workplaces.

Bose also said, "Students have lost faith in the police. There is also a growing feeling of disenchantment among the youth, particularly women doctors and paramedics. As far as citizens are concerned, they are all aggrieved that the government does not act when action is called for."

He also alleged that Kolkata Police is "criminalised and politicised", and expressed concern over a "perceived disconnect between the government's actions and the needs of its citizens".

"There is a lack of clarity about the chief minister's position. There was a rally in which the health minister complained to the home minister about

the lack of security on campuses. The home minister complained to the CM that action was not taken. People are not fooled, knowing that the health minister is also the home minister and the CM. This situation resembles Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde -- everyone knows who is who. It's absurd that Bengal's chief minister parades around claiming that she seeks justice," Bose told agency.

The term - Jekyll and Hyde - is used to describe someone who has two sides to their personality, one good and one evil, or who is sometimes good and pleasant and sometimes bad or rude.

The governor criticised the government's handling of the situation, likening it to the historical reference of "Nero fiddled while Rome burned", suggesting that the government is "failing" to protect its people. He described the

situation as "a national shame", stating, "This is a most shameful moment for Bengal society, the most disturbing moment for humanity."

Bose also raised the issue of compensation offered by the chief minister to the deceased doctor's family, which was set at Rs 10 lakh.

He described this gesture as "very inappropriate" and said it "lacks sense and sensibility".

The governor also criticised it as a "reduction of a valuable life to a monetary value".

"This is really inhuman to put up a price for the valuable life of a young doctor. The CM should know that money cannot buy silence," he asserted.

In her public address on August 14, Banerjee had said, "The victim has departed. But I had asked her parents if they wanted to do something in their daughter's name, and I would have provided the financial support. Yes, we are ready to give Rs 10 lakh to the family."

Regarding the vandalism at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on the night of August 14, Bose questioned whether it was intended to distract from the murder of the doctor, and charac-

terised the situation as "mobocracy thwarting democracy".

Asked if he was considering recommending President's rule in West Bengal due to the "deteriorating" situation, Bose indicated that he would be writing to the President and the union home minister about the matter.

"What I will do as the governor will be circumspect. I will not make it come into the public domain about what I intend to do," he said.

The governor also expressed his intention to visit the parents of the deceased doctor, but only after they are emotionally prepared for the meeting.

"I will meet them at a time when they are mentally set for that. I respect the sentiments of the parents who lost their dear daughter. I will give them sufficient time," he added.

Notably, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has taken over the investigation into the alleged rape and murder of the doctor from Kolkata Police, following the order of the Calcutta High Court last week.

A civic volunteer was arrested for his alleged involvement in the crime.

Governor should not 'pick and choose': Siddaramaiah on prosecution sanction

BENGALURU, Aug 20 (Agencies): Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot should function like a representative of the President of India and not the central government.

He said the Governor should not 'pick and choose' and be selective in the matter of granting sanction for prosecution.

"Governor is a constitutional post and we respect it. What we say is that he should work as a representative of the President of India and not the Central government," Siddaramaiah said.

Mr Gehlot on August 16 granted sanction permitting investigation against Siddaramaiah under 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act and prosecution under Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, in connection with the Mysuru Urban Development Authority site allotment 'scam'.

The Chief Minister recalled that the Karnataka Lokayukta had sought Governor's approval to prosecute Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H D Kumaraswamy on November 23, 2023 in connection with Sri Sai Venkateshwara Miner-



als case but till now no permission has been granted.

The state ombudsman on Monday again submitted a proposal to the Governor seeking his permission to file a charge-sheet against Mr Kumaraswamy, who had allegedly granted mining lease to the private firm when he was the Chief Minister in 2007 in viola-

tion of law.

Siddaramaiah also pointed out that the Governor did not give permission to the Lokayukta to prosecute former BJP Ministers Shashikala Jolle, Murugesu Nirani and G Janardhana Reddy.

"On the other hand, T J Abraham lodged a (private) complaint against me with the Governor on

July 26 at 11 am and 10 hours later I was served a show-cause notice. Isn't it discrimination? That's the reason that the Governor was told not to use 'pick and choose' and should not do it selectively," Siddaramaiah said.

In his writ petition challenging the Governor's order in the High Court on Monday, the Chief Minister submitted that it was issued without due application of mind, in violation of statutory mandates, and contrary to constitutional principles, including the advice of the Council of Ministers, which is binding under Article 163 of the Constitution of India.

Siddaramaiah, who has vehemently denied any wrongdoing, said the Governor's decision is legally unsustainable, procedurally flawed, and motivated by extraneous considerations.

On the petition filed by him, the High Court passed interim orders directing the trial court to defer proceedings on complaints against him and further instructing that no precipitative action be taken pursuant to the sanction till August 29.

The BJP has demanded the Chief Minister's resignation to pave way for a transparent and unbiased investigation.

Student found dead in 'suspicious' condition in Kota coaching hostel, parents refuse probe

KOTA, Aug 20 (Agencies): An 18-year-old coaching student was found dead allegedly in a suspicious condition in the bathroom of his hostel room here, police said on Tuesday.

A police team reached the hostel room upon information from the hostel's caretaker and collected evidence but did not proceed with registration of an FIR on the request of the teenagers' parents, they said.

The parents also refused to conduct a post-mortem, following which the body was handed over to them for last rites, they added.

The deceased was identified as Kushagra Rastogi, a resident of Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, who was staying with his mother in the hostel in the Jawahar Nagar area, where his body was found on Monday, police said.

In April this year, Rastogi was enrolled at coaching institute in Kota for admission to an engineering course and began living in the hostel, they said.

On Monday morning, the teenager as usual went to the bathroom to freshen up after he woke up, DSP of the area, Rajesh Taylor, said citing the deceased's mother. When the boy did not come out even after 15-20 minutes, the woman knocked on the bathroom door and found it unbolted with her son lying unconscious on the floor inside, Taylor added.

Rastogi was rushed to a hospital, where doctors administered him CPR but on noticing no sign of revival, they declared him dead, Circle Inspector at Jawahar Nagar police station, Harinarayan Sharma, said.

The deceased's parents refused a post-mortem, so the body was handed over to them without lodging any case in the matter, Sharma said.

General Elections to Legislative Assembly-2024

ECI issues notification for 1st phase of elections

Last date of filing Aug 27, polling on Sept. 18

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 20: Election Commission of India (ECI), on Tuesday issued election notification for the 1st phase of the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir. 24 Assembly constituencies (ACs) in

the districts of Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam, Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar shall go to polls in the first phase while polling for the rest shall be held in the second and third phases. In Kashmir Division 16 Assembly Constituencies comprising 32- Pampore; 33- Tral;

34- Pulwama; 35- Rajpora; 36- Zainapora; 37- Shopian; 38- D.H. Pora; 39- Kulgam; 40- Devsar; 41- Dooru; 42- Koker-nag (ST); 43-Anantnag West; 44-Anantnag; 45-Srigufwara - Bijbehara; 46- Shangus - Anantnag East; 47- Pahalgam and in Jammu Division 08 Assembly Constituencies comprising 48-

Inderwal; 49- Kishtwar; 50- Padder - Nagseni; 51-Bhadarwah; 52-Doda; 53-Doda West; 54- Ramban and 55-Banihal are scheduled to go to polls in the first phase of the electoral process. As per the Notification, the last date for filing nominations is August 27, 2024. Scrutiny of the

nomination papers shall take place on August 28, 2024 and last date of withdrawal of candidature is August 30, 2024. The polling day for these Assembly constituencies is scheduled for September 18, 2024, and the Polling will be conducted from 07:00 AM to 06:00 PM, the notification reads.

NILM NGO organizes drug abuse awareness and prevention programme



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 20: National Incredible Literacy Mission (NILM) J&K in collaboration with

the Directorate of school education Jammu organized drug abuse awareness and prevention programme at Government Middle School Domana

Jammu. Hundreds of the students participated in the programme. The event aimed to educate students about the dangers of drug

abuse, prevention strategies, and appropriate responses in case of encountering drug-related situations Kavita Bali Guest Lecturer informed

the gathering about the side effects of drugs and she told gathering about the circumstances how students get involved in the drugs. She also told the way of avoiding these circumstances. She added that drugs are the most dangerous things which can destroy the whole family of addicted person. Rajni Bala Headmistress, Govt. Middle School Domana Jammu along with school staff including Pawan Kumar, Shashi Kumar and Shardha Manhas remain present during the programme. The staff members of NILM NGO including R S Thakur, Pooja Sahu, Sheetal Devi also remain present during the occasion.

Maharaja Shri Ranbir Singh's Birth Anniversary celebrated



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 20: Sanskrit Week is being organized at Central Sanskrit University, Shri Ranbir Campus, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu. During this week, the birth anniversary of Maharaja Shri Ranbir Singh was celebrated with great pomp by the campus. Former senior teachers of the campus, Sharat Chander Sharma and Dr. Ramdas Sharma were also honoured as learned scholars in this program. On the occasion, the guest of honor, Sharat Chander Sharma said that being the Maharaja, Ranbir Singh took many steps for the development of Jammu and

Kashmir and worked hard to provide justice to the people. He had established new dimensions of development in the state by eradicating the evils prevalent in the society. He eliminated evils like casteism and also banned the practice of Sati. Dr. Ramdas Sharma said that the Maharaja served the people of the state with full devotion. His contribution can never be forgotten. He appreciated organizing such an event by the campus. In his Presidential address, Campus Director Prof. Shreedhar Mishra said that Maharaja Ranbir Singh was a very knowledgeable person. He was proficient

in Sanskrit, Persian and Pashto languages. He has made an incomparable contribution for the preservation of Sanskrit. The program was started with Vedic invocation. Dr. Ratan Kumar Pandey of Astrology Department welcomed the guests. Dr. Anup Pandey proposed the vote of thanks to the guests. On the occasion, Sanskrit Week coordinator Prof. Satish Kumar Kapoor, Dr. Rishiraj, Dr. Gopal Verma, Dr. Rajkumar Mishra, Dr. Tej Nath Paudel, Dr. Neetu Sharma, Dr. Shweta Sood, Dr. Anay Mani Tripathi, Dr. Pawan Singh, Dr. Ravikant Tiwari were present. The programme was conducted efficiently by Dr. Sarvesh Tripathi.

Dr. Ritu Singh launches 'Bonds of Love' Initiative for community empowerment on Raksha Bandhan



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 20: As part of her commitment to community building, empowerment, and skill development, Kunwari Dr. Ritu Singh launched the "Bonds of Love" initiative, designed to foster inclusion and a spirit of learning among future generations on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. This meaningful initiative was inaugurated through a heartwarming program at both Old Age Home, Amphalla and Muskaan Home, Jammu where the students and faculty of DPS Jammu, under their Prayas Outreach Program, engaged in a series of impactful activities.

deepening the bonds of love and respect. Under the visionary guidance of Kunwari Dr. Ritu Singh, the celebration at Muskaan Home took on a creative and heartfelt dimension. A workshop, focused on the art of Rakhi making, was conducted for the special children, instilling in them a deep sense of inclusion, love, and community service. With the support of the

school's art faculty, the children eagerly crafted their own Rakhis, showcasing their creativity and enthusiasm. As the celebration unfolded, these handmade Rakhis were tied by the students and faculty on the children's wrists, accompanied by the traditional application of Tilak and the sharing of sweets. The event was further enlivened by a poetic dance performance by the students, which brought smiles and joy to everyone present. Dr. Ritu Singh joined the event virtually, where she highlighted the importance of these values, urging the younger generation to carry forward the spirit of love, inclusion, and community service in their lives. Her words left a lasting impact, reinforcing the significance of the "Bonds of Love" initiative in nurturing a compassionate and connected society.

Restored security to political leaders in Kishtwar District: Ajeet

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Aug 20: Jammu and National Conference Senior Leader and Spokesperson Ajeet Bhagat has called for the immediate restoration of security to political leaders in Kishtwar District, where security had recently been withdrawn. Bhagat emphasized the sensitivity of the district, noting that Kishtwar has a history of attacks on political leaders, resulting in numerous fatalities. He urged security agencies to learn from past incidents and take prompt action to reinstate security for all affected leaders. Bhagat expressed concern over the current situation in Kishtwar, where the continuous presence of militants has created



chaos in the market and instilled fear among the population and political figures alike. He warned that if the security of these leaders is not restored promptly, he would take the matter to the Supreme Court. Bhagat also stressed that security agencies would be held directly responsible if any untoward incidents occur in the district due to this lapse in protection.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders leave for Mumbai to finalize Assembly Election candidates

Top News Report

At the Old Age Home, the day was enriched by a series of touching performances. The school staff delighted the residents with a soulful flute recital and melodic songs, while the students showcased their talents through dance and singing performances. The elderly residents, touched by the gesture, joined in the celebration, singing along with the children and faculty, which created an atmosphere of warmth and connection. The children further honored the elderly by applying Tilak, tying Rakhis on their wrists, and sharing sweets.

JAMMU, Aug 20: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit leaders departed for Mumbai today with a list of potential candidates for the upcoming assembly elections. The list was finalized during a core committee meeting held at the party's central office under the leadership of Manish Sahni, the state chief of Shiv Sena (UBT). Manish Sahni, along with other state unit leaders, is set to present the finalized list to the party's high command in Mumbai for approval. Speaking to the media, Sahni emphasized the party's commitment to restoring the



rights of the local people of Jammu and Kashmir, a directive given by party chief Honorable Uddhav Bala Saheb Thackeray. The finalized list of candidates, once approved by the high command, will be announced publicly. Shiv Sena (UBT) candidates are expected to contest the elections with a focus on protecting

Jammu and Kashmir's identity, preserving cultural heritage, restoring local privileges and rights under Section 371, providing free electricity and water, and introducing unemployment allowances for educated youth. Among those present at the core committee meeting were General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice

President Sanjeev Kohli, GI Singh, President of the Kashmir Division Malik Basit, Balwant Singh, Rakesh Gupta, and Raj Singh, President of the Kamghar Wing.

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