

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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**Zoe Kravitz makes film directorial debut with power trip thriller 'Blink Twice'**



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**Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to visit US from August 23 to 26**

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**Jay Shah to be named ICC chairman, will replace Greg Barclay**



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## BRIEFLY

### Former Principal & District Sessions Judge set to join PDP

SRINAGAR, Aug 21 (Agencies): Former Principal & District Sessions Judge Mohammad Ashraf Malik is set to join the People's Democratic Party (PDP) tomorrow at party's headquarter in Srinagar.

Quoting sources, the news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS) reported that Malik is expected to be the PDP's contesting candidate from the Dooru constituency in south Kashmir's Anantnag district for the upcoming Assembly elections.

### Light to moderate rain, thunder-shower in J&K parts today, MeT predicts

SRINAGAR, Aug 21 (Agencies): Meteorological Centre Srinagar Wednesday predicted light to moderate rain and thundershower at many places of Jammu and Kashmir today.

It said that morning showers to continue over Jammu division.

On August 21 there is a possibility of generally cloudy weather with light to moderate rain and thundershower at many places in Jammu and Kashmir, a MeT official said.

He also said that a spell of rain and thundershower at many places of J&K likely to occur during August 26 late night to August 27 morning.

The official added that morning showers to continue over Jammu division.

### Srinagar police establish helpline to report MCC violations

SRINAGAR, Aug 21 (Agencies): Srinagar police Wednesday said that it has established a contact line on the directions of Election Commission of India for people to report MCC violations.

"In compliance to the directions of Election Commission of India, Srinagar Police has designated

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## 151 sitting MPs and MLAs face cases of crimes against Women, 16 charged with Rape: ADR

NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): As many as 151 sitting MPs and MLAs have declared cases related to crimes against women in their election affidavits, with West Bengal having the highest number of lawmakers facing such cases, according to a recent report by a poll rights body.

For the report, the Association for Democratic Reforms examined 4,693 out of 4,809



affidavits of sitting MPs and MLAs submitted to the Election Commission of India during elections between 2019 and

2024. The organisation identified 16 MPs and 135 MLAs facing cases related to crimes against women.

West Bengal tops the list with 25 sitting MPs and MLAs facing charges related to crimes against women, followed by Andhra Pradesh with 21 and Odisha with 17, according to the report that comes amid the nationwide protests over the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor in a state-run hospital in Kolkata and sexual assault of two children in Thane.

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## AAP to contest Assembly Election in Jammu and Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Aug 21 (Agencies): Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday announced that it will contest the next month assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir with "full strength".

AAP leader Imran Hussain said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been exploited by the leaders for their own political gains and on religious issues and AAP is the lone party in the country which is delivering for the common man.

"It is big news for the people that



AAP is going to contest the assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir", Hussain told media persons in Srinagar today.

"I appeal to the people to differentiate between the original and duplicate. AAP is the only party governing successfully in Delhi and Punjab on the role model of Arvind Kejriwal who is the only model in the whole of India who delivers", Hussain said.

The notification for the first phase of

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## J&K Assembly Polls | Apni Party releases manifesto, promises to work for restoration of Statehood

SRINAGAR, Aug 21 (Agencies): The Apni Party on Wednesday released its manifesto for the assembly elections, promising to press the Centre for constitutional guarantees to preserve culture and special identity of Jammu and Kashmir, and to work for the restoration of statehood of the Union Territory.



The manifesto was released at a press conference here by the

party's general secretary Rafi Mir along with other senior leaders.

"The Apni Party will press for constitutional guarantees to preserve the culture and special identity of Jammu and Kashmir, similar to the provisions of Article 371 in some north-eastern states. This includes land and job protection, addressing the people's sense of loss," the manifesto read.

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## RLDA invites bids for commercial development of two land parcels at Vaishno Devi Katra Railway Station

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) on Wednesday invited bids for the commercial development of two land parcels near Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Railway Station, under the Ferozpur Division of Northern Railway in Jammu & Kashmir.

As per the official statement of RLDA, the total land area to be leased consists of two land parcels. Parcel A's approximate area is 7521.45 Sqm and has a reserve price of 17.35 crore. Parcel B's approximate

area is - 7831.23 Sqm and has a reserve price of 18.49 crore. The land for both parcels will be leased for 60 years.

RLDA further stated that both land parcels (A & B) are bounded by the Station road in the north. On the east, land parcel A is bounded by the station road followed by Railway buildings while land parcel B is bounded by Land parcel A.

On the south, both land parcels are bounded by the Railway Yard. In the West land parcel A is bounded by land

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## Inquiry ordered after attendant seen giving CPR to patient in absence of doctors at SDH Banihal

J A M M U / SRINAGAR, Aug 21 (Agencies): The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Ramban on Wednesday ordered an inquiry into an incident which today morning sparked an outrage against the medical workers at the health facility.

An elderly man, helpless, is seen giving Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to his patient at Sub-District Hospital, (SDH) Banihal, while the one capturing video shows around the area including staff room, which are empty.

"Patient is been giving CPR by attendants, no doctor here," the man capturing the video is heard saying.

The video was shared

by JKNC leader from the region, Sajjad Shaheen, saying he was deeply saddened and outraged to see a patient dying at the SDH this morning because no doctor was available at 7:00am.

"His son was left to desperately perform manual chest compressions to save him. This gross negligence is unforgivable and demands immediate action. My heartfelt condolences to his family and relatives," Shaheen wrote on his official Facebook handle.

Following this, an order was issued by the office of Chief Medical Officer, Ramban, ordering an inquiry into the incident. "This office has

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## Terror Funding Case | Delhi Court seeks NIA's response on engineer Rashid's Bail plea

NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): A Delhi court has sought the National Investigation Agency's response on an application filed by jailed Kashmiri parliamentarian Rashid Engineer seeking regular bail.

Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, was arrested in a 2017 Jammu and Kashmir terror funding case. He defeated former chief minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah in Baramulla in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Additional sessions judge (ASJ) Chanderjit Singh issued notice to the NIA on August 20 and directed it to file its response by August 28.

The court had earlier granted Rashid custody parole to take the oath of office on July 5.

Rashid has been in jail since 2019 after he was charged by the NIA under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the alleged terror funding case. He is at present lodged in Tihar jail.

The former MLA's name cropped up during the investigation of Kashmiri businessman Zahoor Watali, who was arrested by the NIA for allegedly funding terrorist groups and separatists in the Valley.

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## J&K Police arrest couple with 166 bottles of wine in Kupwara

SRINAGAR, Aug 21 (Agencies): Police on Wednesday arrested a couple and recovered a huge quantity of wine from their possession in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district.

"During a 'naka' check, police intercepted a vehicle at Madmadow Kalaroos and seized 166 bottles of wine and 12 bottles of beer," police posted on X (formerly twitter) on Wednesday.

The occupants, a husband and wife from Paraypora Kalaroos, have been arrested, police said.

A case under relevant sections of law has been registered.

"Station Kupwara Police, in a joint naka with PP Kalaroos, intercepted a vehicle at

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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

### CREMATION

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved, **S. Inderjit Singh S/o Late Sh. Makhan Singh R/o 27 New Rehari Jammu** expired on 19-08-2024.

The Cremation shall take place at Jogi Gate on 22.08.2024 (Thursday) at 11:30 AM.

#### GRIEF STRICKEN

Sdr. Surinder Singh - Wife  
Sdr. & S. Harpreet Singh - Son  
S. Kanav Preet Singh - Son  
S. Beant Singh - Brother  
Sdr. & S. Gurcharan Singh - Brother  
Sdr. & S. Devinder Singh - Brother-in-law  
Sdr. & S. Rajinder Singh - Brother-in-law  
Contact No.: 6006158965, 7889759149



S. Inderjit Singh

### TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Ms. Prem Lata R/o W.No.13 H.No.95 Opposite District Hospital Udampur.** Tenth day shall be performed on 22 August 2024. (THURSDAY) at OM PALACE, Udampur at 12.00 Noon.

Kriya shall be performed on 23 August 2024 at Devika Ghat at 11:00 am.

#### GRIEF STRICKEN

**Son & Daughter-in-Law**  
Sh. Rakesh Khajuria (Ex- Counselor Ward No.13) and Smt. Sumeksha Sharma  
**Grand Son & Daughter**  
Raghuvansh and Rudrakshi -  
Contact no. 7006978799, 9469203060



Ms. Prem Lata

### 10TH DAY KRIYA

We are deeply saddened to inform you of the passing of our beloved **Shri Chander Mohan Kher**, son of Late Shri Girdhari Lal Kher, originally from Habba Kadal, Srinagar. He attained moksha on August 16, 2024.

The 10th-Day Kriya will be held on August 25, 2024, at 7 AM at Gaggar Ghat, Sector 21, Panchkula, followed by a Prayer Meet at his residence, 224A, A8, Silver City Themes, Derabassi, Punjab.

#### GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Nisha Kher (Wife)  
Shri. Himanshu Kher (Son)  
Smt. Namrata & Ashish Raina (Daughter & Son-in-Law)  
**Immediate Family:**  
Samest Kher, Saraf, Wattal, Zizoo, Mallia, Sumbly Parivar.  
**Brother-in-Law & Sister-in-Law:**  
Samest Kaul, Dhar, Razdan, Kundu, Durani Parivar.  
**All Near & Dear ones.**  
Contact: 981424988/9888884794



Shri Chander Mohan Kher

### BARKHI

Barkhi of our beloved Late **Smt. Geeta Bakshi** W/o Sh. Rakesh Bakshi will be performed at our home R/o Ward No. 05, Lane No.1 Opp. Swantara Library, Ram Vihar, Bantala Jammu on 22nd August 2024 at 12:00 Noon.

#### GRIEF STRICKEN

**Rakesh Bakshi - Husband**  
**Daughters & Sons-in-law**  
Radha & Sanjeev Dutta  
Monika & Surinder Sharma  
Meenakshi & Amit Mohan  
Taru & Sanjay Dutta  
**Brothers & Sisters-in-law**  
Kamal & Lata Bakshi  
Rajinder & Suneela Bakshi  
9906108047



Late Smt. Geeta Bakshi

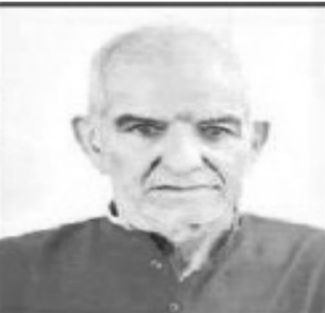
### TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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

#### GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Kaushlya Bhat - **BHABHI**  
**SONS & DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW**  
Lenin Kumar Bhat & Asha Bhat (9906130745)  
Ashok Kumar Bhat & Bita Kumari (9419163526)  
Vijay Gagarine Bhat & Pupy Bhat (9650029018)  
Shiban Krishan Bhat & Vijay Kumari (9697518207)  
Surinder Krishan Bhat & Renu Bhat (9419131577)  
Sweety Bhat & Veer Ji Bhat  
**GRAND CHILDREN**  
Ashish Bhat & Shivani Koul Bhat (9906369296)  
Rahul Bhat & Shivani Jhirwal Bhat (9667829941)  
Deepshikha Bhat  
Vika S Bhat & Priya Darshani Bhat  
Amit Koul & Anisha Bhat Koul  
Mayur Bhat & Priyanka Bhat  
Saransh, Agastya, Vedaant, Divita, Devaansh & Vihaana



Shri Makhan Lal Bhat (Nagam)

### 10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. B.D Sharma (Retd. DGM)**, R/o H.No. 82, Kali Janni, Parade, Jammu.

10th Day shall be performed on Wednesday, 21 August at 10 A.M. at our residence 82, Kali Janni.  
Kriya shall be performed on Thursday, 22 August at 10 A.M. at our residence.

Uthala shall be performed on 24 August at Jain Sabha, Kali Janni at 3.00 P.M.

#### GRIEF STRICKEN:-

**(Brother & Sister in Law)**  
Smt. Raj Rani W/o Lt. Sh. Balbhadra Pathak  
Smt. Hirdi & Rupali Pathak **(Son & Daughter in Law)**  
Ishan Sharma & Babita Sharma **(Son & Daughter in Law)**  
Sonu Sharma & R.D Sharma **(Daughter & Son in Law)**  
Paarth, Rudra, Ayaara, Tatisha **(Grand Children)**  
and all Sharma Family  
Contact No:- 7006345180, 9149495939.



Sh. B.D Sharma (Retd. DGM)

### ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we announce the passing of **Sdr Kulwant Kaur** Wife of Late S. Karar Singh R/o House No. 38, Lane 1, Sector 7, Nanak Nagar, Jammu passed away on 19-08-2024.

#### ANTIM ARDAS SCHEDULE

**Arambh Shri Akhand Path:** 22-08-2024 at 9.30 AM at residence

**Bhog Shri Akhand Path:** 24-08-2024 at 9.00 AM at residence

**Antim Ardas:** 24-08-2024, 10.30 AM to 12 Noon at Gurudwara Sant Dana Sahib Nanak Nagar

#### GRIEF STRICKEN

Surpreet Kaur and Inderbir Singh **(Daughter in Law and Son)** - 9419139217  
Parmeet Singh and Guneet Singh **(Grandsons)**  
Surjeet Kaur and Bhupinder Singh **(Sister in Law and Brother)**  
Bhupinder Kaur and Marjeet Singh **(Daughter and Son in Law)**  
Ravinder Kaur and Jasbir Singh **(Daughter and Son in Law)**  
Harpal Kaur and Bhupinder Singh **(Daughter and Son in Law)**  
Gurcharan Kaur and Rikpal Singh **(Daughter and Son in Law)**



Sdr Kulwant Kaur

### TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Bimla Devi** W/o Late Sh Kikar Singh R/o Janglote, Kathua left for her heavenly abode on 13-8-2024.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 22-8-2024 (Thursday) at our residence at 10.00 AM.

**Kriya** will be performed on 25-8-2024 (Sunday) at our residence at 12.00 Noon.  
**Rasam Pagri** will be performed on 26-8-2024 (Monday) at our residence at 12.00 Noon.

#### Grief Stricken

**Sons & Daughter-in-laws**  
Mr Charanjit Singh (Ex-MLA, Kathua) & Mrs Sangita  
Mr Rachhpal Singh & Mrs Asha Kumari  
Mr Rajinder Singh (Advocate) & Mrs Vandhana  
**Daughters & Son-in-laws**  
Mrs Shakuntla Devi & Romal Singh  
Mrs Sneh Lata & Mr Rajinder Singh



Smt Bimla Devi

### TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

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#### Grief Stricken

**Sons & Daughter-in-laws**  
Mr Charanjit Singh (Ex-MLA, Kathua) & Mrs Sangita  
Mr Rachhpal Singh & Mrs Asha Kumari  
Mr Rajinder Singh (Advocate) & Mrs Vandhana  
**Daughters & Son-in-laws**  
Mrs Shakuntla Devi & Romal Singh  
Mrs Sneh Lata & Mr Rajinder Singh



Smt Bimla Devi

### BARKHI

One year has passed since you left for eternal journey. The pain of losing you will never fade, but your blessing are always with us and we always feel your gracious presence around us. You will forever, live in our hearts guiding and inspiring us.

**Barkhi** of our beloved **Sh. Mohan Lal Kotwal** R/o Chanoor, shall be performed on Thursday (22nd Aug. 2024) at our residence Gandoh, Bhalessa, Distt. Doda.

#### GRIEF STRICKEN

**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Sh. Manoj Kotwal & Smt. Bhawana Kotwal  
Sh. Arvind Manhas & Smt. Neeru Manhas  
Sh. Vikram S. Manhas & Smt. Geetanjali  
**Daughters & Sons-in-law**  
Smt. Kusum Kotwal & Sh. Rakesh Kotwal  
Smt. Savita Manhas & Sh. Sanjay Manhas  
Contact No.: 9622021077, 9419105957



Sh. Mohan Lal Kotwal

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Avtar Krishan Koul** S/o Late Sh. Gash Lal Koul R/o Balagund Handwara Kashmir presently at Flat: 20, Block:134 Lane No. 23, Jagti Township Nagrota Jammu on 13/08/2024.

**10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 22.08.2024 at 6 A.M. near Director School Education Muthi Camp Jammu.

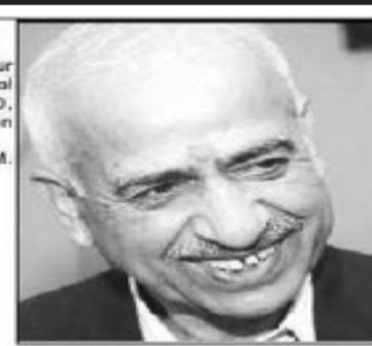
#### GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Pummy Koul (Wife)  
Smt. & Sh. Amit Koul **(Daughter in law & Son)**  
Sh. Sakhi Raina H/o Late Smt. Dimpy Koul **(Sons in law)**  
Smt. Sneha Koul W/o Late Sh. H.K. Koul **(Sister in law)**  
Smt. & Sh. P. N. Koul **(Sister in law & Brother)**  
Smt. & Sh. Rakesh Koul **(Daughter in law & Son)**  
Smt. & Sh. Ravi ji **(Daughter & Son in law)**  
Smt. & Sh. Suni ji Pandita **(Daughter & Son in Law)**  
Sh. Anil Koul **(Son)**  
Smt. & Sh. Susheelji Kakroo **(Daughter & Son in law)**  
Smt. & Sh. Deepakji Sopori **(Daughter & Son in law)**  
Smt. & Sh. A.K. Raina **(Sister & Brother in law)**  
Smt. & Sh. Rajesh Ji Chajoo **(Sister & Brother in law)**  
Smt. & Sh. Kandan Lal Koul **(Sister in law & Brother)**  
Smt. & Sh. Raj Nath Koul **(Sister in law & Brother)**  
Smt. & Sh. Ashok Koul **(Sister in law & Brother)**  
Smt. & Sh. Vinod Koul **(Sister in law & Brother)**  
Miss. Purni Koul **(Grand Daughter)**

**MOURNING FROM MALUN SIDE** will be observed at Community Hall, Lane 24, Jagti Township Nagrota, Jammu.

Contact Numbers: 990526191, 6005366734, 9149538449

Sh. G.L. Pandita: 9796473666



SH. AVTAR KRISHAN KOUL

### BARKHI

कमी जिन्दगी एक पल में गुजर जाती है,  
कमी जिन्दगी का एक पल भी नहीं गुजरता !  
**Barkhi** of our beloved **Veena Sharma** W/o Baldev Raj Sharma will be held on 22-08-2024 (Thursday) at 1.30 PM at our residence 214/2 Surya Vanshi Nagar Muthi Camp.

#### Grief Stricken

Baldev Raj Sharma - **Husband**  
**Sons & Daughters in law**  
Gourav Sharma & Ritika Sharma  
Sourab Sharma & Mannu Sharma  
**Grand Kids**  
Adhivika, Akarsha, Abhaan, Ishna

नुम्हारे गम की डली उखरत जुवाँ पे रख ली है मैने,  
यह कतर कतर पियल रही है मै कतर कतर डी जी रखा हूँ  
**Baldev**  
**Ominous Husband**  
94196-20670



Veena Sharma

### 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Avtar Krishan Koul** S/o Late Sh. Janki Nath Koul originally resident of Tankpora, Srinagar at present B-401, Apex Green Valley, Sector-9, Vaishali, Ghaziabad U.P. He left for heavenly abode on Monday (19-Aug-2024).

Cremation was held on 20th Aug. 2024 at Hindon Ghat, Ghaziabad.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on Wednesday, 28th Aug. 2024 at Murad Nagar Ghat, Ghaziabad.

#### GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Mohini Koul - **Wife**  
Sunil Kumar Koul & Bindra Koul - **Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Sunita & Ajay Thussu - **Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Manoj Kumar Koul & Phoola Koul - **Brother & Bhabhi**  
Ashok Kumar Koul & Saroj Koul - **Brother & Bhabhi**  
Smt. Usha Bhat & Bansil Lal Bhat - **Sister & Brother-in-law**  
Smt. Rani W/o Late Sh. Hira Lal Raina - **Sister & Brother-in-law**  
Smt. Dulari & Raj Nath Bhat - **Sister-in-law & Co-Brother**  
Vinod Raina & Ranjana Raina **(In-laws)**  
Mokshin, Yash & Ravista - **Grand Children**  
**Kouls, Thussu's & Dhar's**  
Tel: 9811109835, 9654368822



Sh. Avtar Krishan Koul

### CONDOLANCE

J&K Bank Retired Employees Welfare Association Jammu, expresses heartfelt Condolence on the sad demise of **Shri Suresh Kotwal** R/o 25 A Karan Nagar Jammu retired officer of the Bank and our honorable member. We pray Almighty to bestow eternal peace to the departed noble soul and provide courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Sd/-  
**Mohinder Singh**  
President

(R.K. Khan)  
General Secretary



Shri Suresh Kotwal

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Piaray Lal Pandita** S/o Sh. Krishen Ji Pandita on 15th August 2024 originally from village Arigam, Budgam, currently residing at H.No. 46, Ward No. 60 Buta Nagar, Paloura, Jammu.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 24-08-2024 at 8 am at Muthi Ghat near Director Education Deptt.

#### GRIEF STRICKEN

Santosh Pandita - **Wife**  
Kamal Pandita & Nisha Pandita - **Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Rakesh Pandita & Sakshi Pandita - **Son & Daughter-in-law**  
A.K. Pandita & Guddi Pandita - **Brother & Bhabhi**  
M.K. Pandita & Anita Pandita - **Brother & Bhabhi**  
Anoop Dhar & Supriya Dhar - **Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law**  
Niam & Vivan - **Grand Children**  
and the entire Dhar & Bhat Family  
Mob. No: 7506797811, 9419298171, 9419726269, 6006394273



Piaray Lal Pandita

### Booy Choal Malon Gool MOURNING

WITH GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET THE DEMISE OF OUR LOVING BROTHER **AVTAR KRISHEN KOUL S/O LT. SAMSAR CHAND KOUL OF ACHANAL ANANTNAG AT PRESENT DEHRAADOON UK.**

#### IN GRIEF SISTERS

CHUNI JI PANDITA  
BAHAN JI  
OMA JI BAGATI  
KHEMA JI

BITA JI  
MOHAN LAL BHAT  
RAJ NATH PANDITA  
RAMESH JI PANDITA  
MOB. NO 6005808631



AVTAR KRISHEN KOUL

### TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

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

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

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

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

**Grief Stricken:**  
Santosh Kumari (Wife)  
Satya Devi (Taye)  
Rajesh Kumar (Son)  
Lalita Devi (Daughter-in-law)  
Priyanka Sharma (Daughter)  
Aditya Dev Sharma (Grand Son)  
**Daughter & Son in law**  
Pooja & Pawan Kumar  
Asha Rani & Jagdish Sharma  
Veenu Kumar & Sonni Sharma  
**Cousin:** Deep Kumar, Shubh Kaur, Kewal Rattan, Anil Takayia

AND TAKAYIA FAMILY  
Contact: 9797560107, 9419200036, 962222082, 9797303900, 7051007053



Sh Ram Saran

### TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Mohan Lal Bogla (Retd Supdt. Engr, PWD)** S/o Late Sh. Garb Dass R/o House No 22-P, Sector 3, Opposite Lense Cart, Channi Himmat who left for his heavenly abode on 13/08/2024.

**Tenth Day** shall be performed on 22-08-2024 at Panch Mandir, Sector 2, Channi Himmat, near Police Station Channi.

**Satsang:** 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm

**Langar:** 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

#### REMEMBERED BY

**Sons and Daughters in Law**  
Deepak Bogla (Range Officer) & Dr. Asha  
Sunil Bogla (AEC) and Priya  
**Daughter and Son in Law**  
Dr. Renu Hans and Sujat Hans (AEC)  
& Bogla family  
9419217213, 9419254506



Sh. Mohan Lal Bogla (Retd Supdt. Engr, PWD)

### MOURNING FROM IN LAWS SIDE

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our brother-in-law namedly **Sh. Praduman Krishen Tickoo** H/o Smt. Urmilla Tickoo (Baby) D/o Late Sh. Shyam Sunder Lal of Kilam Kulgam on 16th of August 2024 (Friday).

**Mourning from In Laws Side** is being observed at H.No. 15 Lane No. 1A SJS Avenue, Airport Road Amritsar (Punjab).

#### GRIEF STRICKEN

**Bhat Parivar of Kilam Kulgam**  
Phone No.: 979660514, 9796062342, 7889570325



Sh. Praduman Krishen Tickoo

### DISCLAIMER

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## MP Gulam Ali Khatana Labels NC-Congress Alliance as "Gunahon Ka Ghatbandan"

Top News Report

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, Aug 21: Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana has sharply criticized the alliance between the National Conference (NC) and Congress Party, calling it a "Gunahon Ka Ghatbandan" (an alliance of sins). He warned the people of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) against the dangers posed by this coalition, predicting that their return to power would lead to a renewed cycle of violence in the region. In a statement, MP Khatana accused both NC and Congress of exploiting communal sentiments for political gain, leading to bloodshed and unrest in J&K. "These parties have a

long history of sacrificing innocent lives for vote bank politics," Khatana asserted. "We will issue a white paper on their misdeeds. If they form an alliance and return to power, they will usher in another round of bloodshed in J&K."

Contrasting the previous administrations with the current situation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Khatana highlighted the significant progress made in J&K, noting the absence of the violence that once defined the region. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, J&K has scripted a new history, erasing the bloodstains left by the NC and Congress. Civilian kill-



ings were once the daily headlines before Modi took over as the Prime Minister. Today, there hasn't been a strike calendar issued for years, and the people of J&K are actively contributing to the development of the region and the nation," he said.

Khatana also emphasized the improvements in individual dignity and the reduction of harass-

ment at checkpoints, which were prevalent during the NC-Congress rule. "Harassment at checkpoints was the norm before Modi Ji's leadership. People had to endure curfews, extensive checks, and were often deboarded from their vehicles, forced to wait in long queues. But under Modi, the dignity of every individual is respected," Khatana stated.

He praised the Modi government's efforts in dismantling the terror ecosystem in J&K, noting that anti-national elements are now being dealt with firmly. "The Modi government has been successful in eradicating the terror ecosystem. The sympathizers of terrorism are being dealt with an iron

hand. PM Modi's slogan 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' is visible on the ground—respect for nationalists and iron for the anti-nationals," he emphasized.

Khatana also criticized Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi for attempting to mislead the people of J&K.

He urged the public to remain vigilant and resist their tactics. "Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi will try to mislead the masses in J&K," Khatana warned. "I request the people of J&K to stay alert and not fall into their trap. The Awam (people) have a responsibility to contribute to nation-building by keeping forces like the NC and Congress at bay," he concluded.

## Vinod Pandita calls for unified strategy among Kashmiri Pandit candidates in Assembly Elections

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: Notable socio-political activist Vinod Pandita has called on the Kashmiri Pandit (KP) community to come together and strategize for the ongoing Assembly elections, emphasizing the importance of unity among KP candidates contesting from specific Assembly segments in the Kashmir Valley.

In a statement issued today, Pandita highlighted the crucial role that Kashmiri Pandits, who have been living in exile for over 34 years, played in the recently held Parliamentary Elections, where their mass participation was widely recognized and appreciated. He urged KP organizations, intellectuals, and community leaders to engage

in thorough discussions to reach a consensus on fielding only one candidate per Assembly segment where the KP vote bank holds significant influence.

Pandita stressed that even KP candidates who may be fielded by different political parties should consider the impact of multiple KP candidates in the same constituency, as it could lead to a division of the vote bank. He appealed to political parties to take this into account and work towards avoiding any split in the KP votes.

He also discouraged the promotion of independent candidacies, pointing out that the KP vote bank is already thin and scattered across different Assembly segments. Unity, he argued, is essential for maximizing the commu-

nity's electoral impact.

Furthermore, Pandita urged all political parties contesting the Assembly elections to address the pressing issues faced by the Kashmiri Pandit community in their election manifestos. He called for serious attention to be given to the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits, an increase in monthly cash assistance, the creation of 10,000 new jobs, compensation for over aged youth, and the construction of additional quarters for Kashmiri migrants in Jammu.

Pandita concluded by encouraging the KP community to vote en masse in the ongoing Assembly elections, not only to address the pressing challenges they face in exile but also to strengthen the foundation of democracy.

## Movement Kalki raises alarm over illegal encroachments, rising number of migrants in Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: Movement Kalki and the Revolutionary Committee held a press conference today to express their deep concerns about the escalating illegal encroachments and the increasing presence of Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants in Jammu. The group has alleged that these issues are part of a larger conspiracy against the local population and has called on the government for immediate intervention.

The Movement Kalki reported a significant rise in illegal occupation of government land, particularly along the banks of the Tawi River. They criticized the government's

inaction and warned that this negligence could lead to a repeat of past crises in Jammu.

The press conference revealed concerns about rising incidents of theft, robbery, and violent crimes linked to the influx of these migrants. Movement Kalki claims that these developments have heightened insecurity among local residents.

The group highlighted a disturbing increase in crimes against women and children, emphasizing the urgent need for enhanced security measures.

The migration of external settlers has reportedly reduced local employment opportunities and

threatens the cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

Movement Kalki has demanded the immediate removal of illegal settlers and warned of large-scale protests if the government fails to address these issues promptly.

The delegation from Movement Kalki had previously submitted a memorandum to Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, outlining these concerns. Although Bhatnagar acknowledged the issues, the group criticized the lack of concrete action taken by the administration.

Present at the press conference were Sanjeev Dubey, President of the Revolutionary Committee, Core Committee Member Thakur Arjun Singh, Vikram Mahajan, and Kewal Sharma. The group reiterated its commitment to safeguarding Jammu and Kashmir's security, cultural identity, and peace, and called for immediate government intervention.

## CCI condemns brutal rape and murder of Kolkata doctor

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: The Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) has strongly condemned the brutal rape and murder of a female trainee doctor at a hospital in Kolkata. During a recent meeting, President Arun Gupta called for a comprehensive investigation into the incident and demanded stringent punishment for those responsible.

Arun Gupta expressed deep outrage over the horrific crime, describing it as a disturbing reminder of the rising violence against women. He emphasized the urgent need for a thorough and fair probe and called for severe penalties for the perpetrators to ensure justice is served.

The Chamber also highlighted the necessity for enhanced safety measures to protect women, particularly in their workplaces. Gupta stressed the importance of creating secure environments for female professionals to prevent such tragic incidents in the future.

In addition, the Chamber expressed its full support for the doctors and paramedical staff who are currently protesting peacefully to demand justice for the victim. The Chamber stands in solidarity with the medical community in their efforts to seek accountability and reform.

The meeting conveyed profound grief over the tragic event, which has significantly impacted both the local community and the broader medical profession. The Chamber extended heartfelt condolences to the victim's family and prayed for her soul to rest in peace.

The meeting was attended by key office bearers, including Arun Gupta (President), Anil Gupta (Sr. Vice President), Rajeev Gupta (Jr. Vice President), Manish Gupta (Secretary General), Rajesh Gupta (Secretary), and Rajesh Gupta (Treasurer). The Chamber remains committed to advocating for justice and working towards improved safety measures for women across all sectors.

## IIM Jammu to hold holistic 3-day Orientation Program for incoming 4th batch of Integrated Program in Mgmt

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu is set to welcome the fourth batch of its Integrated Program in Management (IPM) with a comprehensive 3-day Holistic Orientation Program, scheduled to take place from August 22 to August 24, 2024 in offline mode. The Orientation Program is designed to introduce the incoming students to the culture, academic opportunities, ethos, and general rules of IIM Jammu. It aims to create a welcoming environment where new students and their families can engage with faculty, staff, senior students, and key activity heads, fostering open communication and a sense of belonging.

Each day of the Orientation Program will begin at 6:00 AM with sessions on 'Maximize Happiness and Mindfulness,' conducted by Yoga Guru Sahil Mehra, coordinated by Team Anandam. These sessions will focus on building strength, awareness, and harmony in both mind and body.



The formal inauguration of the program will take place on August 22, 2024. Dr. Milind Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu, on online mode and will deliver the inaugural presidential address, followed by a welcome address from Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu. The program will also feature a session on Academics at IIM Jammu by Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, along with various interactive sessions by faculty and officers of the institute.

The program will feature prominent speakers and industry leaders, including Prashant Kalra, Senior Director, Delhivery; Akbar Jafri, Director, Deloitte; Tarun Kapoor, VP of Digital Transformation, Mankind Pharma;

Pradeep Chavda, Senior Director of Global HR Transformation, Sodexo; and Kamal Joshi, Associate Director of Global HR Shared Services, WTW.

In addition to the sessions, the orientation program will include Inbound & Outbound Activities for students facilitated by IIM Jammu faculty and a cultural program by the Malhar Committee.

As IIM Jammu prepares to welcome the new IPM batch, the institute reaffirms its commitment to providing a transformative education that goes beyond textbooks and lectures. The Holistic Orientation Program is designed to ignite a passion for learning, critical thinking, and personal growth among the incoming students.

## BSP supports Bharat Bandh against SC's decision on "Creamy Layer" in SC/ST Quota



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: The J&K unit of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) extended its support to the Bharat Bandh called by various organizations in protest against the Supreme Court's recent decision regarding the "creamy layer" within SC/ST reservations. The party held a peaceful protest at Ambedkar Chowk in Jammu, demanding the immediate withdrawal of the Supreme Court's ruling. The protest, chaired by

BSP President Darshan Rana, saw participation from key party leaders including Vice President Charanjit Chhargotra, Coordinator Gaurav Baksh, General Secretaries Shashi Bhushan Thapa and Sardar Raja Singh, and other prominent members such as Harichand Thapa, Tilak Raj Bhagat, Gani Aftab, Kartar Gandhi, Madan Lal, Bishan Das Bhagat, Jagdish Bhagat, Manoj Kumar, and Tarsem Lal. During the demonstration, the BSP leadership submitted a memoran-

dum of their demands to the District Commissioner of Jammu. Darshan Rana expressed strong disapproval of the Supreme Court's decision, stating that it undermines the rights of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). He highlighted ongoing caste-based discrimination despite 75 years of independence and emphasized that the BSP fully supports the ongoing protests and stands united with organizations fighting for the rights of SC/ST commu-

nities.

Rana called for an ordinance to nullify the Supreme Court's decision from August 1, 2024, and urged the government to convene a special Parliament session to pass a bill that would include reservation provisions in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution. This, he argued, would protect the constitutional rights of marginalized communities and address social inequalities.

The BSP also appealed to the government to reconsider the decision, describing it as a threat to the constitutional rights of SC/ST communities. The party reiterated its commitment to peaceful protests and has actively participated in similar demonstrations across Jammu and Kashmir, submitting demands to local authorities.

The BSP's stand reflects a broader national sentiment against the Supreme Court's ruling and seeks to mobilize support for preserving reservation rights and addressing systemic issues affecting SC/ST populations.

## Sikh Progressive Front urges community to support candidates committed to Sikh Rights

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: The Sikh Progressive Front, under the leadership of President Balvinder Singh, along with General Secretary Manjit Singh, Joint Secretary Rajinder Singh Sudan, and Vice President S. Singh Wazir, addressed the media today to highlight long standing issues affecting the Sikh community in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory (JKUT). They expressed deep concern over the consistent neglect of the Sikh community's genuine demands by successive governments, despite the community's significant contributions to the secular and social fabric of the region and the nation.

Balvinder Singh criticized the "step-motherly" treatment that the Sikh community has received from various administrations. In response, the Sikh Progressive Front has resolved to support only those candidates and political parties that explicitly commit to addressing Sikh interests in their election manifestos. The Front



reiterated several key demands, including the introduction of Punjabi as a subject from primary to higher education levels, inclusion of Punjabi in the JKUT Official Language Bill 2020, and political reservation for Sikhs similar to provisions for SC, ST, OBC, Pahari, Gujjar, and Pandit communities. They also called for the inclusion of Sikh youths from the valley in the special employment package for Pandits under SRO 412, granting OBC status to 54,000 Sikhs residing in

Kashmir, implementation of the National Minority Commission Act in JKUT, and the relocation of the statue of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur from the 4th Bridge to Kunjwani Chowk.

The Front urged the Sikh community to remain united and hold candidates from previously ruling parties accountable for their failure to address Sikh demands despite numerous representations made to key figures such as the Prime Minister, Home Minister, LG JKUT Manoj Sinha, Chairman

NMC Iqbal Singh Lalpura, and Hardeep Singh Puri. They expressed surprise that the current ruling dispensation, which has been in power since February 24, 2015, is now seeking input from Sikh organizations for their 2024 election manifesto. Balvinder Singh called on the community to vote for candidates who have demonstrated a genuine commitment to addressing Sikh grievances and ensuring that these demands are clearly incorporated into their party's election manifesto.

## EDITORIAL

Career  
Counseling

Career counseling is a vital service that supports individuals in making informed career choices and achieving their professional goals. In today's rapidly evolving job market, career counseling provides valuable guidance, helping individuals navigate complex decisions about their education, career paths, and job search strategies. This personalized support is essential for anyone looking to maximize their potential and align their career with their passions and strengths. Career counseling is a process where trained professionals help individuals explore their interests, skills, and values to make informed decisions about their career paths. This process involves a variety of tools and techniques, including aptitude tests, personality assessments, and career exploration exercises. Counselors work closely with clients to understand their goals, challenges, and aspirations, providing tailored advice and support throughout their career journey. One of the primary benefits of career counseling is increased self-awareness. Counselors help individuals identify their strengths, weaknesses, interests, and values, which are crucial for making career decisions that align with their personal and professional goals. This self-discovery process often involves various assessments and discussions that provide insights into one's potential career paths. Career counselors provide valuable information about different career options, educational requirements, job market trends, and potential salaries. This information helps individuals make informed decisions about their career paths, ensuring they choose options that align with their skills, interests, and long-term goals. Career counseling assists individuals in setting realistic career goals and creating actionable plans to achieve them. Counselors help clients develop a step-by-step strategy, including educational pursuits, skill development, and job search tactics. This structured approach increases the likelihood of success and helps individuals stay focused on their career objectives. Navigating the job market can be challenging, and career counselors provide essential support in job search strategies. They offer advice on resume writing, cover letter creation, interview preparation, and networking. By equipping individuals with the tools and techniques needed to effectively market themselves, counselors enhance their chances of securing desirable job opportunities. Career transitions and job searches can be stressful and anxiety-inducing. Career counselors offer emotional support and practical advice to help individuals manage these challenges. By providing a supportive environment and addressing concerns, counselors help clients stay motivated and resilient throughout their career journey. The modern job market is dynamic, with frequent changes in technology, industry trends, and job requirements. Career counseling helps individuals stay adaptable by offering guidance on continuous learning, skill development, and career advancement. Counselors assist clients in identifying emerging opportunities and staying relevant in their chosen fields. Career counseling helps students and recent graduates explore career options, make informed decisions about their education, and transition smoothly into the workforce. Those seeking a career change or advancement can benefit from career counseling to identify new opportunities, enhance their skills, and navigate the job market effectively. Those experiencing job dissatisfaction, career stagnation, or uncertainty about their future can receive guidance and support to overcome obstacles and find fulfilling career paths. When selecting a career counselor, consider their qualifications, experience, and approach to counseling. Look for professionals with relevant certifications, such as those from the National Career Development Association (NCDA) or similar organizations. A good career counselor should demonstrate strong interpersonal skills, empathy, and a commitment to helping clients achieve their career goals.

Career counseling plays a crucial role in guiding individuals towards successful and fulfilling careers. By providing personalized support, valuable information, and practical tools, career counselors help individuals make informed decisions, set achievable goals, and navigate the complexities of the job market. Whether you are a student, mid-career professional, or someone facing career challenges, career counseling offers essential guidance and support to help you achieve your professional aspirations and thrive in today's dynamic workforce.

## Is Modi mania waning? A reality check for govt

By: Sanjeev Ahluwalia

Over the last decade we have become accustomed to public spectacles mounted by the BJP with verve and grandeur. One such is the show on Independence Day. Masterful rhetoric, a mix of humility and extreme confidence and an array of "facts" rolled out by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, mesmerise the audience into a fantasy about India irrevocably rising amidst a world in disarray. Till now the froth was backed by quinquennial evidence of growing public support for the BJP. Votes are the currency of democracy and Indians respect power acquired legitimately, more so, when it is through a leader, who rose from the ranks of the RSS to the highest political position in government, entirely on his merit and ability. He gave hope to the millions like him, that the decks stacked against them, by the elite and their progeny, can be breached by ordinary individuals with extraordinary ambition. Also Read - Aakar Patel | After PM's talk of a secular civil code, can govt publish a draft? Advertisement Sadly, however, the magic seems to have waned much like the post-Independence onset of people-oriented governments and schemes petered out within two decades into stagnation and the false dawn in Sri Lanka, India, and Bangladesh of "gender sensitive" governance by women Prime Ministers. The Modi administration's bid to transform a State, fiercely protective of elite privileges, into one promoting social justice, has run its course within a decade, lapsing into unsustainable, low productivity state spending, creating fewer jobs than job seekers. Also Read - Shikha Mukerjee | As public trust wanes, Didi faces her biggest challenge Notwithstanding the repeated attempts to woo tribals (about eight per cent of the popu-

lation), the speech rang hollow, in the face of the tin ear for continuing displacement of Christian tribals in Imphal, Manipur. Dalits continue to resent exclusionary Hindu practices which cement hierarchical social divisions into new India. Babasaheb Ambedkar's exhortation, that the steel frame of ritualistic Hinduism cannot be reformed to accept universal rights and dignity, still rings true. Muslims, another estranged community, and Dalits constitute a sizable one-third of the population. Farmers remain suspicious of the BJP, which puts the reform of low productivity agriculture off-limits. There is nothing new or transformational on the table for the bottom half -- the marginalised India -- beyond the ongoing unsustainable, poorly targeted free cereals scheme for 813 million people, the subsidised reconstruction of poor homes -- 40 million till now and another 30 million more till 2029, cash transfers for 80 million farmers, low interest loans, job reservations, enhanced government employment and free or low-cost electricity. Also Read - Kishwar Desai | Graffiti art cheers post-riots London; Edinburgh is back, but with 'warnings' Big government has only got bigger, particularly the internal security establishment. Good employment remains well below the annual demand for about 15 million new jobs. The economy is chugging along, fed by dollops of publicly funded outlays, fuelling inflation and public expectations of a river of freebies. None of this worries the middle class -- the core support base of the BJP -- who are happy that the tax on disinvesting wealth (capital gains) is lower than the tax on wages, privileging the wealthy over workers. Corporate tax reduction, import protection and performance linked incentives boost stock market valuations of businesses and might also

have boosted the average wealth of Members of Parliament by 43 per cent between 2019 and 2024 (Association of Democratic Reforms). Public employment at handsome, inflation indexed, pensionable salaries, easy loans to buy appliances and homes at low real interest rates, cheap air and railway travel, cheap telecom services, low property taxes, low taxes for owning cars in overcrowded cities are add-on goodies. Road infrastructure privileges cars over buses, bicycles, or walkers. Also Read - Sanjaya Baru | Bangladesh's Yunus can 're-earn' his Peace Prize Not surprisingly, the rhetoric from the ramparts of the historic Red Fort in Delhi sounds hollow, not least because the data cited to substantiate the "annual report card" is increasingly out of touch with reality. Consider that just minutes into his 98-minute speech, the Prime Minister said: "India has achieved more in this (renewable energy) sector than G-20 nations collectively" This is simply not true. India has ramped up RE capacity significantly by 98.4 GW over 2014 to 2022 (IRENA 2023), but it is not the only country to have done so. During the same period the 19 other G-20 countries collectively added 1,651 GW of RE capacity (16 times that of India), of which China added 801 MW (8X of India), the US added 181 MW, the EU 212 MW. Australia and Japan together added 101 MW. Brazil and Turkey together added 106 MW and UK, France, Canada, Saudi Arabia and Mexico together added 107 MW. Statistical gaffes or subterfuges reduce the credibility of leadership-level statements and call statistical capacity in question -- a sorry state for a bureaucracy known for its punctilious attention to the minutiae, often missing the woods (forest) for the trees. This is also an outcome of the media no longer enjoying the confidence to call out unintended

or blatant mis-statements by top leaders. Similarly, beyond the high rhetoric around becoming "Viksit Bharat" (a developed economy) by 2047, the longish speech was short on the plan to end structural impediments -- public sector dominance, low efficiency of capital and low productivity, beyond assuring the "nation" that Prime Minister Modi would personally work three times as hard to make this dream come true. The ongoing national consultation on the path to 2047 seems to have thrown up public suggestions, eerily echoing the ongoing BJP programmes, indicating that a business-as-usual strategy is deemed to be sufficient. One can hardly blame the BJP for slacking off, despite the shock reversal of widespread public approval in the 2024 general election. The Opposition remains fragmented and uninspiring -- mostly family-led parties -- conspiring to maximise individual gain over collective change. The BJP remains the only meritocratic party -- albeit with warped metrics on what constitutes a secular way of life. It remains the hot favourite of big business and the urban middle class, whose class interests it serves well. The liberal fiscal allocations for buying support from the less privileged classes, continue unabated. In India's first-past-the-post scheme of elections, this twin appeasement strategy, commonly adopted in Latin America and Africa, is a winner in the near-term, till the accumulated debt begins to bite and the leadership goes cap-in-hand to the IMF, for fiscal accommodation, like Pakistan has just received. Is that why the BJP leaders on the ramparts of the Red Fort, wallowing in hubris, looked listless, and disinterested in applauding the nuggets of wisdom thrown at them unlike in previous years? Or was it a reflection of the unspoken need for introspection and reset, if the coming Haryana and Maharashtra state Assembly elections, deliver less than fulsome support.

## Realism, strategic interests should dictate India-China ties

By: JAYADEVA RANADE

A realistic assessment of the current state of India-China relations is necessary amid the apparent orchestrated pleas urging India to ease travel and import restrictions on Chinese personnel and goods. Since its military adventure in Ladakh in April 2020, Beijing has consistently sought normalisation of relations, especially economic, setting aside the situation on the border. Over the past couple of months, various business sectors, reinforced by arguments advanced by some economists and media reports, have echoed China's demands.

There is a negligible prospect of an improvement in India-China relations in the near future. The absence of communication for over four years at the highest level and China's recent protest against economic assistance to projects in Arunachal Pradesh and other border regions -- on the specious pretext that they are disputed -- are brazen examples. On the contrary, they point to China expanding the areas of pressure on India.

The bilateral relationship has been subjected to considerable strain ever since Beijing decided that it will attempt to forcibly take the territories it claims and compel India to acquiesce to China being the leading power in the region. China has simultaneously redoubled efforts to establish dominance over Asia. These developments have coincided with the view in the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) leadership that India has drawn uncomfortably close to the US.

Additionally, Beijing sees India as adopting a tougher, unyielding stance, which includes building defences along the border as well as initiating steps to close off the burgeoning Indian market to China. Beijing views these as unwelcome steps, but considers that India does not yet pose a serious challenge.

The situation on the border has also not changed; 60,000-70,000 troops remain deployed on the front lines. The Chinese have built additional accommodation to billet reinforcements and new advanced weaponry and military units continue to be inducted. Border defence infrastructure is being built at a frenetic pace with plans to build 35 military or dual-use airports and major arterial railways and roads along the border in Tibet. Chinese President Xi Jinping's attitude towards India, signalled on the opening day of the 20th Party Congress in October 2022, with the screening of a video of the fateful Galwan clash of June 2020, has not altered.

In a cosmetic attempt to show that China wants to improve ties but it's India that is playing spoilsport, Beijing claimed that it had sent Ambassador Xu Feihong, who arrived in India almost 20 months after his predecessor Sun Weidong departed, to enhance communication and improve bilateral ties. This has been echoed by many Indian journalists, academics and others. Since his arrival, Xu Feihong has virtually been holding court, meeting Indian politicians, former diplomats, businessmen and others. China is keen on maintaining commercial

and economic access to India's market but has no intention of taking substantive steps to ease tensions on the border. At the same time, it is determined to keep India under protracted and sustained pressure.

There are other signs of China's attitude and intentions. Xi has not initiated direct contact or meeting with Prime Minister Modi since April 2020, or even observed basic diplomatic niceties and congratulated him on his re-election. Chinese Premier Li Qiang did send a routine message of congratulations, but only after Modi's swearing-in. China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs explained that it would have been 'premature' to convey greetings prior to the swearing-in. There was, however, no such hesitation in inviting Indonesia's President-elect on an official visit prior to his swearing-in! Whether this presages an effort to restrict China-India interaction at the level of the Chinese Premier is to be seen.

Xi also skipped the G-20 Summit and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meetings. A senior CCP cadre had divulged a couple of months prior to the G20 Summit that Xi would not attend the event and it would, therefore, be a failure. However, Xi's absence ensured there would be no distractions, the G20 communique was unanimously approved, and, importantly, India brought the Global South within the G20 fold.

Another instance was China's prickly objection to Taiwan President Lai Ching-te's congratulations to Prime Minister Modi.

China's real attitude towards

India is now more clear. The Chinese foreign ministry's remark on July 10 that "South Tibet is China's territory," and India's development activities in the area are "illegal and invalid" underscore its approach on border issues. The same day, Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who is also China's Special Representative for border talks, congratulated Ajit Doval on his reappointment as National Security Adviser and Special Representative observing he is ready to "properly handle" issues related to the situation on the ground in border areas. The use of the phrase "properly handle" indicates that discussions would be in accordance with China's stated position on the border since April 2020.

Beijing's attitude towards India will undoubtedly colour its position on border and other negotiations. It will explore additional avenues for applying pressure on India, including through international financial organisations. India needs to take cognisance of this while examining proposals by Beijing and also consider whether to give China a free pass on issues like human rights, Tibet, Xinjiang, etc. Beijing will, meanwhile, continue to activate Indian businessmen and others to exert pressure on the government to facilitate the inflow of Chinese personnel and goods. Any travel and trade concessions would be at the cost of the public exchequer, further increasing the galloping trade deficit and with long-term deleterious effects severely undermining the 'Make in India' initiative.

# Trishool Bhaint Yatra at Dhar Dedhni Durga Mata Mandir start on August 25, 24

## Top News Report

DODA, Aug 21: The two days annual Traditional festival, Mela "Trishool Bhaint yatra", is celebrated since 1982 in the memory of Re-installation of the ancient idol of Mata Durga after it was recovered from Chenani (Udhampur) stolen by smugglers from the Temple.

The village Dedhni is about 30 kilometers away from District Doda. This year the Darbar of Durga Mandir Dedhni is now going to start the Mela on August 23 to 25, 2024. On this occasion the pilgrims from various parts of District Doda, Ramban, Udhampur, & Kishtwar, Jammu etc & participate in the annual function/festival Mela. The festivals on the special occasion are celebrated on re-installation of the ancient idol of Mata Durga every year. Thousands of pilgrims participate. That is every year of this Mela of Mata Darbar celebra-



tion for Three days. The District administration provides every rest of facilities including medical & Security and Now a great facility of drinking water available for which the public of Marmat Galiyan and particularly the managing committee is highly grateful of the District administration. Still there is a great problem that is being faced during the festivals.

In addition to the main festivals the pilgrims

visit the sacred place throughout the year i.e. from Durga falling in the month of August. The festival is very colorful and the celebration starts with thousands of people in large numbers visiting the Temple of Goddess Durga Mata Dedhni Wali. Like every year, this year also a fair is going to be held in the temple of Mata Rani and more than thousands of devotees reach here to visit Mata Rani and reach here with their

family and some people with their friend here Mata Rani arrives to visit.

The Main yatra from Khellani via Shree & Saras will start from Durga Mandir Chinar Chowk after Trishool Poojan by 08:30 AM on August 24, 2024. Trishool Yatra from (Paryote) Hambal and Seen other parts starting simultaneously. On August 24, the priests of Mata Rani perform Havan in the temple of Mata Rani in the morning and after that the Darbar of Mata is opened for all the people to visit, after that people continuously bow down at the feet of Mata Rani according to their conditions. And after that there is a vigil here at night. Many people come here. Travelers visit during the night and enjoy this fair and stay awake throughout the night doing devotion to Mata Rani.

The Mata Rani Mandir Dedhni, every kind of facility is available for the pilgrims, whether it is a blanket or water facility or

all the things of light are found in Mata's, along with there is a ground to roam around and people who are their own family. To enhance the beauty of this fair, people from far and wide used to come to visit there They reach her by road and many sweet shops are set up here, along with all the facilities for langar etc. have been kept here by the management committee

Mata Rani's temple is in the midst of dense forests, where Deodar and Kail trees will be seen around, where many people happily take photos and videos here and take them to their homes. A notice from the committee is also for all those passengers that no one should come here after drinking alcohol and do not use any such substance, if anyone is found in this way, then strict action will be taken against him and umbrella with him. Keep in and keep warm clothes together so that whenever it rains you can avoid cold.

# Mission Statehood J&K leads massive protest rally demanding restoration of Darbar Move, J&K Statehood



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, led a significant protest rally today, demanding the immediate resumption of the Darbar Move and the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood. The rally, which saw the participation of hundreds of traders, started from Amphalla, New Plot, and proceeded to Janipur High Court Chowk.

Addressing the protesters, Dimple questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the status of the Instrument of Accession conditions and the current state of Jammu and Kashmir. He announced that the struggle for the restoration of J&K statehood, the reinstatement of Article 370, and the enforcement of the Instrument of Accession conditions would continue until their

demands are met. Dimple emphasized the adverse effects of halting the Darbar Move, highlighting the severe financial losses faced by traders in the region. He pointed out that the government, which previously received substantial GST revenue from these traders, is now experiencing a significant decline in revenue due to the cessation of the Darbar Move. "The trade in Jammu and Kashmir has collapsed, and the livelihoods of traders, transporters, and hoteliers are in jeopardy," Dimple stated.

He assured the traders and the people of Jammu and Kashmir that if his party comes to power, they would resume the Darbar Move within the first 100 days of taking office. Dimple accused the BJP government of exacerbating unemployment and causing economic distress among the trading community

by halting the traditional biannual move of government offices.

Dimple reiterated his commitment to fighting for the return of Article 370, the implementation of the Instrument of Accession conditions, the restoration of the state subject Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC), and the reestablishment of Jammu and Kashmir as a princely state with special status. He vowed to continue this struggle both politically and judicially until these objectives are achieved.

The rally was supported by several prominent leaders, including Sachin Soi, Sat Sharma, Rupesh Bhat, Anmol Anand, Sanjay Kumar, and others, who joined Dimple in demanding the unification of Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, along with POK and Gilgit-Baltistan, under the restored statehood of Jammu and Kashmir.

# GDC RS Pura organized a lecture on Banking and Cyber Crime



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: To educate the students about Cyber Crime, Department of Economics in collaboration with Department of Mathematics Govt. Degree College RS Pura organized a lecture on Banking and Cyber Crime. The resource person of the event was Rohit Gupta Manager Home Loan State bank of India (SBI). He discussed that cyberattacks in educational institutions can not only cause financial loss and

disruption but also jeopardize student safety. As such, schools and universities must identify cyber security threats and set up a defense mechanism to prevent the threats from materializing.

The program was graced by Principal GDC RS Pura Prof. (Dr). Preetpal Kour who emphasized that cyber-crime education can help students develop the skills and knowledge to navigate the digital world safely, responsibly and ethically. It can also help them become

more critical thinkers and problem solvers. Dr. Shivani Manchanda HOD Economics formally welcomed the guests and gave vote of thanks. The other dignitaries present in the event were Parneet Singh Deputy Manager Home Loan, Vivek Singh Real Estate Pre Approved Properties Dr. Neena Gupta, Dr. Rajinder Kumar Sharma, Dr. Kiran Pathania, Dr. Raj Kumari, Dr. Savtantar Kour, Prof. Jugal Kishore, Prof. Jai Mala Thakur, Prof. Neelam Kumari and Prof. Harpreet Kour.

# Cyber Security Awareness lecture by Cyber Crime Cell, Jammu enlightens NCC Cadets



## Top News Report

NAGROTA, Aug 21: The Cyber Crime Cell Jammu, in collaboration with the National Cadet Corps (NCC), organized a comprehensive cyber security awareness lecture at the NCC Training Academy in Jammu. The event, attended by 500 NCC cadets, aimed to educate and equip them with essential knowledge on staying safe in the digital world.

Expert speakers from the Cyber Security Cell Jammu provided insights into the evolving cyber threats and risks in today's digital landscape. Cadets were educated on

best practices for online safety, secure password management, and recognizing and preventing cyber attacks. The lecture emphasized the importance of responsible online behaviour and protecting personal information in the digital age.

Spokesperson for the Cyber Security Cell Jammu highlighted the significance of cyber security awareness in today's world. "The internet has become an integral part of our lives, but it comes with its share of risks. This lecture aimed to empower the future leaders of our nation with the knowledge and skills to protect them.

# Skill Internship empowers students of SPPND GDC Samba



## Top News Report

SAMBA, Aug 21: 430 students of Sem-5 of SPPND GDC Samba successfully pursued a comprehensive Internship Programme of 30 Hrs w.e.f August 8, 2024 at 18 renowned Institutes/Departments across Samba District and Jammu region which culminated today. This maiden initiative, a primary requisite of NEP-2020 aimed to provide students with practical exposure to cutting-edge technologies and insight into industry best practices along with developing critical skills such as teamwork, problem-solving and efficient communication.

A total of 24 groups of students were immersed in a dynamic learning and hands-on training at JKEDI, Bari Brahmna

for entrepreneurship and start-up awareness, Govt. District Hospital Samba for First-Aid Training, GGHSS Samba for Macro-teaching, ITI for Sewing Technology, Social Welfare Department for Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya schemes, Polytechnic Samba for learning basic Computer Course, Cyber Crime Awareness at Police Headquarters Samba, knowledge of Electoral and Judicial process at District Election Cell, Samba and District Court Samba, Production & Processing at Berger Paints, SIDCO Samba, Techniques of Sericulture at SKUAST & Krishi Vigyan Kendra Samba and Patrakarita at Institute of Mass Communication and Skill Development, Sarore. Another group

of interned students were also in Content writing and varied aspects of News, Editing and Anchoring at Media house- Greater Jammu giving them a comprehensive practical exposure to the working of Media houses.

As the District caters to an agrarian economy, a group of students made a comprehensive survey of agricultural farming and related techniques. Another group of History students in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology, Samba also made a historical, cultural and archaeological survey of historical sites of Samba including the local heritage forts for enhancing tourism and economic benefits. Students were also engaged in Internship courses on different Chemistry softwares

- Chem Draw & Origin, Fabric Painting (Spray painting, Stencil work) and Bhartiya Jyotish Shastra at GDC Samba.

This Internship programme was designed to bridge the gap between

academic theories and practical applications, fostering skill development, employability and career prospects.

The Internship programme was conducted successfully under the mentorship of the Principal Prof. (Dr). Twinkle Suri with the unyielding support of District Administration Samba, where the students had the opportunity to network with industry experts, professionals and peers, expanding their horizons and future prospects. The feedback of the students has been overwhelmingly positive followed by the submission of a Project report.

# Voter Awareness programme under SVEEP organised at GDC Sarh



## Top News Report

REASI, Aug 21: In anticipation of the upcoming Assembly Elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, a Voter Awareness Program was organized on August 21, 2024, at Government Degree College (GDC), Sarh, Bagga Mahore. The event was conducted in Hall No. 1 and was led by Prof. Ajaz Ahmad Malik, the Nodal Officer for the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative in Assembly Constituency 56 - Gulabgarh (ST).

The program aimed to educate and motivate the electorate of the Gulabgarh constituency about the critical importance of their participation in the electoral process. Prof. Ajaz highlighted the profound impact that each vote can have on the democratic system and the overall development of society. He stressed

that voting is not only a right but also a responsibility that every eligible citizen must exercise to ensure their voice is heard in the governance of their region.

During his address, Prof. Ajaz Malik underscored the need for increased voter turnout in the forthcoming elections. He discussed the various challenges that often hinder voter participation, including misinformation and logistical barriers, and provided practical solutions to encourage greater involvement. He particularly appealed to the youth, urging them to recognize their potential as catalysts for change and to actively participate in shaping the future of their community through the ballot.

The program also served as a platform to elaborate on the objectives of the SVEEP initiative, which is designed to enhance voter awareness and education,

thereby maximizing electoral participation. Prof. Malik detailed the planned activities under SVEEP, which include extensive voter education campaigns and outreach efforts aimed at ensuring that all eligible voters in the constituency are informed and motivated to cast their votes.

The Voter Awareness Program at GDC Sarh Bagga Mahore was a timely and significant effort in promoting democratic engagement among the citizens of Gulabgarh. The insights shared by Prof. Ajaz Ahmad Malik were well-received, leaving the participants with a renewed sense of the importance of their vote in the upcoming Assembly Elections.

The event concluded with a collective resolve to participate fully in the democratic process, reinforcing the belief that every vote is crucial in determining the future of the Union Territory.

# Inter District Provincial Level Football Competitions kick off at Khel Gaon, Nagrota

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: The Inter District Provincial Level Football competitions for boys under 14 and under 17 years were inaugurated today at Khel Gaon, Nagrota, by Ved Parkash (JKAS), Joint Director of Youth Services and Sports, Jammu. The event, hosted by the Dis-

trict Youth Services and Sports Office, Jammu, marks a significant moment in the region's sporting calendar.

Organized under the patronage of Rajinder Singh Tara (JKAS), Director General of Youth Services and Sports, JK UT, and overseen by DYSSO Jammu Sunil Kumar Sharma, the event wit-

nessed enthusiastic participation from teams across various districts. The inaugural matches saw intense competition, with Jammu defeating Poonch 1-0 in the under-14 category, and Kishtwar securing a 3-0 victory over Samba.

Speaking at the inauguration, Ved Parkash encouraged the young

athletes to continue honing their skills and to aim for success in future competitions. The football competitions will continue over the next four days at the same venue, providing a platform for young talent to shine.

The event was also attended by key officials, including In-charge DYSSO Harvinder Kour,

In-charge ZPEO Dansal Dinesh Sharma, and In-charge ZPEO Khour Usha Foteder, along with other department officials.

This competition is a part of the broader efforts by the Youth Services and Sports Department to promote sports and provide young athletes with opportunities to compete at higher levels.

## COP IN CONTROL

For Kritika Kamra, who has delighted once more with her act in the series *Gyaarah Gyaarah*, art is subjective and so is criticism

Lovely actress Kritika Kamra might call herself a jaali Punjabi for she is not very fluent in Punjabi. She might profess to be an agonistic, who does not even believe in astrology and other superstitions or even the magic of numbers like 11.11. Yet, currently seen in the series *Gyaarah Gyaarah*, she would certainly like one wish of hers to be granted and that is to play a character out of Amrita Pritam's literary world.

Born in UP, brought up in MP, the Punjabi connect might have been a trifle diluted as her grandparents migrated from unified Punjab during Partition. Yet, she has touched base with literary texts and counts many literary luminaries, such as the radical poet Avtar Pash, as those whose works she has read with keen interest. Once a popular face on television, currently she is enjoying her place under the OTT sun. After wowing viewers with her gangster act in web series *Bambai Meri Jaan*, she is now playing a self-righteous cop in *Gyaarah Gyaarah* and getting a lot of love as well as attention.

Transitioning from one kind of part to another is the beauty of acting and she consciously chooses roles that are not only different from each other, but also her own affable persona. "I don't care to repeat myself," she quips. Of course, conducive environment provided by directors like Umesh Bist, help the actor in her immerse in a new role with fluidity and ease. Between the production house,



director, actor and her role, what matters the most to her is the director. She reasons, "Though I would like to tick more than one box on my choice-meter, ultimately it's the director's vision that prevails." *Gyaarah Gyaarah* may have received a mixed response from critics, but she is not unduly perturbed. "Art is subjective and so is criticism," she vouches for the series, and had said yes to it for she trusted the makers' vision.

If thanks to the television show *Kuch Toh Log Kahenge* she became Dr Nidhi in popular imagination, on OTT people do remember her as Habiba of *Bambai Meri Jaan* and many continue to address her as Habiba Aapa. Of course, for her there is no one particular breakout role and she sums up

her journey on OTT as 'slow and steady'. Growing from strength to strength, in the near future two of her projects will see her rubbing shoulders with actors of huge mettle. Pratik Gandhi, whom she has known pre-*Scam*, and Vijay Varma, whose incredible work has impressed her beyond measure, star in her forthcoming series *For Your Eyes Only* and *Matka King*, respectively. Co-actors are a huge part and significant others of her learning curve. "Acting is give and take. And I learnt it all on the job and from people around me. I am fortunate that I get to play off their energies," she avers.

Enjoying the spotlight for years, she can see no flipside of being famous. She quips, "When someone compliments

your work on the roadside or random strangers write beautiful notes or you get to skip a queue or two... life is wonderful. Those who say or feel otherwise are lying." As for good looks, which she is naturally blessed with, again she can only see the upside. She says, "Not only in the film industry but also in all walks of life, from dating to social media likes, looks are given a lot of, may be undue too, importance." Any wonder one of her deep desires is to deck up in lustrous finery, may be learn a dance form or two, and become a part of Sanjay Leela Bhansali's opulent world.

But the actress who once ruled the small screen is unlikely to go back to television. She doesn't negate its relevance, power or reach, for who better than this small-town girl to understand how many still root for it and are rooted to television screens even today. For her, however, OTT is where she gets to do edgy stuff.

Best phase of her life or not... she is 'an all-in or nothing' person. Even as her shows go back and forth in time, *For Your Eyes Only* too is set in the 1970s, she takes a leap forward. She may not have found overnight stardom on OTT, but one day all her cumulative choices will certainly pay off in a big way. 11.11... more than making a wish, she echoes the thoughts of Jim Rohn, 'Don't wish it were easier, wish you were better,' and strives to become the best version of herself.

## Zoe Kravitz makes film directorial debut with power trip thriller 'Blink Twice'



Zoe Kravitz says her directorial debut "Blink Twice", which she also co-wrote and produced, is a tale about power dynamics between men and women that was born out of her own experiences.

In the psychological thriller, waitress Frida, played by Naomi Ackie, and her friend think they are getting a lucky break when tech billionaire Slater King invites them to his private tropical island.

A luxurious holiday with endless partying with Slater's friends ensues, but soon Frida starts noticing that

something is amiss. As she starts digging deeper, Frida discovers shocking truths beneath the destination's perfect veneer and the vacation turns into a battle for survival.

"It literally came from my experience. It's very personal," Kravitz, 35, said at the film's London premiere.

"It was really an expression of what it feels like, I think, for a lot of women living in the world," she said of the writing process.

"I felt like there are so many things that women have to do or are expected to do that

have become so normalised that we don't even speak about them. And so I really wanted to find a way to explore the complexity and the absurdity of that," Kravitz said.

Kravitz and Tatum, who got engaged last year, were brought together by the film. Tatum had not met Kravitz when she offered him the role of Slater.

"This movie has changed my complete and utter whole life," said Tatum, who also produced the film, adding that the role was unlike anything he has tackled over his almost two-decade-long career.

"Usually I've always had some sort of connection, I bring some sort of a personal aspect of my life into whatever character I'm playing. This movie is just not that movie. It is the first thing that I've ever done that is just so far away from me or from really anybody that I even know," he said.

The film's ensemble cast also includes actors Adria Arjona, Christian Slater, Geena Davis, Kyle MacLachlan and Haley Joel Osment.

"Blink Twice" is out in cinemas globally from today.

## Meg Ryan honoured for achievement by Sarajevo Film Festival

Hollywood actor, film director and producer Meg Ryan was honoured by the Sarajevo Film Festival with the Honorary Heart of Sarajevo for her contribution to the film industry late on Tuesday.

Ryan was one of four film authors who received the award, alongside US and Palestinian film directors Alexander Payne and Elia Suleiman and U.S. actor and producer John Turturro.

"It's an award in recognition of outstanding contribution to the world of cinema, to her incredible talents," festival director Jovan Marjanović said before handing Ryan a silver heart-shaped award.

Ryan symbolically presented a special screening of her 1998 hit romantic comedy "You've Got Mail" at an open air cinema, the same place where it was first screened at the festival in 1999.



At the masterclass moderated by Oscar-winning Bosnian film director Danis Tanovic, Ryan talked about "What Happens Later", her second feature that she directed, wrote and co-starred with David Duchovny, which was also screened at the festival.

She said that she ventured into acting to pay for her journalism studies, and that she was an "untrained actress".

"I had a beginner's mind, which I see now as a very valuable thing, there is certain naivety, innocence that is important when you are an artist," she said.

The Sarajevo Film Festival, a movie showcase spreading from Vienna to Istanbul, was created by a group of film enthusiasts towards the end of the Bosnian war 30 years ago. It will showcase 240 films in total this year.

## Heartbreak 2020: Kamakshi Khanna's India Tour dissects modern dating dilemmas

Modern day dating is not an easy feat! Navigating through the pull and push of its lure can be quite a daunting experience for anyone looking for love today, and it's this very experience that has inspired singer-songwriter Kamakshi Khanna. She is all set to tour India with her latest EP, *Heartbreak 2020*.

Kick-starting from Bengaluru (on August 23) Khanna will head to Delhi, where she was born and became part of the music choirs and backing vocals from the age of 13. Mention her connect with Delhi and she is quick to recall the time when she was part of the city's independent music scene. "It was when I turned 21-22 that I really wanted to have my own voice, tell my own story, and channel my own experiences into music. That's when it all started," says Khanna, adding that her current tour is not just a celebration of her recent achievements but also an ode to her inner child, "My first EP was



called *Much Mellow*. When I look back and think about its name, I now feel it's a little funny (laughs)... I might perform some of the songs from that EP as well because I want the tour to be precious, and I want to sing to my inner child — the one who started writing music."

Having shifted to Mumbai since the past

four years, Khanna says each song in her new EP is about, "different kinds of heartbreaks that we all experience". Whether it's the awkward first date, situation, or the endless mind games most of us end-up playing, there's a lot explored in the four songs. "The first song, *I Blew It!* is about the awkward dates, feeling the

jitters and nervousness when you are around someone you like." Navigating through the modern day dating challenges, and giving her creative outbursts a lyrical appeal, Khanna says her other songs *Tourist* and *Love Is Not A F\*\*\*\*g Game* will appease the listeners in not just Bengaluru and Delhi but also other cities namely Jaipur, Mumbai, Goa, Kolkata, Shillong, and Guwahati. "Tourist is a song about casual relationships and situations that keep the hope of finding love alive whereas the other song explores how dating is not as simple as it used to be earlier and leaves all those looking for love with confusing, mixed signals today."

Besides these heart-break anthems, the tour is full-on celebration. "It will hence include some really major hits and some milestones like my song *Qareeb* that got a lot of love during the pandemic lockdown, song *Duur* that was featured as part of the web

series *The Fame Game*, and *Tere Jaisa* from web series *Kota Factory*," shares Khanna, adding, "I just want to celebrate all the music I have written, songs that people have loved, and really want to connect with people from across the country!"

For Kamakshi, playing her songs live is "the best part of being a musician", and thus she can't keep calm about taking to the stage especially when it comes to her home town. "It's so spontaneous to perform live because you are in the moment, connecting in a more real way with your audience, as opposed to when you are recording in a studio, trying to get everything perfect. Performing live has a certain charm to it, which I think is the best part for me," explains Khanna, adding, "Since I am performing with a 9-piece set-up with strings, horns, and backing vocalists in Delhi, I am really excited about the songs in which all of these are featuring."

## Rishab Shetty says Bollywood presents India negative light, Reddit reacts

The internet isn't happy with actor-director Rishab Shetty after he criticised Bollywood, saying that it presents films in a negative light worldwide. Recently, speaking with *Metro-Saga*, Rishab reportedly said that he believes in presenting his "nation, state, and language" in a positive light.

Rishab on Bollywood films

Agency quoted Rishab speaking to *Metro-Saga* in Kannada, "Indian films, particularly Bollywood, often portray India negatively. These so-

called art films get showcased at international events and receive special attention. For me, my nation, my state, and my language are sources of pride. I believe in presenting them in a positive light to the world, and that's exactly what I strive to do."

Reddit reacts to Rishab's remark

Taking to Reddit, a post was shared with the caption, "Meanwhile Rishabh Shetty in his own film." A clip of Rishab from his film *Kantara* was shared in which he pinched co-

star Sapthami Gowda's waist. Reacting to it, a person said, "Also another scene where he was peaking when she is bathing. It was really uncomfortable to watch; no doubt the movie was great, but sexual harassment is too normalised in Indian cinema."

A comment read, "Never-ending naval fetish." A Reddit user said, "Back when I was a child, I realized that there was something wrong with South Indian songs. Later, I realized it was the navel. They sexualize it a lot." "I still don't



get how *Kantara* was declared as a masterpiece back in 2022. It has a very flat screenplay almost throughout the entirety of the film and only picks up in the last 30 minutes when the twists are revealed and during the final act," read another comment.

Another person said, "This guy made one hit movie and is now thinking he's some Steven Spielberg. *Kantara* is an overhyped movie with little to no rewatch value and got lucky with the anti-Bollywood

wave that opened up avenues for regional cinema." Another comment read, "When these South Indian Actors gonna stop playing and pinching women's waist/stomach? It's so uncomfortable to watch." "Real hypocrisy lies there; it's easier to jump on the Bollywood hate train, but these people need to seriously introspect their own film industries," said another person.

About *Kantara* Recently, Rishab won the Best Actor in a Leading Role award at

the 70th National Film Awards for his directorial film *Kantara*. Set in the fictional village of Dakshina Kannada, *Kantara* follows the character of Rishab, who essays the character of a Kambala champion who has a faceoff with an upright Forest Range officer. Written and directed by Rishab Shetty and produced by Vijay Kiragandur, the film was released on September 30, 2022. Meanwhile, he's currently filming for the prequel, *Kantara: Chapter 1*.

## Will share perspectives with Ukraine president on resolution of ongoing conflict: PM Modi

*Says hopes for an early return of peace and stability in Ukraine*

NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday departed for his three-day visit to Poland and Ukraine hoping for an early return of peace and stability in the region.

Modi who is visiting Kyiv, Ukraine, on August 23, at the invitation of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said, "I look forward to the opportunity to build upon earlier conversations with President Zelenskyy on strengthening bilateral cooperation and share perspectives on peaceful resolution of the ongoing Ukraine conflict." "As a friend and partner, we



hope for an early return of peace and stability in the region," he added.

Modi will be the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Ukraine since diplomatic relations were

established in 1992 after the country declared independence and separated from the erstwhile USSR. Last month, Modi visited Moscow that led to the US and its allies asking India to

use the relationship with Russia to bring peace in the region.

Modi's first stop during this visit will be Poland. This marks 70 years of diplomatic relations between the two. Poland is a key economic partner in central Europe.

"Our mutual commitment to democracy and pluralism further reinforces our relationship. I look forward to meeting my friend Prime Minister Donald Tusk and President Andrzej Duda to further advance our partnership," Modi said.

Modi will also engage with the members of the vibrant Indian community in Poland.

## Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to visit US from August 23 to 26



NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will be on a four-day visit to the US beginning Friday to further boost the comprehensive global strategic partnership between the two countries.

In Washington, Rajnath Singh will hold talks with Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan among others.

India's plan to procure 31 MQ-9B Predator drones, the proposed joint manufacturing of Stryker infantry combat vehicles and co-production of GE F414 engines in India are likely to figure prominently in Singh's talks with Austin, officials said today.

"The visit is expected to further deepen and broaden the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership," the defence ministry said announcing Singh's trip to the US from August 23 to 26.

"The visit comes in the backdrop of the growing momentum in India-US relations and defence engagements at multiple levels," it said.

Rajnath Singh will also chair a high-level round-table meeting with the US defence industry on the ongoing and future defence collaborations. He will also interact with the Indian community during the visit.

## Bulandshahr post office superintendent dies by suicide after CBI raid

BULANSHAHAR, Aug 21 (Agencies): Post Office Superintendent TP Singh allegedly died by suicide on Wednesday after a CBI raid in Bulandshahr Main Post Office regarding a corruption investigation.

The Superintendent allegedly died by suicide in Aligarh, his home district.

After being questioned by the CBI for hours, the Post Office Superintendent reached Aligarh where he allegedly took the drastic step after posting a suicide letter in the WhatsApp groups.

TP Singh, posted as the Superintendent of Post Offices in Bulandshahr division, Uttar Pradesh, died by suicide and left a note detailing the reasons for taking the step. Singh took over the post in Bulandshahr in 2021.

The letter dated August 21, addressed to the Senior Superintendent of Police, Aligarh, names multiple office col-

leagues for allegedly harassing and putting undue pressure on Singh. "There has been constant pressure to get work done and there have been several complaints," read the letter.

The letter by Singh also held certain individuals being directly responsible for his death. "I am fed up with the above-mentioned people after being constantly pressured by them," the letter added.

The CBI raided the main post office late in the evening, with the investigation lasting several hours and the agency officers questioned multiple people. Various documents that were deemed important for the investigation were also seized by the CBI. Singh was also interrogated till 4 in the morning by the agency.

The letter had been posted on WhatsApp, allegedly by Singh himself. The letter has since gone viral.

## Seasoned Bureaucrat Govind Mohan to take charge as Union Home Secretary tomorrow

NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): Senior IAS officer Govind Mohan on Thursday will take charge as the new Union Home Secretary from Ajay Kumar Bhalla, who completes his five year tenure at the sensitive post, official sources said.

Mohan, a BTech from Banaras Hindu University and PG Diploma from IIM, Ahmedabad, was serving as union culture secretary before his appointment to the top bureaucratic post, next only to the Cabinet Secretary.

A 1989 batch IAS officer of Sikkim cadre, Mohan has already joined the Union Home Ministry as an Officer on Special Duty.

He has a wide experience of serving both the Sikkim and the central governments in various



capacities.

Mohan is considered to be one of the brilliant officers presently serving in the government and known for his diligence.

He had earlier served the home ministry as additional secretary handling several key divisions, including Union territories.

A seasoned bureaucrat, Mohan was also the government's key officer during the COVID-19 pandemic and tasked with overseeing implementation of decisions taken for various protocols and ensuring smooth coordination with states.

The immediate challenge for Mohan after taking over charge is to work in close coordination with the Election Commission to ensure peaceful assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

The EC had already announced three-phased polling in the Union Territory beginning September 18.

As Union culture secretary, Mohan has successfully launched two flagship programmes of the Modi govern-

ment - 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 'Har Ghar Tiranga movement'.

The 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is an initiative to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independence of the country and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

Hosting of the national flag in every home, 'Tiranga Yatras', 'Tiranga' rallies and 'Tiranga' runs are key initiatives under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga movement'.

After the launch of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga movement', job opportunities were created for thousands of women associated with self-help groups (SHGs), which have increasingly taken over flag production to meet the massive demand, officials said.

## Why have institutions like CCI 'remained passive' as Adani built monopolies, asks Congress

NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): The Congress on Wednesday questioned the Competition Commission of India over its approval of all acquisitions by the Adani Group, asking why such institutions "remained passive" as the conglomerate built "monopolies" in critical infrastructure sectors, raising prices at consumers' expense.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has reportedly raised concerns that the proposed Reliance-Disney merger could stifle competition.

"It is a good time to reflect on how the CCI should have also had the courage to address how the non-biological PM's other favourite business conglomerate is acquiring companies and reducing competi-

tion across various industries," he said in a post on X.

"The CCI is legally required to approve mergers and acquisitions that exceed a certain threshold. Yet, all acquisitions by the Adani Group have been approved, even as the company builds monopolies in sectors like ports, airports, power, and cement—industries at high risk of market failure and anti-competitive practices—often through threats and intimidation that have the backing of the powers-that-be," he alleged.

In recent years, the CCI has not hesitated to impose penalties on both domestic and global firms for alleged abuse of dominance, Ramesh said.

"Yet, a five-fold increase in User Development Fees (UDF) paid by passengers at Lucknow and Manga-



lore airports has been allowed by the Union government. These airports were among the six awarded to Adani after rules were altered to favour the company, despite objections from the NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Finance," he said.

Similarly, electricity prices in states like Haryana, Jharkhand, and Gujarat have risen sharply thanks to the Adani conglomerate's policies and actions, Ramesh claimed.

"Why do India's regulatory institutions, including SEBI, disappear when transactions involve the non-biological Prime Minister's closest friend? Why have these typically proactive institutions remained passive as this friend has built monopolies in critical infrastructure sectors, raising prices at the expense of consumers?" Ramesh asked.

The Congress has been attacking the government for allegedly creating monopolies in

various sectors to benefit the Adani Group.

The opposition party has also stepped up its attack on the government after Hindenburg Research launched a fresh broadside against market regulator SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch, alleging she and her husband had stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the Adani money syphoning scandal.

SEBI Chairman Buch and her husband have denied the allegations levelled against them as baseless and asserted that their finances are an open book.

The Adani Group has also termed Hindenburg Research's latest allegations as malicious and manipulative of select public information, saying it has no commercial relationship with the SEBI chairperson or her husband.

## Central paramilitary force team visits RG Kar Medical College, inspects security arrangements



KOLKATA, Aug 21 (Agencies): A day after the Supreme Court ordered the deployment of CISF at Kar Medical College and Hospital, a team of the central paramilitary force on Wednesday visited the state-run medical establishment and inspected the security arrangements.

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) team led by a senior officer reached the hospital in the morning. They talked to the local police and hospital authorities about the

security arrangements, an official said.

The body of a post-graduate trainee doctor, who was allegedly raped and murdered, was found in the seminar room of the Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9, triggering nationwide outrage. A civic volunteer was arrested in connection with the case the next day.

A mob entered the Kar Medical College and Hospital and vandalised the emergency department, nursing station, and medicine

store, while also damaging CCTV cameras in the early hours of August 15.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered deployment of CISF at the Kar Medical College and Hospital to enable doctors to resume work.

"In the aftermath of the brutal incident and the demonstrations which followed, the state government was expected to ensure the deployment of the state machinery to prevent a breach of law and order. It was all the more necessary to do so since investigation of the crime which took place in the precincts of the hospital was under way. We are unable to comprehend how the state was not prepared to deal with the incident of vandalism of the hospital," the top court said.

## Doctors protest at Jantar Mantar on day 10, demand better workplace safety

*AIIMS, GTB, Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals, Maulana Azad Medical College and its associated hospitals release individual statements urging participation in the silent protest*

NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): Resident doctors staged a protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on Wednesday, marking the 10th day of their indefinite strike over the alleged rape and murder of a medic in a Kolkata hospital.

"It's very important to understand that we are fighting for better working conditions in our own workplace," one of the protesting doctors said.

Elective services in several government hospitals across the city have remained suspended due to the protests.

Resident doctors arrived at Jantar Mantar at 11 am for the protest, marking their second gathering there after Saturday.

Slogans such as, 'Doshi ko saza do' and 'Shauk nahin, majboori hai; ye hadtal zaroori hai' echoed at the pro-

test site as major resident doctor associations gathered to demonstrate.

"Not just as a doctor, but as a woman, I often feel unsafe while working. I have to be extra careful during work and constantly think about my own safety, often carrying a key or something for protection," Radhika Sharma, a doctor from Lady Hardinge Medical College, said.

"The situation is



beyond us... It's a mass movement and we need

protection," Sharma said, adding that this

fight is very important for the doctors.

Another protesting doctor said, "We are thankful to the Supreme Court for recognising this as a national issue, but we are continuing the strike because we want this issue to reach a conclusion as soon as possible."

"Safety should not just be an assurance; we want a protection act, and we want it from the central government," the

doctor said.

AIIMS, GTB, Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals, Maulana Azad Medical College and its associated hospitals have released individual statements urging participation in the silent protest.

Members of Resident Doctors' Association from major hospitals in Delhi, along with the Federation of Resident

Doctors' Associations and the Federation of All India Medical Associations, have been on an indefinite strike.

On Tuesday, after conducting a meeting with the RDA members, both the bodies representing the resident doctors released a statement saying they will continue with the strike until the Health Ministry takes concrete action on the issue of CPA.

## Bus carrying Shiite pilgrims from Pakistan to Iraq crashes in Iran, killing at least 28 people

*There were 51 people on board at the time of the crash outside of the city of Taft, some 500 kilometers (310 miles) southeast of the Iranian capital, Tehran.*

TEHRAN, Aug 21 (Agencies): A bus carrying Shiite pilgrims from Pakistan to Iraq crashed in central Iran, killing at least 28 people, an official said Wednesday.

The crash happened Tuesday night in the central Iranian province of Yazd, said Mohammad Ali Malekzadeh, a local emergency official, according to the state-run IRNA news agency.

Another 23 people suffered injuries in the crash, 14 of them serious, he added. He said all the bus passengers hailed from Pakistan.

There were 51 people on board at the time of the crash outside of the city of Taft, some 500 kilometers (310 miles) southeast of the Iranian capital, Tehran.

Iranian state television later broadcast



images of the bus, turned upside down on the highway with its roof smashed in and all its doors open. Rescuers stepped gingerly through the broken glass and debris littering the road.

In the state TV report, Malekzadeh blamed the crash on the bus brakes failing and a lack of attention by its driver.

In Pakistan, authorities described those on the bus as coming

from the city of Larkana in Pakistan's southern Sindh province.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said he was "deeply saddened" by the crash and that diplomats were providing assistance to those affected.

"My thoughts are with the bereaved families," Sharif said on the social platform X.

Iran has one of the world's worst traffic safety records with

some 17,000 deaths annually. The grave toll is blamed on wide disregard for traffic laws, unsafe vehicles and inadequate emergency services in its vast rural areas.

The pilgrims had been on their way to Iraq to commemorate Arbæen.

Arbæen — Arabic for the number 40 — marks the death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Hussein, at the hands of the Muslim Umayy-

ad forces in the Battle of Karbala, during the tumultuous first century of Islam's history. Hussein was seen by his followers as the rightful heir of the prophet's legacy. When he refused to pledge allegiance to the Umayyad caliphate, he was killed in the battle, cementing the schism between Sunni and Shiite Islam.

Pilgrims gather in Karbala, Iraq, in what's regarded as the largest annual public gathering in the world. The event draws tens of millions of people each year. Already, Iranian police said 3 million pilgrims had left the country's borders for Karbala.

A separate bus crash early Wednesday in Iran's southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan province killed six people and injured 18, authorities said.

## Crocodile kills bathing woman in Indonesia, its belly cut open for body parts



AMBON, Aug 21 (Agencies): A crocodile killed a woman bathing in a river in eastern Indonesia, police and locals said Wednesday, with villagers later recovering parts of her body from the slaughtered animal.

Indonesia is home to several species of crocodiles that regularly attack and kill humans.

Halima Rahakbauw, 54, was swimming in a river in Wali village on the Maluku islands

after spending Tuesday morning looking for clams when the reptile struck.

Rahakbauw's neighbour, Rustam Ilyas, said relatives and friends started a search when she failed to return home.

After spotting a sandal and a body part in the river, villagers reported the incident to police who killed the reptile.

"The villagers had to cut open the crocodile's belly to remove some of

the victim's body parts," a local police officer, who requested anonymity as he was not authorised to speak on the matter, told agency Wednesday.

"The crocodile was quite big, around four metres (12 feet) long," neighbour Ilyas told agency.

Neither the police nor villagers could identify the species.

On Sunday, a 63-year-old tin miner was killed by a crocodile near a river on Bangka island in Sumatra.

In 2018, a mob in Indonesia's easternmost region of Papua butchered nearly 300 crocodiles in revenge after a local man was killed by one of the reptiles.

In 2019 a scientist was dragged by a huge captive crocodile into its enclosure and killed on the island of Sulawesi.

## Politicians to be fined or suspended for bad behaviour in this country

CANBERRA, Aug 21 (Agencies): Australian politicians could be fined up to 5 per cent of their salary or suspended from the Parliament for bad behaviour under new government workplace laws.

The governing Labor Party on Wednesday introduced new legislation to establish an Independent Parliamentary Standards Commission (IPSC) to crack down on politicians and staff who engage in bad behaviour, Xinhua news agency reported.

The IPSC will have the power to enforce behaviour codes, conduct workplace investigations, and impose sanctions on elected members of both houses of the Parliament, their staff, and other employees in parliamentary workplaces.

If serious misconduct is found to have been perpetrated by a current or former politician, the commission can recommend that they be fined up to five per cent of

their annual base salary or suspended from the Parliament.

The IPSC was first proposed in 2021 in a report from the government's Sex Discrimination Commissioner that found 33 per cent of people working in Commonwealth Parliamentary workplaces (CPWs) had experienced at least one incident of sexual harassment and 37 per cent had been subjected to bullying.

The landmark Set the Standard report was commissioned after former government staffer Brittany Higgins was publicly in February 2021 with allegations that she was raped by a colleague in Parliament House in March 2019.

A federal court judge ruled in April 2024 that Higgins was raped by fellow political staffer Bruce Lehrmann.

"The 2021 Set the Standard report laid bare the serious issues of bullying, sexual harassment and sexual assault at Parliamen-

tary workplaces," Katy Gallagher, the Minister for Finance, Minister for Women and Minister for the Public Service, said in a statement on Wednesday.

"We've been working hard to put the systems in place so that people can raise workplace complaints, and when complaints are substantiated, that both staff and parliamentarians are held to account for their behaviour."

In cases where alleged behaviour would constitute criminal conduct, the IPSC would be allowed to investigate but any finding would not be one of criminal guilt.

For allegations of sexual assault, it would only be investigated if the complainants consented.

The whole process will be confidential but if the commissioners recommend sanctions against an elected representative it is likely to be made public.

## Russia shoots down 11 drones in one of Ukraine's "biggest attack ever"

MOSCOW, Aug 21 (Agencies): Ukraine attacked Moscow on Wednesday with at least 11 drones shot down by air defences in what Russian officials said was one of the biggest drone strikes on the capital since the war in Ukraine began in February 2022.

The war, largely a grinding artillery and drone battle across the fields, forests and villages of eastern Ukraine, escalated on Aug. 6 when Ukraine sent thousands of soldiers into Russia's western Kursk region.

For months, Ukraine has also fought an increasingly damaging drone war against the refineries and airfields of the world's second largest oil exporter, though major drone attacks on the Moscow region — with a population of over 21 million — are rarer.

Russia's defence ministry said it destroyed a total of 45 drones



over Russian territory, including 11 over the Moscow region, 23 over the border region of Bryansk, six over the Belgorod region, three over the Kaluga region and two over the Kursk region.

Some of the drones were destroyed over the city of Podolsk, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said. The city in the Moscow region is some 38 kms (24 miles) south of the Kremlin.

"This is one of the largest attempts to attack Moscow using drones ever," Sobyanin said on the Telegram messaging app in the early hours of

Wednesday.

"The layered defence of Moscow that was created made it possible to successfully repel all the attacks from the enemy UAVs."

The attack comes as Russia is advancing in eastern Ukraine, where it controls about 18% of the territory, and battling to repel Ukraine's incursion into the Kursk region, the biggest foreign attack on Russian territory since World War Two.

Russian media showed unverified footage of drones whirring over the dawn sky of the Moscow region and then

being shot down in a ball of flame by air defences.

Moscow's airports Vnukovo, Domodedovo and Zhukovsky limited flights for four hours but were restarted normal operations from 0330 GMT, Russia's aviation watchdog said.

Sobyanin said that according to preliminary information, there were no injuries or damage reported in the aftermath of the attacks. There were also no casualties or damage reported in the aftermath of the attack on Bryansk in Russia's southwest, the governor of the region Alexander Bogomaz wrote on Telegram.

Russia's RIA state news agency reported that two drones were destroyed over the Tula region, which borders the Moscow region to its north. Vasily Golubev, governor of the Rostov region in Russia's southwest, said air defence forces destroyed a Ukraine-launched mis-

sile over the region, with no injuries reported.

The Russia defence ministry did not mention either Tula nor Rostov in its statement listing destroyed Ukrainian air weapons.

Ukraine's military said on Wednesday it overnight struck an S-300 anti-aircraft missile system based in Rostov region.

Agency could not independently verify the reports.

The drone attack on Moscow is on a par with the May 2023 attack when at least eight drones were destroyed over the capital in an attack President Vladimir Putin said was Kyiv's attempt to scare and provoke Russia.

In Kursk, Russian war bloggers said that intense battles were ongoing along the front in the region where Ukraine has carved out at least 450 square km (175 square miles) of Russian territory.

## Commercial ship 'not under command' after repeated attacks target it in Red Sea, British say

DUBAI, Aug 21 (Agencies): A commercial ship traveling through the Red Sea came under repeated attack Wednesday, leaving the vessel "not under command" in an assault suspected to have been carried out by Yemen's Houthi rebels, the British military said.

Few details were immediately available about the attack, though it comes during the Houthis' months-long campaign targeting ships over the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

The attack saw men on small boats first open fire with small arms some 140 kilometers (90 miles) west of the rebel-held Yemeni port city of Hodeida, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said.

Three projectiles also

hit the ship, it added. It wasn't immediately clear if that meant drones or missiles.

"The vessel reports being not under command," the UKMTO said, likely meaning it lost all power. "No casualties reported."

The Houthis did not immediately claim the attack, though it can take them hours or even days before their acknowledge one of their assaults.

The Houthis have targeted more than 80 vessels with missiles and drones since the war in Gaza started in October. They seized one vessel and sunk two in the campaign that also killed four sailors.

Other missiles and drones have been either intercepted by a US-led coalition in the Red Sea or failed to reach their targets.

The rebels maintain

that they have targeted ships linked to Israel, the United States or the UK to force an end to Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza. However, many of the ships attacked have little or no connection to the conflict, including some bound for Iran.

The Houthis have also launched drones and missiles toward Israel, including an attack on July 19 that killed one person and wounded 10 others in Tel Aviv. Israel responded the next day with airstrikes on the Houthi-held port city of Hodeida that hit fuel depots and electrical stations, killing and wounding a number of people, the rebels say.

After the strikes, the Houthis paused their attacks until Aug. 3, when they hit a Liberian-flagged container ship traveling through the Gulf of Aden. A Liberi-

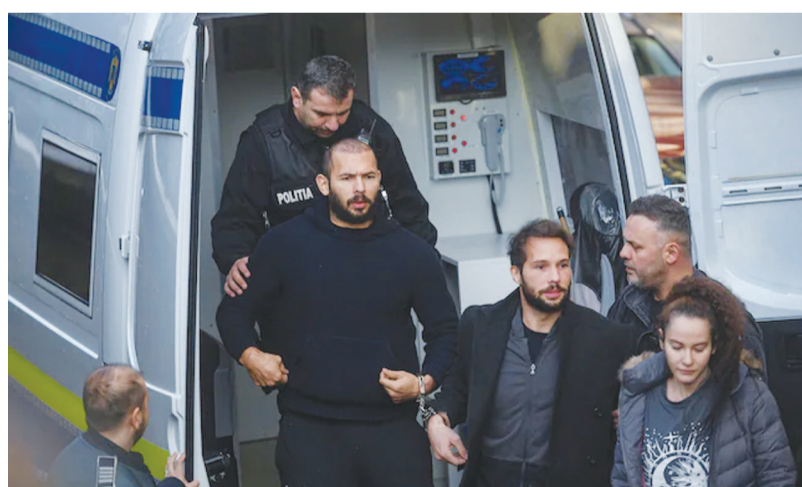
an-flagged oil tanker came under a particularly intense series of attacks, beginning Aug. 8, likely carried out by the rebels. A similar attack happened Aug. 13 as well.

As Iran threatens to retaliate against Israel over the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, the US military told the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group to sail more quickly to the area.

America also has ordered the the USS Georgia guided missile submarine into the Mideast, while the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier strike group was in the Gulf of Oman.

Additional F-22 fighter jets have flown into the region and the USS Wasp, a large amphibious assault ship carrying F-35 fighter jets, is in the Mediterranean Sea.

## Misogynist influencer Andrew Tate's Romania house raided over rape charges



BUCHAREST, Aug 21 (Agencies): Romanian authorities on Wednesday searched the home of controversial influencer Andrew Tate, who is awaiting trial over human trafficking and rape charges, as part of a new investigation, officials said.

One of the world's best-known influencers known for misogynist and sometimes violent maxims, Andrew Tate has been accused of having formed an organised criminal network in early 2021 in Romania and Britain, along with his brother Tristan. They have

denied the charges.

Prosecutors allege that 37-year-old Tate, his 36-year-old brother and two women set up a criminal organisation and sexually exploited several victims. A trial date has not yet been set.

On Wednesday prosecutors "conducted a raid this morning, on August 21, 2024, at the residence of the Tate brothers as part of a search related to a new investigation", prosecutors said in a statement.

The Office for Organised Crime (DIICOT), said that four search

warrants were executed, in connection with "the crimes of forming an organised criminal group, trafficking in minors", "sexual relations with a minor" and "money laundering".

Neither of the statements indicated whether the new charges targeted the brothers.

They were detained in 2022 in Bucharest and spent three months in detention before being released under judicial supervision to await trial.

The brothers also face rape and assault allegations in separate cases in Britain, where they have also been accused of tax evasion.

In 2016, Tate appeared on the "Big Brother" reality television show in Britain but was removed after a video emerged showing him attacking a woman.

He then turned to social media platforms to promote his divisive views.

Giving tips on how to be successful, along with misogynistic and sometimes violent maxims, his videos have made him one of the world's best-known influencers.



## Symposium on Child Rights held at GHSS Dablehar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: The National Development Foundation in collaboration with the School Education Department and UNICEF India organized a Child Rights Symposium at Government Higher Secondary School, Dablehar, Jammu; it aimed at raising awareness among students and teachers about Child Rights and Protection. The Symposium saw enthusiastic participation from students, delivering compelling speeches on Child Rights and Protection. Gayatri, Jui Verma & Gagandeep Raj, stood 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, respec-



tively, while the consolation prizes were bagged by Mannu and Komal Verma. The certificates were distributed among all the participants. The principal of the School Smt. Irvinder Kour was the chief guest on the occasion. While speaking on the occasion, she assured to undertake all the measures for Child

Protection. She added that regular guidance and counseling are provided to students to ensure their mental health and protection. Dr. Romesh Kumar, Sr. Lecturer Psychology/Counselor also sensitized the Children on Child Rights, mental health, and various national helplines. Shivani acted as stage secretary while,

Ritu Bhagat Lecturer, Shweta Uttam Sr. Lecturer & Madhuri Khajuria Sr. Lecturer judged the participants.

In addition, Nisha Pandita, Addl. Programme Officer, NDF conducted a highly informative sensitization session for both students and teachers, focusing on the importance of Child Rights

and the concept of Child Rights-Focused Schools. This session provided valuable insights and education, leaving everyone present feeling more informed and aware.

The symposium concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the National Development Foundation, expressing gratitude to all participants, judges, and the school teachers for their support in making the event a success. This symposium marks a significant step towards fostering a culture of respect for child rights and empowering the next generation to be aware and proactive in protecting these rights.

## NMDC Steel Limited Achieves First Major Production Milestone



Top News Report

H Y D E R A B A D / JAMMU, Aug 21: NMDC Steel Limited (NSL) proudly announces a landmark achievement of its production capabilities. Today, this ultra-modern, state-of-the-art plant has successfully produced 1 Million Ton (MnT) of Hot Rolled Coil (HRC), reaching this milestone four days ahead of the first anniversary of commencement of HR Coil production. This achievement underscores NSL's position as one of the fastest and most efficient plants in the industry, characterized by its remarkable spirit, performance and cutting-edge technology.

This significant accomplishment builds on NSL's earlier successes in 2024. On July 21, 2024, the company

achieved the production of 1.5 MnT of Hot Metal from its Blast Furnace, and on August 11, 2024, it produced 1 MnT of Liquid Steel from the Steel Making Shop (SMS). Both milestones were reached in less than a year from the commencement of production, setting new benchmarks for performance in the industry.

These achievements highlight NSL's commitment to operational excellence and innovation. The company continues to push the boundaries by aspiring to be a leader in the steel manufacturing sector with a sole focus on efficiency, sustainability, and technological advancement.

This ultra-modern 3 MTPA steel plant is set up with an investment of Rs. 22,900 crore houses one of the

widest Hot Strip Mills in India, capable of rolling HR coils of 900 mm to 1650 mm width in 1 mm to 16 mm thickness.

Amitava Mukherjee, CMD (Additional Charge), NMDC & NSL, commenting on this achievement said, "I am incredibly proud to share that NSL has reached this significant milestone this early in its production journey. Achieving 1 MnT of Hot Rolled Coil (HRC) ahead of schedule is a testament to the dedication, expertise, and hard work of our entire dedicated team. This achievement not only sets a new standard within the PSU sector, but also stands strong against industry benchmarks. We remain focused on sustaining this momentum and continuing to lead with quality and efficiency."

## Kylaq: Škoda Auto India's upcoming all-new compact SUV



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: Today marks a major milestone for Škoda Auto India as it approaches a new era in India with its all-new compact SUV. Announced in February and following a recent teaser of its design, the vehicle has been named through an imaginative nationwide campaign. Reflecting the choice of thousands of people, Škoda Auto India's new SUV will be called the Kylaq, embodying a unique connection with its future drivers.

Speaking at the name unveiling, Petr Janěba, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, said: "Our new compact SUV Kylaq is for the people of India. We wanted them to be part of every milestone of our

biggest-ever launch in the country. The 'Name Your Škoda' campaign aimed at inculcating a sense of pride and belonging among participants and potential customers. The results are humbling with over 200,000 entries. It reinforces our legacy in India and showcases the great affinity people have towards brand Škoda. The naming process of a car is important for us. And this upcoming all-new compact SUV represents the ultimate milestone within the fastest growing and biggest segment in India. With the Kylaq, people, customers and fans have themselves named our newest family member, which is developed jointly by the teams in India and Europe, and will be locally manufactured."

The Name Your Škoda campaign, rolled out in February 2024, enabled the involvement and engagement of users, customers and the Fans of Škoda in picking the name for the all-new compact SUV that is to make its India and world debut in 2025. Through 'Name Your Škoda', participants suggested names for the compact SUV that begins with the letter 'K' and ends with the letter 'Q' with one or two syllables, in line with Škoda's tradition of naming their ICE SUVs. The campaign resulted in over 200,000 entries with over 24,000 unique names.

In the next phase, participants cast their vote for the choice among 15 shortlisted names. Basis the number of votes, from the 15 shortlisted names, 10 names were announced by Škoda Auto India.

From the list, the winning name, which received the most votes and met all legal compliance criteria, was chosen for the all-new compact SUV. Kylaq is derived from the Sanskrit word for crystal, reflecting both the vehicle's pristine qualities and inspiration from Mt. Kailash.

## NGO ACC holds langar for devotees of Chatani Budha Amarnath Yatra Poonch

Top News Report

SUNDERBANI, Aug 21: The Buddha Amarnath Yatra will be continuing in Mandi hills of Tehsil Mandi of district Poonch. NGO Amarnath Cultural Club (ACC) Sunderbani organised langar seva in every religion's function such as Nagar Kirtan, Eid Festival, Shivratri, Amarnath Yatra and Baba Budha Amarnath Chatani programme.

On this occasion presi-

dent of NGO Zorawar Singh and his executive team held a Langer parshad for devotees of Baba Budha Amarnath at Sunderbani.

The president and executive members of the NGO hold langer parshad in Sunderbani for devotees of Baba Budha Amarnath Poonch. Meanwhile, president of NGO Zorawar Singh said the next langar will be held at Mandi of district Poonch on the occasion of Chari yatra.

## Udhampur hosts District-Level Inter-School competitions for U19 Kabaddi and Boxing

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Aug 21: The Subash Stadium in Udhampur recently hosted the District-Level Inter-School Competitions and Trials for U19 Kabaddi and Boxing, organized by the Department of Youth Services & Sports, Udhampur. Under the leadership of Saloni Rai, IAS, Deputy Commissioner of Udhampur, and Romesh Chander Mishra, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, the event saw participation from 101 students across

16 schools in the district.

The competitions featured vibrant participation, with 89 girls competing in Kabaddi and 12 boys in Boxing. Notable participants included Ninna Devi, Ritika Bhagat, Chahat Sharma, Sunaina, Reetika Sharma, Mamta Devi, Ananya Rajput, Sohani Satyal, Sonali Sharma, Pooja Devi, Sandhya Devi, and Versha Jammwal in the Kabaddi U-19 Girls category. In Boxing U-19 Boys, the selected athletes were Rahul Kumar (46 kg), Mohd. Arif (52-56 kg), Arpit Singh

(56-60 kg), Parbhat Singh (60-64 kg), Sudesh Singh (64-69 kg), Vignesh Singh (69-75 kg), Simerjeet Singh (90 kg), Deepa Devi (48 kg), and Suhani Satyal (53 kg).

A significant aspect of the event was an impactful address on the issue of drug abuse and its societal implications. The event's smooth execution was endorsed by the efforts of the office staff, including Somdev, Sanjeev Kumar, Vikas Sharma, Karun Magotra, Ghaneem Akhter, and Sanjeev Khajuria. Press and publicity efforts, led by

Jaswinder Singh, Jatin Sethi, Anshu Brat Khanna, and Vipin Photra, provided extensive coverage, highlighting the event's successes.

Convenors Yash Paul and Rakesh Modi played crucial roles in selecting participants for the upcoming Divisional Level Inter-District Competitions. The event not only showcased the remarkable talent of the participants but also inspired both athletes and spectators, driving them toward greater accomplishments and meaningful contributions to society.

## FROM PAGE 1

### 151 sitting MPs and MLAs face cases of crimes against Women, 16 charged with Rape: ADR

According to the report, there are 16 sitting MPs and MLAs who have declared cases related to rape under Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 376, which carries a minimum sentence of 10 years and can be extended to life imprisonment. Of these, two are MPs and 14 MLAs.

The charges include repeated offenses against the same victim, further underscoring the gravity of these cases.

Among political parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has the highest number of representatives (54 MPs and MLAs) with declared cases related to crimes against women, followed by the Congress with 23 and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) with 17, according to the report.

Both BJP and Congress have five sitting lawmakers each facing rape charges.

The ADR has issued strong recommendations in response to these findings. It stressed on the need for political parties to refrain from giving tickets to candidates with criminal backgrounds, especially those with charges of rape and other crimes against women.

The report called for the fast-tracking of court cases against MPs and MLAs, ensuring professional and thorough investigations by police.

The ADR urged voters to avoid electing candidates with such charges.

### RLDA invites bids for commercial development of two land parcels at Vaishno Devi Katra

### Railway Station

parcel B, while land parcel B is bound by vacant railway land followed by a drain.

Sites strategically located near the railway station are ideal for commercial development, including hotels, shopping complexes, and marriage halls. These developments can significantly boost the local economy, create employment opportunities, and cater to the large influx of tourists visiting the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. With over 95 lakh pilgrims visiting the shrine in 2023 and numbers expected to rise, the demand for such commercial facilities is set to grow even further.

It is notable that Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) has four key mandates as a part of its development plan, namely leasing commercial sites, colony redevelopment, station redevelopment and multi-functional complexes.

### AAP to contest Assembly Election in Jammu and Kashmir

the Assembly poll in J&K was issued on Tuesday and political parties are gearing up for the election that are being held after a gap of 10 years.

The AAP leader said that the party will provide free electricity and water besides world class health treatment in Jammu and Kashmir if voted to power.

"AAP will fight the upcoming assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir with full strength and for that I congratulate the people here", he said.

Hussain said that Kashmir is the crown of India and almighty has bestowed it with a lot of natural resources. But he alleged that whoever came into power here used these resources for the safeguard of their own purpose and their chairs.

The AAP leader said "that 70 percent electricity is being generated from the soil of Jammu and Kashmir and from Delhi we are purchasing to provide free to Punjab..

was it not the right for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. When we can provide free water to the people of Delhi and Punjab.. why not for the people of Jammu and Kashmir", he questioned.

Hussain said AAP will provide free education to all children irrespective of rich or poor besides free medicine to all citizens. "I appeal to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to give a chance to Arvind Kejriwal's AAP to form the next government to serve the people in J&K", he added.

### J&K Assembly Polls | Apni Party releases manifesto, promises to work for restoration of Statehood

The party said it will work tirelessly to restore statehood as promised by the Union Home Minister on August 5, 2019.

It also promised the restoration of repealed and amended laws.

"The Apni Party will revisit and restore all the laws that were withdrawn or amended over time. Our party will secure constitutional guarantees for the protection of land and job security for local youth," the manifesto said.

The Apni Party, led by former minister in the erstwhile state of J-K Altaf Bukhari, said upon restoration of J-K's statehood, "we will vigorously seek the reinstatement of a bicameral legislature, comprising both a Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council, as existed before August 5, 2019".

On the issue of the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits, the party said it believes in their dignified return and if elected to power, will form an apex committee to address the issue.

"We will consult with their representatives to facilitate their return. An apex committee, chaired by the chief minister and comprising representatives of all registered Kashmiri Pandit organisations, will be con-

stituted. This committee will meet every six months to address migrant issues. The revenue minister will serve as the convener," the manifesto added.

The party said it will leave no stone unturned to secure the early release of detainees not involved in heinous crimes.

"We will ensure the establishment of a fast-track board to review and dispose of cases for those languishing in jails under the Public Safety Act (PSA) even after their imprisonment terms have expired.

"Cases against teenagers detained in the summer of 2016, now adults, will also be withdrawn to enable them to pursue government jobs without hindrance. Apni Party will ensure one-time amnesty for all the detainees with a cut-off date ending August 2024 on production of an affidavit attested from court," it said.

The Apni Party will create a conducive atmosphere for long-lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir, it added.

The party also said it will work to restore the powers of the cabinet and chief minister, recently transferred to the Lieutenant Governor by the Centre.

It also promised to provide 500 units of free power per month per household in Kashmir during winter (October to March) and in Jammu during summer (April to September).

The Apni Party will provide four free LPG cylinder refills annually to every BPL and AAY family, it also added.

### Inquiry ordered after attendant seen giving CPR to patient in absence of doctors at SDH Banihal

received video wherein it has been seen that one attendant is performing CPR to the patient in casualty room but no doctor is on duty at that time. To ascertain the facts

of this complaint the following committee of officer/official is hereby constituted to conduct the enquiry in the matter in depth and submit the factual report along with definite remarks to this office within two days positively," reads the CMO order.

As per the order, District Health Officer, Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Malik and Medical Officer, Dr. Mohammad Syed have been assigned the task of inquiry.

### Terror Funding Case | Delhi Court seeks NIA's response on engineer Rashid's Bail plea

The NIA had filed a charge sheet against several individuals, including Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik, Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin in the case.

Malik was awarded life imprisonment by a trial court in 2022 after he pleaded guilty to the charges.

### J&K Police arrest couple with 166 bottles of wine in Kupwara

Madmadow Kalaroos and seized 166 bottles of wine and 12 bottles of beer. Both occupants, a husband and wife from Paraypora Kalaroos, have been arrested. FIR No. 184/24 U/S 50 E/Act registered", police tweeted on X.

### Srinagar police establish helpline to report MCC violations

9596222551 as the special mobile phone no. for reporting of objectionable msgs in violation of Election laws & MCC through SMS or Social Media platform," Srinagar police wrote on its official X-handle.

## JU organizes parent enrichment program on lifestyle and child development

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: The Department of Home Science (Human Development), University of Jammu organized a parent enrichment program on the theme 'Health lifestyle for optimal child development' for the parents of children in early childhood years. The department of home science runs a laboratory nursery school, which provides quality early childhood care and education to the children in the foundational age of 6 months to 6 years. While elaborating on the objectives of the parent enrichment program Prof. Sarika Manhas, Head of the department mentioned that this program provides parents with knowledge and tools to improve their parenting skills, and contribute effectively towards holistic development of their children. She highlighted that effective parenting in early childhood is fundamental in shap-



ing a child's cognitive, emotional, and social development, laying the groundwork for future success and well-being. She further mentioned that addressing lifestyle issues is essential if the children are to realise their full human potential.

The resource persons for the program were Prof. Rajni Dhingra, former Dean Research Studies, University of Jammu, Dr. Archana Bhat, Nutritionist and Assistant Professor, GCW Gandhi Nagar, and Ms. Lily Bhan, Parental Coach and Center Head Brainpreneurs, CDC. Prof. Rajni Dhingra in her session talked about

challenges and advantages of contemporary parenting. She was of the view that modern parents benefit from extensive research on child development, more educational resources and technological tools that can provide them support. However, at the same time, parents today face new stresses such as balancing work and family life, navigating social media influences and dealing with a rapidly changing world. She further suggested that parents need to be more informed and involved in the lives of their children. Dr. Archana Bhat, a

certified Nutritionist, in her elaborate session discussed the importance of nutrition in the optimal development of the children. She highlighted that a well-balanced diet strengthens the immune system, helping children to fend off illnesses and infections. She explained about the need for balanced intake of carbohydrates, fats and proteins, especially by growing children. She also deliberated on addressing nutritional imbalances through changes in diet and lifestyle such as adopting healthier eating habits, improving food choices, and increasing physical activity. Ms. Lily Bhan, Parental Coach focused on monitoring screen time for children to ensure a healthy balance between digital and non-digital activities. She mentioned that excessive screen time can contribute to a sedentary lifestyle which becomes a precursor for obesity and related health issues. She emphasized that overexposure to digi-

tal media and devices can interfere with young children's sleep patterns and can have adverse effects on their language development, social development, and emotional well-being.

The program saw the active participation of the parents, with the experts adeptly answering the queries raised by them. Prominent among those who attended the programme were Prof. Shashi Manhas (Deptt of Home Science, JU), Dr. Chinmoyee Maharana (Deptt of Zoology, JU), Dr. Sandeep Dubey (Deptt. of Dogri JU), Dr. Priyanka Arya (Deptt of Sanskrit, JU), Dr. Sarbjeet Kaur (Deptt of Zoology, JU), Dr. Shelly (Central University of Jammu), Mamta Singh, Pooja Bhatt, and Seema Sharma (Nursery School teachers).

The program was conducted and managed by the students of 2nd semester of M.Sc Human Development, JU namely, Sunaina, Tanisha, Avantika and Ganga.

## DM Jammu Sachin Vaishya interacts with IIMC Jammu students

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: IIMC Jammu organized a guest lecture on 'Local Administration and Role of Media' which was delivered by IAS officer and District Magistrate of Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya. The special guest Sachin Vaishya introduced the students to the structure of government administration. He emphasized the role of local administration in better implementation of policies. He also talked about scope for innovation in order to mitigate the ground social challenges. The 2015 batch IAS officer also shared the Jammu administration's initiative of enrolling child beggars in government schools for their elementary education. He said the media's role is important to present the officers' work to the audiences in its true light. DM Jammu said that media coverage can be positive or negative, but there needs to be balance. A fair viewpoint can be very helpful towards people who aren't well informed, he said while pointing out how constructive criticism helps in nation building. Sachin Vaishya also answered



various questions of students about media transparency, unbiased reporting, public awareness, and the Jammu and Kashmir elections. The event, held at the IIMC Jammu campus, was attended by Dr. Dilip Kumar, Regional Director of IIMC Jammu, Vivek Pathak (IIS), OSD (Admin) and Integrated Financial Advisor, IIMC Jammu, Dr. Vinit Utgal, Assistant Professor (Digital Media), Dr. Raviya Gupta, Assistant Professor (English Journalism), Vishv, Assistant Professor (Digital Media), and Rajiv Kumar, Gulshan Kumar academic associates and staff member Anoop Kr. Wattal. Dr. Dilip Kumar, Regional Director of IIMC Jammu, presented a vote of

thanks, emphasizing how integrating social development with public administration leads to better outcomes at the grassroots level. The event started with Dr. Raviya Gupta, Assistant Professor presenting a brief introduction about IIMC and its establishment to the special guest. The event was moderated by students, Anuja and Aditya. During the event, Sachin Vaishya also released four in-house magazines of IIMC Jammu designed by the students. These included Spectrum, Hashtag Jammu diary, Darpan and Kaleido. As a token of appreciation, the guest was presented with Memento & 'Communicator', IIMC's inhouse journal.

## Civil Defence Jammu started 5 days Cd Training Programme



Top News Report

JAMMU, August 21: On the directions of Directorate of HG, CD and SDRF J&K, 05 days Civil Defence basic training programme was started at Govt. Degree College for women Parade, Jammu under the supervision Dy. SP. Anita Pawar, Deputy Controller Civil Defence, Jammu. In the training camp 59 Students of College are attending the said training. This training is on the knowledge of First Aid, prevention, management and control of Fire Fighting, Snake bite, Choking and other basic life saving techniques and preventive measures during the natural man made

disaster.

On the inaugural programme of the training, Dy. SP. Anita Pawar delivered a lecture and highlighted the role of Civil Defence and importance of this training. She emphasized that this training is considered very beneficial for the daily life of every person, so everyone should attend the training.

Paramjit Kumar, Chief Warden Civil Defence, Jammu, R. Vijay Magothra, Dy. Chief Warden Civil Defence, Jammu, Dr. Gurpreet Kour Coordinator of the programme, Dr. Palak Malhotra, Dr. Neha Gupta, Dr. Qayoom Choudhary and other staff of the College were also present on the occasion.

## Insensitive NC hurts KP community feelings & distresses reserved categories

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: Former MLC & JK UT spokesperson of BJP Girdhari Lal Raina has strongly reacted to hurts caused by National Conference (NC) by terming changing names of Shankaracharya and Hariparbat hillocks in Srinagar city in its manifesto for 2024 assembly elections as atrocious.

NC leaders who have been very critical of restoring names of historic places in the rest of the Bharat demonstrate duplicity and double standards in Kashmir. He added. Ex-MLC cautioned NC that history cannot be buried or changed by replacing the names of these highly revered places in your manifesto. You have tried these tactics of playing emotional cards on the eve of elections in

the past also. But such attempts which reveal the hatred of NC and its leadership for academics and historical facts will not succeed, asserted Raina.

GL Raina shrugged off the attempt of NC to white wash sins it committed against the Displaced Hindu Community by inserting a borrowed line in the manifesto about "the dignified return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits" who were extirpated as culmination of erroneous, prejudiced and bigoted policies followed by the party when in power. He reminded the KP community about targeted venomous fake narrative of NC and its leadership post forced exodus by blaming former Governor late Jagmohan ji displacement. GL Raina asked NC leadership to explain disregarding the community martyrs even in the condolence resolu-

tion it adopted in 1996 in the state legislature.

BJP spokesperson shared the concern of reserved categories of people about the NC manifesto declaration to review reservation policy. We know NC has always been against rights of deprived and underprivileged sections of the society. Now it is openly threatening to review and correct so called imbalances, Raina opined. Will they snatch reservation rights provided to SC community, people living on IB border and pahari qabila and OBCs, asked GLR?

Former MLC cautioned all sections of citizens of Jammu Kashmir to understand the real nature of NC as revealed by its manifesto and appealed to them to reject NC party in forthcoming assembly election.

## NGO ACC organizes Langar Prasad for devotees of Budha Amarnath Yatra Poonch

Top News Report

POONCH, Aug 21: Budha Amarnath Yatra is going on in the Mandi Hills of Mandi Tehsil of Poonch district, the only NGO in Jammu and Kashmir Annol Cultural Club Sunderbani which always does Langar Seva in every religious program, helps in every religion's celebrations like Nagar Kirtan, Eid Festival, Shivratri, Amarnath Yatra and Baba Budha Amarnath Chutney Yatra program and many

other similar programs. Now the NGO President Zorawar Singh and his executive team organized Langar Prasad for the devotees of Baba Budha Amarnath in Mandi of District Poonch. It is worth noting that the President and Executive Members of the NGO organized Langar Prasad for the devotees of Baba Budha Amarnath Poonch. The NGO organized a langar in Mandi on the occasion of Chhari Yatra, in which thousands of devotees took the langar prasad.

## NSS Units of GGMSC launches Student-Led Anti-Ragging Campaign and Admission Counseling Initiative



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: In a bid to enhance campus safety and support for newcomers, GGM Science College has launched a new initiative led by NSS students. This program combines an Anti-Ragging Campaign with an Admission Counseling support system, aimed at fostering a welcoming and secure environment for all students.

Under the leadership of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, the college has intro-

duced a dedicated help desk where NSS volunteers provide assistance and guidance to newcomers. This initiative focuses on creating a supportive space where students can seek help and address concerns related to ragging and admission processes.

Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta emphasized the importance of the initiative, stating, "Our goal is to create a supportive environment where students can seek help and guidance freely. The student-led counseling at the help desk is

a crucial step towards achieving a safe and ragging-free campus."

The initiative was carried out under the guidance of NSS Programme Officers Dr. Rahul Kait and Dr. Neha Sharma. They highlighted the role of NSS volunteers in providing immediate support and addressing any concerns related to ragging.

The program has been well-received by both students and faculty, underscoring the college's commitment to maintaining a respectful and secure campus environment.

## BJP announces Assembly wise Convenor/Co-Convenor for Assembly Elections 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: Ravinder Raina, President, J&K BJP, in consultation with JP Nadda, BJP National President, G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister and J&K BJP Election Incharge, Tarun Chugh, BJP National General Secretary and J&K Prabhari, announced the Assembly wise convenors and co-convenors for Assembly Elections 2024 as follows.

In Poonch district, Naresh Sharma has been appointed as the convenor, with Sahil Mir as the co-convenor for Poonch Assembly constituency. For the Mendhar Assembly constituency, Sandeep Gupta (Babloo) has been appointed as the convenor, and Adv. Tanveer Qureshi will be the co-convenor. In Surankot Assembly constituency, Mashooq Khawaja has been appointed as the convenor, with Azhar

Manhas as the co-convenor.

Moving to Rajouri district, Rakesh Raina (Rakka) has been appointed as the convenor and Koushal Sharma as the co-convenor for Rajouri Assembly constituency. For the Budhal Assembly constituency, Manzoor Naik has been appointed as the convenor, with Amit Sharma as the co-convenor. In the Thanamandi-Darhal Assembly constituency, Karamat Malik has been appointed as convenor, while Zahid Manhas has been appointed as co-convenor.

In Akhnoor district, Shoba Ram has been nominated as the convenor, with Surinder Singh as the co-convenor. For the Chamb Assembly constituency, G.S. Chib has been nominated as the convenor, with Ramesh Kumar as the co-convenor.

In Jammu North district,

Ajay Sharma will serve as the convenor, with Aman Sharma as the co-convenor for Jammu North Assembly constituency. For Nagrota Assembly constituency, Kuldeep Singh has been appointed as the convenor, with Neelkant Sharma as the co-convenor. In Marh Assembly constituency, Madan Bhagat has been nominated as the convenor, with Ravi Kant as the co-convenor.

In Jammu district, Kuldeep Kandhari has been appointed as the convenor, with Ramesh Gupta as the co-convenor for the Jammu East Assembly constituency. For Jammu West Assembly constituency, Jeet Angral has been appointed as the convenor, with Surinder Choudhary as the co-convenor.

In Jammu South district, Rikki Gupta has been appointed as the convenor for the Bahu Assembly, with Vivek Patyal as

the co-convenor. In the Jammu South R.S. Pura Assembly, Akash Chopra has been named the convenor, with Parmodh Singh as the co-convenor.

In the Jammu Border district, Rinku Choudhary has been selected as the convenor, with Girdhari Lal as the co-convenor for Suchetgarh Assembly constituency. For the Bishnah Arnia Assembly constituency, Kuldeep Raj has been appointed as the convenor, with Padamdev Singh as the co-convenor.

In Samba district, Romesh Chander DDC has been designated as the convenor, with Keshav Khajuria as the co-convenor of the Samba Assembly constituency. For Vijaypur Assembly constituency, Mohan Lal Thappa has been appointed as the convenor, with Pawan Bakshi as the co-convenor. In Ramgarh, Keshav Dutt (DDC Chairman Samba) will serve as the convenor, with Roop

Lal Sarpanch as the co-convenor.

In Kathua district, T.R. Bhagat has been appointed as the convenor, with Vinod Kumar as the co-convenor of the Kathua Assembly constituency. For the Hiranagar Assembly constituency, Rahul Hans has been selected as the convenor, with Som Raj as the co-convenor. In Jasrota, Karan Veer has been designated as the convenor, with Balwant Singh as the co-convenor.

In Pahari Zila (Basohli), Sohan Lal has been appointed as the convenor, with Raj Kumar as the co-convenor for the Basohli Assembly constituency. For the Bani Assembly constituency, Thakur Dass has been named the convenor, with Roop Singh (JE) as the co-convenor. In the Billawar Assembly constituency, Umakant Basotra has been selected as the convenor, with Ravinder Billawaria as the co-con-

venor.

In Kishtwar district, Gulab Chand Bhagat has been appointed as the convenor, with Shashi Badyal as the co-convenor for the Kishtwar Assembly constituency. For Paddar Assembly constituency, Roshan Lal has been named the convenor, with Arpan Singh Rana as the co-convenor. For the Inderwal Assembly constituency, D.D. Farooq Khan has been named the convenor, with Narinder Kumar as the co-convenor.

In Doda district, Kousar Ahmed Nattoo has been appointed as the convenor, with Ravinder Thakur as the co-convenor for the Doda Assembly constituency. For the Doda West Assembly constituency, Ashok Kumar will serve as the convenor, with Rajesh Parihar as the co-convenor. In Baderwah, Sanjay Saraf has been designated as the convenor, with Devinder Parihar

as the co-convenor.

In Ramban, Jagever Dass (DDC) has been appointed as the convenor, with Anchal Chib as the co-convenor for the Ramban Assembly constituency. For the Banihal Assembly constituency, Jb. Aijaz Suhail has been named the convenor, with Imtiaz Ahmad as the co-convenor.

In Udhampur district, Sansar Singh Jamwal has been appointed as the convenor, with Gurdyal Khajuria as the co-convenor for the Udhampur East Assembly constituency. For the Udhampur West Assembly constituency, Raj Kumar will serve as the convenor, with Shashi Sadotra as the co-convenor. In Ramnagar Assembly constituency, Rajinder Sharma has been designated as the convenor, with Kewal Parihar as the co-convenor. For the Chenani Assembly constituency, Manik Gupta has been appointed as

the convenor, with Swarn Singh Rathore as the co-convenor.

In Reasi district, Jagdish Katoch has been named the convenor, with Karuna Nidhi as the co-convenor for the Reasi Assembly constituency. For Mata Vaishno Devi Assembly constituency, Pandit Sham Lal has been appointed as the convenor, with Sudarshan Singh as the co-convenor. In the Gulabgarh Assembly constituency, Pardeep Singh has been selected as the convenor, with Keshav Singh as the co-convenor.

In Nowshera District, Sukhdev Choudhary has been designated as the convenor, with Neena Sharma (BDC) as the co-convenor for the Nowshera Assembly constituency. For Kalakote-Sunderbani Assembly constituency, Bal Krishan (BDC) has been appointed as the convenor, with Sardari Lal as the co-convenor.

## Jay Shah to be named ICC chairman, will replace Greg Barclay

**BCCI secretary is all set to be named the new ICC chairman. The incumbent Greg Barclay has already confirmed of his decision to vacate the position after his tenure ends in November.**

NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah is all set to replace the incumbent Greg Barclay as the new chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), sources have confirmed to agency. Barclay told ICC directors, including Cricket Australia's chair Mike Baird, that he has no intention of running for the post, for the third term during a video conference. His decision comes after being informed of Jay Shah's intentions to replace him in November. Shah has the backing of cricket boards from England and Australia, and hence, has the numbers to be crowned as the chief of the ICC.

Jagmohan Dalmiya (1997 to 2000), Sharad Pawar (2010-2012) -- as presidents -- and N Srinivasan (2014 to 2015) and Shashank Manohar (2015 to 2020) -- as chairmen -- are the only four Indians who have



headed ICC in the past. Shah, who is also the son of India's home minister Amit Shah, will become the third to do so when he officially replaces Barclay in November.

"ICC chair Greg Barclay confirmed to the board that he will not stand for a third term and will step down from the post when his current tenure finishes at the end of November. Barclay was appointed as the independent ICC chair in

November 2020, before being re-elected in 2022," an ICC spokesperson told The Age.

"Current directors are now required to put forward nominations for the next chair by 27 August 2024 and if there is more than one candidate, an election will be held with the term of the new chair commencing on 1 December 2024."

As per ICC rules, the chairman's election comprises of 16 votes and now a simple major-

ity of nine votes is required (51%) for the winner. Earlier, to become the chairman, the incumbent needed to have two-third majority.

He enjoys a lot of goodwill with most of the 16 voting members. Currently, Shah has another one year left as the BCCI secretary before going on a mandatory cooling off period of three years from October, 2025.

As per the BCCI constitution approved by the Supreme Court, an office bearer can stay for six before he needs to go for a cooling off of three years. In all, a person can stay in office for a cumulative period of 18 years, -- nine in state association and nine in BCCI.

If Shah decides to move to ICC with a year of his secretaryship still left, he will have four years left in the BCCI.

At 35, he will become the youngest chairman in the history of ICC.

## "Nothing like what people talk about on tv": RCB star's big take on Virat Kohli



NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): It has been a topsy turvy journey for Yash Dayal in the Indian Premier League (IPL) till now. The young fast bowler from Uttar Pradesh was part of the Gujarat Titans franchise in 2023 and he showed great promise in the first few matches. However, during the match against Kolkata Knight Riders, he was slammed for five consecutive sixes in the final over by Rinku Singh as his team slumped to a shocking defeat. It was a huge blow to his confidence as he struggled to find form after that match and it came as a surprise to many as Royal Challengers Bengaluru picked him up for Rs 5 crore in the IPL 2024 auction.

The presence was immense on the young pacer as he joined the RCB ranks but he repaid their trust by pro-

ducing a brilliant show in the tournament and picking up 15 wickets for the franchise.

In a recent interview, Dayal revealed the role that star batter Virat Kohli played in boosting his confidence when he joined RCB and added that Kohli makes the youngster in the team extremely comfortable.

"The biggest thing he (Kohli) said to me was that he will back me the whole season. He told me that I will not feel like I have come to a new place, and he backed me completely. So this was a huge boost up and he talks to the youngsters in such a very healthy way and he is nothing like what people talk about on TV. I don't feel like that," Dayal told agency.

Meanwhile, Jay Shah, the Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), congratulated talismanic batter Virat Kohli for completing 16 years of playing international cricket.

Kohli made his international cricket debut in India's ODI against Sri Lanka at Dambulla, a couple of months after he became the Under-19 World Cup-winning captain at Kuala Lumpur.

"16 years ago today, a 19-year-old @imvkoohli stepped onto the international stage for the first time, marking the beginning of what has become a truly legendary career. Congratulations to the King on completing 16 years in international cricket!" wrote Shah on 'X'.

## Navdeep Saini focused on discipline and fitness for success in Delhi Premier League

NEW DELHI, Aug 21 (Agencies): West Delhi Lions pacer Navdeep Saini emphasizes the importance of discipline and consistent practice for aspiring fast bowlers. Saini, who has represented India in 2 Tests, 8 ODIs, and 11 T20Is, is now showcasing his skills in the Delhi Premier League (DPL) for West Delhi Lions. Having secured a victory in their only match so far, West Delhi Lions are eager to maintain their winning streak as they prepare to face Purani Dilli 6 at the iconic Shri Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Wednesday.

"Our first match went really well and all things happened according to our plan. Everybody was supporting each other during the game, it was the first instance for all of us to play together and we did it really well," Navdeep Saini told West Delhi Lions. "As a team when you win the first match it really helps the team going forward. We have prepared very well for today's game. Our process has been the same, whatever we did before the first match, we have followed the same for today's game also. Our practice has been really good,"



Navdeep, who is the senior most player in the West Delhi Lions squad, is leaving no stone unturned to be in the best shape. "I have always focused on my fitness from the time I started playing cricket. Pace bowling isn't easy, to master it you have to toil hard day and night. You should be disciplined if you want to be a fast bowler," he said.

West Delhi Lions Squad: Hrithik Shokeen, Navdeep Saini, Dev Lakra, Deepak Punia, Shivank Vashishth, Akhil Chaudhary, Ayush Doseja, Krish Yadav, Anmol Sharma, Jugal Saini, Ankit Rajesh Kumar, Vivek Yadav, Aryan Dalal, Masab Alam, Ekansh Dobal, Shivam Gupta, Yogesh Kumar, Suryakant Chauhan, Tishant Donal, Abraham Ahmad Masoodi.

## Women's T20 World Cup moved out of Bangladesh

**ICC says not feasible to host event in strife-hit country, shifted to UAE**

DUBAI, Aug 21 (Agencies): The International Cricket Council (ICC) moved the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup from Bangladesh to the UAE, saying it "wasn't feasible" to conduct the event there after governments of a number of participating countries advised against travelling to the unrest-hit nation.

The event, which is scheduled to take place from October 3 to 20, will now be staged in Dubai and Sharjah, with Bangladesh retaining the hosting rights, ensuring that it receives its share of the revenue.

"It is a shame not to be hosting the Women's T20 World Cup in Bangladesh as we know the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) would have staged a memorable event," ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said in a statement which avoided any direct mention of the violence and tension in the South Asian nation.



Allardice said the BCB explored "all avenues to try and enable the event to be hosted" there. "...but travel advisories from the governments of a number of the participating teams meant that wasn't feasible. However, they will retain hosting rights. We look forward to taking an ICC global event to Bangladesh in the near future," he said.

Over 230 people have been killed in incidents of violence

that erupted across the country following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government, taking the death toll to more than 600 since the massive protest by students against a quota system in government jobs first started in mid-July.

An interim government has been formed and 84-year-old Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has been named its Chief Adviser. BCB president Nazmul Hassan, known to be close to

the former PM, has also fled the country.

The ICC decision comes after Australia T20 skipper Alyssa Healy expressed her apprehensions about playing there. "I would find it hard to fathom playing there at the moment, as a human being. I feel it might be wrong thing to do," Healy said on Monday.

Allardice said that all available options were explored before deciding on shifting the venue. "I'd also like to thank the Emirates Cricket Board for stepping in to host on behalf of the BCB and Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe for their generous offers of support, and we look forward to seeing ICC global events in both of those countries in 2026."

The UAE was a feasible venue as both Dubai and Sharjah are located close to each other and logistical cost of conducting the event there won't shoot up drastically.

## Border Gavaskar Trophy on par with Ashes for Australia: Mitchell Starc

**Since 2014-15, Australia have failed to lay their hands on the Border Gavaskar Trophy, with India winning four consecutive series**

SYDNEY, Aug 21 (Agencies): Australia pace ace Mitchell Starc believes that with the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India becoming a five-Test affair for the first time in over three decades, it would be "right on par" with the esteemed Ashes series for his team.

The marquee series between India and Australia, set to begin in November, was extended by a match this year for the first time since the 1991-92 season.

"Being five matches now it's probably right on par with an Ashes series," Starc told Wide World of Sports.

Since 2014-15, Australia have failed to lay their hands on the Border Gavaskar Trophy, with India winning four consecutive series including the historic triumphs Down Under in 2018-19 and 2020-21.

Starc is not only intent

on reversing this trend but also harbours aspirations of a clean sweep, particularly as the series forms a crucial part of the World Test Championship.

"We always want to win every game at home and we know India are a very strong team," he said.

Currently, India leads the World Test Championships table with Australia in second place.

"As we're placed at the minute we're the top two teams on the Test ladder...so a very exciting series coming up for the fans and certainly the players."

"Hopefully when we're sitting there on the 8th of January we have that trophy back on our shores."

The 34-year-old is just 11 matches shy of reaching a milestone 100 Tests and has no plans to quit red-ball cricket.

The left-arter said



he is scaling back his white-ball commitments to prolong his Test career for as long as possible.

"...every time I get to wear the baggy green cap it feels very special. Hopefully it's five times through the summer with five wins and we can sing that song five times, then we move on from there.

"If it does come to a point where I'm lucky enough to get past that 100 number then it's obviously going to be pretty special as well," he said.

Starc is scheduled to fly to England next month for a white-ball series following which the left-arter intends

to play domestic cricket for New South Wales ahead of the Border Gavaskar Trophy.

"The Tests will always be taking precedence for me," he said.

"We've got seven Tests on the bounce with five against India and then two in Sri Lanka, so they sit top of the tree with what's coming up."

Alongside, Test and ODI skipper Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood, Starc will shoulder the pace duties across three formats.

"Pat is resting for this UK tour...we love playing all three formats but that could look different at different times over 12 months."

"There is certainly no end date on (our bowling careers). That will be an ongoing one. We'll see where (our) bodies are and the want to keep going, but at this stage it's all guns blazing for five Tests against India."

## Paris Olympics will 'hurt for some time': Lakshya Sen on 4th place finish



MUMBAI, Aug 21 (Agencies): India's ace shuttler Lakshya Sen is still hurting for his 4th place finish at the Paris Olympics. Sen was beaten by Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia in the men's singles competition in the bronze medal match of the competition.

The Indian shuttler was unseeded in the competition but managed to beat big guns like Jonatan Christie and Chou Tien-chen to reach the semi-final of the competition. In the semi-final he was beaten by eventual gold medalist Viktor Axelsen in a nervy battle. Sen had taken a big lead in both the games of the semi-final, but Axelsen's incredible resilience prevailed at

the La Chapelle Arena.

Speaking at a promotional event in Mumbai, Lakshya said that he was proud of some of the things that he was able to achieve in the Paris Olympics. However, the star was quick to measure his lines, stating that the loss was still hurting him and would continue to hurt him for a long time.

"Overall, in how I played, there were some things I was happy and proud about at Paris. But this is gonna hurt for some time. I'm looking to add and change a lot of things moving forward," Lakshya Sen was quoted by agency.

Reminiscing the semi-final game against Axelsen, Lakshya said that he was unable to

control the shuttle due to the drift in the court and had been fighting uncomfortably for every point despite being in the lead.

"In the second game, that side of the court had some drift. Even after the lead, I knew I couldn't control the shuttle. And then the momentum suddenly changed, and he started playing better. Even when he drew level, I was fighting for every point," Lakshya said.

"I'm happy that my starting strategy was working well. But in crucial situations I could've played differently. I didn't play well at all in the end, and there were a lot of unforced shots (errors). I needed to be a bit more patient," concluded the star shuttler.

After the Paris Olympics, Lakshya made a public plea to give him privacy. The shuttler also decided to skip the Japan Open in August. Sen, who just turned 23 on 16 August has miles to go and is expected to make a strong comeback soon in the badminton circuit.

## Vikalp reconnects with community through successful outreach program

Top News Report

KATRA, Aug 21: In a spirited effort to reconnect with the local community, Vikalp, a student-led educational initiative established in 2009, launched its first outreach program of the new session on August 11, 2024. The program, aimed at encouraging new enrollment and reaffirming Vikalp's commitment to accessible and quality education, marks a significant milestone as the initiative resumes its operations after a refreshing summer break. Starting at 2:00 PM from Gate No. 2 of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), a team of 15 dedicated volunteers embarked on a mission to engage with residents of Sirah Colony, Sool, and the surrounding areas. Through face-



to-face interactions, they updated the community on Vikalp's reopening, addressing concerns and emphasizing the initiative's ongoing dedication to educational empowerment. By the time the program concluded at 4:00 PM, the volunteers had reached the maximum number of households, ensuring that Vikalp's message resonated throughout the community. Vikalp has long been committed to providing

valuable learning experiences to students from nearby villages and the faculty area of SMVDU.

This session, however, the initiative is placing special emphasis on the education of the children of construction workers currently employed at the university. Recognizing the unique challenges these students face, Vikalp has tailored daily classes, held from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM in D-block, to meet their

specific needs, ensuring that each child receives the support required to excel academically and personally. The success of this outreach program reflects Vikalp's broader mission to expand its reach and impact within the community.

With robust support from the university's administration and faculty, the initiative is poised to conduct additional outreach programs, workshops, and co-curricular

activities throughout the session. These efforts aim to further enhance educational opportunities for all students involved, fostering an environment where learning is both accessible and meaningful. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU and Sumanta S. Sharma, Faculty Coordinator of Vikalp, have both applauded the students' efforts and the initiative's commitment to making this session a success. Their recognition underscores the importance of Vikalp's work and its vital role in the educational landscape of the region. As Vikalp continues its journey of educational empowerment, the initiative remains steadfast in its mission to enrich the lives of students and to make a lasting impact on the community it serves.

## Ravindra Raina poised to become CM of J&K, claims BJP leader Raju Chandel

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: Senior BJP leader Guruji Raju Chandel expressed strong optimism regarding the party's prospects in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections, asserting that Ravindra Raina, the current state president of the BJP, is emerging as a strong candidate for Chief Minister.

Speaking to journalists today, Chandel emphasized the pivotal role of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in the upcoming elections. He pointed to the recent appointment of RSS leader Ram Madhav as the election in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir as a strategic move that would bolster the party's campaign. Chandel declared, "The opposition will be trapped in the strategy and Chakravayuh of the BJP, resulting in significant losses for its candidates."

Chandel highlighted the remarkable enthusiasm among BJP workers, attributing this momentum to the diligent efforts of Raina, whom he credited with galvanizing the party base. "It seems that the BJP has already won in Jammu and Kashmir," he said, noting the heightened energy



among party members as they prepare for the elections.

The BJP leader confidently predicted that the party would secure over 50 seats, enabling it to form a robust government focused on comprehensive development in the region. He added that the elections would feature new young leaders, as well as voices from marginalized communities, including the Valmiki society.

In a significant policy shift, Chandel noted that some patriotic journalists and writers could also

receive BJP tickets to contest in the elections, reflecting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to eliminating nepotism and promoting fresh talent in politics. "Our Prime Minister's vision is clear: there will be no place for dynastic politics in the BJP. We are committed to ushering in a new India," he asserted.

As the political landscape heats up in Jammu and Kashmir, all eyes are on the BJP and its strategy to solidify its presence in the region amid mounting enthusiasm from its supporters.

## Department of Agriculture is advancing in line with ideals of Director Arvinder Singh: Rohit Shastri



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: President of Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic sansthan Trust, Mahant Rohit Shastri, met with Director of the Department of Agriculture, Arvinder Singh Reen, and presented him with a copy of the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita.

During this meeting, Mahant Rohit Shastri said that the Department of Agriculture is progressing in accordance with the ideals of Director Arvinder Singh Reen. The department is undoubtedly playing a leading role in the direction of quality agriculture. Day by day, the department is moving

forward on the path of progress. For this, the entire department's team deserves congratulations. Shastri also mentioned that Arvinder Singh Reen is selflessly serving society. Selfless service is considered true service, and helping and encouraging those who do good work is also a form of social service. This helps in their upliftment and development and instills in them the desire to move forward. The fruits of selfless service to society are received somewhere in life, and therefore, every person should fulfill their social responsibilities and contribute appropriately to social service whenever the opportunity arises.

On this occasion President All J&K Agriculture employees association J&K (UT) Uttam Chand Sharma and others were also present.

## SC/ST/OBC Joint Action Committee submits memorandum to PM demanding reservation reforms

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Aug 21: The SC/ST/OBC Joint Action Committee in Kishtwar has submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister of India, calling for immediate action on several critical issues affecting marginalized communities. The memorandum was delivered through the Deputy Commissioner of Kishtwar.

In their appeal, the committee urged the Prime Minister to convene a special session of Parliament to address the ongoing reservation crisis, following the Supreme Court's controversial decision on August 1, 2024, which involved the division of SC/ST communities and the introduction of the "creamy layer" concept. The committee argues that this decision has created significant hurdles for their communities.

The committee also demands the inclusion of reservation provisions in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution to protect these provisions from judicial interference.

In addition to these demands, the committee called for substantial reforms in the judiciary, including the abolition of the collegium system, which they claim perpetuates a lack of representation for SCs and STs in the higher judiciary. They also emphasized the need for a transparent and merit-based system, akin to IAS recruitment, to ensure that marginalized communities are adequately represented in the judiciary.

Roop Lal, President of the SC/ST/OBC Joint Action Committee, and Ajeet Bhagat, Chairman of the committee, have signed the memorandum. They stressed the urgency of these reforms to protect the rights and interests of the SC/ST/OBC communities and urged the government to take immediate action.

The memorandum highlights the ongoing struggles of marginalized communities in India and the need for protective measures to ensure their representation and participation in the country's political and judicial systems.

## Newly Built Flats for PM Package Employees in Baramulla crumbled after minor quake

Raising serious alarms over safety, resident employees resenting

Top News Report

BARAMULLA, Aug 21: In a shocking display of negligence, the recently constructed accommodation blocks for PM package employees in Baramulla, Kashmir, have revealed a catastrophic failure in structural integrity. The 20 blocks, each consisting of 16 flats, were officially allotted in September 2023, with employees taking possession in March 2024. However, less than a year after their completion, these buildings are already showing major cracks, particularly in 11 blocks, all of which have severe damage on the ground floors.

The devastating cracks were discovered following a minor earthquake that shook the region. Although the quake was of low magnitude, the damage inflicted on these newly constructed flats is alarming, raising serious concerns about the quality of construction. The employees, many of whom live with small children and elderly parents, now fear for their safety,

worrying that even a similar small tremor could lead to a disaster.

This situation is not just a lapse in construction but a blatant disregard for the safety and well-being of those who have been promised security and stability by the government. The PM package employees who relocated to these accommodations are now living in fear, deeply dissatisfied with the shoddy conditions they have been forced into. Beyond the dangerous cracks, the overall construction quality is appalling. Windows, window glasses, washrooms, and other essential fixtures are substandard and far from what was promised.

The external environment adds to their woes. The surrounding compound, lawns, and lanes are in a deplorable state, with frequent water logging during even the slightest rainfall, turning the area into a muddy, unlivable mess. These unacceptable conditions have sparked resentment among the employees, who have only been

residing there for the past 5-6 months but are already facing severe hardships.

This sorry state of affairs demands immediate action. There must be a high-level investigation into how such glaring defects could occur in new constructions, and urgent repairs must be undertaken to prevent a potential tragedy. It is time for the Union Territory administration and the Central Government to take responsibility and ensure that these employees, who have already sacrificed much, are provided with the safe and secure living conditions they deserve.

The current scenario not only reflects a failure in governance but also highlights the pressing need for accountability. Those responsible for this mess must be held to account, and immediate measures must be taken to restore the safety and dignity of the PM package employees in Baramulla. The lives and well-being of these families cannot be left to chance; the time for action is now.

## Aryans Management students shine in Aryans IKGPTU Results



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 21: Management students of Aryans Business School, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh, brought laurels to the college in the examinations conducted by Aryans under IK Gujral Punjab Technical University, Jalandhar.

In MBA, 2nd semester examination, Shivani bagged 1st position with 8.33 SGPA, Sandeep Kaur bagged 2nd position with 8.20 SGPA while Komalpreet & Gourav Singla bagged 3rd position with 7.60 SGPA.

Dr. Anurag Dhiman, Principal Aryans Group congratulated the students and faculty for the hard work. He said that Aryans students are doing



well not only in academics but in sports, innovations, cultural also. Such excellent results by the students add more name and fame to the College, added Dhiman.

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