

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Farhan Akhtar to release his new single Reach For The Stars on August 29



NATIONAL | 7

Shah to chair meet of 5 Maoist-hit states in Raipur on Aug 24

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Kamala Harris remembers her mother as she accepts Democratic Party's nomination



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BRIEFLY

Man dies of electrocution in Bandipora village

BANDIPORA, Aug 23 (Agencies): A man died due an electric shock in Ashtengoo Ghat village of north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Friday morning, officials said. An official said that the man received electric shock near his home in the Ashtengoo Ghat area this morning. He said that the man, identified as Javid Ahmad Mathanji son of Abdul Sataar Mathanji of Ashtengoo Ghat, was shifted to hospital where he was declared dead on arrival.

Police have taken cognisance of the matter and after medico-legal formalities body will be handed over to family.

No significant weather activity in J&K till Aug 31: MeT

SRINAGAR, Aug 23 (Agencies): Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Friday predicted no significant weather activity in Jammu and Kashmir till August 31. A MeT department said that from August 23rd to 25th there is nothing significant weather activity predicted, but brief spell of rain and thundershower at few places may occur.

Army man accidentally shoots himself in Doda

JAMMU, Aug 23 (Agencies): An army man died due to accidental firing in J&K's Doda, reports said Friday.

Reports said that the army man, identified as Vikas Raghav, was cleaning his rifle and suddenly the fired into his chest.

Raghav was referred to GMC Doda, where he died during the treatment, reports said.

Reports said he was a resident of Gurugram, Haryana.

Apni Party appoints Javid Sultan as in-charge for Lal Chowk constituency

SRINAGAR, Aug 23 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party on Friday appointed Javid Sultan Khan as Election in-charge for the Lal Chowk constituency, read an order from the party.

"As recommended by the District President Srinagar Mohammad Shafi Mir, Mr. Javid

Turn to page 9

14 killed as Indian passenger bus plunges into river in Nepal

29 passengers have been rescued from the bus

KATHMANDU (Nepal), Aug 23 (Agencies): Fourteen people were killed as an Indian-registered passenger bus plunged into the Marsyangdi river in central Nepal on Friday, according to media reports.

The bus from Gorakhpur was heading towards the capital Kathmandu from the resort town of Pokhara when it



drove off the highway in Aaina Pahara in Tanahun district.

At least 29 passengers have been rescued from the bus with the number

plate UP 53 FT 7623.

The bus was heading to Gorakhpur from Pokhara via Kathmandu.

At least 14 people were confirmed dead in the accident, the report said.

Information Officer at the District Police Office, Tanahu, Mohan Bahadur Khan, said 29 people had been sent to

Turn to page 9

Army arrests PoK resident and Lashkar-e-Taiba terror group guide in Poonch



JAMMU, Aug 23 (Agencies): A PoK resident and Lashkar-e-Taiba terror group guide identified as Zaher Hussein Shah has been

apprehended by the Indian Army in Poonch, confirmed police.

Earlier on Thursday, as part of efforts to thwart the Pakistan Army's

designs to revive terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian Army and other security agencies have redeployed troops and special forces in the higher reaches of areas south of Pir Panjal to carry out search and destroy operations.

The Indian Army and security forces have deployed more than 10 battalions and over 500 Special Forces operatives in the areas south of Pir Panjal range to

Turn to page 9

Article 370 abrogation will lead to BJP's defeat in Jammu Kashmir: CPI Leader

SRINAGAR, Aug 23 (Agencies): General Secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI), Doraisamy Raja, on Thursday said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana are likely to reject the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the upcoming elections.

Speaking at the CPI state conference in Hanamkonda, Telangana, Raja cited widespread discontent over the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and anger over the Modi government's agricultural laws in Haryana. Raja said that Jammu

and Kashmir residents remain opposed to the BJP rule and the removal of Article 370.

He also criticised the BJP-led Central government for its lack of support for Vinesh Phogat during the Paris Olympics, accusing the Centre of negligence

Turn to page 9

Consensus on some seats with Congress yet to be done: Omar

SRINAGAR, Aug 23 (Agencies): National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Friday said seat-sharing arrangement with the Congress has been finalised for a majority of assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir, and that parleys were underway to reach consensus over the remain-



ing constituencies.

The NC and Congress on Thursday announced a pre-poll alliance for the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, which is going to polls for the first time since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

"Consensus has been reached to a large

Turn to page 9

NC leader Sakina Itoo files nomination for Damhal Hanjipora seat



KULGAM, Aug 23 (Agencies): Senior National Conference leader Sakina Itoo Friday filed her nomination papers for Damhal Hanjipora assembly seat of south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

According to news agency (KNO), she was accompanied by former chief minister and National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah.

Sakina Itoo is being seen as one of the strongest candidates for

Turn to page 9

SC defers till Sept 5 hearing on Kejriwal's plea for Bail

NEW DELHI, Aug 23 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday deferred till September 5 hearing on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's pleas seeking bail and challenging the arrest by the CBI in the alleged excise policy scam. A bench of justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan allowed the CBI to file its counter affidavit in the matter and gave two



days' time to Kejriwal to file a rejoinder.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal,

said the CBI filed a counter affidavit in only one of the pleas and it was served upon them at 8 pm on Thursday. ASG SV Raju said they will file the counter in another plea in one week. The bench then posted the matter for further hearing on September 5. On August 14, the top court refused to grant interim bail to Kejriwal in the case and sought a

Turn to page 9

Cong leader dies in road accident on way back from Rahul Gandhi's function in Jammu



JAMMU, Aug 23 (Agencies): Senior Congress leader Shadi Lal

Pandita died in a road accident while returning from a function attended by party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in Jammu on Thursday evening.

The accident occurred near Sidhra as Pandita was returning to Jagti

Turn to page 9

MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

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

J&K Govt orders transfers, postings of several officers

SRINAGAR, Aug 23 (Agencies): Government of Jammu & Kashmir Friday ordered transfers and posting of several officers in the interest of administration with immediate effect.

As per the order, Mr. Parveez Ahmad Raina, JKAS, Additional District Development Commissioner, Budgam, is transferred and posted as Member J&K Special Tribunal (Srinagar Bench).

Mr. Ashiq Hussain Lily, JKAS, Member, J&K Special Tribunal (Srinagar Bench), is transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Budgam.

Mr. Murtaza Ahmad Sheikh, JKAS,

Turn to page 9

UTHALA/RASAM PARGI

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of **Late Sh Anant Ram Sharma (Ex Director All India Radio)** S/o Late Bankey Bihari Sharma.

Uthala will be performed on 24 Aug, 2024 at Panch Mandir, Channi Himmat from 5 to 6 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Smt. Chanchala Sharma - **Wife**
Sh. Dev Raj Sharma - **Brother**
Sisters
Smt. Yash Chandan & Smt. Padma Sharma
Sh. Sharat Sharma - **Son**
Son-in-law & Daughter
Sh. U.K. Sharma & Smt. Suman Sharma
Smt. Anuja Gupta - **Daughter**
Nephew & Daughter-in-law
Sh. Suresh & Smt. Shashi Sharma
Kashmir Export Import Company, Bankey Bihari Market
Mob.: 7006808200, 9622367331



LATE SH ANANT RAM SHARMA
(Ex Director All India Radio)

ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we announce the passing of **Sdr Kulwant Kaur** Wife of Late S. Kartar Singh R/o House No. 38, Lane 1, Sector 7, Narek 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 Ardass: 24-08-2024, 10.30 AM to 12 Noon at Gurudwara Sant Dana Sahib Narek Nagar

GRIEF STRICKEN

Curpreet 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 Manjeet 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

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Aular Krishan Koul** S/o Late Sh. Janki Nath Koul originally resident of Tankipora, Srinagar at present B-401, Apex Green Valley, Sector-9, Vaishali, Ghaziabad U.P. He left for heavenly abode on Monday (19-Aug-2024).
Cremination 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 & Ravita - **Grand Children**
Kouls, Thussu's & Dhar's
Tel: 981109835, 965438822



Sh. Aular Krishan Koul

FIFTH DAY WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED BROTHER IN LAW SH. ASHOK GUPTA H/O LATE SMT NEELAM GUPTA.

5TH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 24.8.24 AT 10AM AT LAKSHMI NARAIN MANDIR, GANDHI NAGAR, JAMMU.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

SH. RAVI KUMAR GUPTA & SMT. RENU GUPTA.
SH. SURINDER KUMAR GUPTA AND SMT NEERAJ GUPTA.
M:9419142557,9419173988, 9419153555,



SH. ASHOK GUPTA

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 Sangta
Mr Rachhpal Singh & Mrs Asha Kumari
Mr Rajinder Singh (Advocate) & Mrs Vandhana
Daughters & Son-in-laws
Mrs Shakuntia Devi & Romal Singh
Mrs Sneh Lata & Mr Rajinder Singh



Smt Bimla Devi

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, Panchkuta, 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

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Raj Kumari Goswami** W/o Lt. Sh. D.N. Goswami R/o H.No. 115/7, Trikuta Nagar Jammu.

10th Day shall be performed on Friday 23 Aug, 2024 at 10 AM at our residence H No. 115/7 Trikuta Nagar

Kriya shall be performed on Saturday 24 Aug at 12 Noon at our residence

Uthala shall be performed on Saturday 24 Aug from 4 to 5 PM at Panch Mandir, Sector 5&7 Trikuta Nagar.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Dasharna Kumari & Lt. Sh. Dr. K. N. Goswami
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Lt. Smt. Kanchan Bala & Sh. Navin Chander Sharma
Smt. Bhanu & Sh. Kulbhushan Dubey
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Smt. Rajni & Sh. Surinder Kumar Goswami
Lt. Smt. Raj & Sh. Ravinder Goswami
Smt. Sonia & Sh. Arun Goswami
Smt. Deepali and Sh. Dr. Sanjeev Goswami
Smt. Kritika and Sh. Sandeep Goswami
Grand Daughters & Grand Sons-in-law
Smt. Megha & Lt. Sh. Rajan Sharma
Smt. Isha & Sh. Vipul Sharma



Smt. Raj Kumari Goswami

Grand Son and Grand Daughter-in-law
Smt Nikita and Sh Neeraj Goswami
Grand Children: Simran, Palak & Diya
Contact No: 600589258, 9469366602, 9622870844

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform you untimely demise of **Smt. Veena Baboo** on 15th August 2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 24th August 2024 Saturday at Muthi Ghat, Jammu at 8:30 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

BABOO'S AND GURKHOO AND ALL NEAR AND DEAR ONES
9419148061, 9419162720



Smt. Veena Baboo

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Aular Krishan Kaul** S/o Late Samsar Chand Kaul originally resident of Achabal Anantnag on 19/08/24 at Dehradun Uttarakhand.

Mourning: Clo Aditya Kaul- Lane No 2, phase 1, New Garhwal Colony, Balawala, Dehradun, Land Mark Malsi Puliya.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Haridwar (Kashmiri Dhasmehala) on dated 28/08/24 at 10:00 AM.

IN GRIEF

Chandekanta Kaul (Jiji) - **Wife**
Ratna Kaul (Soni) - **Bhabhi**
Aditya Kaul & Anko (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Achala & Vikas Bhan (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
Amrita & Raman Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
(Sister & Brother in Law)
Suman Ji (Bubna) & Raj Nath Pandita
Mob: 7248110274, 9419891600



SH AUTAR KRISHAN KAUL

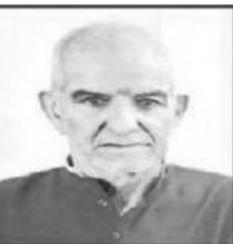
TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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)
Shibban Krishan Bhat & Vijay Kumari (9697519207)
Surinder Krishna Bhat & Renu Bhat (9419131577)
Sweety Bhat & Veer Ji Bhat
GRAND CHILDREN
Ashish Bhat & Shivani Koul Bhat (9906369296)
Rahul Bhat & Shivani Jhirkal Bhat (9667829941)
Deepshikha Bhat
Vikas Bhat & Priya Darshani Bhat
Amit Koul & Anisha Bhat Koul
Mayur Bhat & Priyanka Bhat
Saransh, Agastya, Vedaant, Divita, Devaansh & Vihaana



Shri Makhan Lal Bhat (Nagam)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our Mother **Smt Chunni Devi** W/o Late Sh. Baskar Nath Peer on 20th Aug originally from Vicharnagh Srinagar, A/p residing at H. No 717 Sector 9, Gurugram.

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 20th Aug 2024 at Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir T-Block, Phase I, Sector 109 New Palam Vihar Gurugram at 8.30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Shalije & Satish Wali- **Daughter & Son in Law**
Anil Peer & Nisha Peer- **Son & Daughter in Law**
Grand Children
Apo & Abhishek
Ananta & Rohit
Ishaan Peer
Aarav & Vasudha - **Great Grand Children**
And Samast Peer Parivar
MOBILE NO:
9910865717 (ANIL PEER)
8825075939 (SHANJEE)
9999281285 (NISHA PEER)



SMT CHUNNI DEVI

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. Balbhadar Pathak
Sudhir Pathak & 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, Ayaan, Tatiksha (**Grand Children**)
and all Sharma Family
Contact No:- 7006345180, 9149495939.



Sh. B.D Sharma (Retd. DGM)

OBITUARY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Avtar Krishen Koul** S/o Lt. Sh. Samsar Chand Koul, originally resident of Achabal Anantnag at present Dehradun (Uttarakhand) on dated 19/08/2024. We pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to your noble soul.

IN GRIEF

Bhabi & Brother
Smt. Ratna Koul W/o Lt. Mahraj Krishen Koul
Brother-in-law & Sister
Sh. Raj Nath Pandita & Smt. Krishna Pyari
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Sh. Kiran & Smt. Shagun Koul
Sh. Sarjey Koul & Smt. Meenakshi
Contact No.: 9906236587, 9419891600



Sh. Avtar Krishen Koul

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you untimely demise of **Sh Sahil Singh Jamwal** S/o Sh Rameshwar Singh Jamwal on 16 Aug 2024 (Friday).

Tenth Day will be performed on 25 Aug 2024 (Sunday) at 11 am at our residence VIII Guraah Singhu, PO: Shama Chak, Tehsil Marh, Distt Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Father
Sh Rameshwar Singh Jamwal (Mob.No. 9419753513)
Smt Sonia Jamwal - **Mother** -9797572124
Sister & Brother-in-law -9149726717



Sh Sahil Singh Jamwal

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YRS reiterates Statehood demand

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 23: Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) staged a protest to restore Statehood status to Jammu Kashmir. The protest was staged at Maharaja Hari Singh Statue near Tawi Bridge Jammu on Friday. The main demand of YRS is While holding National Flag and YRS flags into their hands and YRS raised slogans "Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Jai Jammu Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh Ji Amar Rahe, Restore Statehood and We want our rights". Team YRS members led by President Vikram Singh Vicky along with Former President Rajan Singh Happy and Core committee members and stakeholders started protest in front of Maharaja Sahab Statue and Vikram said that Central Administration to fulfill their promise of Restoration of



Statehood and Empower Vocal For Local in J&K and gave our political and fundamental rights to the people of J&K.

Vikram also expressed their views regarding upcoming assembly elections in J&K, and briefed that YRS is a non political organizations and therefore will not contest upcoming election.

Meanwhile Vikram also put a question on political parties regarding Rajput and Dogra Community, in which he demanded that political parties should highlight the issues faced by Rajput and Dogra Community in J&K and put their expectations and demand on their upcoming election manifesto.

Rajan Singh Happy also said that J&K is princely state and J&K is never ruled by any outsider at the time of Dogra Rulers but unfortunately it's very painful to mention that after 1947 ruling parties always neglect the contributions of Dogra Community and same was done by BJP Govt. in August 2019 as they

demolished J&K State into UT.

Rajan also said that same condition and behavior of Central Administration is today as before 2019 as Higher authorities always visit firstly and gave priority to Kashmir and neglect Dogras but Dogras always gave their service to Nation and according to scenario of elections Dogra always vote for the betterment and development of Nation as Jammu gave mandate to BJP for last few elections.

Team YRS appealed people to unite and fight for our rights and betterment of J&K and briefs that Central Administration fulfil their demands before 23rd September Maharaja Hari Singh birth anniversary and paid tribute to Maharaja Sahab otherwise YRS started their agitation after the celebrating Maharaja Sahab birth anniversary.

Assembly election phase 1st: Anantnag district ready for polls, over 6.67 lakh votes across 7 constituencies

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 23 (Agencies): With the announcement of Assembly Elections 2024, Anantnag District is gearing up for the first phase of the Elections with 6.67 lakh electorates are readying themselves to exercise their franchise on the scheduled polling day.

The district comprises of seven Assembly Constituencies viz Dooru, Kokernag (ST), Anantnag West, Anantnag, Srigufwara-Bijbehara, Shangus-Anantnag East and Pahalgam with 6,67,781 electorates which includes 3,36,185 males, 3,31,592 females, and 4 transgender voters.

A comprehensive network of 844 polling stations has been established by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to accommodate voters across the district. These include 61 special polling stations, 33 model stations, 4 green stations, 7 pink stations, 7 stations

for persons with disabilities (PWD), 1 youth polling station, and 9 unique stations.

AC 41-Dooru has 1,16,749 voters (59,052 males, 57,695 females and 2 transgender) with 152 polling stations (18 urban and 134 rural). Likewise, AC 42-Kokernag (ST) includes 91,280 voters (46,840 males, 44,439 females and 01 transgender) with 123 polling stations (5 urban and 118 rural).

The largest in terms of electorates in the district is AC 43-Anantnag West, having 1,26,006 voters (63,281 males, 62,724 females and 01 transgender) with 146 polling stations (25 urban and 121 rural).

Similarly, AC 44-Anantnag contains 61,070 voters (30,645 males, 30,425 females) with 70 polling stations (43 urban and 27 rural). AC 45-Srigufwara-Bijbehara, is having 1,02,081 voters (50,728 males, 51,353 females) with 125 polling stations (16 urban and

109 rural).

For AC 46-Shangus-Anantnag East, 100,902 voters (50,656 males, 50,246 females) will exercise their right for which 127 polling stations (19 urban and 108 rural) have been established.

In AC 47-Pahalgam, there are 69,693 voters (34,983 males, 34,710 females) with 101 polling stations (12 urban and 89 rural).

The last date for filing nomination papers is August 27, 2024, until 3:00 PM.

The scrutiny of nominations for the seven Assembly constituencies of Anantnag District will take place in the respective Returning Officers' offices on August 28, 2024. The last date for the withdrawal of candidature is August 30, 2024.

The polling for the first phase of the electoral process is scheduled for September 18, 2024.

Polling will be conducted from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM on the scheduled day.

In a first, SSB personnel posted in GMC Jammu for safety of medical staff

JAMMU, Aug 23 (Agencies): The Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu has become the first health facility in the country to have armed forces for the security of medical staff. Before this, the West Bengal government had said it would recruit personnel from police, army, navy, and air force for hospital security.

However, GMC Jammu is the first health facility in the country where the armed forces have been deployed.

The move has come following the rape and murder of a female doctor in western city of Kolkata

which stirred people and governments across the country, demanding justice for the victim and the protection for medical workers in the country's hospitals.

As per reports, personnel from Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) have been deployed in the emergency section of the hospital. Reports said, for now there are 10-personnel, but the number may rise to 30 in the near future.

Reports also suggest, that the deployment of armed personnel would be extended to other hospitals in Jammu region.

Indian to land on Moon in 2040, announces Dr Jitendra

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Aug 23: In a momentous celebration marking the first-ever National Space Day, Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh announced here on Friday that an Indian will land on the surface of Moon, fifteen years from now, in the year 2040.

Addressing the nation in the august presence of President of India Droupadi Murmu, Dr Jitendra Singh reflected on India's remarkable achievements in Space exploration and its ambitious future goals in a majestic programme held at Bharat Mandapam.

Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted the historic landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon's South Pole, a feat that astonished the world and established India as a leader in space exploration.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Minister recalled, had announced that August 23rd, 2023 would be celebrated nationwide as National Space Day, and the landing site of Chandrayaan-3 would be named 'Shiv Shakti Point.' The theme for this inaugural celebration, "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga," resonated throughout the event.

"In the last six decades, India has not only touched the lives of its citizens but also reached the Moon," said Dr. Jitendra Singh. He emphasized the significant progress made in the past decade, including the successful Mars Orbiter Mission,

the launch of AstroSat, Chandrayaan-2, and Chandrayaan-3, the upcoming Aditya-L1 solar mission, and the XPoSat, an X-Ray astronomy mission.

Dr. Jitendra Singh traced India's Space journey beginning only 55 years back in 1969 when the US astronaut Neil Armstrong had already set his foot on the Moon. He lauded the scientific community for their unwavering dedication, which culminated in India becoming the first nation to land on the Moon's South Pole.

The Minister of State for Space credited the policy support and leadership provided by Prime Minister Modi since 2014 for accelerating scientific missions and unlocking the potential of India's scientific community. He also noted the significant increase in Space startups, now numbering nearly 300, following the opening of the Space sector to private participation. He echoed the Finance Minister's projection that India's space economy will grow from \$8 billion to \$44 billion in the next decade.

Dr. Jitendra Singh praised PM Modi for "unshackling" the space sector and making it more accessible to the public, as evidenced by the over 5,000 spectators and nearly 1,000 media personnel who witnessed the Chandrayaan-3 launch live at Sriharikota. Looking ahead, Dr. Jitendra Singh outlined the Space Vision 2047, which includes the commissioning of the Bharati-

ya Antariksha Station (BAS) by 2035 and Indian astronauts landing on the Moon by 2040. He expressed confidence that what begins with human spaceflight in Low Earth Orbit will expand to India's own scientific activities onboard an indigenous space station, leading to further lunar exploration and beyond.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted India's end-to-end capabilities in Space transportation, platforms, and ground stations were highlighted as a key aspect of the country's self-reliance in the space sector. Dr. Singh also underscored the impact of space applications on sectors such as fisheries, agriculture, natural resource management, disaster management, and satellite communication, which have all benefited from India's space advancements.

As the nation celebrates its first National Space Day, Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed confidence that this annual event will inspire greater awareness and enthusiasm among citizens about India's space journey and its future endeavours.

Vijay Bakaya condoles passing away of Shadi Lal Pandita Seeks probe into the road accident, arrest of accused



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 23: Apni Party General Secretary, Vijay Bakaya has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the passing away of a prominent voice of migrant Kashmiri Pandits, Shadi Lal Pandita. Pandita lost his life in a road accident at Sidhra, yesterday.

In his message, following a condolence meeting at the Apni Party office, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, the Former MLC, and

General Secretary of the Party, Vijay Bakaya grieved over the loss of prominent leader and social activist, Shadi Lal Pandita Ji.

"His work for the community's upliftment, and their welfare would be remembered. His untimely demise has shocked the community members," said Bakaya in his message, while asserting that his passing away has created a void in the society that would be hard to fulfill.

Meanwhile, he prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul, and strength to the bereaved family members to bear this irreparable loss.

On behalf of the Party, he expressed his solidarity with the bereaved family members, and extended all possible support to the victim family members of Shadi Lal Pandita Ji.

The condolence meeting was also attended by the other leaders of the migrant Kashmiri Pandits.

High Court asks J&K Waqf Board to consider pension plea of 40 ex-employees

SRINAGAR, Aug 23 (Agencies): The Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has issued notices to J&K's Commissioner Secretary Revenue, chairperson and chief executive officer of J&K Waqf Board on a petition alleging that the Board has not been sanctioning the pension of retired employees.

The 40 employees who retired after BJP leader Darakshan Andrabi was appointed as the chairperson of J&K Waqf Board have not been getting pension, the petition alleged.

Justice Sanjay Dhar issued notice to the respondents "subject to taking of necessary steps by the petitioners within one week."

"In the meantime, the respondents shall consider the processing of

case of the petitioners for grant of pension on the analogy of similarly situated employees," the Court said, posting the matter for next hearing on October 7.

The petitioners pleaded that the Supreme court has laid down that the right to pension is a right to property guaranteed under Constitution and infringement of the same amounts to violation of human rights.

"The petitioners in order to vindicate their grievances submitted detailed representation, however, the said representation has also not been disposed of in accordance with law as a result thereof the petitioners' rights guaranteed under Article 14, 21 & 300-A of the Constitution have also been infringed," the petition read.

GDC Ramgarh organizes Poster Making Competition under SVEEP

Top News Report

RAMGARH, Aug 23: Electoral Literacy Club of GDC Ramgarh organized a poster making competition under the aegis of Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) to inculcate constitutional obligations and to encourage students to uphold democratic traditions of the country. The whole event was conducted under the guidance and supervision of the Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra.

In her address, the Principal of the college appreciated the participating students for taking a keen interest in such activities. She said students must be aware of their Right to Vote which is a potent tool in democracy besides knowing their fundamental rights and duties enshrined in

the Constitution of India. She also appealed to all the students to cast their precious votes.

The whole programme was organised by Prof. Sandeep Kumari HoD, Education and SVEEP Nodal Officer. The competition was interesting and colourful as the participants made vibrant and thoughtful posters. All the faculty members and students of the college enthusiastically witnessed the performance and promised to cast their votes in the upcoming elections.

The competition was judged by an esteemed panel comprising Dr. Snobar and Dr. Shivali Panjotra. Harmandeep Kour of semester III, Jagmeet Kour of semester V secured first and second position respectively. The third position was shared by Tamana and Meena of semester

Assembly Elections: Govt announces poll dates as paid holidays in J&K

SRINAGAR, Aug 23 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday announced the election dates - September 18, 15, and October 1st - on which assembly polls are scheduled to be held as paid holidays in the Union Territory.

In an order, the government stated that in terms of Section 135-B of the Representation of People Act, 1951, the poll dates be observed as paid holidays to every person employed in any business, trade, industrial undertaking or any other establishment and entitled to vote in his/her respective assembly constituencies.

It said that no deduction or abatement of the wages of any such person shall be made on account of a holiday having been granted in accordance with sub-section (1).

It further said that if an employer contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), then such employer should be penalised with a fine of Rs 100.

Assembly election in J&K are scheduled to be held in three phases, with first phase being held on September 18, second on September 25 and third phase on October 1. The results will be declared on October 4.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION REASI
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 24 of 2024-25 Dated 21-08-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, c-tenders are invited on Item Rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors/Caterer for the following works/Supply:-

S. No	Name of Work	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Class of Contractor
1	Supply and installation of various items including catering of consumable items in context of upcoming Legislative Assembly Elections 2024 in respect of 57-Reasi (Catering Contract)	600/-	10000/-	Caterer

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

1	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	22-08-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 22-08-2024 to 29-08-2024, 1600 Hrs.
4	Bid submission Start Date	22-08-2024
5	Bid submission End Date	29-08-2024 upto 1600 Hrs.
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	30-08-2024 on or after 1200 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Reasi.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Reasi.**
- The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The bid of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division, Reasi.

No:-3056-70
Dated:-21-08-2024

SD/-
(**Er. Bhopinder Kumar Banotra**) Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Reasi

DIP/J-4695/24

EDITORIAL

AVOID JUNK FOOD

Junk food, characterized by its high levels of sugar, unhealthy fats, and empty calories, has become a staple in modern diets. While convenient and often delicious, the consumption of junk food poses significant risks to our health. Avoiding junk food is not just a choice—it's a critical step towards improving overall well-being and preventing long-term health issues.

Junk food is notoriously high in calories but low in essential nutrients. This imbalance can lead to a range of health problems. The most immediate impact is weight gain, which is a major risk factor for obesity. Obesity itself is linked to a host of serious conditions, including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and certain types of cancer. The high levels of sugar found in sodas, candies, and other sweet treats can cause spikes in blood sugar, leading to insulin resistance over time. This condition can eventually develop into diabetes, a chronic disease that affects millions of people worldwide.

Unhealthy fats, particularly trans fats and saturated fats, are prevalent in junk food. These fats increase bad cholesterol (LDL) while lowering good cholesterol (HDL), leading to clogged arteries and an increased risk of heart disease and stroke. Additionally, the excessive salt content in many junk foods can contribute to high blood pressure, further increasing the risk of heart disease.

Beyond these physical health issues, the consumption of junk food has been linked to mental health problems. Studies suggest that diets high in processed foods are associated with an increased risk of depression and anxiety. The lack of essential nutrients like omega-3 fatty acids, which are crucial for brain health, may contribute to these mental health issues.

The convenience of junk food often leads to poor eating habits. Fast food and packaged snacks are designed to be consumed quickly, encouraging overeating. The addictive nature of the high sugar and fat content can make it difficult to moderate intake, leading to a cycle of unhealthy eating patterns. Over time, reliance on junk food can diminish the taste for natural, whole foods, making it harder to maintain a balanced diet.

Furthermore, the consumption of junk food is often associated with a sedentary lifestyle. Fast food chains are ubiquitous in urban areas, and their affordability and convenience make them an easy option for people with busy schedules. However, the lack of physical activity combined with a diet high in junk food exacerbates the risk of obesity and related health issues.

Avoiding junk food can lead to immediate and long-term health benefits. One of the most noticeable effects is weight loss or weight maintenance. By cutting out high-calorie, nutrient-poor foods, you reduce your overall calorie intake and give your body the opportunity to burn stored fat. This can lead to improved energy levels, better sleep, and enhanced physical performance.

Moreover, a diet free of junk food supports better cardiovascular health. Replacing unhealthy fats with sources of healthy fats, such as those found in nuts, seeds, and fish, can improve cholesterol levels and reduce the risk of heart disease. Reducing salt intake also helps to manage blood pressure, further protecting the heart.

Mental health also benefits from a junk food-free diet. Whole foods like fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins provide the brain with the nutrients it needs to function optimally. This can lead to improved mood, better focus, and a lower risk of depression and anxiety.

Successfully avoiding junk food requires planning and commitment. Start by educating yourself about the ingredients and nutritional content of the foods you eat. Opt for whole, unprocessed foods whenever possible. Preparing meals at home allows you to control the ingredients and avoid hidden sugars, unhealthy fats, and excessive salt.

Incorporating more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains into your diet can help reduce cravings for junk food. These foods are rich in fiber, which promotes a feeling of fullness and reduces the likelihood of overeating. Drinking plenty of water and staying hydrated also helps manage hunger and reduce the temptation to reach for sugary drinks or snacks.

Finally, practice mindful eating. Pay attention to what you eat, how much you eat, and why you eat. Avoid eating out of boredom or stress, and focus on nourishing your body with wholesome, nutritious foods.

Avoiding junk food is a crucial step towards a healthier lifestyle. By making conscious choices about what we eat, we can protect our physical and mental health, establish better eating habits, and enjoy the long-term benefits of a well-balanced diet. The effort to avoid junk food may seem challenging at first, but the rewards are well worth it.

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 - Claude Arpi | China's 'salami' warfare big danger to Himalayas 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 - Dilip Cheria | IPS officers foul amid move to induct IRS into CBI Notwithstanding the repeated attempts to woo tribals (about eight per cent of the population), 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 81.3 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 - K.C. Singh | PM's Mission Kyiv bid for belated strategic balance? 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 Democrat-

ic 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 - Aakar Patel | After PM's talk of a secular civil code, can govt publish a draft? 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.

China's 'salami' warfare big danger to Himalayas

By: Claude Arpi

The planet is being churned; and wherever one looks, one sees natural and unnatural (mostly man-made) disasters. It is not only the multiple landslides that occurred in six villages of Wayanad district of Kerala on July 30, but the entire Himalayan belt is disturbed. In Wayanad, heavy rains triggered the collapse of hillsides, resulting in torrents of mud, water and boulders cascading down into the valley. Similarly in the Himalayas, particularly in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand or Arunachal Pradesh, tragic incidents such as these are taking place. Also Read - Dilip Cheria | IPS officers foul amid move to induct IRS into CBI Advertisement In most of the cases, wild development activities have resulted in these mishaps. For example, in Himachal Pradesh, some environmental activists told the Down To Earth magazine that "most incidents of natural disasters that occurred in Himachal Pradesh during the last one year happened around some power (dams) or national highway project". In Uttarakhand, wild construction, not taking into account the capacity of the mountains to sustain new roads, new hotels and millions of tourists, has been one of the factors triggering one tragedy after another. Also Read - K.C. Singh | PM's Mission Kyiv bid for belated strategic balance? One basic fact has been forgotten: that mountains are fragile. Flying over the Himalayan range, one has the impression that the snow-covered ranges and high peaks are massive and seemingly-impenetrable mountains; however, on the ground, the Himalayas are in grave danger. For millennia the Himalayan passes have been crisscrossed by adventurers, pilgrims, traders, monks or holy men looking for a mythic paradise upon earth,

or simply good business; however, through all that time the environment was not disturbed. Also Read - Sanjeev Ahluwalia | Is Modi mania waning? A reality check for govt Another factor has to be taken into consideration is the militarisation of the Himalayan range, and for this India cannot be held responsible. The finger must be pointed clearly at our northern neighbour. For centuries, life went on as usual, but in 1950 the troops of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) marched into Tibet. The military balance of the peaceful plateau as well as the ecological equilibrium quickly started to change. Also Read - Aakar Patel | After PM's talk of a secular civil code, can govt publish a draft? During the following years, thousands of Tibetans managed to escape their colonised land and take refuge to India; it included the Dalai Lama, Tibet's religious and temporal leader, who arrived in India in 1959. Then came October 1962, when Chinese troops attacked India on the Himalayan slopes; from the arid Ladakh region in the west to the dense forests in the north-west, the PLA marched into Indian territory. The conflict was short, just one month, but violent. More than 60 years after the event, it is still deeply engraved in the Indian psyche. It had incalculable consequences for the mountains and though the passes were closed, trade and pilgrimage routes stopped and communications were cut between northern India and the Tibetan plateau. India now had a bully instead of a friend as a neighbour. At the beginning, very few worried about the environment and even less about climate change. But the Chinese occupation slowly started to have disastrous consequences for the Himalayan ecology. Today, it is not only India who is under threat of the Chinese "salami tactics" (taking over a few kilometres of ter-

ritory at a time). On August 23, 2023, China released a new "standard map". The map included Taiwan and parts of the maritime zones of the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Indonesia, and Malaysia. It added the tenth dash to its existing nine-dash line claim in the South China Sea... and of course Arunachal Pradesh and the Aksai Chin area. Interestingly, the map included the small Bolshoy Ussuriysky island, though in 2005, Russia and China had agreed that the island would be split in half and the border would run in its centre. On May 17, 2024, the South China Morning Post in an opinion piece said that "China must act fast to reclaim 'lost territories' from Russia". A hundred years ago, a treaty between the then USSR and China had abolished the so-called Czarist unequal treaties, it noted, and said: "Now, with Russian President Vladimir Putin bogged down in the Ukraine war, it may be the best time for Beijing." Another recent example of Chinese aggressiveness, from August 2 to 4, some Japanese fighter planes had to scramble to cope with an intrusion into Japanese airspace over the Sea of Okhotsk, the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Examples could be multiplied. India, like several other countries, has no alternative but to defend itself. As a result, the Himalayas have become one of the most militarised regions in the world. Despite several bilateral agreements between India and China, in May 2020, China started practicing "salami" slicing in five different areas of Ladakh, the high plateau in north-western India. Why open new fronts in that arid mountain desert? Many believe that one general, in search of promotion, had suggested some "small" operation to President Xi Jinping. These few kilometres here and there would give strategic depth to the PLA.

India reacted swiftly, at the cost of spending four winters at 15,000 feet, often with temperatures at minus 40 degrees Celsius. Each army has today between 60,000 and 70,000 troops posted at the Line of Actual Control (LAC). China and India then began to frenetically develop the infrastructure on their respective sides. The immediate collateral damage was to the environment; this is compounded by climate change and wild tourism development. On July 25, India's external affairs minister S. Jaishankar met China's foreign minister Wang Yi. Mr Jaishankar underlined the need for "full respect" of the LAC; ultimately, both sides agreed on giving "strong guidance for disengagement". It is, however, doubtful that it will translate in troops reduction on the ground. The degradation of the Himalayan environment is obviously due to several other factors too, but the militarisation triggered by China's hegemonic tendencies has brought incalculable harm to the fragile eco-system. A solution had been proposed by the Dalai Lama in 1989 in his Five-Point Peace Plan: the whole of Tibet, including the eastern provinces of Kham and Amdo, should be transformed into a zone of "Ahimsa", meaning a state of peace and non-violence. Unfortunately, this dream seems much more distant today than 35 years ago; when the Dalai Lama had explained: "The establishment of a peace zone in Tibet would require the withdrawal of Chinese troops and military installations from the country, which would enable India also to withdraw troops and military installations from the Himalayan regions bordering Tibet." A "Zone of Ahimsa" would be a great boon for the Himalayan environment, but for the time being, it may remain a dream.

GGM Science College Jammu celebrates National Space Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 23: GGM Science College Jammu organized an enrichment lecture on National Space Day on Friday, highlighting the remarkable achievements of Indian scientists in space exploration.

The event was arranged under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of the College, and witnessed the enthusiastic participation of over a hundred students and staff members besides senior faculty Dr. Narinder Kumar and Dr. Rahul.

The highlight of the event was an in-depth lecture delivered by Prof. Suresh Sharma from the Physics Department of the College. Prof. Sharma's talk provided



valuable insights into National Space Day and celebrated the significant contributions of Indian scientists to space exploration. His presentation not only shed light on past achievements but also inspired the audience to appreciate the advancements and future possibilities in the realm of space science. Dr Sharma, highlighted

the vision of India's space program, lunar mission, the configuration of Chandrayaan-3, the science behind the technology of Chandrayaan-3 etc.

Dr. Suresh Sharma towards the end of his lecture stressed the importance of teaching space science as a way to promote creativity and advance the nation. He

highlighted the exciting opportunities that await the children as future ISRO scientists and advised them to pursue careers in space exploration.

Earlier the program commenced with a warm welcome from Dr. Ashaq Hussain, who provided a brief introduction to the event and its significance, there by setting

the stage for the informative session that followed.

In his welcome address, Dr. Hussain added that Scientists of our country have not only reached for the moon, but have also lowered the stars into the hearts of every Indian.

Dr. Anshu Sawhney Convener of the committee acknowledged and lauded the efforts of the College Committee for Seminars, comprising Dr. Ashaq Hussain, Dr. Shalini Sharma, Dr. Neha Mahajan, Dr. Arun Kumar, Dr. Nisha Sharma and Dr. Rohit Bhardwaj who played a pivotal role in arranging this informative and impactful lecture.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Dr. Shalini Sharma, expressing gratitude to all attendees and contributors.

Ajeet Bhagat calls for rejection of BJP in upcoming Assembly Elections

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Aug 23: Ajeet Bhagat, a senior leader and spokesperson for the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference in the Chenab Valley Zone, has strongly criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for its performance over the past decade.

During an address in Kishtwar, Bhagat pointed out that the BJP has failed to deliver on its promises, leading to widespread discontent across the region.

Bhagat highlighted the rising unemployment rates and the skyrocketing cost of living as key failures of the BJP



government.

He expressed concern that even highly educated individuals, including those with degrees such as MA, MSc, BSc, BEd, MEd, B Tech, and M Tech, are being forced to take up labor work on the streets due to a lack of job opportunities.

He attributed this dire

situation to the "wrong policies" of the BJP.

Bhagat further accused BJP leaders in Kishtwar District of favoritism, alleging that they have only provided employment opportunities to their close associates in the region's hydroelectric power projects, while neglecting the needs of the general population.

In light of these issues, Bhagat urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to reject the BJP in the upcoming state legislative assembly elections, advocating for a change in leadership that he believes will better address the needs of the region.

Vir Savarkar Hr. Sec. Basohli dominates inter-school zonal level tournament



Top News Report

KATHUA, Aug 23: The Basohli Zone organized an inter-school zonal level tournament on Friday, under the guidance of DYSSO Kathua, Sunil Singh Sambyal, at the GMHSS Basohli premises.

The event, super-

vised by Incharge ZPEO Basohli, Tara Singh, was inaugurated by the Vice Principal of GMHSS Basohli.

Competitions were held in Volleyball, Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Wrestling, Table Tennis, Chess, and Badminton for boys, with a total of 83 participants. In the Kabaddi match,

Vir Savarkar Hr. Sec. Basohli defeated GMHSS Basohli by 4 points. Vir Savarkar Hr. Sec. Basohli also emerged victorious in Volleyball and Badminton, winning both by 2 sets. The tournament highlighted the students' talent and competitive spirit, contributing to the promotion of sports in the region.

GDC Kathua celebrates National Space Day

Top News Report

KATHUA, Aug 23: In honour of India's maiden National Space Day-2024 with the theme "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's space Saga", the Department of Physics, Govt. Degree College (GDC), Kathua has organized an education-



al quiz competition.

The event aimed at fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of space science among the students.

The principal of the college, Prof. Seema Mir encouraged the students to participate in such type of activities which increase their curiosity in scientific pursuits and are of great importance for their future.

The in-sights of the event were highlighted by Dr. Dinesh Jasrotia, Head of the department.

The National Space Day has been celebrated at GDC, Kathua to unfold the India's

remarkable achievements in space, profound benefits to the society and boundless opportunities for people from all walks of life.

The event technicalities were legitimated by Prof. Ravinder Kour, IQAC, Coordinator, Prof. Rakesh Sharma, Convener and Dr. Neeraj Gupta,

Co-convener of the programme. Around hundred students of Physics Department participated in "National Space Day Quiz" with the aims to ignite curiosity and deepen their knowledge in space exploration and India's remarkable achievements and contributions in space science.

The event was organized under the mentorships of Dr. Ahsan Elahi, Prof. Ajay Sharma and Dr. Daya Ram of the physics department. The successful participants received the certificates of participation digitally signed by the Chairman, ISRO.

SPPND GDC Samba organises Creative Banner-Making Competition



Top News Report

SAMBA, Aug 23: The Pravaad Electoral Literacy Club of Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Government Degree College Samba organised Banner Making Competition on the theme "Greater Participation for Stronger Democracy."

Held under the expert guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Principal of the college, the event engaged students in a dynamic exploration of electoral participation and voter engagement.

The banners, which were displayed in the college Resource Centre, showcased a diverse

range of artistic expressions and poignant messages.

The displayed works effectively captured the essence of the theme, highlighting how increased voter participation can lead to a more robust and representative democracy.

A panel of judges, consisting of Dr. Raman-deep Kaur, HoD Home Science and Prof. Renu Rajput, Convener, Vocational & Skill Committee evaluated the entries based on creativity, thematic relevance, and overall impact. Sonali Sharma from Semester V secured first place, Saroj Kumari from Semester

V bagged second place, and Pratibha Salaria from Semester V won third place in the competition.

Principal of the college remarked, "Our goal was to harness the creativity of our students to generate powerful messages about the significance of voter participation. It is through such creative endeavours that we can make democratic processes more engaging and accessible."

The competition not only provided a creative outlet for students but also served as a powerful platform to emphasize the importance of voting and civic responsibility.

Dilshad urges people of Pir Panjal region to end caste barriers in Assembly Election

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 23: Social activist, Advocate Dilshad Qadri has issued a clarion call to the people of Pir Panjal, urging them to seize the opportunity in the upcoming elections to dismantle the caste barriers that have long hindered the region's progress.

Speaking out strongly against the divisive tactics employed by political leaders, Qadri highlighted how caste-based hatred and division have been used to influence voters, keeping the community divided and stalling meaningful development.

Advocate Dilshad said that "Every election,



political leaders have manipulated caste as a central agenda, turning it into the biggest obstacle to our collective progress. Development has never been their priority. Instead, they have sown seeds of division, exploiting caste differences to secure power."

He called upon the youths and the people of Mendhar sub-division in

particular to rise above these divisions. He emphasized that now is the time for unity, urging the electorate to reject the politics of hatred and division.

He said, "The youths and the people of Pir-panjal region rise above these barriers and fight for their rights by electing deserving candidates in this election." "We must come together to ensure that our future is built on equality, justice, and true development," said qadri.

Qadri's message resonates with a broader movement towards social justice in Pir Panjal, calling for an end to outdated and harmful practices that have long held the region back.

GDC Boys Udhampur celebrates National Space Day

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Aug 23: India had successfully landed its Chandrayan 3 Vikram lander on the Lunar South Pole region on August 23, 2023. To commemorate this feat every year August 23 has been declared as "National Space Day" by the Government of India.

In this regard, Science Club of GDC Udhampur celebrated the National Space Day on Friday with the aim to engage and inspire the youth of the College towards Space Technology and its application. The event started with the Documentary session on "Chandrayan 3, journey to the Moon". This was followed by



a lecture on the theme "Touching lives while touching the Moon: India's space saga".

The resource person for the talk was Dr Anita Sharma, Associate Professor, Department of Physics. She talked on India's remarkable achievements in space,

profound benefits to the society and boundless opportunities for people from all walks of life to engage with Indian Space Programme. An interactive session of the speaker with the students highlighted the keen interests and queries of the students for Space technology and information.

The audience also witnessed the main event live streaming from Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Dr Sanjay Verma, Principal, GDC Udhampur congratulated all on this occasion and said that organizing such events

in the educational institutions will definitely create more interest among students for space technology and will inspire youth towards the application part of space information and technology.

The programme was organized by Science Club and Department of Physics of GDC Udhampur. The members who were present in the event were Prof Shobhna Sambyal (Convener Science Club), Prof Suresh Dogra (HOD Physics), Dr Sukh Chain, Dr Anita Sharma, Dr Gurpreet Kour, Dr. Neena Sharma, Dr Jagjeet Singh, Prof Jyoti Sharma, Dr Bandana Mazal, Dr Richa Sharma, Dr Jasmeet Kour, Prof Asha Sohil.

Sanskrit Week concludes in Central Sanskrit University



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 23: Sanskrit Week celebrations were successfully concluded at Central Sanskrit University, Shri Ranbir Campus, Jammu.

During this week long program from August 16 and August 23, various events were organized in the context of Sanskrit and culture. Chief Guest, Dr. Sanjeev Gupta, Orthopedic Specialist of Government Medical College, Jammu expressed his views on the current status of Sanskrit language.

He said that Sanskrit is the most ancient language which makes humans understand humanity. Special Guest Miss Sujata Khara, Manager of State Bank of India, Kot Branch said that Sanskrit enhances our values.

In his Presidential address, acting Director of the campus, Prof. Satish Kumar Kapoor said that Sanskrit is our heritage which we should be proud forever to speak about and put into practice. Along with this, he also emphasized the role of Sanskrit in maintaining human qualities and intimacy in life.

The closing ceremony was started by lighting the lamp by the guests. Dr. Anay Mani Tripathi of Veda Department reverently did the invocation.

Dr. Rajkumar Mishra welcomed the guests and presented the report of Sanskrit Week in front of the audience. He said that Sanskrit songs, shlokas, subhashit recitation, essay writing, quiz and speech, painting competitions, etc were organized for the students. Prizes were distributed to the

winning students in various competitions in the valedictory program. Himachali Nati dance was also presented by the students of the Education Department of the campus.

On this occasion, Dr. Rishiraj, Dr. Pramod Kumar Shukla, Dr. Madan Kumar, Dr. Shweta Sood, Dr. Sarvesh Tripathi, Kamal Kishore, Dr. Naveen Tiwari, Maninder Singh, Dr. Praveen Mani Tripathi, Dr. Vipin Bihari Dubey, Dr. Sujit Pandey, Dr. Prakash Chandra Yadav, Dr. Ashish Kumar, campus employees and students were present. Technical support in the program was provided by Dr. Vivek Bharti, Akhil Sharma, Tirupati Bala and Manoj Abrol.

Vote of thanks was given by Dr. Yogendra Dixit. The program was conducted efficiently by Dr. Harishankar Pandey.

Three cheers!

Punjabi action film *Gandhi 3* is set for a release and the cast is upbeat about the subject inspired by a real-life character

The third film of Punjabi action film franchise *Gandhi* is creating a lot of buzz ever since its announcement. As the trailer is out, the makers and actors declared that making the third outing was no less than taking an exam and when it will be out on August 30, it's the masses who will declare the result!

Actor Dev Kharoud, at a press conference held at Wyndham, Mohali Club, shared, "Many perhaps know me as Gandhi than my real name! The film broke the notion that only singer-turned-actors can give a blockbuster at the box-office. Moreover, the film was inspired by a real-life character."

Dev has been a part of many biographical action films, such as *Dakuan Da Munda* (1 and 2) and *Maurh*. The latter, released in 2023, was the story of Kishna and Jeona Maurh.



He shared how the biggest challenge was to make biographies and not look repetitive. "I think to be able to make each real-life character different from the other is really important.

So, if *Gandhi* and *Kishna* are two people fighting against the system in two different timelines, with *Daakuan Da Munda* franchise I had played two people, Mintu Gursariya and Manga

Singh Antal, in two parts, who might be drug addicts but their stories were different."

Dev confessed that his role in the first part of *Gandhi* franchise, directed by Tam Mann, was a bit loud. "I was new to the industry. I was a director's actor and followed his instructions. Also, I had not known the person or his stories. It was only after the first film became a hit that friends and people in Patiala approached me to share stories about the real person."

The film has been directed by Mandeep Benipal, with whom Kharoud has collaborated in *DSP Dev* and *Daakuan Da Munda 1 and 2*. The cast of *Gandhi 3* also includes Lakhwinder Chahl, Navdeep Kaler, Lucky Dhaliwal, Daksh Ajit Singh, Karamjit Brar, Rajesh Kumar, Aditi Aarya, among others.

Farhan Akhtar to release his new single Reach For The Stars on August 29



Filmmaker-actor-singer Farhan Akhtar is all set to release his upcoming single titled *Reach For The Stars*

on August 29. Farhan took to Instagram and shared a glimpse of the cover, where he is seen singing with *Reach For*

The *Stars* written in the background.

He wrote: "Hey, excited to share that I've got a new single titled *Reach For The Stars* releasing on the 29th of August... Happy listening and happy sharing." Recently, Farhan celebrated 23 years of his cult film *Dil Chahta Hai*, which also marked his debut.

The actor-director took to Instagram and shared a video celebrating the 23rd anniversary of the film. He wrote in the caption, "Here's to lifelong friendships. To the cast, crew and audience, your love has kept #DilChahtaHai alive for 23 years. #23YearsOfDilChahtaHai."

AP Dhillon joins hands with Afrobeats sensation Ayra Starr for 'The Brownprint'

Global Punjabi music star AP Dhillon has collaborated with Nigerian singer and songwriter Ayra Starr for his upcoming extended play (EP) christened "The Brownprint."

The "Excuses" hit-maker took to his social media to share an illustrative artwork that features Ayra Starr.

Announcing the release date of the EP, Dhillon shared a post, which read: "A new chapter for me. A new era for all of us" with an accompanying teaser video that briefly touched upon the theme of the strength and pride of the Punjabi community.

This announcement marks the Afrobeat star's maiden collaborative innings within the Indian sub-continent.

Christened "Bora Bora", Dhillon has



blended Punjabi and Afrobeats for the track.

The EP will feature a diverse range of genres, exploring themes of community, culture and celebration. With the latest addition of Ayra Starr, the EP's appeal is further amplified, promising to resonate with a global audience.

It was in 2019 when Dhillon started his journey in music with the single track "Fake" with Shinda Kahlon under their own independent

label Run-Up Records. He then appeared on the video, and credited as producer, of the track "Faraar" by Gurinder Gill and Shinda Kahlon.

His single "Deadly" with producer Gminxr, entered the UK Asian chart published by the Official Charts Company, and peaked at number 11 in 2020. The song entered the top 5 on the UK Punjabi chart.

The singer's next single was "Droptop" with Gurinder Gill. In

June 2020, he collaborated with Gurinder Gill and Manni Sandhu for single "Majhail". In 2020, he and Gurinder Gill appeared in "Excuses" by Intense, which peaked at number 3 on UK Asian and topped the UK Punjabi chart.

His song "Brown Munde" with Gurinder Gill, Gminxr, and Shinda Kahlon. Nav, Sidhu Moose Wala, Money Musik, Anmol Dalwani and Steel Banglez became a global track giving him instant fame.

In 2021, AP Dhillon and his team performed a live concert for the first time as part of the "Over The Top - The Takeover Tour" in major 6 cities in India. He was the first Punjabi language artist to perform at the 2023 Juno Awards in Edmonton, Canada with his hit song "Summer High".

Artistes bat for change after report on women in Malayalam film industry spotlights dark present

Occasionally in the open and most times whispered as innuendo, the exploitation of women in the entertainment industry is under a welcome, much needed spotlight with a report on Malayalam cinema, say insiders across the country, hoping for change but not really expecting it anytime soon.

The Justice Hema Committee report, perhaps the first such for any film industry in India, details the power nexus in the Malayalam cinema industry and lays bare the multiple levels of exploitation faced by women in it. Through the 233-page report was released this week, the Kerala government appointed panel to study issues of sexual harassment and gender inequality was constituted after the 2017 actress assault case involving actor Dileep.

The chronicle of the Malayalam industry - the report was pending for five years - through the prism of women has shocked many. However, several prominent stakeholders, including in the Hindi film industry, were reluctant to speak on an issue they admitted underscored the vulnerability of women and their perilous work conditions.

"It is very scary to hear what happened in the Malayalam industry. It is completely unacceptable. I appeal to all female artists that nothing is more important than safety and dignity," actor Abhishek Banerjee told agency.

The "Stree-2" and "Pataal Lok" actor, who is also a casting director, said he would often hear stories about the casting couch when he started out. And that is why his company has a rule that actors, particularly women, are auditioned only in an office space and not in coffee shops or hotels.

The brutal rape and murder of a woman doctor in Kolkata's R G Kar Hospital, which has paralysed medical services in large parts of the country, is the backdrop against which the Justice Hema commit-

tee report has become public. And Bengali actor Ditipriya Roy, clearly shaken at happenings in her hometown, told agency that abuse and violence against women must come to a halt everywhere.

The Kerala government had constituted the Justice Hema panel following the efforts of the Women in Cinema Collective (WCC).

According to filmmaker Anjali Menon, a prominent director and screenwriter in Malayalam cinema and WCC founding member, the report is the first step in dismantling unfavourable power structures within the industry.

"This opens up an opportunity to clean things up and move to a more equal progressive space," Menon told PTI, adding that it became a possibility because women's voices were heard by the government.

"I am sure there are similar things that happen in other industries but they are not being talked about. In Kerala, we have set precedents with the formation of a women's collective as well as the government's actions in this regard..." she said.

Change could be in the offing at some date in the future.

"It is true that we have paid a price with losing work opportunities when we spoke up... But over the last seven years we have consistently made our points and we now have immense support from the media, the legal community and public," the "Ustad Hotel" director added.

Filmmaker Jeo Baby, known for training his lens on patriarchy and women's agency in popular Malayalam films such as "The Great Indian Kitchen" and "Kathal: The Core", said the report takes the lid off what has always been talked about in hushed tones.

"Till now, what women in the industry faced have been mere whispers of rumours, but now we get a clearer picture of how far they are being humiliated.

"We must address the issues highlighted and

put in all efforts required to change this, and the report is but a stepping stone for this change. The government too should play its part," Baby said.

Tired and embittered, Bollywood actor Tanushree Dutta, whose accusations against actor Nana Patekar launched the #MeToo movement in India in 2018, dismissed the report as just another useless exercise. Six years later, she said she is still fighting to keep the case open.

"I feel for the Kerala victim deeply... Nothing will happen with these reports because women still continue to be attacked and exploited. It doesn't matter in this country who you are... be it Miss India, or an actress, or educated or an accomplished person, it doesn't matter," Dutta said.

A day after the committee report was made public, Sonia Thilakan, daughter of legendary Malayalam actor Thilakan, narrated her ordeal with sexual harassment.

Addressing a press conference, she alluded to a "power group" within the industry that has long been controlling the Malayalam film industry and AMMA (Association of Malayalam Movie Artists) for a long time. She said her late father was ousted from AMMA for being vocal.

A leading actor, Sonia said, approached her on the pretext of trying to resolve the issue between her father and AMMA but the messages he sent made his intentions clear.

Asked to reveal the identity of the actor, Sonia said she would do that later. "I made this revelation now in solidarity with the women who gave statements before the Hema Committee."

Revathi, actor-filmmaker and also a founding member of WCC, termed the release of the report a "historic moment".

"Our work now truly starts... to read, understand and work towards implementing its recommendations. As a WCC member I am truly thank-

ful to all who understand the true meaning of this report. We hope to continue to strive for the safely and betterment of an industry that has given all of us an identity in the society," she wrote on Instagram.

Actor Parvathy, another prominent face in South cinema and a part of WCC, posted on her Instagram Stories, "I want to take a moment to thank those who relentlessly supported WCC in its pursuit. Through thick and thin you've been there. Reminding us when we may have started to doubt ourselves. Amplifying our voices when others tried to smother it! You are a huge part of this victory of truth. THANK YOU!"

Kannada superstar Rishab Shetty, whose film "Kantara" won two National Film Awards last week, said while he had not read the report as he was busy shooting for his next film, he is all for women's safety in the film industry.

"I have been working in the industry for the past 20 years and those who have worked with me, we ensure that they feel safe. But women do face harassment and other issues in all spheres whether it is films, media or IT. We are always conscious that women working on our set feel safe and are free to talk if they face any issues," Shetty told agency.

According to Malayalam star Tovino Thomas, the Justice Hema Committee report, like the #MeToo movement, will help women come forward to express themselves.

"People should be educated about how they will feel when they are treated in such a way," Tovino told agency.

His co-star Krithi Shetty added, "Only women know the magnitude of what they have gone through. It is very unfortunate. It is good that they are taking a stand for themselves and they are speaking about it because that awareness can create change. If someone has done something wrong, they deserve to be punished."

Ayesha deactivates Instagram account after being trolled for 'plastic surgery'

Earlier this year, Ayesha Takia - who was seen in films like *Dil Maange More*, *Dor*, *No Smoking*, *Wanted*, *Salaam-E-Ishq* and *Paathshaala* - was spotted with her son at Mumbai airport after a long time. The former actor had slammed trolls for 'dissecting her looks' at that time. Ayesha is once again grabbing attention for her looks, and this time, she has deactivated her account after facing a fresh round of trolling amid 'plastic surgery' rumours.

Ayesha's 'Instagram page isn't available'

After she posted a glimpse of her ethnic blue and golden saree look, a section of social media users said that Ayesha looked almost unrecognisable after having 'undergone plastic surgery'. Amid all the chatter around her 'new look', the actor's Instagram account is now deactivated.

Ayesha is yet to issue a statement, unlike in February this year when she schooled people who were obsessing over her appearance and insinuating that she was looking to make a comeback in films.

Ayesha is married to Farhan Azmi, who is a restaurateur. He is also politician Abu Azmi's son. Ayesha and Farhan have a son, Mikail.

Ayesha Takia on being trolled for her look

She had shared on Instagram in February 2024, "Need to say this, rushed to Goa two days ago... Had a medical emergency in my family... My sister has literally been in hospital. Amidst all this, I remember being stopped by paps and posing for them for basically a few seconds before flying off. Turns out there are no other important issues in the country except dissecting my looks."

She went on to clarify that she had 'zero interest in films or comeback', adding, "Been bombarded by viral ridiculous opinions of how people think I should have looked and don't. Literally get over me yaar, I have zero interest in doing any films or any comeback like people are saying. I'm living my life happily, never want to be in the limelight, not interested in any fame, don't wanna be in any film... So chill.. Pls feel free to not care about



me at all." "Expecting a girl whose mostly been seen in her teens to look identical even after 15 years... How unrealistic and ridiculous are these ppl... Lol please find better things to do with your time rather than pick apart good looking women, I'm blessed with a fabulous life and do

not need your opinions, save it for those interested. I'm sending back all your sh***y energy. Do better ppl, get a hobby, eat a fun meal, talk to your friend, smile, whatever it takes to not feel so unhappy that you need to tell a gorgeous happy woman how she's not looking like u wanted," she had added.

Committed to futuristic decisions: PM Modi on National Space Day

PM Modi, who had announced the celebration of National Space Day last year following the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, took to X to praise India's space scientists and affirmed his commitment to developing the space sector.

NEW DELHI, Aug 23 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday marked the first National Space Day, celebrating India's historic achievement in landing its first spacecraft on the Moon with the Chandrayaan-3 mission.

PM Modi, who had announced the celebration of the National Space Day last year following India's success in this endeavour, took to social media to greet the nation.

"Greetings to everyone on the first National Space Day. We recall with great pride our nation's achievements in the space sector. It is also a day to laud the contributions of our space scientists," he wrote on X.

The Prime Minister said the government was committed to advancing the country's space sector, stating, "Our Govern-



ment has taken a series of futuristic decisions relating to this sector and we will do even more in the times to come."

The Chandrayaan-3 mission, launched on July 14, successfully landed on the Moon's surface on August 23, making India the first country to land a spacecraft on the lunar south pole. It

also became the fourth country to achieve a soft landing on the lunar surface after the United States, China, and the former Soviet Union.

The mission's objectives included demonstrating safe and soft-landing on the lunar surface, roving on the moon, and conducting in-situ scientific

experiments.

The success of Chandrayaan-3 was hailed by international leaders, including Nasa Administrator Bill Nelson, who congratulated India on being the fourth country to successfully soft-land a spacecraft on the moon.

European Space Agency (ESA) Director General Josef Aschbacher also praised the achievement, highlighting ESA's involvement in providing ground station support for the mission.

The PM Modi-led government has been actively promoting space exploration and cooperation, as seen during his state visit to the United States last year, where space cooperation was a major topic of discussion. India signed the Artemis accord and agreed to work together on a mission to the International Space Station.

Shah to chair meet of 5 Maoist-hit states in Raipur on Aug 24



RAIPUR, Aug 23 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a high-level meeting on August 24 during his three-day visit to the Chhattisgarh capital on the outcome of the strategy focused on anti-Maoist operations and the way forward. Shah is scheduled to arrive in Raipur on Friday night on a special Border Security Force (BSF) flight.

On Saturday, the home minister will visit Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharya Ashram in Champaran town close to Raipur by chopper and return at around noon to hold a high-level meeting to review the inter-state coordination and issues centred on security besides the ongoing development initiatives in the Maoist-affected areas of Chhattisgarh

and other participating states.

"Chief secretaries and director generals of police (DG) from Chhattisgarh and adjoining states are expected to attend the high-level meeting to be chaired by our union home minister in Raipur. Discussions likely on the future course of actions", said Vijay Sharma, Chhattisgarh Home Minister.

A senior officer said the chief secretaries and DGs of Chhattisgarh and neighbouring states Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Odisha, along with the top officials of the union government, will attend the inter-state coordination meeting.

On August 24, he will inaugurate a regional office of the Narcotics Control Bureau in Raipur and hold further discussions on expanding the cooperative sector.

Meanwhile, Chhattisgarh chief minister Vishnu Deo Sai convened a meeting of senior officials ahead of Shah's visit to assess the preparedness at the police headquarters. He reviewed the results of the anti-Maoist campaign, law and order situation, and the outcome of development schemes in areas affected by the presence of left-wing extremists.

Mayawati says BJP has adopted anti-SC/ST stance, calls opposition's silence 'fatal'

LUCKNOW, Aug 23 (Agencies): BSP chief Mayawati on Friday attacked the BJP and the INDIA bloc, alleging that while the ruling party has adopted an anti-SC/ST stance over the issue of sub-classification and identifying creamy layer for reservation within the communities, the opposition coalition's silence on the matter is proving to be "fatal".

Earlier this month, a seven-judge bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud ruled in a 6:1 majority judgement that state governments were permitted to sub-classify communities within the SC list based on empirical data.

Supreme Court judge Justice B R Gavai had also said states must evolve a policy for identifying the creamy layer, even among the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Schedule Tribes (ST), and deny it the benefit of reservation.

In posts on X in Hindi, BSahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati said, "It is very sad and worrying that



the (BJP-led) Centre has not yet taken any concrete steps to restore the old system as per public expectations against the Supreme Court's decision of August 1, 2024, to implement the new rule of classification and creamy layer in SC/ST reservation."

Claiming that the Centre was not serious about the issue, she said, "First the weak advocacy in the court, and now, the failure to bring the Constitution Amendment Bill for it proves that the BJP's anti-SC/ST reservation attitude is still intact with the same intensity."

Accusing the opposition parties, particularly the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP), Mayawati said, "The

silence of the Congress, SP and their INDIA bloc in this matter is equally fatal.

It shows their interest in the welfare and upliftment of SCs and STs, she said.

The interest of these SCs and STs is safe only in the Ambedkarite BSP, Mayawati asserted.

On August 21, a one-day nationwide strike was called by some Dalit and tribal groups against the Supreme Court's decisions.

The strike call, however, had little impact on normal life in Uttar Pradesh as shops remained open and business went on as usual in large parts of the state amid tight security arrangements.

Another factory fire in Andhra district 2 days after 17 killed in blast

HYDERABAD, Aug 23 (Agencies): Four factory workers - migrants from Jharkhand - were injured in a fire at a chemical manufacturing facility in Andhra Pradesh's Anakapalle district early Friday.

The fire was at the premises of Synergene Active Ingredients Private Limited located in Jawaharlal Nehru Pharma City, a 2,429-acre industrial park home to companies producing chemicals and pharma products.

The fire was reportedly the result of certain chemicals and liquids mixing to produce a vapour that was ignited by static electricity. Chief Minister Chan-

drababu Naidu has inquired about the accident.

This is the second such tragic incident in the state in less than 48 hours.

On Wednesday 17 people were killed and 41 injured after an explosion - likely the result of an electrical fault - at a pharma unit in the district's Achutapuram Special Economic Zone.

On Thursday the Chief Minister met the families of those who were killed, and those who had been injured, and told agency of the importance of ensuring workplace safety - particularly in 'red category' industries, or those that deal with hazardous

materials and have a pollution index over 60.

Outlining his plan of action, to deal with the aftermath of the Achutapuram SEZ tragedy and prevent future such events, Mr Naidu said he would set up a commission that, he said, would examine "all details, omissions, and lapses..."

The Andhra Pradesh government had announced 1 crore compensation for the families of those who died and 50 lakh for those with serious injuries. Those with minor injuries will get 25 lakh.

Mr Naidu also launched a polit-

ical attack on the previous state government - led by YSR Congress Party boss Jagan Mohan Reddy, whom he defeated in the election this year.

The earlier government, he indicated, faced its share of industrial disasters - leading to 120 deaths in the previous five years - but failed to act on a commission's recommendations.

"The previous government set up a commission... but no action was taken. Now I have to fix accountability and sensitise industries, especially in 'red category', to take precautions."

Assam girl gang-raped on way home from tuition, student union calls bandh

NAGAON, Aug 23 (Agencies): A 14-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped by three men in the Nagoan district of Assam. The incident took place when the girl was returning home from her tuition on Thursday evening.

The minor was found in an unconscious state by the roadside and rescued by locals, who then informed the police. She has been admitted to Dhing medical unit in



Nagoan district of the state for treatment.

Massive protests were witnessed after the incident with Student Union calling a Bandh in the

area today.

Two people have been detained for interrogation and a search is underway for others, a police officer said.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sharma strongly condemned the incident, describing it as a "crime against humanity". Taking to X, the Chief Minister expressed his outrage over the incident and vowed to bring the accused to justice.

"The horrific incident at Dhing, involving a minor, is a crime against humanity and has struck our collective conscience. We will

NOT SPARE anyone & BRING the perpetrators to JUSTICE," Sharma wrote.

He also added that he has directed the Director General of Police (DGP) of Assam, to visit the site of the crime and ensure swift and decisive action against those responsible. "I've directed DGP Assam Police to visit the site and ensure swift action against such monsters," he added.

MGNREGA 'living monument' of PM Modi's betrayal of rural India: Kharage

In a post on X, he said at present, there are 13.3 crore active workers who depend on the MGNREGA, despite low wages, abysmal work-days, and facing deletion of job cards.

NEW DELHI, Aug 23 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharage on Friday slammed the Centre over its handling of the MGNREGA, alleging that the present state of the scheme is "a living monument of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'betrayal' of rural India.

Kharage recalled that in 2005, on this day, the then Congress-led UPA government enacted the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to ensure 'Right to Work' to crores of people in rural India. In a post on X, he said at present, there are

13.3 crore active workers who depend on the MGNREGA, despite low wages, abysmal work-days, and facing deletion of job cards.

In the guise of using technology and Aadhaar, the Modi government has deleted over seven crore workers' job cards, cutting these households off from MGNREGA work, the Congress president claimed.

This year's Budget allocation for the MGNREGA is just 1.78 per cent of the total budgetary allocation, which marks a 10-year low in the scheme's funding, he said.

The lower allocation



by the Modi government contributes to artificially suppressing the demand for work under the scheme, he argued.

The Economic Survey has already laid the groundwork to justify the low allocation by claiming that the MGNREGA demand does

not necessarily correlate with rural distress, Kharage said.

A recent parliamentary standing committee report has said that the daily wages paid under the MGNREGA are inadequate, he said.

For instance, since 2014, the daily wage

rate for Uttar Pradesh has increased just 4 per cent per year, when inflation has been much higher than that, he pointed out.

"Today a labourer earns on an average a mere Rs 213 per day. The Congress is committed to provide Rs 400 per day as National Minimum Wage," he said.

Even though rural inflation is higher than urban inflation for 13 straight months, the Modi government's "rank apathy" towards rural poor continues, the Congress chief said.

"The present state of MGNREGA is a living monument of PM Modi's betrayal of rural India!" Kharage said.

Prime suspect in school sexual assault in fake NCC camp case dies by suicide

KRISHNAGIRI, Aug 23 (Agencies): The main accused in the disturbing case of a schoolgirl's alleged rape and the sex abuse of several others at a fake National Cadet Corps (NCC) camp in Tamil Nadu allegedly died by suicide at a government hospital early this morning.

Sivaraman, who had been accused of sexually assaulting a class 8 girl, and harassing 12 students, consumed poison at 5.15 am, hours before his arrest, police officers said.

"He had consumed poison before the arrest and we have recorded it. Based on medical advice, we shifted him from Krishnagiri to Salem for specialised treatment," said Dis-

trict Superintendent of Police Thangaraj.

Neither the family of the accused nor his lawyer have commented till now.

Eleven people have been arrested under the stringent Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act since the fake NCC camp case emerged. Two teachers, the principal, and a correspondent of the private school where the incident took place are among those arrested.

The school had failed to conduct background checks and deploy teachers to supervise the so-called camp. The school had allegedly agreed to the camp to try and qualify for their own NCC unit within the

school campus, based on the claims of a group that approached them. The school authorities have also been accused of attempting to cover up the incident, asking the students to not take the alleged abuse seriously.

While the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has directed the police to accelerate the investigation and file a charge sheet within 60 days, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe is now underway to investigate if the fake trainers had committed sexual offences in camps at other schools.

The student who was allegedly sexually assaulted told her parents, who reported the crime to the police.

Indian Prime Minister Modi arrives in Kyiv for talks with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy

KYIV, Aug 23 (Agencies): Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived on Friday in Kyiv, where he will meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Officials in India and Ukraine say the visit will focus on boosting economic ties and cooperation in defense, science and technology. But analysts say the visit could also be an attempt to have India strike a more neutral stance after what has been seen as a lean toward Russia.

Ukrainian media reported that Modi met with representatives of the Indian diaspora after arriving. The crowd gathered around the Indian prime minister cheering "Modi, Modi, Modi."

"The Indian community accorded a very warm welcome," Modi said on the social



media platform X.

The chief of Ukraine's Presidential Office, Andriy Yermak, called Modi's visit "historic" and emphasized Ukraine's expectation that India could play a role in ending the war between Russia and Ukraine with a "just peace," referring to Ukraine's peace formula.

"We respect India as a very

big democracy in the world and a powerful country," Yermak said in an interview with India Today. "But now it's necessary to say who is the aggressor, who is the victim."

Before arriving in Ukraine, Modi urged diplomatic efforts to end the war during a visit to Poland on Thursday, pledging India's support and saying that

no conflict can be solved on a battlefield.

Modi's arrival came a month and a half after Zelenskyy criticized his visit to Moscow in July, when he met with Putin on the day Russian missiles struck across Ukraine, killing scores of people.

Zelenskyy described that meeting as a "huge disappointment and a devastating blow to peace efforts." He also chided Modi for hugging Putin during their meeting.

India has avoided condemning Russia's invasion and instead has urged Russia and Ukraine to resolve the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.

Modi's visit is the first by an Indian prime minister to Ukraine since the two countries established diplomatic relations over 30 years ago.

Kamala Harris remembers her mother as she accepts Democratic Party's nomination



CHICAGO, Aug 23 (Agencies): Kamala Harris has remembered her mother Shyamala Gopalan and said that she misses her every day, especially when she is on the verge of breaking the highest glass ceiling of the United States.

Vice President Harris, who is of Indian and African heritage, on Thursday night accepted the nomination at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, becoming the second woman to do so for the Democratic

Party.

"America, the path that led me here in recent weeks was no doubt unexpected. But I'm no stranger to unlikely journeys," Harris, 59, said.

"My mother Shyamala Harris had one of her own. I miss her every day—especially now. And I know she's looking down tonight, and smiling," she said.

Harris said her mother was 19 when she crossed the world alone, travelling from India to California with an unshakeable dream to be the scientist who would cure breast cancer.

"...It was mostly my mother who raised us. Before she could finally afford to buy a home, she rented a small apartment in the East Bay. In the Bay, you either live in the hills or the flatlands. We lived in the flats -- a beautiful working-class neighbourhood of firefighters, nurses and construction workers, all of whom tended their lawns with pride," said Harris.

Shyamala Gopalan migrated to the US at the age of 19 to pursue higher studies.

Search in swamp near Bangkok where plane carrying 5 Chinese tourists, 4 Thais crashed

BANGKOK, Aug 23 (Agencies): Searchers dug into the mud of a flooded mangrove swamp outside Bangkok on Friday for plane fragments and the remains of the five Chinese passengers and four Thai flight crew members believed killed in a crash shortly after takeoff.

Around 300 officers and rescue volunteers have been searching the crash site and will send any remains they are able to recover for forensic identification, Chachoengsao province Gov. Chonlathee Yangtrong said late Thursday night. Only small body parts had been recovered so far.

The crash site about 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Suvarnabhumi Airport was flooded when tides rose from from a nearby river that flows into the Gulf of Thailand. Video showed fragments of the plane in water in the middle of a wooded area. A rescuer worked in muddy water up to his chest.

Five Chinese tourists and four Thais, a pilot, co-pilot and two airline service personnel, had been on board the



plane, provincial government spokesperson Sangdune Jewyu said.

The tourists were initially said to be from Hong Kong, but Hong Kong's Immigration Department said Friday they were not Hong Kong residents. Photos posted on social media and on Thai media websites showed all of their passports had been issued in Shanghai.

Thai media, including the Bangkok Post newspaper, identified the Chinese victims as Zhang Jingjing, 12; Zhang Jing, 42; Tang Yu, 42; Yin Jinfeng, 45; and Yin Hang, 13.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand said the turbo-prop Cessna Caravan C208B operated by the Thai Flying Service Company had departed at 2:46 p.m. and air traffic control lost radio

and radar contact with the aircraft 11 minutes later, when it was about 35 kilometers (22 miles) southeast of the airport. It had been headed to Trat, a coastal province with beach resorts about 275 kilometers (171 miles) southeast of Bangkok.

The authorities said the cause of the crash is not yet known, and an investigation is underway. The weather at the time of the flight was clear.

Pongthep Sirisawat of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Committee of Thailand said they have recovered about 30% of the plane so far. Because the plane had no black box and there are likely no survivors, it is necessary to collect as many pieces of the plane as possible to determine the cause of the accident, he said.

Australian transgender woman wins landmark case against social media platform

CANBERRA, Aug 23 (Agencies): An Australian court ruled on Friday that removing a transgender woman from female-only social networking platform Giggle for Girls constituted discrimination, in a landmark decision on gender identity for the country.

Roxanne Tickle in 2022 sued the Australian app and founder Sally Grover for unlawful gender identity discrimination in its services, saying Grover revoked Tickle's account after seeing her photo and "considered her to be male."

The Federal Court, Australia's second-highest, ordered Giggle for Girls to pay Tickle \$6,700 plus legal costs but declined to order the company to issue a written apology, which Tickle had sought.

"Tickle's claim of direct gender identity discrimination fails, but her claim of indirect gender identity discrimination succeeds," Judge Robert Bromwich said. The case marks the first time that the Federal Court has made a ruling on gender identity discrimination since

changes were made to the Sex Discrimination Act in 2013.

"This decision is a great win for transgender women in Australia," said Professor Paula Gerber at Monash University's Faculty of Law. "This case sends a clear message to all Australians that it is unlawful to treat transgender women differently from cisgender women. It is not lawful to make decisions about whether a person is a woman based on how feminine they appear," Gerber said.

Giggle for Girls was marketed as a "safe space" for women to discuss and share their experiences and had some 20,000 users in 2021, court filings show. It suspended operations in 2022 but is due to be relaunched soon, according to Grover.

Bromwich said Giggle for Girls considered only sex at birth as being a valid basis on which a person may claim to be a man or woman. Tickle was of the male sex at the time of birth but underwent gender-affirming surgery and Tickle's birth certificate

was updated, he said. "Unfortunately, we got the judgement we anticipated. The fight for women's rights continues," Grover said in a post on X.

Tickle called the verdict "healing" and said she had received hateful comments online and that merchandise was created specifically to mock her.

"There is so much hate and bile cast on trans and gender-diverse people simply because of who we are," Australian media quoted her as saying outside the court.

For decades, humpback whale populations were hunted to the brink of extinction -- at one stage there were only an estimated 1,500 of the animals left in Australian waters. But they are a rare conservation success story after global protections were afforded to the whales in 1965.

Humpback whale numbers now exceed 40,000 -- a number close to pre-whaling levels -- and the marine animal has since been removed from Australia's threatened species list. "With so many more whales in the ocean and more humans in the ocean, there is going to be greater potential for conflict," Fox said.

Humpback whale freed from entanglement after 22-hour rescue in Sydney

SYDNEY, Aug 23 (Agencies): A juvenile humpback whale was freed Friday after it was entangled in ropes and buoys in the harbour of Australia's largest city for 22 hours.

Rescuers in Sydney received a call on Thursday afternoon that the whale had become entangled and raced under fading light to save it.

By dawn, rescuers followed the whale in an inflatable boat and used specialised equipment to hold the whale in place while they cut the debris away.

The whale was freed shortly before midday on Friday, and swam off to the open ocean after its 22-hour ordeal.

Jessica Fox, from the Organisation for the Rescue and Research of Cetaceans in Aus-



tralia, told agency that efforts to save the whale were "incredible".

"It is not uncommon for a whale to enter Sydney Heads -- they pop their heads in time to time, but to have one entangled in Sydney

Harbour is extremely rare." For decades, humpback whale populations were hunted to the brink of extinction -- at one stage there were only an estimated 1,500 of the animals left in Australian waters. But they are a rare conservation success story after global protections were afforded to the whales in 1965.

Humpback whale numbers now exceed 40,000 -- a number close to pre-whaling levels -- and the marine animal has since been removed from Australia's threatened species list.

"With so many more whales in the ocean and more humans in the ocean, there is going to be greater potential for conflict," Fox said.

As more floods batter Bangladesh and India, death toll rises to 30

DHAKA, Aug 23 (Agencies): Floods wreaked more havoc in India's northeast and neighboring Bangladesh's eastern region, raising this week's total death toll to 30, officials and media reports said Friday.

Rain stopped in many parts of Bangladesh on Friday and weather officials in Dhaka said the waters had started receding in some areas, but said the flooding would not be over for days.

In India's Tripura state, eight more people died in the last 24 hours, raising the death toll to 19 since Monday, said a state disaster management official on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak to media. Earlier, 11 people were reported dead.

In Bangladesh, seven more people died in the

last 24 hours, Dhaka-based Ekhon TV reported Friday. Earlier, four deaths were reported in raging waters flooding downstream from India, and amid incessant rains in the country's eastern region.

Bangladeshi non-government organization BRAC said in a statement that up to 3 million people remained stranded as fast-moving water inundated vast areas of farmland, destroying livelihoods, homes, and crops. It said many remained without electricity, food or water. Other media reports said up to 4.5 million people have been affected in the delta nation of 170 million people.

A number of charity groups have called for help, with a student group collecting dry food, cash, water and medicines at Dhaka

University in the nation's capital.

In the Indian state of Tripura, authorities said around 100,000 people took shelter in over 400 relief camps, as the floods affected 1.7 million people in eight districts of the state. Chief Minister Manik Saha undertook an aerial survey to assess the situation.

Liakath Ali, BRAC's director of Climate Change, Urban Development and Disaster Risk Management, said that these were the worst floods Bangladesh has seen in three decades.

"Entire villages, all of the families who lived in them, and everything they owned -- homes, livestock, farmlands, fisheries -- have been washed away. People had no time to save anything. There are people stranded across

the country, and we are expecting the situation to worsen in many places as rains continue," he said.

New breaches on a flood protection embankment in the Gomti River in the eastern district of Cumilla inundated about 100 low-lying villages from Thursday midnight, Dhaka-based The Business Standard newspaper reported Friday. Other districts including Noakhali, Feni and Chattogram were also hard hit.

Volunteers at the scene at Cumilla attempted to alert people to move to safety after the breaches on Thursday midnight, while residents used loudspeakers at neighborhood mosques to relay warnings.

Some victims in the area told television stations that they had left their belongings behind

and rushed to higher ground for safety.

Abed Ali, a senior relief official in Cumilla district, told agency by phone that residents have been asked to move to shelters, but are facing difficulties reaching them in current conditions.

The military used helicopters to ferry relief materials and dry food to affected people on Friday, according to posts on its Facebook page.

In Bangladesh, rumors spread online that the flooding was caused by India opening the Dumbur dam in Tripura, causing a number of anti-India protests. India's External Affairs Ministry denied the connection, pointing out that the dam is far from the border and that heavy rains had caused major flooding over a wide area in both countries.

Security is stepped up at a NATO air base in Germany due to a 'potential threat'

BERLIN, Aug 23 (Agencies): Security at a NATO air base in western Germany has been raised because of intelligence information pointing to a "potential threat," and all staff not essential to missions have been sent home as a precaution, NATO said today.

The Geilenkirchen air base, near the border with the Netherlands, is where the alliance's Airborne Warning and Control System, or AWACS, aircraft are based.

A post on the NATO AWACS fleet's account on social media network X late Thursday night announcing that "we raised the security level" did not elaborate on the nature of the potential threat. It said

that "operations continue as planned."

The Geilenkirchen base said Friday that it had nothing to add to the statement and "the situation at the moment is unchanged."

German news agency dpa said a reporter saw police cars on the grounds of the air base. Police confirmed a deployment Thursday night but gave no details, and offered no information on Friday morning.

Last week, a major German air force based near Cologne was locked down for several hours amid fears that its water supply might have been tampered with. An investigation found no evidence of such sabotage.

There were also

reports of suspicious observations at Geilenkirchen and a person was briefly detained for questioning near the base, dpa reported at the time, but there turned out to be nothing untoward.

The incidents come at a time of jitters about the possible vulnerability of infrastructure to attempted Russian sabotage.

On Thursday, prosecutors in Flensburg, in Germany's far north, said they were investigating suspicions of espionage for the purpose of sabotage, without elaborating on who might be behind it. German media reported that drones had been spotted over a chemical park in Brunsbüttel, on the North Sea coast.

'Training cum Awareness Program/ camp' organized by SKUAST-J

Top News Report

KATHUA, Aug 23: Under the patronage of Dr Bhupendra Nath Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, and the direction of Dr S. K. Gupta, Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu, the division of Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology, F.V.Sc& A.H, R. S. Pura, Jammu organized two day 'Training cum Awareness Program/ camp' for Village Said and Loukhali at the Panchyat Ghar (Lokuhali) and Badoli under District Kathua.

The program was conducted under the DBT GOI project entitled "Socio-Economic Upliftment of Poor Farmers through Animal Husbandry using Scientific Interventions in Jammu

Province" under the purview of SKUAST-Jammu. The PI, Dr Nrip Kishore Pankaj introduced about the program first and stated that the villages Loukhali-Said, and Badoli have been endorsed under the project, and two units of goat and five poultry have been distributed in each village during last year. The attempt has been made to facilitate the animals & birds to the needy, along with the expert advice and treatment to mitigate with the problem of birds and animals including other livestock. Many a times local VAS/VO have also supported the events. In consequence, the program was to sensitize the locals about the entrepreneurship avenues by goatry and other livestock.

Three scientists were available during the program. Dr Neelesh Sharma, Professor and Head, Veterinary Medicine, F.V.Sc& A.H, SKUAST-J, R. S. Pura, interacted with the farmers of Loukhali-Said on 21st August, 2024, about various ways and means to prevent mastitis among cattle. He also narrated many managemental issue to be taken care of, during the upkeep of the livestock. He underlined the importance of prevention of many diseases by using cold chain-maintained vaccine and anti-parasitic drugs at the right time.

Dr. A. K. Pathak, Associate Professor, Animal Nutrition, F.V.Sc& A.H, SKUAST-J, R. S. Pura, talked to the local farmers of Loukhali-Said and

Badoli during the program, in view of nutrition management for the animals. He stated that it takes as much as 2/3rd of the cost of rearing the animals in its feed and fodder. He underlined the importance of balanced nutrition from locally available resources in continuing the animals' productive for longer and therefore profitable to the animal owners. He further narrated its importance in keeping the animal's, reproduction wise sound. Dr. N. K. Pankaj, PI & Professor & Head, Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology F.V.Sc& A.H, SKUAST-J, R. S. Pura, while interacting with the local farmers of Loukhali-Said and Badoli during the program on 21-22nd August, 2024, in view of the local toxic plants that

grows wild as well as fodder that may be toxic to the animals. He also expressed the concerns over ownness among few of the beneficiaries, but reaffirmed for support from SKUAST-Jammu. The locals were very happy about the 'Training cum Awareness Program/ camp' and appreciated the regular visit and the approach of the scientists of SKUAST-Jammu towards the farmers of all three villages.

Sri Kamal Singh, public representative at Badoli acknowledged for the event and requested for more such events in future. After the program, the PI along with the staff moved to village Charwarh under revenue village Loukhali, panchayat Badoli for distribution of one unit of goat.

GCW Bhagwati Nagar organizes series of events to mark National Space Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 23: IQAC and NSS Unit of Govt. College for Women Bhagwati Nagar organized series of events to mark the Maiden National Space Day on Friday celebrating the one-year anniversary of ISRO's historic Chandrayaan-3 moon landing.

The event was organized under the patronage of Principal of the college, Dr. Meeru Abrol.

The event began with the key address by Principal of the College, Dr. Meeru Abrol, who in her speech talked about the importance of celebrating this day so as to honour the India's

accomplishments in space.

She further highlighted India's progress and the societal benefits of space exploration and deliberated upon the theme of this year's National Space Day "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga". This theme reflects India's extraordinary journey in space exploration and its impact on society.

The programme started with the live streaming of Event organized by ISRO to celebrate National Space Day held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, wherein about 80 students along with the faculty members of the col-

lege joined this historic moment of celebration. Speaking on the occasion Prof. Nisha Bhagat, IQAC Coordinator, highlighted India's significant milestones in space, the societal benefits of its space programs, and the countless opportunities available for people to engage with and contribute to nation's space endeavors.

The event ended with showcasing Documentary to the students on India's historic Chandrayaan Mission to celebrate the wonders of the universe, the incredible achievements of astronauts and space scientists and unyielding human spirit that pushes the boundaries of exploration.

GDC Mahanpur organizes debate competition

Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Aug 23: A debate competition on the topic "The Role of Youth in Policing the Society" was organized by the Red Ribbon Club, Govt. Degree College Mahanpur Kathua in joint collaboration with J&K AIDS Control Society.

The Competition was inaugurated by the Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Sangeeta Sudan, as Chief Guest of the occasion along with other faculty members.

More than seventy students of B.A Semester 3rd and 5th have attended the speeches delivered by the participating students from different semesters.

This debate competition was organized in connection of ongoing celebrations of International Youth Day 2024. The total of 10 students has participated in this debate competition.

The participating students enthralled the audience by their highly informative speeches based

on societal reforms and future prospects of our Indian society. All the participants have touched the sensitive issues related to overall development of the country, they also enumerated, what role a youth can play for uplifting the society.

Participating students were Mohit of semester 3rd, Shiekha Pathania of Semester-5th, Jyoti Devi of Semester 3rd, Preeti of Semester-3rd, Monika Sharma of Semester-3rd, where Monika Sharma secured 1st position.

In their speeches, the participating students have represented youth of India as a social engineers, who can reconstruct the villages and towns as model areas with all round development. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by the Convener of Red Ribbon Club, GDC Mahanpur Dr. Sapna Devi, Head Department of Hindi. Dr Jogbinder Singh Soodan Physical Director/PTI and Dr. Rupalee Jasrotia, NSS Programme Officer acted

as judges for the debate competition.

Dr Mohinder Nath HOD Sanskrit also spoke on the topic and shared his valuable insights with the students.

The chief guest of the debate competition Prof. (Dr.) Sangeeta Sudan, Principal GDC Mahanpur, in her address encouraged the students to take an advantage of the highly experienced staff of the college and also to follow their instructions. She advised them to take active part in all the activities being organized in the college regularly. She also apprised them that these opportunities will help them to develop leadership qualities in them.

Among other faculty members who were present Dr Mohinder Nath, Dr Sudesh Kumar and Prof. Nisha Bhagat, The Principal distributed trophies to the winners of the debate competition and appreciated the efforts of Convener Red Ribbon Club for organizing such event in the college.

GDC Pouni organizes Symposium, Poster-making contest

Top News Report

POUNI, Aug 23: On the occasion of National Space Day, Symposium Committee of GDC Pouni organized Symposium and Poster-making events to commemorate the success of Chandrayaan-3 mission, on Friday.

Keeping in mind 2024 theme for National Space Day, "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga," the topic for Symposium was "India's Journey to the Moon" or "Advancements in Space Exploration." The topic for Poster-making was "Space Science and Everyday Life."

"Touching Lives while Touching the Moon," is a poignant phrase that encapsulates the profound impact of space exploration on human lives. Dr. U S Liza, HOD English, welcomed the Principal, Professors and students. Harleen Kour,

student of 3rd Semester hosted the Symposium event. Kiran Sharma, Ishika Khajuria, Manveen Kour and Mukhtar Ahmed from 5th semester were the best speakers in today's Symposium event. Palvi Sharma, Harleen kour, Preeti kour, Indu Sharma, and Janam from 3rd semester and Akashdeep and Nancy Sharma from 5th semester stood out in Poster-making event.

At the end, Principal, Udhay Bhanu, addressed the audience and shed light on how space exploration has impacted and improved daily life on Earth. From global communication to navigation and weather forecasting, most of the things have become accessible and revolutionized. He extended congratulations and appreciations to Dr. Prem Singh, Prof. Bishan Das, Prof. Beant Singh, Tanpreet Singh and Prof. Mohit Anand and all the participants.

Govt GLDM Degree College Hiranagar celebrates National Space Day

Top News Report

HIRANAGAR, Aug 23: Govt. G.L.D.M. Degree College, Hiranagar under the banner of Science Club of the College and IQAC marked the celebration of The National Space Day with great enthusiasm on Friday in the Conference Hall of the College. The event was sponsored by The National Academy of Sciences, India, Jammu Chapter. The Programme started with lighting of the traditional lamp followed by Saraswati Vandana.

The event, aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of space science among students, was graced by Prof. R. N. Gohil, Chairperson of NASI (Jammu Chapter), who served as the Chief Guest.

In the beginning of the Programme, Principal of the College, Dr.

Pragya Khanna welcomed the guests of the Programme and spoke on the theme "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga," which perfectly captures the essence of our journey in space. She highlighted how space exploration has not only advanced our scientific knowledge but also enriched our daily lives through various technological innovations and motivated the students to learn the basic skill of science and Technology so as to explore various ideas to get success in such areas in future.

During the Programme, the Resource Person, Dr. Manvi Rajput, Assistant Professor Department of Physics and Astronomy, Central University of Jammu gave a very informative lecture on "A Journey through past achievements and future

aspiration". She gave a detailed note on Chandrayaan, Mangalyaan and the future mission Gaganyaan of ISRO. She also told about recent advancement in Space Science and contributions of India to explore in the areas of space.

The students of different semesters also presented their views on Space related themes which were greatly appreciated by the dignitaries. Certificates and Mementos were also distributed among the students by the Chief Guest.

The faculty members of various departments were also present on the occasion. Prof. Neeru Sharma (H.O.D, EVS) conducted the proceeding of the Programme and finally Prof. Rajesh Sharma (H.O.D, Mathematics and Convener IQAC) presented the formal Vote of thanks.

FROM PAGE 1

14 killed as Indian passenger bus plunges into river in Nepal

the hospital so far. The condition of the rescued passengers has not been disclosed yet.

A team of 45 Armed Police Force personnel led by Senior Superintendent of Police Madhav Paudel from the Armed Police Force Nepal Disaster Management Training School has already reached the accident site and is carrying out the rescue operation, MyRepublic.com reported.

About 35 APF personnel from no 23 Battalion, Bhanu, Tanahun, are also involved in the rescue operation, the report said.

According to DSP Dipak Kumar Raya, spokesperson of the District Police Office, Tanahun, the bus fell into Marsyangdi at around 11.30 am on Friday.

Last month, two buses carrying 65 passengers were washed away by a landslide into the swollen Trishuli river in Nepal.

The bodies from the two buses were washed away down the Trishuli Rriver as far as 100 kilometres.

Extensive search operations, including the deployment of a 12-member team from India's National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), have not yet located the two missing buses and many passengers swept away by the landslide. The bodies of five Indian nationals have been recovered so far while two are still missing.

Nepal's rivers are generally fast-flowing due to the mountainous terrain. Heavy monsoon downpours in the past few days have swollen the waterways and turned them murky brown, making it even more difficult to see the wreckage.

Monsoon season brings heavy rains to Nepal from June to September, often triggering landslides in the mountainous Himalayan country.

Army arrests PoK resident and Lashkar-e-Taiba terror group guide in Poonch

tackle the terrorist activities prompted by the Pakistan Army, sources in security agencies.

The Indian Army has now moved the troops to carry out searches in the forested areas with a proactive approach to take out terrorists who have been hiding in natural caves and man-made underground hideouts, sources said.

The sources said the idea is to search and locate terrorists at higher reaches and not let them come down and target civilians and security forces there, sources added.

The human intelligence grid has also been strengthened in the area with the induction of new police officials in the area while the central police forces have also strengthened their presence and activities, the sources said.

Indian Army and security agencies have suffered multiple casualties as the terrorists took advantage of the relatively low presence of troops in view of redeployments done for the standoff at the northern borders.

The new inductions in the area including the armoured vehicles and mine-protected vehicles have also strengthened the forces.

The security deployment and standard operating procedures in the entire Jammu division including Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur and Doda districts have been revised and all troops in the area are on high alert to thwart any terror attack, the sources said.

The local over-ground workers and terrorist sympathisers have also been identified and are being taken care of by the security agencies, they said.

Support by some locals in these areas to help terrorists has also been found and measures are being taken to curb that with area domination and other measures, they said.

The top Army brass have also discussed the terror situation in the area recently and have also briefed the top leadership on the action being taken by them.

Article 370 abrogation will lead to BJP's defeat in Jammu Kashmir: CPI Leader

that led to her missing out on a medal.

Raja further condemned the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the BJP, claiming they were acting against the interests of the common people and accusing the NDA government of being guided by the RSS.

Consensus on some seats with Congress yet to be done: Omar

extent. I can tell you that we have reached a consensus on the maximum seats out of the 90," Abdullah told reporters in Kulgam district of south Kashmir.

Abdullah, who is accompanying party's candidate from D H Pora constituency Sakina Itoo for filing of nomination, said discussions over the rest of the seats were going on and the alliance partners will soon finalise the seat-sharing arrangement.

"On few seats, we are adamant and on some others, the local leaders of the Congress are adamant. There will be meetings today as well and we will try to sort out the rest of the seats so as to announce our candidates," he added.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile state of J-K, however, refused to share further details.

Asked when the party would announce its candidates for the rest of the seats going to polls in the first phase, Omar said there is no hurry.

"Which party has announced its candidates so far? A party has cleverly named people as constituency in-charges, our constituency in-charges have been working for the last ten years. So, why are you after our lists, ask them. Our list will have to be out in any case by August 27," he said, apparently referring to the PDP.

The Congress-NC alliance was announced by NC president Farooq Abdullah after Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge held discussions with the NC leadership here on Thursday.

Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir will be held in three phases — September 18, September 25 and October 1. The counting of votes will be held on October 4.

NC leader Sakina Itoo files nomination for Damhal Hanjipora seat

the Damhal Hanjipora assembly seat.

A total of 99,037 eligible voters are registered in the assembly constituency, which was changed from Noorabad to Damhal Hanjipora after delimitation exercise. The seat will go to polls in the first phase of J&K assembly elections on September 18.

In 2014 assembly election, Sakina Itoo lost to PDP candidate Abdul Majeed Padder, who is now with Jammu Kashmir Apni Party. Besides Abdul Majid Padder, Gulzar Ahmad Dar of PDP and Mohammad Arif Dar of Awami Ithad Party are also in the fray.

SC defers till Sept 5 hearing on Kejrival's plea for Bail

response from the probe agency on his plea challenging his arrest. Kejrival was arrested by the CBI on June 26.

The chief minister, who was arrested by the ED on March 21, was granted bail by the trial court in the money laundering case on June 20. However, the trial court's order was stayed by the high court. On July 12, the Supreme Court granted him interim bail in the money laundering case. The excise policy was scrapped in 2022 after the Delhi lieutenant governor ordered a CBI probe into alleged irregularities and corruption involving its formulation and execution. According to the CBI and the ED, irregularities were committed while modifying the excise policy and undue favours extended to licence holders.

Cong leader dies in road accident on way back from Rahul Gandhi's function in Jammu

migrant township. He was fatally crushed

by a truck, officials said.

Pandita, the vice chairman of the Kashmiri Migrant Cell, was a dedicated Congress leader and a prominent advocate for the cause of Kashmiri migrants.

"He remained associated with the party from his days in the Youth Congress," said JKPC chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma.

The Congress party's leadership expressed deep shock over his demise and extended heartfelt condolences to his family.

Congress national general secretary Gulam Ahmed Mir, AICC in-charge Bharat Sinh Solanki, J and K Congress president Tariq Hameed Karra, party working presidents Tara Chand and Raman Bhalla, former minister Yogesh Sawhney, and PCC Migrant Cell chairman H L Pandita, along with Kamal Fotedar, mourned the loss of the leader.

J&K Govt orders transfers, postings of several officers

Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Srinagar (East), is transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Sumbal. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Sumbal, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Mr. Aamir Choudhary, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Sumbal, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Sumbal, is transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Srinagar (East), the orders reads.

Apni Party appoints Javid Sultan as in-charge for Lal Chowk constituency

Sultan Khan is hereby appointed as Election Incharge for the Lal-Chowk Constituency," the order read.

He will strictly assist the candidate of the constituency and work under his instructions, the order said. This appointment is effective immediately, read the order.

You need a doctor, don't demean anyone's faith: Khatana ridicules Rahul Gandhi's comments

Top News Report

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, Aug 23: In a scathing rebuttal to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's recent comments, senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Er. Gulam Ali Khatana lashed out at Gandhi, accusing him of disrespecting the democratic mandate of the people and harboring an insatiable lust for power.

Khatana's fiery response came during an event in Jammu, where he addressed Gandhi's remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "direct connection with God" and the claim that the BJP government is run by Congress workers. "Those who believe in God are naturally connected to Him. This is a matter of faith, Mr. Gandhi, something you clearly cannot comprehend. You have no right to demean anyone's beliefs. By repeatedly using the same rhetoric, you're not

just attacking the Prime Minister's faith, but also the Constitution of India. Religion is a personal matter, and the citizens of India will undoubtedly hold you and your party accountable for disrespecting their beliefs," he added.

Khatana did not mince words as he dismissed Gandhi's comments as nonsensical and indicative of a leader out of touch with reality. "Rahul Gandhi says the NDA government at the center is being run by Congress workers. I advise him to see a doctor; he needs it. Rahul should read his speeches before making them. He makes a fool of himself every time," Khatana remarked, ridiculing Gandhi's statements.

The BJP leader went on to accuse Gandhi and the Congress party of being power-hungry, willing to say and do anything to regain control of the country. "The Congress party and Rahul Gandhi want to grab power and



drag the country back into darkness. His desperation for power was on full display yesterday when he claimed that the NDA government, elected by the people of India, is being run by Congress workers," Khatana said.

Khatana's comments took a sharper edge as he challenged Gandhi's logic, questioning why the Congress party would create obstacles for a government they allegedly control. "If the government is run by Congress workers, why are you creating hurdles? Whatever decisions the government makes, you divide people, you divide the nation. Your behav-

ior clearly reflects your hunger for power, Mr. Gandhi," Khatana added. The BJP leader also criticized Gandhi for making empty promises to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, accusing him of exploiting their sentiments for political gain. "You are exploiting the sentiments of the masses in Jammu and Kashmir, despite having nothing in your hands. You promise the restoration of statehood to J&K, which has already been promised by Shri Amit Shah Ji, the Home Minister of India, on the floor of the house. Our party has fulfilled the promise of assembly elections, and the restoration of statehood will be our next step," Khatana asserted.

Khatana further emphasized the BJP's commitment to modernizing Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the Modi government's efforts to bridge the gap between the people and the administration. "The BJP has given good governance.

People see hope in the BJP, not in the NC-Congress alliance, which is an alliance of sins," he said.

In a pointed message to Gandhi, Khatana defended the government's decision to withdraw the later entry notification, stating that it was done with the welfare of all sections of society in mind. He advised Gandhi to stop manufacturing issues for political gain, warning that it would yield no benefits for the Congress party.

Khatana concluded his remarks with a fervent appeal to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, urging them to reject the nefarious designs of the Congress-NC alliance. "I once again appeal to the masses of Jammu and Kashmir: beware of the Congress-NC's designs. They will push the region back into darkness if you fall into the trap they are laying to grab your votes," he said, calling on the residents to strengthen the BJP's position in the region."

Shiv Sena (UBT) releases first list, announces to field candidates in Kashmir as well

Pledge for free electricity-water, unemployment allowance, OPS, right to job and education



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 23: -With the message of "Aadikaro ko pana hai Mashal ka button dabana hai", on Friday Shiv Sena (UBT) released the first list of its candidates for the assembly elections of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a program organized today at Jammu Press Club, chief J&K, Manish Sahni Sahni, while announcing the first list of candidates released by the party high command, said that a decision has been taken to field candidates in Kashmir along with Jammu.

In the first list, a total of eight candidates were announced including Meenakshi Chhibber (Jammu West), Mohammad Ramzan Dar (Hazratbal, Kashmir), Vinod Kotwal (Bhaderwah), Tilak Raj (Ramban), Sanjeev Kumar (Udhampur West), Sahil Gandotra (Udhampur East), Raj Singh

Shiv Sena demands adequate security from Election Commission

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 23: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni today released the first list of party candidates for Jammu and Kashmir assembly and demanded from Election Commission to provide adequate security to the senior leaders of the party state unit along with the candidates. during campaigning.

Sahni said that a written appeal has also been made to the Election Commission and Jammu and Kashmir administration regarding this demand. He said that Shiv Sena (UBT) is probably the only political party in Jammu and Kashmir whose leader including the state chief has not been given security.

(Ram Nagar, Udhampur), Rajesh Kumar (Jasrota Kandi, Kathua).

Sahni said that the second list of candidates will be announced very soon. Every candidate of ours will contest the elections with the resolution of better education and health facilities, protection of cultural identity under Section 371, first right of local people on the resources, jobs, edu-

cational institutions of the state, free electricity and water, permanent jobs, to daily wagers, safe return of Kashmiri Pandits, restoration of old pension scheme, women empowerment and allowances to educated unemployed youth etc. Party founder Bala Saheb Thackeray has taught us the lesson of life may be lost but promise should not be lost.

Prominent OBC leaders along with many supporters join Apni Party

Manjit Singh says people pinned their hopes with the Party



Top News Report

SAMBA, Aug 23: Prominent, Other Backward Classes (OBC) leaders along with their supporters today joined Apni Party here at Vijaypur, Samba District.

As per a press release, the joining cum meeting was organised at Vijaypur in which prominent OBC leaders, Tarsem Lal Verma, and Rodu Ram Gandhi along with their supporters have joined the Apni Party in presence of the Apni Party's Provincial President, Jammu and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh, expressing their faith in the leadership of the Party.

Welcoming the new entrants into the Party fold, the Former Minister expressed his faith that their joining will strengthen the party at the grass root level.

Addressing the partici-

pants, Manjit Singh said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have expressed their faith in the leaders of the Party President, Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari and the policy of the Party for equitable development, and employment to meet the challenges faced by the people of this erstwhile state.

He said that the people of this state have expressed their strong resentment against the traditional political parties because of their hollow slogans, regional approach and unfulfilled promises.

"These traditional political parties have lost their faith. The people do not trust them anymore because of their unfulfilled promises, and regional/religious bias approach that has compromised peace, development, and employment in Jammu as well as

Kashmir regions," said Manjit Singh.

The Former Minister said that the people want to bring change in Jammu and Kashmir, and accordingly, they have high expectations from the Apni Party, and its leadership to bring sustainable development in both the regions, explore employment opportunities, and protect the land/jobs from the non-locals.

He also raised the alarming situation in which the local people in Jammu have developed a feeling that their rights were compromised, and they have to give major shares to the non-locals in the industrial sector, mining, and construction sectors.

He said that if the Party forms the Govt in Jammu and Kashmir, the development would be revamped to bring a new era of peace, stability and development.

Meanwhile, he elaborated about the policy and programs of the party that would be implemented for the welfare of the people, if the Party forms the Govt.

He appealed to the people to vote and support the party candidates in the scheduled elections for legislative assembly.

MAM College Cadet Neha represents India under Youth Exchange Programme to Vietnam

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 23: Senior Cadet Captain Neha Sharma, of Maulana Azad Memorial (MAM) College, Jammu has made history by becoming the first-ever girl cadet from Jammu & Kashmir selected for National Cadet Corps delegation under Youth Exchange Programme to Vietnam. The delegation was consisting a group of 13 members across the country.

This momentous achievement not only brought pride to the JK&L Directorate and the 1 J&K Naval Unit but also spotlights the Maulana Azad Memorial College, Jammu.

Selected from NCC cadets from 28 States and Union Territories and from 17 Directorates across the Nation, Neha's journey from a remote background to a national achiever is a testament to her unwavering determination and resilience.

Reflecting on Neha's achievement, Lieutenant Commander Tej Ram Shama, Commanding Officer of 1J&K Naval Unit NCC, remarked that Neha's dedication and perseverance set her apart as a role model for cadets across the Nation. Her selection as a member of delegation representing Country is a testament to her hard work and commitment.

Assistant Professor Mohd Ashraf, Neha's CTO at Maulana Azad Memorial College, emphasized that Neha's journey from humble beginnings to national recognition is a testament to her strength and resilience. Her struggles and triumphs inspire us all. Principal Prof. B.B. Anand expressed his pride, stating that Neha's achievement is a testament to the values of discipline and determination instilled in our students. She has brought immense honour to our institution.

DEO Poonch reviews facilities, addresses deficiencies at 24x7 Election Control Room

Top News Report

POONCH, Aug 23: In a significant step towards ensuring a seamless electoral process, District Election Officer Poonch (DEO), Vikas Kundal on Friday visited the 24x7 Election Control Room set up to effectively oversee and manage the assembly elections.

The District Election Officer reviewed the Election Cell and the newly established Control Room. The DEO's visit was part of a comprehensive effort to assess the facilities and bolster the management of the ensuing elections.

The Control Room, operational round the clock, is designed to monitor all aspects of the election process in real-time. It will serve as the central hub for addressing any election-related issues, strengthen coordination among various sections, and ensure that all procedures are followed meticulously. The establishment of this facility underscores the commitment towards maintaining high standards of electoral integrity and efficiency.

During the review, the DEO meticulously inspected all sections of Election Cell. The DEO also highlighted the utility of the Control Room in ensuring transparency in the electoral process. By providing continuous support and immediate response capabilities, the Control Room is expected to play a crucial role in facilitating a successful electoral experience for the citizens of Poonch.

DEO Udhampur chairs preparatory meeting for Assembly Election 2024



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Aug 23: District Election Officer Udhampur, Saloni Rai on Friday reviewed the preparedness for the upcoming General Assembly Election 2024 here at a meeting with Nodal Officers and Returning Officers. The meeting was held in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh; IAS Probationer Swati Sheemar; Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Additional SP Sandeep Bhat; Deputy District Election Officer, Dr Anirudh Rai; PO Poshan Subash

Dogra; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr. Umesh Shan; Assistant Commissioner Development Dr. Ranjeet Singh Kotwal and other Nodal Officers.

The meeting held detailed discussions on various critical aspects of election preparation, including enforcement of Model Code of Conduct, law and order management, training of personnel, expenditure monitoring, media communication strategies, transport management, helpline services, Pre certification of advertisement and paid news, complaints and redressal mechanism, the Election Seizure Monitoring System, facilitation of PwD voters, SVEEP

activities and the randomization of polling staff.

The DEO emphasized the importance of effective coordination among all stakeholders to ensure the smooth, fair, and inclusive conduct of the electoral process, thereby upholding the integrity of this democratic exercise. She directed all Nodal Officers to complete their assigned tasks promptly and to maintain close cooperation and coordination with each other.

Comprehensive guidance regarding duties and responsibilities during the election period was provided to all Nodal Officers and designated personnel to ensure a seamless execution of the election process.

First round of EVM-VVPATs randomization held at Reasi

Top News Report

REASI, Aug 23: The first phase of randomization of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs) for the upcoming General Election to the Legislative Assembly 2024 was conducted here on Friday under the supervision of District Election Officer (DEO) Vishesh Mahajan. The process was carried



out in the presence of representatives from various political parties and senior officials, ensuring transparency and fairness.

During the randomization, the DEO emphasized that the purpose

of the randomization is to ensure free and fair elections with no human intervention. He highlighted that the randomization is conducted using dedicated software to uphold electoral integrity. He

assured that all necessary measures have been implemented to guarantee transparency throughout the electoral process.

Interacting with the members of the Political parties, the DEO appealed to them to ensure adherence to timelines for permissions and also ensure that they contribute towards a peaceful and positive campaign in the District. He assured that the

District Election Authority is committed to Free and Fair polls and shall ensure that there was no violation of guidelines by anyone.

The others present at the randomization were ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal; Nodal Officer MCC Kulbhushan Khajuria; Deputy DEO Rakesh Kumar; Returning Officers (ROs) for AC-56, AC-57, and AC-58, along with other concerned offi-

Sometimes you need luck, but important to stick to process, says Dravid

MUMBAI, Aug 23 (Agencies): The legendary Rahul Dravid acknowledged that sometimes a little bit of luck can heavily impact the outcome of big matches, citing India's heart-breaking defeat in the ODI World Cup final to Australia and his side's sensational triumph from a precarious position against South Africa in the T20 World Cup final.

India had stormed into the ODI World Cup final last year with a 10-match winning streak but when the tournament's best team bumped into Australia in the title clash, nothing worked. Six months later, skipper Rohit Sharma and Dravid combined to complete the unfinished business. A formidable South Africa stood between them and the trophy but luck smiled on them.

Having drawn lessons from the incredible highs and lows, Dravid recalled how crucial it was for the team to stick to the



clichéd process and hope for luck to favour them against the Proteas at Barbados on June 29.

"I've had time to reflect on it. I've had time to reflect on a lot of things we've done. You do realise, sometimes, you have to do a lot of these things, you have to do the process, you have to do everything right," Dravid said.

"Sometimes at the end of the day, you need a little bit of luck.

(Against South Africa in the final)... 30 balls to go, 30 runs to go. (It was about) incredible execution, incredible calmness by Rohit. We didn't focus on what we needed to do, but we needed a guy who could keep his foot within one inch of a line. Sometimes (it is) the skill," he said without mentioning Suryakumar Yadav's juggling act at the ropes to complete David Miller's dismissal. That catch had tilted the match

in India's favour.

Dravid then recalled how India were close to dismissing Travis Head in the ODI World Cup final but the opener rode on his tremendous luck to come up with a match-winning century, single-handedly crushing a billion hopes.

"(On) 19th November... I remember whatever it was, we beat Travis Head's bat 15 times — he didn't touch a single ball. You know, things can go your way sometimes, but you have to stick to the process," Dravid said.

Dravid quit as India's coach following the title triumph. He hoped Team India will continue to have success in the coming years. "I have no doubt that this generation of players, led by people like Rohit and Surya and the (other) guys coming forward in all formats of the game, is only going to continue to do that in the future," he said.

Iyer on art of understanding Rohit's conversations: 'Words are for us to fill'



NEW DELHI, Aug 23 (Agencies): India batter Shreyas Iyer recently opened up on the art of understanding captain Rohit Sharma. Notably, the India skipper is known for his unique style of conversation where he tends to forget things and refers to them as 'this' and 'that' leaving it to the listener to interpret what he means.

Star India batter Virat Kohli had also famously revealed Rohit's unique habit in an interview. Recently, Iyer spoke about Rohit's unique style of conversation and said that they fill in the words themselves and understand their captain's feelings

having played with him for so many years.

"We have to fill in the worlds. Woh, yeh, usko, isko. So these words are for us to fill. We just visualise, who and what it is that he is talking about. But we understand his feelings; we've been playing with him for so many years," Iyer was quoted as saying by agency.

Fast bowler Mohammed Shami also lauded Rohit's captaincy style saying that he gives freedom to everyone. However, the speedster also revealed what happens when one fails to live up to his expectations.

"The best thing about Rohit Sharma is that

he gives you freedom but if you don't live up to his expectations then the reactions we see on the screen, the ones we understand without him saying anything, start to come out," Shami said at the award function," Shami said.

Rohit, Shami and Iyer bestowed with awards. Meanwhile, Rohit was bestowed with the honour of Men's international Cricketer of the Year at the Ceat Cricket Rating Award for his outstanding leadership and prolific run with the bat in the previous year. Fast bowler Mohammed Shami was adjudged Men's ODI bowler of the year for his exploits in 50-over format throughout the year.

The right-arm speedster finished as the highest wicket-taker of the ODI World Cup 2023 with 24 wickets to his name from just seven innings at an average of 10.70 and an economy of 5.26. Shreyas Iyer was also honoured at the event for Outstanding Leadership in IPL.

"I have announcement to make": KL Rahul's Instagram post triggers retirement talks

NEW DELHI, Aug 23 (Agencies): Indian cricketer KL Rahul remains one of the most talented batters in the country. The last couple of years, however, haven't been the best for Rahul from the performance point of view, with the wicket-keeper batter losing a spot in India's T20I side. As the members of the Indian cricket team enjoy a break, away from national duty, Rahul's Instagram story triggered a huge wave of speculations on social media. Rahul, taking to Instagram, said that he has an important announcement to make. Though the announce-

ment could be completely unrelated to his cricketing future, fans are concerned.

Rahul wasn't a part of India's squad at the T20 World Cup 2024. After the Rohit Sharma-led Indian side lifted the trophy by beating South Africa in the final, veterans like Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Ravindra Jadeja announced their retirement. Could Rahul also make a decision along the same lines?

"I have an announcement to make, stay tuned...", Rahul wrote on Instagram.

Since Rahul's Instagram story, some fake quotes

of his have also surfaced on social media, making fans wonder.

The wicket-keeper batter's future as the captain of his Indian Premier League side Lucknow Super has also been subjected to intense chatter among fans and experts. Many feel that the franchise might decide to offload Rahul and look for a new captaincy face in the forthcoming mega auction. Is Rahul about to make an announcement on his IPL future?

Rahul will next be seen in action in the Duleep Trophy, having been picked in the India 'A' Squad. He will be



playing under Shubman Gill's leadership, alongside Mayank Agarwal, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Akash Deep, Prasad Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, and Avesh Khan.

The wicket-batter has

tough competition from Rishabh Pant and Dhruv Jurel for a spot in the Indian team.

While Pant is likely to be given the wicket-keeper's role, Rahul could still make the cut in the playing XI as a non-keeper.

ICC planning multi-million dollar fund to save Test cricket: Report

SYDNEY, Aug 23 (Agencies): The International Cricket Council (ICC) is mulling a dedicated fund of at least USD 15 million for Test cricket that will help increase the players' match fee and address the migration of talent to lucrative T20 franchise leagues.

The initiative, which was proposed by Cricket Australia (CA), has the support of BCCI Secretary Jay Shah, who is the front-runner to become the next ICC Chairman, and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), a report in 'The Sydney Morning Herald' stated.

The fund would increase the minimum match payment for Test players and cover the cost of sending teams on overseas tours.

It would support national boards like the West Indies that currently struggle to compete with the wages offered in global T20 competitions.

"The fund would ensure a minimum Test payment for all players, thought to be USD 10,000, and pay the costs of overseas tours for struggling countries," the report stated.

"It's fantastic to see



International Cricket Council

some momentum behind the Test match fund," CA chairman Mike Baird, who floated the concept in January, said.

"We need to take away the barriers and encourage Test cricket to be the best of the best. To retain that history and that legacy, which goes alongside the newer forms of white ball cricket," he added.

The fund is unlikely to benefit the three wealthiest cricket nations -- India, Australia, and England -- since they already offer substantial salaries to their players.

However, how much money is available for Test cricket from the ICC is also likely to depend on a dispute with broadcaster Star, the report added.

The Star network wants to renegotiate a 2022 broadcast deal with the ICC and reduce

its value to half of the original cost of over USD three billion.

The BCCI had introduced an incentive scheme for India's men's Test cricketers earlier this year to encourage players to prioritise Test cricket and reward consistent performances in the longest format of the game.

Under the new scheme, a player who plays at least 75 per cent of India's Test matches in its annual cycle, from October to September, will earn a whopping Rs 45 lakh per match in addition to the Test match fees of Rs 15 lakh.

The players who feature in the 50-75 per cent games bracket will earn a bonus of Rs 30 lakh per match.

The non-playing members -- if selected in the squad -- will be paid half the amount.

Once an IPL sensation, Paul Valthaty takes up head coach role in the USA

NEW DELHI, Aug 23 (Agencies): Once a sensation in the Indian Premier League, Paul Valthaty has landed a coaching job in the United States. The 40-year-old was appointed as the head coach of the Seattle Thunderbolts in Minor League Cricket - a T20 tournament which is a developmental league for Major League Cricket.

"Seattle Thunderbolts have just added a big hitter to their lineup—off the field! We're thrilled to announce that Paul Valthaty, the former Kings XI Punjab sensation, is now steering

our ship as the Head Coach," the Minor League Cricket side said in a statement earlier this month.

Paul Valthaty began working with youngsters at the Thunderbolts Cricket Academy in Seattle. In a video message, Valthaty said he was excited to share his experience of playing in Mumbai and the Indian Premier League with the budding talents in Seattle.

Paul Valthaty had announced his retirement from domestic cricket only last year. The 40-year-old made an incredible impact in IPL 2011 for Punjab



Kings (then Kings XI Punjab), but failed to replicate that season's success in the following years. The Mumbai cricketer failed to earn an IPL contract after 2013. Despite his initial success, Valthaty's career trajectory took a downturn due to a wrist injury that required sur-

gery, impacting his form.

Valthaty began his cricketing journey through the age groups of Mumbai Cricket during the late 1990s. He was part of India's Under-19 squad for the 2002 World Cup, where an eye injury during a match against Bangladesh halted his devel-

opment. Despite this setback, Valthaty persevered and eventually made his List A debut for Mumbai in 2006.

Valthaty's career took a significant turn when he was signed by Rajasthan Royals in 2009. His performances for Mumbai's Twenty20 side led to a contract with Kings XI Punjab in 2011. Valthaty made a mark by hitting the season's first hundred -- an unbeaten 120 against the Super Kings. He went on to score 463 runs in 14 matches in the 2011 IPL season. Valthaty also played four first-class and five List-A matches.

Warne's death felt like losing someone from my family: Kuldeep Yadav

MELBOURNE, Aug 23 (Agencies): Indian wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav has revealed that the death of Australian legend Shane Warne two years ago felt like the loss of a family member to him as he always believed that there was a strong connection between them.

Kuldeep, who is on a short family trip in Australia, visited the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), the home ground of his 'idol' where he posed for a photo with Warne's statue outside the stadium.

"Shane Warne was my idol, and I had a very strong connection with him. I still get emotional when I think about Warne -- it feels like I've lost someone from my family," Kuldeep said.

He, however, did not elaborate on his equation with the legend, who died of a cardiac arrest while on a holiday in Thailand in 2022.

The T20 World Cup winning crick-

eter's trip Down Under comes just a few months before the Border Gavaskar Trophy, which is scheduled to begin on November 22 in Perth. "I am looking forward to the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, and we're anticipating a great cricket contest between Australia and India this year," he said.

Kuldeep, who has had an excellent couple of years since making his comeback from the knee injury, also visited the Cricket Australia (CA) headquarters and had an online interaction CEO Nick Hockley. He also acknowledged the unwavering support of Indian cricket fans. "India cricket fans always support the team around the globe, and I am confident they will come in big numbers for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, especially during the Boxing Day Test," Kuldeep said.

The MCG will host the Boxing Day Test from December 26.

Umran Malik focused on Duleep Trophy after recovering from Dengue

NEW DELHI, Aug 23 (Agencies): Young India fast bowler Umran Malik is focused on Duleep Trophy after recovering from Dengue. Notably, Duleep Trophy is all set to begin from 5th September 2024 in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh and M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru.

Malik has been put in Team C alongside Suryakumar Yadav, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sai Sudharsan, Rajat Patidar among others. Recently, the 24-year-old opened up on his preparations for the domestic tournament and hoped to do well for his team in the tournament.

"I am feeling better and now I am fully focused on the preparation of the Duleep trophy at NCA. I hope, I will be doing good



in this season for my team," Malik told agency.

Malik didn't have a memorable outing in the previous domestic season picking just four wickets from five matches at an average of 38.50 in the Ranji Trophy 2023-24 for Jammu & Kashmir.

Earlier, he failed to leave his mark in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2023 with six wickets

from seven matches at an average of 35.83 and an economy of 8.26. Malik had a forgettable time in the Vijay Hazare Trophy as well, where he went wicketless in the only game he played leaving 68 runs from eight overs.

In the Indian Premier League 2024 (IPL 2024), the speedster featured in just one game and was hammered for 15 runs in the solitary over. The 24-year-old has featured in ten ODIs and eight T20Is for India and picked 24 wickets across both formats.

Umran Malik's First Class Numbers In the 12 first-class matches, Malik has picked 16 wickets from 17 innings at an average of 44.62 and an economy of 4.14. He will be eager to bring his 'A

game' to the fore' in the Duleep Trophy and put on match-winning performances for his team.

India are due to tour Australia in November later this year, Malik's pace could prove to be handy on the bouncy surfaces in Australia. However, the speedster will have to prove his mettle in domestic cricket to earn his maiden India Test call up for the blockbuster series.

Duleep Trophy Team C squad: Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sai Sudharsan, Rajat Patidar, Abishek Porel, Suryakumar Yadav, B Indrajith, Hrishik Shokeen, Manav Suthar, Umran Malik, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Anshul Khamboj, Himanshu Chauhan, Mayank Markande, Aryan Juyal, Sandeep Warrior.

CUJ welcomes B. Tech Computer Science and Engineering students Batch -2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 23: Central University of Jammu (CUJ) started the B.Tech (Computer Science & Engineering) and B.Tech (Computer Science & Engineering-Cyber Security) Batch- 2024 with a two day Induction cum Orientation Programme conducted on Friday.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Chief Guest of the occasion welcomed and blessed the students for their academic journey during next four years in the University.

Prof. Dinesh Kumar, HoD (CSE & CSIT) welcomed all the students and delivered a comprehensive introduction of the department, curriculum and resources available to support their studies.



Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, Central University of Jammu, during his address highlighted that the induction programme will provide a seamless transition into University life, offering valuable insights and opportunities for engagement and introduction to the Central University academic community.

He also highlighted various schemes, facilities, infrastructure and other policies of the University. The Training and Placement Officer Viraj also interacted with the students and apprised them of the various training and placement opportunities at CUJ.

Senior Medical Officer, Dr. Harpreet Singh, highlighted the various medical facilities and medical camps that are conducted time to time for students and staff of the University.

The induction programme featured interactive sessions among the faculty members and students. The cultural programme was presented by the senior B.Tech, CSE students.

The new students were given a tour of the state-of-the-art IT labs along with other facilities and departments of the University during the campus orientation tour.

All faculty members of the CSE & CSIT department were present during the Induction programme.

Dr. Bhavna Arora, Associate Professor, Dr. Jasvinder Pal Singh and Dr. Palak Mahajan, Assistant Professors conducted the event with grace.

Dimple leads protest advocating for restoration of J&K's Statehood



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 23: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, led a protest advocating for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, the reinstatement of Article 370, and the implementation of the Instrument of Accession conditions signed by Maharaja Hari Singh.

In his address to the protestors, Dimple pledged to continue fighting for these causes and responded to the frequent statements by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and other BJP leaders, who have urged political parties and the people of Jammu and Kashmir to clarify their stance on the abrogation of Article 370.

Dimple asserted that he is determined to raise these issues in the legislative assembly if elected as an MLA.

He emphasized that his first resolution within the first 100 days in office would be to restore Article 370, implement the conditions of the Instrument of Accession, and work towards the unification of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, PoK, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Dimple expressed dissatisfaction with the NC-Congress alliance and criticized the BJP for its actions since August 5, 2019, which led to the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the state. He claimed that he had been arrested multiple times, sat on hunger strikes, and united various political leaders and parties to fight for the restoration of statehood and Article 370.

He also questioned why political parties are eager to contest the assembly elections when, according to him, the powers of the Chief Minister, MLAs, and voters have been transferred to the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Secretary under what he describes as a BJP conspiracy.

Dimple concluded by predicting that on October 4, Jammu and Kashmir would see a non-BJP Chief Minister and government. Prominent leaders such as Mohinder Singh, Kala Kaur, Sanjay Sethi, Akbar Khan, Mohamad Shafi, and Sunil Kumar were also present at the protest.

NILM organizes painting competition at Navdeep Public School Paloura



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 23: National Incredible Literacy Mission (NILM) organized school level painting competition to aware school children about environmental changes and natural resources.

Students of Navdeep Public School Paloura Jammu took part in this painting competition. This competition was organized by NILM NGO to aware the school children about green wealth and need of conservation of forest, water and other

need full environment resources.

"This year many students learned the values of environment and water conservation through painting" Thakur KD Kurhan Chairman NILM said.

During the painting competition Manvi Pathania, Principal of the school along with school incharge Sangeeta Pathania actively participated in the painting competition event. At end of painting competition certificates were distributed among the

participants by the Project Director NILM J&K. Rakeshwar Singh Project Director NILM said, "This type of competitions are specially designed by our NGO to make a positive attitude among the children to love their surrounding and environment."

He further added that students are passionately participating in the competition. This way they are getting aware with inner talent as well as the students develop environment friendly attitude in them.

Sainik Samaj Party finalizes its manifesto for Assembly elections

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 23: The Sainik Samaj Party (SSP), led by Col S.S Pathania, Chief Convenor and President, has finalized its manifesto for the upcoming assembly elections during a corps group meeting. The manifesto strongly advocates for the creation of a separate state for the Jammu region, citing past discrimination, suppression, and exploitation under Kashmir-centric politics.

"The proposed state would cover approximately 26,000 square kilometers, while the Kashmir region, with an area of around 15,000 square kilometers, would be administered as a Union Territory (UT). The party believes this division will lead to better administration, infrastructure development, and prosperity for both regions," Pathania said.

The meeting also focused on issues specific to the Jammu region and discussed strategies for participating in assembly, municipality, and panchayat elections.

Pathania laid emphasis on selecting suitable candidates and appointing district-level office bearers.

Col Pathania expressed concern over the pre-poll alliance between the National Conference (NC) and Congress, urging the people of Jammu to reject both parties for their divisive and anti-national stances.

He also called on politically inclined youth and women (Nari Shakti) to join the Sainik Samaj Party and bring about a paradigm shift in the region's politics.

The meeting was attended by Rajiv Luthra, Rajeswar Jamwal, Suraj Singh, Varun Jamwal, Sunil Dutt, Vikas Sharma, Virender Slathia, and other members of the corps group.

International Youth Day-2024 celebrated at GDC Chatroo

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Aug 23: International Youth Day was celebrated by Red Ribbon Club of GDC Chatroo, on Friday, in collaboration with J&K AIDS Control Society with great zeal and enthusiasm. The event, observed annually, recognizes the accomplishments, potential, and challenges of young people worldwide.

The program commenced with the National Anthem, followed by an enlightening lecture by Dr. Ather Hussain.



He addressed the students, emphasizing the significance and purpose of International Youth Day.

Dr. Vikram Rathore, the Nodal Officer of the Red Ribbon Club, GDC Chatroo, highlighted the crucial role of youth in fostering peace and

security. The entire event was organized under the guidance of the college's principal, Dr. Ved Kumar, who also shared insights on the importance of celebrating International Youth Day.

On the occasion a slogan writing competition on the theme "Empowering Youth for Peace and Security" was a key highlight of the event, with ten students participating.

The competition was



judged by Prof. Chander Parkash, Prof. Sunil Kumar, and Prof. Ram Krishan. The winners were Saqib Irshad Malik (1st place), Aaqib Hussain (2nd place), and Arshad Naik (3rd place). The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Chander Parkash, NSS PO bringing the celebration to a successful close.

Series of events conducted to celebrate National Space Day at GDC R S Pura



Top News Report

RS PURA, Aug 23: Science Club in collaboration with Career Counseling/ Guidance and Placement Cell of Govt. Degree College (GDC) R S Pura organized Poster making competition and Documentary Show in connection with the series of events related to National Space Day.

The proposed theme for the National Space Day - 2024 was "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga".

The aim of the events was to spread awareness regarding space made by Bharat as its "Chandrayaan-3" became the first to land on the South Pole region of the moon on 23rd August, 2023.

Beyond its immediate scientific impact, this holds the promise of inspiring young minds to join the realms of space

exploration and science.

To commemorate this day, Poster making competition and a seminar was organized in which students enlightened the various aspects of brilliant scientific approach of brilliant scientist behind Chandrayaan Mission to moon. A documentary show was also shown regarding launching of Chandrayaan-3 and the findings by the Vikram Lander depicting India's remarkable achievement in advancing space science and technology.

In all the above mentioned events, deserving students were acknowledged and certificates of appreciation were distributed among them.

The Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour appreciated the efforts of the faculty members and students in organizing the events and encouraged for more such events in near future.

The entire events were coordinated by Dr. Neeru Sawhney, Prof. Anju Kumari, Prof. Shelly Kalsi, Prof. Meeshu Pandita, Dr. Hari Singh, Prof. Geetika Goswami and Prof. Vijeeta Anand under the convenership of Dr. Rajinder Kumar Sharma. The event concluded with formal vote of thanks by Prof. Vijeeta Anand.

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