

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Would-Be Bridegroom attacked with knife on Mehdi Raat in Shopian

SRINAGAR, Aug 25 (Agencies): A bridegroom was injured in a knife attack amid the wedding celebrations at Rakhama area of south Kashmir's Shopian district on Saturday evening, reports said.

Quoting official sources, news agency GNS reported that unknown persons came on bike and phoned the bridegroom, Mubashir Ahmad Naikoo, amid the function of the night.

Later the official said, the unknown persons attacked Naikoo, leaving him wounded, and then fled.

Naikoo was shifted to SDH Kulgam from where he was referred to SMHS hospital for advanced treatment, the official said.

Meanwhile, police said that a case has been registered and a manhunt has been launched to nab the attackers.

BSF seeks additional manpower for drone-affected Punjab Border

JALANDHAR/NEW DELHI, Aug 25 (Agencies): The BSF has sought the deployment of an additional battalion to check the onslaught of cross-border drones carrying drugs and ammunition and curb infiltration along the Punjab front of the India-Pakistan border.

The force currently has about 20 battalions to guard the more than 500-kilometre-long front, out of which 18 are "actively deployed" at the border while the rest are mobilised in view of the requirements at the Attari integrated check post in Amritsar and the Kartarpur corridor at Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district.

The drone menace that started around 2019-20 along this front is dominant in the border districts of Amritsar and Tarn Taran. One more Border Security Force (BSF) battalion has been sought to better secure the Punjab

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BJP to bank more upon new faces in 3-phase J&K Assembly Polls

JAMMU, Aug 25 (Agencies): The mainstream political party, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will be banking on new faces and may repeat a few old stalwarts in the three-phase Assembly elections to the 90-member Jammu and Kashmir Assembly scheduled to be held on September 18, September 25 and October 1.

"The names of the candidates are almost



final and submitted to the high command for final stamp and the party this time will be banking more upon new faces,"

party sources said.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has already issued a notification for the first phase

of voting for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election, being held after a decade.

The notification sets August 27 as the last date for filing nominations, with scrutiny on August 28; the last date for the withdrawal of candidature is August 30 and the voting will be held on September 18.

"The BJP in Jammu and Kashmir is a party of

Turn to page 9

"Welcome step": Omar Abdullah on reports JeI to contest J&K polls

SRINAGAR, Aug 25 (Agencies): Reacting to reports of Jama'at-e-Islami to contest the upcoming assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah said that the beauty of democracy is that anyone can contest polls.

Speaking to reporters



in Ganderbal, Omar, as per news agency—

Kashmir News Observer (KNO) he came across

news reports that JeI was trying to get its ban lifted, so they could contest the elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

"But, unfortunately the government did not lift the ban even after elections were announced in J&K. Now there are news reports JeI is fielding its candidates

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11-member gang of interstate criminals arrested for killing Jammu cabbie: SSP Jammu

SRINAGAR, Aug 25 (Agencies): An 11-member gang of interstate criminals, mostly from Haryana, were arrested for killing a cab driver whose body was recovered from here, a senior police officer said on Saturday.

The body of Mangal Singh, a resident of Jammu, was recovered



from Bajalta forest on Friday, five days after he was reported missing while returning from Katra in Reasi district to drop passengers at a railway station.

"Police have successfully resolved the case of the abduction and murder of the cab driver by apprehend

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NRI shooting case: Police arrest 5 people, including father-in-law of victim

AMRITSAR, Aug 25 (Agencies): The Amritsar Police Commissionerate have arrested five people in connection with the NRI Sukhchain Singh shooting case. However, the main shooters are still at large and a manhunt is on to nab them, officials said on Sunday.

Among those arrested were identified as Jagjit Singh and Chamkaur Singh, both residents of Thath village in Tarn Taran; Digambar Atri, the hotel owner, and Abhilash Bhaskar of Katra Ahluwalia, hotel manager.

Police Commissioner Ranjit Singh Dhillon said the accused had sheltered the two shooters who were on the run, while the hotel owner and manager were nabbed as they gave them room without taking their ID proofs. Jagjit and Chamkaur were known to the shooters and they sheltered them in the Tarn Taran area after they shot Sukhchain Singh.

Dhillon said both the suspects were identified and a manhunt was launched to nab them. One of the suspects had 10 criminal cases, including murder bid, theft, loot and NDPS cases. One suspect came out of Kapurthala jail on bail in February this year while his accomplice, who

er Ranjit Singh Dhillon said the accused had sheltered the two shooters who were on the run, while the hotel owner and manager were nabbed as they gave them room without taking their ID proofs. Jagjit and Chamkaur were known to the shooters and they sheltered them in the Tarn Taran area after they shot Sukhchain Singh.

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2 killed, one injured as oil tanker plunges into deep gorge in Kupwara

SRINAGAR, Aug 25 (Agencies): At least two people were killed and another seriously injured when an oil tanker met with an accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Police said the ill-fated tanker was on its way to Kupwara when it skidded off the road after the driver lost control over it and rolled down to a deep gorge at Machil late Saturday night.

The driver and the conductor of the vehicle died on the spot, police

said. They have been identified as Jasbir Singh Thakur, a resident of Balshama Sunderbani Rajouri, and Ankush Choudhary of Nowshara in Jammu division.

The seriously injured, identified as Anu Sharma of Sunderbani district, Rajouri, have been admitted to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Police have registered an FIR at Police Station Kupwara and started an investigation to ascertain the cause of the accident.

Usman Majid says will fight as independent candidate, decide alliance after election

BANDIPORA, Aug 25 (Agencies): The former Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from north Kashmir's Bandipora, Usman Majid on Sunday said that he will be fighting as an independent candidate and "will bargain with the like-minded party in power for the best interests of Bandipora people in the upcoming Assembly Elections."

Majid parted ways with Congress in 2019 to join Altaf Bukhari's Apni Party as its vice president.

However, in early August, Majid resigned from the Bukhari-led party, terming it necessary to "achieve his objectives."

Majid said he is in talks with regional parties, but he won't be a part of any pre-poll alliance.

He told Greater Kashmir that he will fight as an independent candidate. This, he said, has also been supported by the people of his area.

"Politics is a dynamic thing, you don't know who will form alliance with who, so I am staying away from it," he said at a youth convention held in his office today.

However, he said, that if he is elected, he will decide about the alliance after consulting his workers.

While acknowledging the power of youth, Majid said that the youth overturned the mainstream parties in recently held Lok Sabha elections.

He was referring to north Kashmir seat where imprisoned leader Er. Rashid won a landslide victory, defeating JKNC vice president Omar Abdullah.

Give mandate to Mohinder Bhardwaj for Vijaypur seat: Congress workers urge leadership in Insaaf rally

JAMMU, Aug 25 (Agencies): Several Congress workers on Sunday urged party leadership to give mandate to Mohinder Bhardwaj in the upcoming Assembly elections in Vijaypur assembly segment.

The workers during Insaaf rally said the constituents of Vijaypur assembly segment need a competent, intelligent, widely acceptable-across the communities

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MBA MOTORS
MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

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

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Shadi Lal Pandita (Bhaisahab)** S/o Late Sh. Sarwanand Pandita originally resident of Tangwari Payeen Baramulla who tragically lost his life in a road accident and left for heavenly abode on 22-08-2024 at Jammu.

Mourning: Block no 30 Flat no 5 Lane 7, Jagti Colony Nagrota.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat near DSEK office Jammu on 31-08-2024 at 9:00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Lalita Pandita - **Wife**
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh Sumit Pandita and Smt Neelu Pandita
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt Sonika Pandita and Sh Dileep Bhat
Brother & Sister-in-law
Sh Mithan Ji Pandita and Smt Kiran Pandita
Sh Rakesh Pandita and Smt Meenakshi Pandita
Sister & Brother-in-law
Smt Phoolia Pandita W/o Late Sh Chooni Lal Pandita
Smt Arcey Pandita and Sh Sanjoo Bhat
Grand Children and all Near and Dear ones
Contact No. : 9797425322, 7051489505, 9596644690



Sh. Shadi Lal Pandita (Bhaisahab)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Dr. Krishan Kant Sharma** (S/o late Sh. Param Chand Sharma) R/o Udhampur presently residing at H.No. 8, Lane no.1, Sec 1-B, Laxmipuram near May Fair International School Bantalaab.

Tenth day will be performed on 26th August Monday 11:00 am at our residence, Bantalaab

Kriya will be performed on 27th August Tuesday 12:00 noon at our residence, Bantalaab

Uthala/Rasam Pagdi will be performed on 28th August Wednesday 11:00 am to 12:30 pm at Bawa Kalikh Dev Temple Bantalaab Jammu (opposite Radha Swami Satsang Bantalaab)

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Anita Sharma (**Wife**)
Son & Daughter-in-law
Amit Sharma and Dr. Shaveta Sharma
Dr. Sumit Sharma and Dr. Pooja Padha
Brother & Bhabhi
Dr. Yogi Raj Sharma & Smt. Lalita Sharma
Adv. Bharat Bhushan & Smt. Surekha Sharma
Sister & Brother -in-law
Smt. Vidya Sharma
Smt. Prabha Sharma & Adv. Kedar Nath
Smt. Asha Sharma & Sh. Vijay Kumar
Mother-in-law
Smt. Kamla Devi w/o Late Sh. Bharat Bhushan Khajuria
Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law
Sh. Rampaul Sharma & Amita Sharma
Sh. Rakesh Sharma & Rajani Sharma
Sh. Rajinder Sharma & Jyoti Sharma



Dr KRISHAN KANT SHARMA
Retd. Surgeon Specialist

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sharma Family
Contact No : 9469213369, 9419125683

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 & Phoolia Koul - **Brother & Bhabhi**
Ashok Kumar Koul & Saroj Koul - **Sister & Brother-in-law**
Smt. Usha Bhat & Bansil Lal Bhat - **Brother & Brother-in-law**
Smt. Rani W/o Late Sh. Hira Lal Raina - **Sister & Brother-in-law**
Smt. Dulari & Raj Nath Bhat - **Sister-in-law & Co-Brother**
Vinod Raina & Ranjana Raina (**In-laws**)
Mokshin, Yash & Ravista - **Grand Children**
Koul's, Thussu's & Dhar's
Tel: 981109835, 9654368822



Sh. Aular Krishan Koul

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Sardarni Pritam Kour** W/o Lt. S. Inder Singh R/o 109-110, Rouki Bakshi Nagar, Jammu on 21/8/2024.

Bhog & Antim Ardas shall be held as per the following programme.

Arambh Sri Akhand Path 24 August (Saturday) at 9.00 am.

Bhog Sri Akhand Path 26 August (Monday) at our residence.

Antim Ardas at Gurudwara Bakshi Nagar on 26/8/2024 from 10.30 am to 12.00 Noon followed by **Guru Ka Langar**.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Daughter-in-law & Son
Balbir Kour & Nirmal Singh (Retd. IDAS)
Simmi Kour & Jaswant Singh (Retd. Bank Manager, J&K Bank)
Daughter & Son-in-law
Agya Kour & Lt. Amar Singh
Ranjeet Kour W/o Lt. Gurbachan Singh
Mobile : 9419108515, 9013016227



Sardarni Pritam Kour

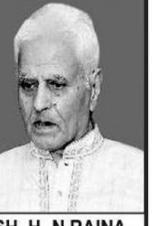
10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform that **Sh. H. N Raina** S/o Lt. Sh. Vedh Lal Raina earstwhile resident of Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar at present at 327 Colonel's Colony, Bohri left for his heavenly abode on 17-08-2024.

10TH DAY KRIYA shall be performed at Muthi Ghat at 8.30 AM on 26-08-2024 Monday.

GRIEF STRICKEN

DAUGHTERS & SON IN LAW
Smt Promila & Sh. Sunil Koul
Smt Kusum & Sh. M.K Pandita
Smt Sushma & Sh. P.N Koul
Smt Jyoti & Sh. Sunil Sutan
Smt Monika & Sh. Sunil Gaddoo
Sons & Daughters in Law
Sh. Sanjay Raina & Smt Anuja
Sh. Vijay Raina & Smt Soni
Sh. Ajay Raina & Smt Bharti
Grand Children: Pankhil, Manisha & Manik, Sanchit, Ayushi & Ikshek Aarushi, Parth, Kartik, Swastik, Aadiya & Aamaya



SH. H. N RAINA

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & pain, we inform all concerned that our beloved, **Shree Kewal Krishan Ganhar** S/o Late Krishan Joo Ganhar & Late Rani Ji Ganhar, Originally from Motiyar Rainawari (Sgr.) presently at Indra Nagar (Sgr.) left for his heavenly abode on 20.08.2024 (A/N).

The **10TH DAY KRIYA** shall be performed on 29th of August at Shurayar temple Ghat at 9:30 am.

DEEPLY MOURNED BY:

Mrs. Usha Ganhar (**Wife**)
Rajneesh Ganhar & Mrs. Pooja Ganhar (**Son & Daughter-in-law**)
C.M.Dhar (**Brother -in-law**)
Mrs. Pinky & Dr. Deepak Sharma (**Sister & Brother-in-law**)
Mrs. Nirmala and T.K Dhar, Suman and Dr. Ramesh Dhar
Mrs. Urmila and Hemant Kaul
Rahul Dhar Mrs. Nisha
Friends & relatives. Contact Number: 7889731676 and 7006287447



Shree Kewal Krishan Ganhar

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. H. K. Koul** S/o Lt. Sh. Narayan Koul, original resident of 279, Narsingh Garh, Srinagar & resident of H. No. 681, Janipur Housing Colony, Jammu. Currently residing at 138-D, Pkt A-2, Mayur Vihar Phase-3, Delhi-96.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 30-08-2024 (Friday) 06:30 AM at Murad Nagar (Chota Haridwar), Ghaziabad.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Girji Koul (**Wife**)
Smt. Mohini Koul (**Bhabhi**) W/o Lt. Prof. R. N. Koul
Smt. Dulari Malik (**Sister**) W/o Sh. B. N. Malik
In-Laws:
Smt. Krishna & Sh. C. L. Saraf
Smt. Veena & Lt. Sh. R. L. Raina
Smt. & Sh. J. L. Raina
Smt. & Sh. Manohar Raina
Sons and Daughters-in-law :
Lt. Sh. Sanjay Koul & Smt. Sujata Koul
Sh. A. K. Koul & Smt. Seema Koul (807606930)
Daughter & Son-in-law :
Smt. Leena Bhat and Sh. Susheel Bhat (8178056287)
Grand children: Mayur, Twinkle, Chaitanya, Nitya, Sanchita & Ronak
Great-Grandson: Little Mayur



Sh. H. K. Koul

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Pushpa Ji (Rupa)** W/o Late Sh. Baskar Nath Peer on 20th Aug originally from Vicharnag Srinagar, A/p residing at H. No 717 Sector 9, Gurugram.

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 29th Aug 2024 at Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir T-Block, Phase I, Sector 109 New Palam Vihar Gurugram at 8.30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Shahjee & Satish Wail- **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 Parivaar



Smt. Pushpa Ji (Rupa)

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Dr P R Sharma** (Chest Physician).

Tenth Day will be performed on 26 Aug 2024 Monday at 10:00 AM at our residence 333/F, Sainik Colony, Jammu.

Kriya will be performed on 27 Aug 2024 Tuesday at 12:00 Noon at our Residence 333/F, Sainik Colony, Jammu

Uthala will be performed on 28 Aug 2024 Wednesday at 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm at Ram Mandir, Sector-D, Sainik Colony, Jammu

GRIEF STRICKEN

Parveen Sharma (Wife)
Sons & Daughter-in-laws
Dr. Ashwani Sharma & Dr. Neelu Sharma
Dr. Neeru Sharma & Adv. Neel Sharma
Brothers & Bhabhis
Sh. Rattan Lal Sharma & Mrs. Sayya Devi
Sh. Janki Raj Sharma & Mrs. Chanchal Sharma
Sh. Tula Ram Sharma & Smt. Asha Devi
Brother-in-law & Sister
Sh. Kishay Sharma & Smt. Sunita Sharma
Grand Children: Aarsh, Harshul, Ande sha, Sidharth
MOB: 9419193001; 9797455159



DR P R SHARMA (CHEST PHYSICIAN)

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the Sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Rani Ganjoo (Nana Tath)**, W/O Lt. Sh. Omkar Nath Ganjoo. R/o Shiv Nagar, Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 18th Aug. 2024 (Sunday) at Noida (Uttarpradesh).

Tenth Day/Kriya will be performed on 27th Aug. 2024 (Tuesday) at Ghatganga, Brij Ghat, District Hapur, Uttar Pradesh.

Grief Stricken:-

Lt. Sh. Omkar Nath Ganjoo (**Husband**)
Sons & Daughter in law
Mrs. & Mr. Pummy & Suresh Ganjoo
Mrs. & Mr. Madhu & Lt. Sh. Rajinder Ganjoo
Mrs. & Mr. Archana & Mahesh Ganjoo
Daughter & Son in law
Mrs. & Mr. Sunita & Sunil Bhan.
Grandsons & Granddaughter :- Mohit Ganjoo, Namita & Harish Ganjoo, Anushka Bhan & Anmol Ganjoo.



Smt. Rani Ganjoo

SHADMOS/ MASVAAR

Six months have passed, words are not enough to say how much we miss you. Everyday, we remember you in our prayers, in our thoughts. Your memory can never be forgotten.
"I talk to you all the time, I hope you hear me Papa."

Shadmos & Masvaar of our beloved **Karamyogi Lt. Sh. Sheban Krishan Bhat (Pandit Ji)** will be performed on 27th & 28th August at Flat T4-102, Ace Auram-III, Ravet, Pune.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-

Mohini Bhat - **Wife**
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sushant Bhat & Deeksha Pandita
Ajay & Sheetu Bhat - **Son-in-law & Daughter**



Karamyogi Lt. Sh. Sheban Krishan Bhat (Pandit Ji)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Veena Raina**, W/o Late Sh. Durga Nath Raina, Phase 1, Housing Colony, Udhampur (J&K) who left for heavenly abode on 18-08-2024. **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on Tuesday (27-08-2024) at Devika ghat at 9:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

(**Son and Daughter-in-law**)
Sh. Vicky Raina and Smt. Shaluu Raina (**Daughters and Sons-in-law**)
Smt. Neena Koul and Sh. Vinod Koul
Smt. Priya Huku and Sh. Ishan Huku
Smt. Pushpa Raina (**Sister-in-Law**)
(**Nephews and Daughters-in-law**)
Sh. Ajay Raina and Smt. Sunita Raina
Sh. Sanjay Raina and Smt. Poonam Raina
Contact Numbers: 7006377342, 7889904015, 9858120757, 9858604233, 7006194209, 7006194210



SMT. VEENA RAINA

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound sorrow & grief we regret to inform the untimely sad demise of our beloved **Chander Kala (Babli)** (Retd. ZEO) wife of Shri C.K Sharma Retd. DCF R/o A/P 29 - Housing Colony Phase 2nd Udhampur. The **10th Day** will be performed on Tuesday the 27th of August 2024 at 10 AM at Shiv Mandir Housing Colony, Udhampur and **11th Day Kriya** will be held on Wednesday 28th August 2024 at our residence, Housing Colony, Udhampur.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

C.K Sharma - **Husband** (Retd. Dy Conservator of Forests)
Akhil Sharma - **Son** (Akhil Tour & Travels)
Dr. Nikhil & Sheetal Sharma (**Son & Daughter in Law**)
Er. Rahul Razdan & Dr. Aditi (**Son-in-Law & Daughter**)
Master Reyansh
All Sharma & Khajuria Family Members
(M)9419175579, 6005751862, 9906009831



CHANDER KALA (BABLI) (RETD. ZEO)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

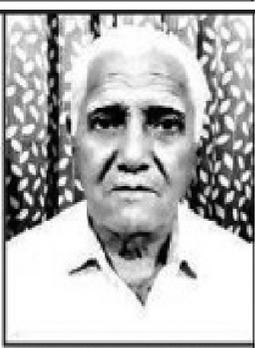
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Kumair Singh** (S/o Late Sh. Kanshi Singh) who expired on 15th of August, 2024.

Tenth Day will be performed on (Saturday) 24th of August, 2024 at 11 AM at our residence.

Kriya will be performed on (Tuesday) 27th of August, 2024 at 12 Noon at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Smt. Shanti Devi (**Wife**)
Smt. Urmila Devi (**Daughter**)
Smt. Pooja & Sh. Rameshwar Singh (**Son & Daughter-in-Law**)
Smt. Uma Rani & Sh. Yuchvir Singh (**Daughter & Son-in-Law**)
Smt. Ritu Rani & Sh. Veninder Singh (**Daughter & Son-in-Law**)
Grand Children: Rudrakshi Singh, Aditya Pratap Singh, Devyani Singh, Vanashika Singh, Pranav Dev Singh
MOB: 7006291721, 9419152851, 9419104075



SH. KUMAIR SINGH

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we hereby inform premature departure of our beloved **Sh. Surinder Kumar Bhat (Retd. Accounts Officer)** originally from Rohmoh, Pulwama on 23rd August 2024 at his residence H No 43, Lane 2/3, Roop Nagar, Jammu.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 1st September 2024 at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education office at 8:30 A.M.

Deeply Remembered By

Smt. Sarla (Ganjoo) Bhat **Wife**
Smt. Shiny Bhat & Sh. Rahul Tikoo **Daughter and Son in Law**
Smt. Monica Bhat & Sh. Vikas Pandita **Daughter and Son in Law**
Smt. Kundan Bhat W/o Late Dr. M.K Bhat **Sister in Law**
Smt. Vijay Pandita & Sh. Avtar Krishan Pandita **Sister and Brother in Law**
Sh. S. L. Bhat & Smt. Pushpa Bhat **Brother and Sister in Law**
Smt. Dulari W/o Late Sh. Janki Nath Ganjoo of Wanpoh **Mother in Law**
Smt. Kiran Jadh & Sh. Hira Lal Jadh **Sister in Law and Brother in Law**
Smt. Usha Kaul W/o Late Sh. Satish Kaul **Sister in Law**
Smt. Sunita Talashi & Sh. Hans Raj Talashi **Sister in Law & Brother in Law**
Smt. Raka Razdan & Sh. Yoginder Razdan **Sister in Law & Brother in Law**
Maluin side mourning will be at the same residence.
Contact: Sarla Bhat-788 9629 499, Shiny Bhat-899 9778 154



Sh. Surinder Kumar Bhat (Retd. Accounts Officer)

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 Sameer 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 Malvi Pulija.

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

IN GRIEF

Chandekanta Kaul (Jija) - **Wife**
Ratna Kaul (Soni) - **Bhabhi**
Aditya Kaul & Anko (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Achaia & Vikas Bhan (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
Amrita & Ramen 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 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 Vicharnag Srinagar, A/p residing at H. No 717 Sector 9, Gurugram.

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 29th Aug 2024 at Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir T-Block, Phase I, Sector 109 New Palam Vihar Gurugram at 8.30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Shahjee & Satish Wail- **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 Parivaar



SMT CHUNNI DEVI

OBITUARY / 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you about the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt Chuni Kak** W/o Late Shri K L Kak, at 1248, Sector 15, Panchkula on Wednesday August 21, 2024.

The **10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 30th Aug 2024 at Gager Nad near Shani Mandir backside Golf Club at 7.00 a.m.

IN GRIEF

(**Son and Daughter in Law**)
S.K. Kak and Rita Kak
Bipin Kak and Pomila Kak
(**Daughter and Son in Law**)
Veena Kachroo and Bushan Kachroo
Phone Numbers: 09419121690, 09419198290, 09878955974



Smt Chuni Kak

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Shiv Sena demands to spend donations on welfare of Hindus

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 25: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has demanded immediate repeal of Hindu Endowments Act 1951, spending the donation amount on the welfare of Hindus and giving first right to Hindus for admission in colleges and universities run by Hindu temples.

In a press conference held in Jammu today, state head Manish Sahni said that it is ironic that in a country with 80% Hindu population, the govern-



ment has maintained its complete control over about four lakh Hindu temples and donations whereas on the contrary, Muslim, Christian and other religious places

have been given complete exemption.

Sahni said that in the Constitution of the country received in 1950, under Article 26, it was clearly stated that the

government will not have to interfere in any religious place.

This article got us rid of the laws and regulations of the British and Hindus got their temples back but in 1951, a law was made under the Hindu Charity Act and the state governments were given the full right to control the temples.

Sahni said that there are about 9 lakh Hindu temples in the whole country and about four lakh temples are under government control. It is not clear where the

money goes that Hindus offer to God in the temple according to their faith. Sahni has appealed to all Hindu organizations, saint society to come forward and join this campaign of Shiv Sena (UBT) for the protection and upliftment of temples and take effective steps with immediate effect in unity to repeal the 1951 Act which is a blow to the faith of Hindus.

On this occasion General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice President Sanjeev Kohli were present.

Massive bike rally for war against drugs Zorawar urges Govt to deal drug smugglers with iron hand



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 25: Demanding death penalty for those who are proved guilty for smuggling and selling Narcotics among youth thereby spoiling careers and lives of younger generation, volunteers of Team Jammu headed by their Chairman, Zorawar Singh Jamwal today urged Jammu and Kashmir LG Administration to fulfil its commitment of dealing drug peddlers with iron hands.

An initiative undertaken by Team Jammu, in the shape of bike rally against drug abuse, received over-whelming response from Jammuites as people cutting across party ideology, caste, creed, colour and religion came forward to render their support to make Jammu free from drugs.

To wage a war against drug abuse rightly called as "Narco-Terrorism", the Team Jammu today organized anti-drug bike rally, which turned to a historic in a sense that members of the civil society, social organisations and associations of all markets of Jammu city and its outskirts came forward not only to felicitate organizers but they themselves became part of the rally. In one of the historical anti-drugs motorcycle

rally in Jammu city, Team Jammu, a group of youth from various walks of life today has given a strong signal against the menace of drugs in the region.

Thousands of Team Jammu volunteers riding on bikes including members of Bull Riders Motorcycle, Survivor Hill Riders and Himalayan Bulls Adventure Clubs today morning thronged at Toph Sherkhania Bridge on Akhnoor Road and raised slogans like "Nashe Ki, Khatam Karo Bimaari, Hamara Jammu, Hamaari Zimedaari", "Jammu Ko Bachaana Hai, Nashe Ko Bhagaana Hai" "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" "Vande Mataram", "Jai Jammu, Jio Jammu". The bike riders moved in the shape of mega bike rally headed by Chairman Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal. The rally passed through A G office, Shakti Nagar, Rajpura Mangotri-an, Rehari, Sarwal, Mian Deedo Chowk, Shakuntala Crossing, K C Crossing, Bus Stand, Jewel Chowk, GGM Science College and SPMR Commerce Road, Talab Tillo, Gole Pully, Gole Gujral Crossing, Patta Chungi, Akhnoor Road and finally concluded near Toph Sherkhania Bridge.

At several places, Chairman Team Jammu chief

Zorawar Singh Jamwal addressing the rally cautioned the people to get united to wage a war against drug mafia that is moving youth dead end of their precious lives.

"It was a beginning and an eye-opener for state administration and police that they have to be more strict against the drug menace in Jammu Region, otherwise the time has come when people of Jammu voluntarily under the umbrella of Team Jammu will come in the open against those who are selling the poisonous drugs," said Zorawar Singh Jamwal.

Urging the youth to stay away from drug abuse and play important role in nation building, Zorawar Singh Jamwal further demanded that JK UT administration must raise more infra-structure like open and indoor stadiums and promote sports activities in every district of J&K so that they remain physically fit.

Besides, the police department shall set an example exposing black sheep in its department involved with drug lords and evolve a mechanism to plug in all routes of narco smuggling to thwart all attempts of Drug Mafia, which is hell bent to ruin the lives of younger generation.

CUJ ISRO Centre celebrates National Space Day 2024



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 25: First National Space Day 2024 was celebrated with great enthusiasm and innovation at the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE), under the esteemed patronage of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, at the ISRO Centre of Central University of Jammu.

Prof. Rakesh Jha, Head of the Department of Electronics and Communication, presided over the event, while Dr. Priyank Sharma, Assistant Professor coordinated the event. The day began with a formal opening ceremony where Dr. Sunil Yadav, Associate Professor in the Department of ECE, highlighted the significance of space science and technology in modern society. His address set the tone for a day filled with insightful discussions and interac-

tive sessions.

A key highlight of the event was an expert talk by Scientist Alok Kumar Singhal on "Satellite Communication and Its Applications," which delved into the critical role of satellite technology in various aspects of communication.

Dr. Sanjeev Yadav, Assistant Professor, ECE delivered an expert talk on "5G Communication and the Effect of Radiation on Human Beings," providing valuable insights into the advancements and implications of 5G technology.

The celebrations included a Poster Competition for students, encouraging them to creatively express their understanding of space-related themes.

A quiz competition was also conducted, testing the participants' knowledge of space science, astronomy, and space missions. The competitive spirit and enthusiasm

among the participants were palpable, with winners receiving certificates and space-themed prizes as tokens of recognition.

The first three prize winning team were Sourav Kumar (Team no. 15), Baibhav Kumar and Bal Krishan Mandal (Team No. 10), M. Jarhad Farooq and Keyur Bhargav (Team No. 05) and Nandani and Megha Jha (Team No. 02)

The event witnessed the participation of 15 teams, each showcasing remarkable knowledge and creativity.

The day concluded with a formal vote of thanks from Dr. Priyank Sharma, who expressed his gratitude to the distinguished guest speakers, participants, and volunteers.

He acknowledged their efforts in making National Space Day 2024 a resounding success and thanked those who contributed prizes for the event.

Katra Chamber appreciates Jammu police for its exemplary efforts

Top News Report

KATRA, Aug 25: The Chamber of Tourism, Trade, and Industry, Katra, would like to extend its heartfelt appreciation and commendation to the Jammu Police for their swift and effective resolution of the tragic abduction and murder case of Mangal Singh, a cab driver from Jammu. This heinous crime has shaken our community, and we stand united in our gratitude towards the dedicated police force that worked tirelessly to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Raj Kumar Padha president Katra Chamber complimented that the successful apprehension of the gang of interstate criminals from Ratia Fatehabad, Haryana, was a testament to the unwavering commitment and professionalism of the Jammu Police.

He appreciated the operation of Jammu Police which was meticulously conducted under the close supervision of Inspector Parvez Sajad, SHO Nagrota, and Inspector Nishant Gupta, SHO Jhajjar Kotli, with strategic oversight provided by SP Rural Jammu, Brijesh Sharma.

Their efforts, along with the overall guidance of Joginder Singh SSP Jammu, SP Rural

Jammu, and SDPO Nagrota, ensured that this complex case was cracked within an impressive four-day timeframe.

This achievement not only highlights the efficiency and coordination of our law enforcement agencies but also reassures the public of their safety and the effectiveness of our justice system.

The Chamber of Tourism, Trade, and Industry, Katra, recognized the importance of such prompt action in maintaining the trust and confidence of the people, especially those who work in sectors that rely heavily on the security and well-being of our community, such as tourism and trade.

"We would like to convey our deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of Mangal Singh during this difficult time. The swift justice served by the Jammu Police brings a measure of solace to those affected by this tragedy," They said.

Once again, we extend our sincere thanks to the entire Jammu Police team for their remarkable service and dedication to justice. We remain committed to supporting our law enforcement agencies in their ongoing efforts to keep our community safe.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE		
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firzpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firzpur Division.		
Catalogue No.	Auction Start date/time	Name of work
EAFZR-OH24-9	06.09.24 at 12:30 Hrs	Allotment of contract for Commercial Advertisement rights through static media in circulating area (Both sides) at Amritsar Railway Station
EAFZR-PhU24-3	06.09.24 at 13:00 Hrs	Allotment of contract for operation and maintenance of Normal Pay & Use Toilet blocks at Railway Station Batala and Gole Bagh Side entry at Amritsar Railway Station
EAFZR-SLR24-49	10.09.24 at 11:00 Hrs	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No/SLR compartment: 22424/F1, 14674/F1, 12460/F1, 15212/F1, 14604/F1, 12498/F1, 15532/F1, 14618/F1, 15212/R1, 19326/F1, 14650/F1 & 22552/F1.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.reps.gov.in		
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Two books of Jagdeep Dubey released by Dogri Sanstha Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 25: Dogri Sanstha Jammu released two books of Jagdeep Dubey; one stage play 'Rukhi Kanak Ni Khayan' and another collection of radio plays 'Das Radio Natak'.

The release function was held today in the auditorium of Dogri Sanstha at Karan Nagar Jammu in which the Former Additional Secretary of JKAACL Dr. Arminster Singh 'Amn' was the chief guest and veteran Dogri poet Prakash Premi was the guest of honour.

Prof. Lalit Magotra Presided over the function, in which writers, radio and stage artists and scholars were present in a large number.

The released books are 9th and 10th books of Jagdeep Dubey who has established himself as a prolific Dogri writer of high-quality books covering genres like poetry, short stories and plays etc.

Dr. Arminster Singh 'Amn', while speaking about the works of Dubey, appreciated author's mastery both on the genre of plays as well as the short stories. He said that what distinguishes Dubey from others is his



unique style of writing and presentation both in the field of plays as well as in short fiction. One cannot discern any trace of any influence of any of the senior or established writers on the writing of Dubey.

Dubey's flight of imagination is awesome and leaves the reader fully absorbed in his make-believe world. Amrinder Singh 'Amn' also appreciated dubey's usage of chaste Dogri vocabulary and the idiomatic language.

Prakash Premi who has a long and close association with the author traced the evolution of Dubey from his early days to his growth into a writer of substance.

He said that though Dubey has been writing for a very long time, having written more than one hundred radio plays, fifteen television plays

and more than thirty stage plays, seriously started putting his works in book form since 2017 only.

It goes to the credit of Dubey that during this short period he has published more than 10 books.

Two critically appreciative papers were presented in the function by Shiv Mohan and Ashutosh Parashar on 'Das Radio Natak' and 'Rukhi Kanak Ni Khayan' respectively.

Both the papers reflected the in depth study of the works by the learned paper readers and gave fairly good ideas on the content of the books.

Prof. Lalit Magotra in his presidential address complemented Dubey for his unique and significant contribution to Dogri literature. He said that to enjoy and appreciate the writing of Dubey, one should shed all biases

and preconceived notions before reading his works.

He weaves the wrap and weft of his writings in an unusual manner which results in the creation of universes of their own. He said it is fascinating experience to go through his writings.

Prof. Magotra said that the other interesting aspects of Dubey's writing is the language used in his works, which is typically the Dogri spoken in the Udhampur region and reflects the richness and variety available in Dogri.

The program was conducted by the literary secretary of Dogri Sanstha Sushil Begana, in his imitable style, who is himself a prominent Dogri writer. The vote of thanks was presented by Prof Shashi Pathania, Vice-President, Dogri Sanstha Jammu and the program was co-ordinated by Pawan Verma.



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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

MHCJ/Tech/e-Nit/2024-25/08 **Dated: 23.08.2024**
Due on : 06.09.2024

On behalf of the President of India, e-tenders in two cover system on turnkey basis are invited from OEM /Authorized dealers/ Registered/ Reputed firms having sufficient relevant experience of similar nature work having Average Annual Turnover of not less than 300% of the estimated cost during the last three years ending march 2024 for the work mentioned below:

S. No	Description of work	Project Authority	Est t	AAA/ TS	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Eligibility Criterion of Bidder
1	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance and Operation service for one year of Oxygen Generation plant (M/s Unissi) installed at Govt. SMGS Hospital Jammu for 2900 LPM (1200 LPM*2+500 LPM*1) w.e.f 02.06.2024 to 01.06.2025.	Principal GMC & Associated Hospital Jammu	22.08.24 LACS	ACCORDED	Rs 44500.00 in the Shape of CDR/FDR valid for 12 months pledged to the Superintending Engineer, Mechanical & Hospital Circle, Jammu	Rs. 3000.00 in the shape of Challan or Demand Draft through J&K Govt. Treasury Indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to 0059-PWD (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan / receipt on e-tendering portal. OR The bidder may deposit tender fee in the shape of e-Challan through Account no. 0077010200000062 in the name of Superintending Engineer, Mechanical & Hospital Circle, Jammu Name of Bank: J&K Bank Jammu Branch Code:GANDHI IFSC code: JAKAGANDHI MICR CODE: 180051008	365 days	OEM/Authorized /Registered & Reputed firms having sufficient experience as per Annexure "C" Similar nature of work

DIP/J-4729/24 Sd/-
(Er. K.K Khanna)
Superintending Engineer
Mechanical & Hospital Circle
Jammu

EDITORIAL

DIVERSE
CULTURE

Talking about India in context, India is a country with a diverse culture, a fact that is prominently reflected in its people, culture and weather. From the eternal snow of the Himalayas to the fields in the far reaches of the south, from the deserts of the west to the moist deltas of the east, from the dry heat to the coolness of the plateau in the foothills of the hills, Indian lifestyles clearly reflect the magnificence of its geography. The dress, plan and habits of an Indian vary according to the place of its origin.

Indian culture is as varied as its vast geographical location. People here speak different languages, wear different clothes, follow different religions, eat different food but their nature is same. Whether it is a happy occasion or a sad moment, people participate wholeheartedly, experiencing joy or pain together.

A festival or an event is not a committee for a household or a family. The whole community or neighborhood joins in rejoicing on one occasion, similarly an Indian wedding is a gathering event, in which not only the bride and groom but also the two families come together. Be it their culture or religion. Similarly, in sorrow, neighbors and friends play an important role in reducing that pain.

Regarding Indian culture, Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya says that "The vastness and importance of Indian civilization and culture lies in the sacred feeling of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', that is, to establish an identity relationship with the whole human being.

India's history and culture is dynamic and goes back to the beginning of human civilization. It begins with the mystical culture of the Indus Valley and goes to the farming community in the southern regions of India. In the history of India, there has been a continuous integration of people from many cultures located around India.

Available evidence suggests that the use of iron, copper and other metals was prevalent in the Indian sub-continent even at a very early time, indicating the progress made by this part of the world. 4th millennium B.C. By the end of 1500 AD, India had emerged as a region of highly developed civilization.

Indian culture is one of the oldest cultures of the world. It is believed that Indian culture is as old as the cultures of Greece, Rome, Egypt, Sumer and China. India is one of the oldest civilizations in the world with multicolored diversity and rich cultural heritage. Along with this, it has also been molding itself to the changing times.

It is necessary to consider this point that the traditions and practices of the Harappan civilization are still seen in Indian culture, such as the worship of Mother Goddess, the worship of Pashupatinath, the tradition of Yang-Aasan, etc. Apart from this, the 'nature-human relationship' has been emphasized in Indian culture. Our culture runs on the unbreakable and companionable relationship between human, nature and environment.

J&K witnessed landmark elections in 2002

By: LT GEN RETD
VINAYAK PATANKAR

THE Election Commission of India's (ECI) announcement on holding the three-phase Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir brought back memories of the landmark polls held in September-October 2002. While the forthcoming elections would be the first in the Union Territory, the one in 2002 was also significant for several reasons.

While there has been a rise in terror attacks in the Jammu region in the recent past, it was the Kashmir valley that had witnessed an escalation of terror activities in 2002. It was the first time that the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) participated in the Assembly polls. There was a call for boycotting the elections, given by the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat. This was also the first poll in J&K in which EVMs (electronic voting machines) were used.

Even before the announcement of the dates of the four-phase elections was made, it was widely known that they were in the offing. While the PDP had pulled out all stops to reach out to the electorate, the J&K National Conference appeared to be relying on its solid organisational structure down to the grassroots level in its traditional strongholds. While the political parties had already begun their preparations, the official machinery had also started gearing up for the important event. It included, besides the Central and state governments, various security forces and intelligence services.

The dynamic security situation was being closely watched and discussed regularly at the Unified Command Headquarters.

It was apparent that the security situation was widely different in urban and rural areas. The terrorists, wanting to make their presence felt, were more active in towns and cities, which had a large concentration of population, rather than in sparsely populated villages and hamlets. The urban population, which enjoyed better civic amenities, had more time to participate in political activities. In those areas, it was relatively easier for terrorists to enlist overground workers and quasi-political organisations like the Hurriyat. In mofussil areas, daily life was hard in the absence of basic facilities like medical treatment, supply of water and electricity which left little time for politics, except at the local level. The urban population was thus more polarised along existing political lines, whereas rural folk looked forward to the polls as an opportunity to have their say to improve their lives. In the rural areas, the enthusiasm to vote in the elections was palpable, especially among the youth and first-time voters. Interestingly, the rural population showed greater inclination to participate at the hustings, even defying threats and intimidation from terrorists and at times tearing posters warning voters of dire consequences.

The first phase of the elections was to be held on September 16, 2002. James Michael Lyngdoh, then Chief Election Commissioner, visited Srinagar a few times in the weeks prior to that

to hold detailed discussions with the state administration and oversee polling arrangements. He was unequivocal in emphasising that he would accept no mismanagement at booths and would order repolling as many times as needed to ensure free and fair polling.

After the official announcement of the election schedule, the elected state government went into suspended animation and the Governor, Girish Saxena, took charge. About a week prior to the first round of polling, he held a meeting to take stock of the situation and satisfy himself that all was in readiness for the big event. Apart from officials directly involved in the conduct of polling, the meeting was attended by local heads of various security forces, intelligence agencies, senior bureaucrats of the state government and a few others. At the end of the meeting, the Governor wanted to know what in our estimate would be the percentage of polling (voter turnout). As he went around the room, the estimates varied from 10 to 20 per cent. The Army's estimate of 'nothing less than 40 per cent' seemed too optimistic to all present, including the Governor.

By the evening of September 16, reports of polling started pouring in. As expected, the percentage was low in urban areas, but that from the countryside were above 40 per cent; in fact, in remote areas along the border regions and the Line of Control, where the number of voters was small, it was as high as 80 per cent! The overall turnout that day was almost 48 per cent.

Pakistan's proxies had already increased their activities to somehow force the cancellation of the elections or at least impede the process. It had also stepped up its propaganda broadcasts on radio and TV. An amusing incident occurred on September 16. That evening, in a round-up of news from 'India-occupied Kashmir', a Pakistani TV channel showed fake footage of 'unwilling voters' being 'pulled out from their houses to cast their votes' by Indian security forces, besides other 'atrocities' being committed by them. The red-faced channel had to withdraw the story in a hurry as it became known that there was no polling in that constituency that day, having been countermanded following the death of a candidate due to cardiac arrest!

All four phases of the elections were conducted smoothly. At the planning stage, the ECI felt that it had a tough assignment ahead; various agencies involved in holding the elections also considered it to be a challenging task. However, the skeptics and naysayers were proved wrong in the end. While the ECI, along with the state and Central governments deserved to be applauded for the successful conduct of the election, the real winners were the people of J&K.

In the end, the elections reflected the true will of the people. People elected those in whom they placed their trust to make a fresh start with a new dispensation. It was a victory of the ballot over the bullet, a paradigm shift in the political landscape of J&K.

Layered & complex world of translation

By: SUPRIYA KAUR
DHALIWAL

Earlier this month, I found myself in Colombo, Sri Lanka, a place where languages seem to hang in the air like humidity, pressing down on the city in a palpable, almost tactile, way. I had come as a Punjabi translator for the inaugural SALT (South Asian Literature in Translation, a multi-year project at the University of Chicago) Summer School, an opportunity that promised to be remarkable.

As I stepped into my role as a translator of Punjabi into English, surrounded by other translators — each of us tethered to our own languages like lifelines — I couldn't help but feel that the air there was thick with the echoes of Sinhala, Tamil, Bengali, Urdu and Hindi, a cacophony of tongues that felt at once foreign and familiar. Even English seemed out of place here, as though it, too, was trying to assert itself in a landscape that resisted any kind of easy categorisation.

I felt this resistance in me as I moved through my days there, listening, observing, translating, and yet never quite arriving at a full understanding of where I was, or who I was within it.

In Punjabi, the language of my home and my translation, I've often felt a sense of alienation. This feeling likely stems from the underlying tension I've always been exposed to

— that Punjabi is the other language, not just another language. So, returning to Punjabi after I've established alternate careers in alternate languages isn't merely wishful thinking.

In one of my favourite podcasts, Indy and Dr, the host, Indy, speaks with a representative from Naujawani, an online media platform. Indy poses a question: "If Punjabi is the seventh largest language in the world and still growing, why is there such a fixation among my generation, or the generation above us, on the idea that Punjabi is dying?" Naujawani responds reasonably, "I'd guess there are a number of reasons. Probably, the most prominent is that we are a very negative community because of all we've faced over the last 50 to 75 years, including numerous defeats. All these negative experiences lead us down a road where we start to believe we're constantly under attack, that we're besieged, and so we resort to tropes like the Punjabi language is dying."

However, many millennials and Gen Z individuals aren't anywhere close to believing that the Punjabi language is dying. We have our ways of staying connected to it — through music, literature, films, and translation.

In a translation workshop, translation felt less like a mechanical process and more like meditation. We found ourselves deeply immersed in our texts, feeling the weight of each word, the flow of each

line, and the silences between them. I realised that my role was not just to translate the words, but to convey the essence of them — to allow the audience to feel what the writer felt, even if the words themselves were different. This was not a task I could accomplish alone; it required me to draw upon my own experiences, my own understanding of both languages, and the shared history of our cultures — all this accompanied by the companionship of other translators.

While I was a part of the multilingual prose workshop, working on translating some Punjabi short stories into English, there were separate strands of workshops for Bangla, Hindi/Urdu, Tamil and multilingual poetry. In the workshops that solely focused on translating from a single language, the authors whose works were being translated were present in the seminar room. We heard many anecdotes, but the most fascinating reflections came from the Hindi/Urdu translators, who were translating a two-page short story by Asghar Wajahat, which we had the opportunity to hear him read at the inaugural event.

Our co-translators from the Hindi workshop told us that since their group was working on translating the same story, sometimes their days were so rigorous that by the end of it, they had only been able to translate three to four sentences. This made me re-

evaluate translation not just as a task to be completed, but as a way of being in the world, of engaging with the complexities and contradictions inherent in any act of comprehension in any given language.

I thought of Kate Briggs' words in 'This Little Art', "If a translation is like a table, then it has known and is open to different kinds of making (for example, both its initial assemblage and its later repeated setting)."

By the end of the Summer School, I realised that Colombo had become a kind of metaphor for the act of translation itself — messy, layered, complex, resistant to easy understanding. I left with a sense of incompleteness, of something unfinished, unsaid. And perhaps, that is the true purpose of translation, not to erase differences or to smooth over the rough edges, but to dwell in the space between, to inhabit the tension, the discomfort, the uncertainty. In translating, we are not merely bridging gaps; we are acknowledging them, respecting them, and allowing them to exist.

Colombo, in all its chaotic, incomprehensible beauty, taught me this. And for that, I am grateful.

(The writer is the author of 'The Yak Dilemma')

Quality QCFl Delhi Chapter - 17th Chapter Convention on Quality organized at SMVDU

Top News Report

KATRA, Aug 25: This convention was inaugurated by Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean Academic Affairs of SMVDU as the Chief Guest.

In his inaugural address, he emphasized on quality improvement of life using eight dimensions of quality given by Professor David A Garvin.

He congratulated QCFl - Delhi Chapter for spreading the need of Quality Concepts in all the sectors across India. Dr. Purohit shared his views on various quality concepts. A K Verma, Hon. Secretary during his welcome address said that our chapter is committed to reaching all kinds of organizations in the manufacturing and service sector.

At SMVDU this is the 3rd convention where participants are going to share success stories.

G Venkataraman,



Chairman QCFl Delhi Chapter is especially concerned about sharing the best practices, like structured problem solving and TQM, with the students from the interior parts of the country so that we achieve much greater heights of operational excellence. And this will help the Skill India mission to not only achieve but surpass the fulfillment of goals.

During last few years QCFl organized all conventions on TQM, Kaizen, Quality Circles

and 5S etc in Engineering Colleges and University. In this convention 250 participants of 53 teams from more than 32 organizations such as Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers, Bharat Electronics, RG Industries, Spark Minda, Vardhman Industries, Hero Moto-Corp, NTPC, Ralson, JCB, Tata Power, Roop Polymers, Gabriel India, Lumax Auto, Mondelez, etc. presented their success stories.

Valedictory Session was chaired by Prof.

Supran Sharma, Director DQA, SMVDU.

During his address he emphasized on the need of Building Quality Culture to face the present global challenges. Mr. Aniruddha Kaushik Chief Judge congratulated all the teams and management of participating organisations for providing their employees a stage to share their success stories.

He also shared opportunities for improvements in their next projects based on Pre evaluation

and case study presentations. Case study presentations were evaluated by Dr Irfan UIHaq, Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Dr Varun Dutta faculty SMVDU along with Jury team from organizations Arun Kumar-Mankind Pharma, Sanjay Kapar-JCB, Poonam Paul-Vardhman. Dr S B Purohit.

Students from various schools of SMVDU played an active role in the smooth conduct of the convention. The teams were duly felicitated. Credit of success in organizing and co-ordinating goes to B. K. Bhatia, Placement Officer SMVDU and Ashwani, Ankit and Santosh of QCFl Delhi Chapter.

Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU conveyed thanks to QCFl for organizing chapter convention at SMVDU and stressed on effective use of quality circles in solving day to day problems in the organizations.

Understanding boundless nature of soul: Madhuparamhans

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 25: Sadguru Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj of Sahib Bandagi on Sunday delivered an enlightening discourse at Mishriwala, where he delved into the profound nature of the soul.

He emphasized that the soul is distinct from Pran (life force) and is not merely bound by the physical aspects of existence. While Pran is essential for the functioning of the body, the soul transcends it.

Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj explained that although the soul cannot be captured or bound, it has, in a metaphorical sense, bound itself through attachment and illusion.

He likened this to a dog living in a glass house, which, upon seeing its own reflection, mistakenly believes there are many dogs and becomes confused. Similarly, people



influence of the mind's evil tendencies, which compel individuals to act against their better judgment. Even when people acknowledge the impermanence of the world, they remain entangled in attachments and material desires.

Maharaj Ji further highlighted the incredible subtlety of the soul, comparing it to a tiny droplet of water that can be divided infinitely.

Despite its subtlety, the same soul has the capacity to animate both the colossal body of an elephant and the minuscule body of an ant. This demonstrates the soul's wondrous and unfathomable nature.

Through his discourse, Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj encouraged the congregation to reflect on the true nature of the soul and to rise above the illusions and attachments that bind it.

are deceived by the illusions of the material world, much like how mirrors in shops create the illusion of vastness.

The soul, he said, has trapped itself in this cycle of illusion, much like the dog that eventually perishes barking at its reflections.

He also addressed the widespread issue of addiction, noting that despite being fully aware of the dangers, individuals continue to indulge in harmful habits.

This, he explained, is due to the overpowering

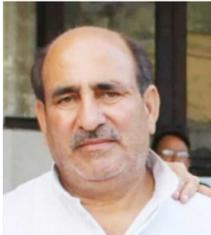
LPEF holds condolence meeting

Top News Report

DODA, Aug 25: The Low Paid Government Employees Federation (LPEF), Doda Unit, expressed deep sorrow over the sad demise of Abdul Samad Bandy, a retired Medical Assistant from the Department of Health and Medical.

Bandy, who served in various places throughout Doda, was known for his dedication, intelligence, and helpful nature. He was a respected figure in his department and was fondly referred to as "Dr. Samad Sahib" by the people of his village, Barath, for his contributions to the community and his role in promoting Hindu-Muslim brotherhood.

A condolence meeting was held under the chairmanship of the District



President, Niaz Ahmad Rahi.

Senior leaders of the LPEF, including Ghulam Hassan Pampori, praised Bandy for his exceptional service and intelligence.

Shakeel Ahmad Dev mentioned that Bandy was his mentor, and Er. Nazir Ahmad Sheikh highlighted the great loss to society, acknowledging Bandy as a pillar of communal harmony and a dedicated worker in his department.

The members of the federation prayed for the departed soul, asking God to grant him the highest place in Jannah and to give strength to his family members to bear the loss.

The condolence meeting was attended by various dignitaries, including Ghulam Hassan Bagwan, Faizan Tramboob (President NHM), Mohd Iqbal Balwan, Amjad Shokeen, Ikhlaq Ahmed Lone, Molvi Abdul Hameed, Manzoor Ahmad But (President YSC Club Doda), Abid Pampori, Riaz Ahmad Mintoo, Dr. Mubashir Mintoo, Mohd Saleem Wani, Kanla Singh, Santosh Kumar, Puran Chand, Mohd Rafiq Malik (spokesperson of Contractor Association Doda), Mohd Shafi But, Nayeem Ahanger Kishtwari, Ghulam Rasool PDD, and many more employees and retired personnel.

J&K EJAC constitutes Tehsil committee for Gool

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Aug 25: The Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) Tehsil Unit Gool held a meeting under the leadership of Tehsil President EJAC Gool, Jalil Ahmed Sheikh, during which a new Tehsil body was constituted for Gool.

Wajahat Hussain Nike (Department of Forest) appointed as Tehsil Senior Vice President, Trsool Singh (Department of Physical Education) as General Secretary, Mohd Amin Nike (Department of School Education) as Vice President, Shabir Ahmed Bhat (Department of Education) as Coordinator, Zakir Hussain (Department of Agriculture) as



Organizer, Mohd Sharif (Department of Animal Husbandry) as Publicity Secretary.

Meanwhile, the District President of EJAC Ramban, Ch. Ashraf Hussain, congratulated all the newly nominated office bearers of EJAC Gool.

He expressed his confidence that the newly appointed leaders will work diligently for the welfare of employees.

Sanjay Aggarwal receives Vyapar Rattan Award by FTII

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 25: Sanjay Aggarwal, Managing Director, Jammu Motors (P) Ltd received Vyapar Rattan Award by Federation of Trade and Industry of India (FTII) during the FTII Global Conference 2024 held at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi.

FTII Global Conference is a prestigious gathering of trade and industry leaders from India and abroad which promises an enriching experience for all attendees, fostering new business opportunities and strengthening existing networks.

Vyapar Rattan Award was given to the most deserving businessmen from India and abroad. This accolade recognizes exceptional contributions to the field of trade and industry.

Naresh Bansal, Member Parliament, Rajya Sabha was the Chief Guest of the Conference.

Harsh Malhotra, MoS Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways and Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt Of India,

Sunil Singhi Chairman, National Trader's Welfare Board, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and Dr Romesh Khajuria, Chairman, Ministry of Textile, Govt of India were the Guest of Honor.

Radhey Shyam Sharma, Patron FTII, Dr Sanjay Bansal, National President FTII, and Raj Kr Khandelwal, National General Secretary FTII were also present at the occasion.

Sanjay Aggarwal is the Founder and Managing Director of Jammu Motors (P) Ltd. The company currently has franchise of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. With 26 years of experience in all aspects of automobile business, Aggarwal has a proven track record of aggressive growth in all divisions of the company.

Aggarwal is a well known face across all the sections of the society and always believes in social causes for the benefit of the society.

Aggarwal is currently also the Chairperson of Federation of Automobile Dealers Association

Jammu and always takes up initiatives to solve the issues related to the automobile sector in J & K by taking it up with concerned government authorities. He has served as Co Chair of PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu Chapter.

He is also associated with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) and Jammu Automobiles Dealers Association (JADA) as its Executive Member.

The Federation of Trade and Industry of India (FTII) is a national organization that serves as the voice of India's Trade and industry. FTII is dedicated to promoting and protecting the interest of India's commercial activities where trade and industry comes into the picture.

Their mission is to create a business environment that is conducive to growth and prosperity and to ensure India's businesses and industries remain competitive in the global marketplace.

Vivek Bali visits Kangahall Achabal Constituency

Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Aug 25: JD(U) State General Secretary Vivek Bali on Sunday visited areas of Kangahall Achabal in Anantnag.

The area he visited Kangahall where he met with various public delegations and listened to their pressing pleas.

Interacting with the people, Bali assured them JDU leadership is concerned about their grievances and will take all measure necessary for the welfare of general public.

"People have now reposed their faith in Janata Dal (United) and with every passing day scores of people are joining the party fold which is an ample proof that our Party is here to stay and serve the people,"



he said. Side by side awared people about the right to vote and urged them to caste vote in favour of honest and dedicated candidates contesting elections for Panchayati Polls.

This is beauty of democracy where people are at liberty to choose in between right and wrong and Panchayati Raj Institutions are an important pillar to contribute for the all round development

and for the strengthening and building of a strong Nation.

The meeting was attended by Qazi Faheem State organiser, Dilawar Singh Senior Leader, Bashir Ahmed Shah Senior Leader, Sunita Raina other leaders.

The local inhabitants of the area thanked JDU leader Vivek Bali for taking immense pain to visit the area and listen to the public pleas.

Illicit liquor recovered, accused arrested

Top News Report

REASI, Aug 25: The Reasi Police have made significant progress in their ongoing efforts against drug abuse and illicit liquor smuggling. In a recent operation, the police team from Police Post Talwara apprehended an individual, identified as Anchal Singh, son of Budhi Singh, resident of Migrant Colony Talwara in Reasi district. During routine checking and frisking, the police recovered a substantial amount of illicit liquor from his possession, including 47 quarters of JK Desi whiskey (180 ml each) and 8 quarters of JK Desi whiskey (250 ml each).

A case has been registered under FIR No. 145/2024 U/S 48(A) of the Excise Act at Police Station Reasi, and an investigation has been launched to trace both the forward and backward linkages involved in the smuggling operation.

The Reasi District Police have reaffirmed their commitment to eradicating the menace of drug abuse and illicit liquor smuggling from the area. They have called on citizens to support their anti-drug efforts by providing information about illegal activities through the district police anti-drug helpline number 9070907017, assuring confidentiality for those who come forward.

Non-CUET application form reopened at GCW Kathua

Top News Report

KATHUA, Aug 25: The Government Women's Degree College, Kathua, informs all students that the Higher Education Department (HED) has instructed the reopening of non-CUET application forms for admission to the first semester (NEP) for the academic session 2024-25.

The application forms will be available from August 25, 2024, to September 4, 2024. All interested and remaining students are encouraged to fill out the non-CUET

application forms within this period.

Students are advised to complete their applications promptly to avoid any inconvenience.

Candidates need to log on to [https://jkadmission.samarth.ac.in/index.php/site/login] (https://jkadmission.samarth.ac.in/index.php/site/login).

A step-by-step guide for filling out the non-CUET application form is available in PDF format on the Samartha portal, accessible via the following link: Non-CUET Application Form Guide.

Botany Department, GDC Budhal organizes plantation drive

Top News Report

BUDHAL, Aug 25: The Department of Botany, Government Degree College (GDC) Budhal organized a one-day plantation drive within the college campus.

The event aimed to promote environmental sustainability and enhance the campus's green cover. More than 80 saplings were planted during the drive.

The day commenced with the digging of pits across the campus. Faculty members, along with students, actively participated in this initial stage, showcasing a strong commitment to environmental conservation. Once the pits were ready, the saplings were carefully planted by the

participants.

The selection of saplings was made carefully keeping in view the climatic conditions and ecological benefits.

The plantation drive concluded with a brief ceremony where the Principal of the College reflected on the importance of such initiatives in combating climate change and promoting a greener future.

He also appreciated the efforts of all involved and emphasized the need for continuous care of the newly planted saplings to ensure their growth and survival. He emphasized that such initiatives not only provide significant ecological benefits but also enhance the aesthetic appeal of the area.

Brahmin Sabha Kathua to honour meritorious students on Sept 5



Top News Report

KATHUA, Aug 25: A meeting was held on Sunday at the Brahmin Sabha in Kathua to discuss the upcoming felicitation ceremony scheduled for September 5.

The event will honor meritorious students from the Brahmin community for their outstanding academic performance. This annual ceremony aims to encourage and recognize the achievements of these talented students.

Dr. Dushyant Ubbat, the president of the Sabha, highlighted that the pri-

mary goal is to motivate young achievers and acknowledge their success in the field of education.

Vice President Colonel Ved Prakash Sharma emphasized that such events promote awareness and inspiration towards education within the community.

The Sabha's General Secretary, Sat Pal Mansotra, shared that students from across the district who have shown remarkable academic excellence have been invited to the event. Chief Organizer Surinder

Mehta added that honoring students serves as a significant motivator and helps elevate the educational standards within the society.

Youth President Manuj Kesar urged all members of the Brahmin community to actively participate in the program and support the students. The meeting was attended by several key members, including Ajay Sharma, Rakesh Sharma Babli, Deepak Parashar, Bal Krishan Sharma, Master Amarnath Sharma, Suresh Sharma, and Subhash Sharma.

Music is the source of the most creative moments in one's life: Amitabh Bachchan

He graduated with a degree in Bachelor of Science in 1962

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan shared that he had a day of surprises, duty, discipline and music, which he says is the source of the most creative moments in one's life.

Amitabh took to his blog and wrote, "... A day of surprises and duty and discipline and music. Music is and shall ever be the source of the most creative moments in one's life."

He added, "They elevate, they swim past the glories and horrors of life, they bring the solitude to the mind and the body... they travel rapidly to the end of the World, and back..."

"Music sets your mind to the realm of imagination and dreams of that special moment when fulfillment of those dreams so passionately craved for, come into your own, or rather their own to serve or banish our thoughts..."

"But your resistance shall ever be that one motivation



which shall survive all else and redeem any misgivings... if ever

there were any... I do not... The actor is currently seen

hosting the quiz based reality show, where he had revealed how much he scored in BSc. He said that he only scored 42 percent.

"BSc. kar liya hum bhi bina jaane ki kya hota Bsc. Science main ache number aaye to hum apply kardiye. (I did BSc. without knowing what it was. I scored well in Science and hence applied for it.)"

"10 saal main hume seekha tha science main scope hai woh 45 minutes main khatam kardiya. (I had always heard that there is scope in science. In just 45 it changed everything)"

"Paheli baar jab gaye toh fail hogaye... Firse jaakar diya jawaab toh badhi mushkil se 42 percent aaya humara. Bach gaye. (First time I failed... Then when I attempted with great difficulty I scored 42 per cent.)" said Amitabh, who graduated with a degree in Bachelor of Science in 1962.

When Salman Khan visualised not himself but these superstars in big ticket films

Salman Khan is one of the biggest and most bankable Bollywood superstars today but there was a time when the actor's confidence was a bit shaky.

It was around the making of his debut as a lead in 'Maine Pyaar Kiya' when Salman was under-confident about headlining a big ticket film. The actor always pictured his friends Jackie Shroff or Anil Kapoor in the roles that were narrated to him.

Jackie and Anil were the biggest of the stars in the 1980s having worked together on several films like 'Ram Lakhan', 'Karma', 'Parinda' and others so, it was natural for Salman to picture them as the headliners for event films.

In an old interview, Salman recalled a

moment from the shoot of the famous song 'Kabootar Ja Ja' which brought tears to his eyes. He said, "I was about 18 years old. There was a truly memorable moment during the shoot for the song 'Kabootar Ja Ja' when I suddenly knew that this was the role for me".

'Maine Pyaar Kiya', which established Salman as a star, re-released in theatres on August 23, and is sure to bring a plethora of nostalgia to relish.

For the casting of the lead, Vindu Dara Singh, Deepak Tijori and Faraaz Khan auditioned for the role of Prem. While Faraaz Khan, son of actor Yusuf Khan who played the villainous Zabisco in 'Amar Akbar Anthony', was almost finalised for the role, but

he was replaced at the last minute due to health issues. The role eventually went to Salman Khan, and earned him commercial success.

"During several narrations, I'd imagine Jackie Shroff or Anil Kapoor in those roles, but I could never actually see myself doing big films. That moment was the first time I really felt, 'Yes, I can do this'. I had tears in my eyes," the actor added.

The film, which was released on December 29, 1989, saved the production house Rajshri Productions, which was on the verge of closing down.

Meanwhile, Salman will be next seen in 'Sikandar'. The film, produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, and directed by AR Murugadoss is set to release on Eid 2025.

Ruhani Sharma reacts to people judging her leaked intimate scenes from Agra

Actor Ruhani Sharma penned a heartfelt note on social media days after her upcoming Hindi film Agra leaked online. The actor writes that she feels judged, given how the internet reacted to her intimate scenes from the film, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival Directors' Fortnight in 2023.

"How quick some are to judge"

Intimate scenes from Agra have been doing rounds on X (formerly Twitter), with many judging the actor for agreeing to do such scenes. Many also objectified and trolled her with ill intent. Ruhani now shared a note on Instagram claiming that she had been 'holding back' but chose to address it now as it's been 'weighing heavy' on her.

She wrote, "It's heart-breaking to see our months of hard work, dedication, and passion being disregarded in this way. Creating an art film is an intense journey filled with countless challenges, sleepless nights and unwavering commitment." Ruhani added, "What's even disheartening is how quick some are to judge without understanding the blood, sweat, and tears that go into bringing such a project to life."

She went on to call Agra a 'labour of love' writing how the film premiered at Cannes and has been acclaimed internationally. "I stand by my choices, and I'm



incredibly proud of this film, and the entire team that made it happen. For those who may not fully grasp or appreciate this style of filmmaking, I ask for your respect. Art isn't always meant to be easy or comfortable - it's meant to challenge, to evoke emotion, to make us think."

She ended the note with asking people to 'uplift and celebrate cinema' instead of 'tearing down' artists. Numerous fans and celebrities left supportive comments under her post. Actor Lavanya Tripathi wrote, "You go girl." Singer

Chinmayi Sripada left heart emojis, while Chi La Sow director Rahul Ravindran wrote, "Never been more proud of you Roo."

Upcoming work Agra will be Ruhani's debut theatrical Hindi film. She previously starred in the 2019 Zee5 web series Poison and the JioCinema web film Blackout in Hindi this year. The actor, who has mostly worked in Telugu will soon star in a Tamil film titled Mask. In Telugu, she was last seen in Saindhav, Operation Valentine and Sriranga Neethulu this year.

Bengali female actor levels 'misbehaviour' charge against eminent Malayalam filmmaker Ranjith

A Bengali actor has levelled accusation of misbehaviour against eminent Malayalam film director and chairman of the state-run Kerala Chalachitra Academy, Ranjith, spelling fresh trouble for the Pinarayi Vijayan government which is facing opposition heat on its alleged inaction over the Justice Hema Committee report.

The report had revealed instances of harassment and exploitation of women in the Malayalam cinema industry, prompting calls for action against the guilty.

The filmmaker has reportedly rejected Mitra's charge and said he was the "real victim" in the case.

Key LDF constituent CPI was among those seeking a probe into the allegation of Bengali actor Sreelekha Mitra, who has recalled a years-old incident in the backdrop of the ripples being created by the Justice Hema Committee findings.

"The person concerned (Ranjith) is a big name in Malayalam film industry and a national award winning director. I went to his residence to discuss an upcoming film project and I did not like his behaviour. He made certain advances subtly and I felt uncomfortable while we were discussing the script," Mitra told agency in Kolkata.

He did this without her consent and she made her disapproval very clear. "I immediately communicated my deci-



sion not to be part of the project any more, left the place and came back to Kolkata the next day," she added.

"I don't know if he has treated other female actors in the film industry in the same way. It is upto them to open up or not if they had faced similar situation. May be his power and influence played a role for others to not to speak out," she added.

Mitra said she did not have any such experience in the Bengali cinema industry, but that there could be similar situations for other female actors as well with regard to someone. Such women should muster the courage and speak out without any fear.

"The incident in Kerala was years back...but it is heartening that women are speaking out with greater vigour and conviction against any form of misconduct now, taking out rallies, and I am looking forward to the day when number of any instance of gender abuse, misconduct will go down and women will not have such har-

rowing tales any more," Mitra added.

In Kerala, many demanded Ranjith stepped down as the Chairman of the film academy. Several people including well-known filmmaker Dr Biju came out against Ranjith.

While opposition Congress said it expects Ranjith would step down as film academy chairman, BJP said he has no moral right to continue. CPI national leader Annie Raja urged the government to carry out a probe based on Mitra's allegations and wanted to keep Ranjith away from the position during investigation.

Kerala Cultural Affairs Minister Saji Cheriyan assured the government would not protect anyone who had committed a wrong.

If the allegations against Ranjith were proved, action would surely be taken against him, he said in a Facebook post.

He told the media earlier Ranjith is one of country's eminent filmmakers and that he had already responded to

the actor's allegation.

"The allegation raised by the actress and the reply given by Ranjith are in front of us. If she has a complaint, let her come here and lodge a complaint. Then we will take action in accordance with the law," he said.

No case can be registered based on just allegations and such cases won't stand, Cheriyan added.

He underlined the government's support for women who face harassment at their workplaces and said stringent action would be taken against wrongdoers.

Health Minister Veena George said all facilities and support would be provided to the actress to lodge a complaint against the director.

"If she wishes to go ahead with the complaint, the government will provide all facilities for the same. The government's stand is clear in this. The CM has already made it clear that the government won't protect wrongdoers," she said.

Higher Education Minister R Bindhu said action would be taken after understanding the facts in the issue and said she expects the government would do it, as a woman has come up with such a complaint.

Sharing similar views, Women's Commission chairperson P Sathidevi said she came to know about the allegations about the actress

through the media and if it is proved correct, Ranjith should step down as academy chairman.

Opposition leader V D Satheesan also said Ranjith is an acclaimed director who has contributed several good movies in the Malayalam film industry.

"As a friend and as a brother, I request him to step down as film academy chairman. I think he will step back from his current responsibility," the Congress leader told reporters.

BJP state chief K Surendran attacked Cheriyan and Ranjith and said both of them should quit.

"Ranjith has no moral right to continue in the position. A victim herself has come up with the complaint. She raised the allegation openly... before the public society," he told a press conference in Thiruvananthapuram.

He accused Cheriyan of challenging the legal system in the country by defending Ranjith.

Annie Raja said the actress has raised the allegation and named the accused person also.

"So, the government should carry out a probe into it and action should be taken based on that. When such a probe is being carried out, he should be kept away from the position of Academy chairman," she said. The legal system permits him to return to the same position if the allegations are proved wrong.

Varun Dhawan joins Sunny Deol in 'Border 2': Dharti maa jab bulati hai...

In an Instagram post, Sunny Deol officially welcomed Varun Dhawan onboard 'Border 2'. The film is scheduled for release during Republic Day, 2026.

The team of 'Border 2' made an official announcement about Varun Dhawan joining the film's cast. The sequel to the 1997 hit film is fronted by Sunny Deol. The announcement was made by Sunny on social media as he posted a clip featuring Varun's voice in the background.

"Dushman ki har goli se Jai Hind bol kar takrata hoon, jab

dharti maa bulati hai, sab chhod kar aata hoon," he says in the video. The post further revealed that the film is scheduled for release during the Republic Day weekend, January 23, 2026. Speculations were rife for a while about Varun joining the film, produced by JP Dutta and Nidhi Dutta. This is going to be the first war-drama of the actor's career.

Earlier, various reports suggested that Ayushmann Khurrana had agreed to play a soldier in the film.

However, he backed out later, citing creative issues. A report in Mid-Day quoted a source saying he was "unsure" about his position in the film. "Ayushmann was in talks to play a soldier in the sequel."

While both Ayushmann and the makers were



keen on collaborating, the actor felt unsure of his positioning in an ensemble led by Sunny Deol, a towering star in his own right," the source said.

The same report mentioned that the makers are also keen on getting Diljit Dosanjh onboard. The popular actor-singer has now become an international sensation, and even though there's no confirmation on his

presence in the film yet, he was approached for a role in the film. "Nothing is confirmed yet. But, Diljit was approached by the makers. It will be a treat to see Diljit and Sunny together on screen, given their strong audience base in north India," the report added.

'Border 2' will be directed by Anurag Singh, who has previously helmed 'Kesari', 'Punjab 1984',

'Jatt & Juliet' and 'Dil Bole Hadippa', among others. The film was announced on June 13, 2024, marking 27 years of 'Border'. It has been declared "India's biggest war film" by the makers.

Meanwhile, Varun was recently seen in a cameo in 'Stree 2'.

The actor has got 'Bhediya 2', 'Baby John' and an untitled film directed by his father, David Dhawan.

Those who commit crimes against women won't be spared: PM amid Kolkata horror

PM Modi addressed the nationwide outrage over rising crimes against women, and assured that the government was strengthening laws to ensure perpetrators do not go unpunished.

JALGAON, Aug 25 (Agencies): In a strong message amid rising concerns over crimes against women, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday assured that those committing such offences "will not be spared."

Speaking at the Lakhpati Didi event in Maharashtra's Jalgaon, PM Modi addressed the recent nationwide outrage over cases like the Kolkata doctor's rape and murder, the Badlapur school sex abuse case, and the Assam gangrape.

"We are strengthening and making stricter laws for criminals who commit sins against women," the Prime Minister said.

PM Modi highlighted the government's efforts to enhance legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms, including the introduction of amendments to existing laws and the creation of new systems to make justice more accessible to victims.



"Earlier, there were complaints that FIRs were not filed. We brought the BNS [Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita] and made a lot of amendments," he said. "If a woman does not want to go to the police station, she can file an e-FIR. Nobody can change or tamper with an e-FIR."

On the issue of crimes against women after marriage, PM Modi noted that his government has introduced specific amend-

ments to the BNS to address such concerns. He assured that the central government stands firmly with state governments in tackling crimes against women.

"Today, I challenge you - keep the seven decades of previous governments on one side and put 10 years of the Modi government on the other scale..."

The amount of work that the Modi government has done for the sisters and daughters of the

country, no government has done after Independence," he said.

The Prime Minister was in Jalgaon to interact with 'Lakhpati Didis,' women members of self-help groups who have achieved an annual income of Rs 1 lakh. During the event, PM Modi felicitated 11 lakh new Lakhpati Didis and disbursed bank loans totalling Rs 5,000 crore, benefiting 25.8 lakh members of 2.35 lakh self-help groups (SHGs).

Since the inception of the Lakhpati Didi scheme, one crore women have joined the initiative, with the government setting an ambitious target to make 3 crore women Lakhpati Didis, news agency reported.

Lauding the Eknath Shinde dispensation's focus on empowering women and fostering economic growth, PM Modi remarked, "Mahayuti government means a government for development."

Illicit drug trade not only a challenge for India but also a global issue: Amit Shah



RAIPUR, Aug 25 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the illegal narcotics trade is not only a challenge for India but also a global issue, stressing that the country can fight the menace if it pursues with determination and strategy.

Addressing a meeting at a hotel in Nava Raipur on the scenario of narcotics substances in Chhattisgarh, Shah emphasised the need to adopt four formulas of 'drug detection, network destruction, culprit detention and addict rehabilitation' in achieving success.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pledged to make the country drug-free in 2047 when the 100th year of the

country's independence will be celebrated and gradually the resolution has become the resolution of the 130 crore population.

"I believe that the resolution of a drug-free India is very important in making a prosperous, safe and glorious India," Shah said.

The illicit drug trade is not only a challenge for India but also a global issue, he said, pitching for the need to raise awareness of this menace.

"If we pursue with determination and strategy, we can win this fight," he said, cautioning, "several countries have lost their fight against it".

Besides aiming at destroying youth, the money generated

through the illicit narcotics trade is also used for anti-national activities, he said.

"It is also our national responsibility to make the country drug-free with a zero-tolerance policy," he said.

Shah also expressed concerns over the use of narcotic substances in Chhattisgarh. He said that the percentage of sedative use in Chhattisgarh is 1.45 which is more than the national average.

Chhattisgarh shares a border with seven states including Odisha and Andhra Pradesh from where drug smuggling is done.

Chhattisgarh has reported 4.98 per cent use of ganja which is more than the national average of 2.83 per cent and it is a matter of concern, he added.

Shah, who is on a three-day visit to the state, virtually inaugurated the zonal office of the Narcotics Control Bureau in Nava Raipur at the beginning of the meeting.

"U in UPS stands for...": Mallikarjun Kharge jabs centre on pension move

NEW DELHI, Aug 25 (Agencies): Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge today took a swipe at the Narendra Modi government over what he called was a "government of U-turns", a day after the Centre announced its approval of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS).

The UPS provides an assured pension, minimum pension, and assured family pension.

Mr Kharge said the 'U' in UPS stands for "Modi government's U-turns."

"Post June 4, the power of the people has prevailed over the arrogance of power of the Prime Minister. Rollback in the budget regarding long-term capital gain/

indexation, sending Waqf Bill to joint parliamentary committee, rollback of broadcast bill, rollback of lateral entry," Mr Kharge said in a post on X.

"We will keep ensuring accountability and protect 140 crore Indians from this despotic government," the Congress chief said.

In response, BJP spokesperson Tuhin Sinha told agency that wherever the Congress rules, such as Telangana and Karnataka, they always end up making a mess of the finances.

"Every morning, they (Congress) come and spread lies. They have nothing to do. The New UPS has been in the

works for over a year.

Finance Secretary TV Somanathan conducted over 100 meetings before it was finalised. Unlike the Congress, who thinks in extremely hasty manner, and messes up finances where they are in power, in Telangana and Karnataka, the central government takes care before taking key decisions," Mr Sinha told agency.

Fulfilling long-pending demands of government employees ahead of the assembly elections in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir, the cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the UPS.



The new pension scheme also guarantees an assured minimum pension of ₹ 10,000 per month on superannuation after a minimum of 10 years of service.

This option scheme will benefit 23 lakh central government employees, and the number would rise to 90 lakh if state governments want to join the scheme.

Under the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), retired government employees received 50 per cent of their last drawn salary as monthly pensions.

The amount keeps increasing with the hike in the dearness allowance rates. OPS is not fiscally sustainable as it is not contributory, and the burden on the exchequer keeps mounting.

4 Arrested for gang raping teen in maharashtra, main accused yet to be held

MUMBAI, Aug 25 (Agencies): Four people were arrested on Sunday over the alleged gang rape of a 15-year-old girl in Maharashtra's Dharashiv. The main accused in the case is still at large, an official said.

According to the official, the incident took place on Saturday afternoon when the teenager was going to a grocery

shop. Prime accused Vijay Ghadge (25), who knows the girl, invited her to his house.

Four other men were present at Ghadge's house. Citing the FIR, the official said Ghadge first raped the teenager following which two others sexually assaulted her.

The teen informed her family members about the gang rape after

reaching home. They then filed a police complaint.

Police have arrested four persons, all farmers from the same locality, while Ghadge is on the run.

A case has been registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the official added.

Man, 35, arrested for killing wife, child in Arunachal Pradesh

ITANAGAR, Aug 25 (Agencies): A man allegedly killed his wife and child in Arunachal Pradesh's Longding district, a police officer said on Sunday.

Police arrested 35-year-old Gangngam Gangsa, a resident of Khanu village of the district for allegedly killing his wife Ngam-jun Gangsa and their child Phagang Gangsa on Saturday, Longding, Superintendent of Police (SP) Dekio Gumja said.

According to the SP, one Mangu Pansa filed an FIR at Longding police station alleging that Gangngam Gangsa



had shared a picture of his wife and their child in a WhatsApp group, claiming responsibility for their murder.

Upon receiving the information, a police team accompanied by the complainant and executive magistrate Bini Shiva, arrived at the scene and found the bodies of the woman and the infant, the SP said, adding that the accused was immedi-

ately arrested and taken into custody.

A local 'dao' and spade were seized from the crime scene, he said, adding that a post-mortem examination was conducted and the bodies were handed over to relatives.

A case has been registered and an investigation is going on to find out the reason behind the gruesome murder, the SP added.

Fiscal bungling: CBI searches premises of former RG Kar hospital principal, 14 others

NEW DELHI/KOLKATA, Aug 25 (Agencies): CBI officials on Sunday conducted searches on the premises of former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital Sandip Ghosh, ex-MSVP Sanjay Vashisth and 13 others in and around Kolkata in connection with their probe into alleged financial irregularities at the institute, officials said.

The anti-corruption unit of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) also searched the residences and offices of those engaged in supplying materials for the management and care of patients.



At least seven officers of the Central probe agency have been questioning Ghosh at his Beliaghata residence since 8 am, while others were grilling Vashisth, the former medical superintendent and vice-principal of the hospital, and another professor of the forensic-medi-

cine department of the medical establishment, among others, they said.

Accompanied by a huge team of Central forces, the CBI team reached Ghosh's residence around 6 am but was made to wait for nearly one-and-a-half hours before he opened the doors, the officials

said. The other officers of the Central agency went to the residence of a supplier in Howrah, he added.

"Vashisth is being questioned on how much he knew about the financial irregularities that happened in the hospital when he was the MSVP," he said.

Another team of CBI officers also conducted searches at the ex-principal's office in the hospital and also went to the canteen in the academic building.

They asked present principal Manas Kumar Bandyopadhyay to reach the hospital in the

morning and accompany them during their searches in the medical establishment.

A postgraduate trainee woman doctor was allegedly raped and murdered in the seminar hall of the hospital on August 9, following which a Kolkata Police civic volunteer was arrested.

The gruesome crime resulted in nationwide protests by doctors and citizens.

On the direction of the Calcutta High Court, the CBI registered cases into the killing as well as alleged financial irregularities.

All 5 arrested for gang-raping minor in public bus in Dehradun

UTTARAKHAND, Aug 25 (Agencies): Amid the ongoing investigation into the gang rape of a minor at Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) in Uttarakhand's Dehradun, police on Sunday claimed to have arrested all five accused in connection with the case.

Dehradun Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Ajay Singh, said

that a case has been filed at Patel Nagar Police Station under the POCSO Act. The police are currently working to gather evidence against the accused.

SSP Singh also urged both electronic and print media, as well as online platforms, to avoid publishing unofficial information regarding the case.

"Only the official press

releases issued by the police regarding this incident should be considered authorized and published. Apart from this, if anyone broadcasts or publishes any news related to the incident without any official information/confirmation, then the entire responsibility will be on the concerned party," he said.

SSP Ajay Singh also

mentioned that Section 23 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012 (POCSO) Act, it is written under the procedure for media: No person, from any type of media or studio or photography-related facilities, without having any complete or authenticated information, shall make any such report or comment on any child that

may harm his reputation or violate his privacy.

The Dehradun SSP added that if any news is published or broadcast without any authenticated information regarding the incident, then, as per Section 23 of the POCSO Act, if the crime is found to have been committed, then legal action can be taken against the concerned person.

Man, 42, arrested for raping 12-year-old girl in Maharashtra



PALGHAR, Aug 25 (Agencies): Police on Sunday arrested a 42-year-old man for allegedly raping a 12-year-old girl in his neighbourhood in Maharashtra's Palghar district, an official said.

Accused Rama Ganpat Bhoir, a resident of Tarapur, allegedly committed the crime on Saturday afternoon, he said.

Bhoir entered the girl's home when she was alone and raped her. He fled from the spot after she raised an alarm.

After being informed by her about the sexual assault, the girl's parents filed a police complaint, the official said.

Police have registered a case against Bhoir under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) section 64 (rape) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the official said.

Middle East crisis: 100 Israeli jets strike Lebanon as Hezbollah fires hundreds of Katyusha rockets

The attacks come as Egypt hosts new round of talks aimed at ending Israel-Hamas War

JERUSALEM, Aug 25 (Agencies): Israel launched a wave of airstrikes across southern Lebanon early on Sunday in what it said was a pre-emptive strike on Hezbollah, as the militant group said it had launched hundreds of rockets and drones to avenge the killing of one of its top commanders last month.

The heavy exchange of fire threatened to trigger an all-out war that could draw in the United States, Iran and militant groups across the region. It could also torpedo efforts to forge a cease-fire in Gaza, where Israel has been at war with the Palestinian group Hamas, an ally of Hezbollah, for over 10 months.

By mid-morning, it appeared that the exchange had ended, with both sides having confined their attacks to military targets. But the situation remained tense, and the full extent of casualties and damage was not immediately known.

The Israeli military said Hezbollah was planning to launch a heavy barrage of rockets and missiles toward Israel. Soon after, Hezbollah announced it had launched an attack on Israeli military positions as an initial response to the killing of Fouad Shukur, one of its founders, in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut last month.

The attacks came as Egypt hosts a new round of talks aimed at ending the Israel-Hamas War. Hezbollah has said it will halt the fighting if there is a cease-fire in Gaza. Iran supports both groups as well as militants in Syria, Iraq and Yemen who might join any larger conflict.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, speaking at the start of a Cabinet meeting, said the military had eliminated "thousands of rockets that were aimed at northern Israel" and urged citizens to adhere to directives from the Home Front Command.

"We are determined to do everything to defend our country, to return the residents of the north securely to their homes and to continue upholding a



simple rule: Whoever harms us — we will harm them," he said.

Air raid sirens were reported throughout northern Israel, and Israel's Ben-Gurion international airport closed and diverted flights for approximately an hour due to the threat of attack. Israel's Home Front Command has raised the alert level in northern Israel and encouraged people to stay near bomb shelters.

Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli military spokesman, said Hezbollah had intended to hit targets in northern and central Israel. He said initial assessments found "very little damage" in Israel, but that the military remained on high alert. He said around 100 Israeli aircraft took part in Sunday's strikes.

Lebanon's Health Ministry reported that two people were wounded in the Israeli strikes in southern Lebanon. One of them, a 17-year-old Syrian, was hospitalised, civil defence officials said. Separately, a fighter for the Amal group, which is allied with Hezbollah, was killed in a strike on a car, Amal said.

Hezbollah said its attack involved more than 320 Katyusha rockets aimed at multiple sites in Israel and a "large number" of drones. It said the operation was targeting "a qualitative Israeli military target that will be announced later" as well as "enemy sites and barracks and Iron Dome (missile defence) platforms."

Hezbollah later announced the end of what it said was the first stage of retaliatory strikes, which it said would allow it to

launch more attacks deeper into Israel. But a later statement said "military operations for today have been completed."

The group said all the exploding drones it launched hit their targets, without saying how many. It listed 11 bases, barracks, and military positions that it said it targeted in northern Israel and the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights. It also dismissed Israel's claim that its pre-emptive strikes had succeeded in warding off a stronger Hezbollah attack.

Randa Slim, a senior fellow at the Washington, DC-based Middle East Institute, said Sunday morning's exchange was "still within the rules of engagement and unlikely at this point to lead to an all-out war."

In the US, a spokesman for the National Security Council, Sean Savett, said President Joe Biden was "closely monitoring events in Israel and Lebanon."

"At his direction, senior US officials have been communicating continuously with their Israeli counterparts," Savett added. "We will keep supporting Israel's right to defend itself, and we will keep working for regional stability."

The Pentagon said Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke with his Israeli counterpart, Yoav Gallant, about Israel's defenses against Hezbollah. Austin "reaffirmed the United States' ironclad commitment to Israel's defense against any attacks by Iran and its regional partners and proxies," a statement said.

In recent weeks, diplomats

from the US and European countries have made a flurry of visits to Israel and Lebanon in an attempt to tamp down the escalation that they fear could spiral into a regional war.

Last week, Israel's defence minister said he was moving more troops toward the Lebanese border in anticipation of possible fighting with Hezbollah.

Hezbollah began attacking Israel almost immediately after the start of the war in Gaza, which was triggered by Hamas' October 7 attack into Israel. Israel and Hezbollah have been exchanging fire almost daily, displacing tens of thousands of people on both sides of the border. Until Sunday, both sides had been careful to avoid all-out war.

Hezbollah, which fought Israel to a stalemate in the summer of 2006, is believed to be far more powerful than it was during that conflict. The United States and Israel estimate it has some 150,000 rockets and is capable of hitting anywhere inside Israel. The group has also developed evading Israel's defences as well as precision-guided munitions.

Israel has one of the world's best militaries and an extensive multi-tiered missile defence system, and it is backed by a US-led coalition that helped it shoot down hundreds of missiles and drones fired from Iran earlier this year. The US military has been building up its forces across the region in recent weeks.

Israel has vowed a crushing response in the case of all-out war, one that would likely demolish critical civilian infrastructure, especially in south Beirut and southern Lebanon, where Hezbollah's main strongholds are located. A war would likely displace hundreds of thousands of people on both sides.

Hezbollah is a close ally of Iran, which has also threatened to retaliate for the killing of a senior Hamas leader, Ismail Haniyeh, in an explosion in Tehran last month that was widely blamed on Israel, which has not said whether it was involved.

29 people killed as bus falls into ditch in Pakistan's Punjab province: Report



LAHORE, Aug 25 (Agencies): At least 29 people were killed after a passenger bus fell into a ditch in Pakistan's Punjab province on Sunday, according

to a media report.

The bus was travelling with 30 passengers from Haveli Kahuta to Rawalpindi, Geo News reported quoting sources said.

The accident took place near Pana Bridge.

According to the sources, the cause of the accident - which occurred in a mountainous area - is not yet known, the report said.

The local residents are retrieving the bodies from the bus, while the police and the rescue teams are on their way to the site of the incident.

Kahuta is a tehsil in the Rawalpindi district and is one hour away from the city.

Thirteen dead after migrant boat sinks off Yemen: UN agency

Eleven men and two women were among those confirmed dead, as search operations continue to locate the missing, including the Yemeni captain and his assistant, the IOM said.

DUBAI, Aug 25 (Agencies): At least 13 people have died when a migrant boat sank off Yemen, also leaving 14 missing, a UN agency said Sunday, in the latest disaster on the perilous migration route.

"Thirteen people have tragically lost their lives and 14 others remain missing after a migrant boat capsized off the coast of Yemen's Tazeh governorate on Tuesday," the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said.

The vessel had departed from Djibouti carrying 25 Ethiopian migrants and two Yemeni nationals, according to the UN agency.

Eleven men and two women were among those confirmed dead, as search operations continue to locate the missing, including the Yemeni captain and his



assistant, the IOM said. It noted that the cause of the shipwreck remains unclear.

"This latest tragedy is a stark reminder of the perils faced by migrants on this route," said Matt Huber, the acting chief of IOM's mission in Yemen.

Tens of thousands of migrants set off yearly from the Horn of Africa, seeking to escape conflict, natural disasters or poor economic prospects and sailing across the Red Sea in a bid to reach the oil-rich Gulf.

The IOM recorded over 97,200 migrant arrivals in Yemen in

2023, surpassing the previous year's numbers.

The latest shipwreck follows similar incidents off Yemen in June and July that left dozens dead.

Migrants who do reach Yemen often encounter further threats to their safety, as the Arabian Peninsula's poorest country has been mired in civil war for nearly a decade.

Many are trying to reach Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab countries where they can find employment as labourers or domestic workers.

Cop among 4 injured in crash, knife attack in Sydney, suspect arrested



SYDNEY, Aug 25 (Agencies): Four people, including a police officer, were injured in a car crash and subsequent stabbing incident in Sydney, Australia on Sunday, reported ABC News.

Police said in a statement that "a crash and suspected stabbing" occurred at a highway intersection in the suburb of Engadine around 9 a.m. No one was killed in the attack, police said.

Officers arrived at the scene and found a man who appeared to have been stabbed allegedly running from the scene.

Police used a Taser to subdue and arrest the man. A male police officer suffered a wound to his left wrist during the arrest.

Sky News Australia said that the 55-year-old suspect stabbed others and himself before he was taken into custody.

A 40-year-old woman, who police believe was a passenger in one of the vehicles involved in the crash, had multiple stab wounds. Another person received emergency treatment at the scene after suffering a heart attack.

Sydney has seen a spate of knife attacks this year, prompting the New South Wales state government to toughen its knife laws.

According to news agency, the state parliament passed laws in June giving police electronic metal-detecting scanners to check people without a warrant at shopping centres, sporting venues and public transport stations.

In April, six people were killed and 12 injured in a knife attack at a mall in Sydney's Bondi area.

Flash flood on Indonesia's eastern Ternate Island leaves 11 dead

TERNATE ISLAND, Aug 25 (Agencies): A flash flood following torrential rains on Indonesia's eastern Ternate Island left 11 people dead on Sunday.

Search and rescue teams working with local residents recovered 10 bodies in Rua village in North Maluku province. The team was working to retrieve one more body, according to Bram Madya Temara, an official from the island's search and rescue agency.

The flash flood swept away residential areas and cut off the main road and access to Rua. Dozens of houses and buildings were buried in mud.

Heavy rains cause frequent landslides and flash floods in Indonesia, where millions of people live in mountainous areas or near floodplains.



Kamala Harris faces uphill battle to win back muslim votes in swing state

DEARBORN, Aug 25 (Agencies): In key US swing state Michigan, Democratic voters of Arab and Middle Eastern heritage say Kamala Harris is going to have to win them back after they were alienated by President Joe Biden's handling of Israel's military offensive in Gaza.

The town of Dearborn, home to 110,000 people and a cultural hub for Arab Americans, could play a decisive role in deciding the fate of the battleground state in November's presidential election.

Members of the community interviewed by agency said they were willing to hear what the vice president had to say and weigh their options -- a marked change from the outright hostility towards Biden.

"We are in a listening mode right now," said Osama Siblani, publisher of The Arab American News.

Accepting the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention on Thursday, Harris pledged to get a Gaza ceasefire "done" and ensure Palestinians realize their right to "dignity, security, freedom and self-determination."

But there was outrage among pro-Palestinian delegates that their request for a speaker spot at the convention was rejected. The group Muslim Women for Harris-Walz said the decision sent a "terrible message" and announced it was disbanding and withdrawing its support from the campaign.

Harris, who has vowed "not to be silent" about the suffering of Palestinians, recently met with members of the national "Uncommitted" movement that led the charge against Biden during the Democratic primary process.

Although she made no firm promises, leaders said she impressed them with a show of empathy.

At the forefront of concerns are Israel's 10 months of military operations in Gaza, which have devastated the Palestinian enclave since the war began in response to Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.

Growing influence



Michigan, home to the "big three" automakers -- Ford, General Motors and Chrysler -- has long been an essential stop for White House aspirants.

Economic downturns in the 1970s led many to leave the so-called "Rust Belt" state, just as unrest in the Middle East brought new waves of Lebanese, Iraqi, Yemeni, and Palestinian immigrants.

"We're a global city, where nearly 55 per cent of our residents are of Arab background," said Dearborn Mayor Abdullah Hammoud in a recent interview. "For many of us, when you talk about what's happening in Gaza, these are our family and our friends."

Famous as the birthplace of Henry Ford, Dearborn appears at first glance just like any small US city, with its wide thoroughfares and strip malls.

But it is also home to the Islamic Center of America -- the largest mosque in the country -- and countless Middle Eastern supermarkets, eateries, and coffee shops.

When Siblani first started his newspaper in the mid-1980s, he remembers the then-mayor campaigned on a platform to address the "Arab problem."

But as the community's numbers grew, and the children of blue-collar factory workers

took up positions as lawyers, doctors, and businesspeople, so too did their political influence.

'Lesser of two evils'
Historically socially conservative, Arab and Muslim Americans heavily favoured George W. Bush in the 2000 election.

Years of the US "War on Terror" -- which saw wars in the Middle East and Afghanistan, and Muslim American communities put under stricter law enforcement scrutiny -- swung them firmly to the Democratic camp.

In 2018, southeast Michiganders elected Rashida Tlaib, the first Palestinian-American in Congress -- a milestone for the community.

Three Arab-American mayors have also recently been elected in suburbs known for historic racism towards non-whites.

Angered by former president Donald Trump's travel ban on Muslim countries, support for Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, and more, Dearborn voters overwhelmingly backed Biden in 2020, helping secure Michigan for the Democrats by a slim margin.

Residents here are tired, however, of being asked to vote for the "lesser of two evils" and instead want candidates who will deliver on demands, such as a permanent ceasefire and an end to the supply of weapons to Israel.

"I think VP Harris has a window of opportunity," said Faye Nemer, a community activist and CEO of the MENA American Chamber of Commerce. "She can either continue President Biden's legacy or set her own agenda."

Arab Americans in Dearborn have been impressed by Harris's pick of Tim Walz as her running mate. Walz has taken a conciliatory approach to opponents of the war, unlike Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, who took a hard line against college protesters.

But demands are hardening. "We don't want crumbs anymore," declared Soujouid Hamade, a business lawyer and long-time Democrat, who vowed to vote for Green Party candidate Jill Stein if Harris did not deliver on the campaign trail.

BJP to emerge victorious in Bahu assembly seat with majority: Madan Kaushik

Rekha ensure decisive victory for BJP in assembly polls

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 25: In a bid to intensify the BJP party's efforts in Jammu and Kashmir, senior BJP leaders held a meeting with party cadres today, guiding them to enhance ground-level activities.

Madan Kaushik Former Cabinet Minister, MLA Haridwar, and Former State President of Uttarakhand, received a warm welcome from BJP local leadership during his arrival at the Bahu Constituency office.

The occasion was marked by great enthusiasm and fervor, as party workers gathered to listen to Kaushik address on the upcoming assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

Former Cabinet Minister, MLA Haridwar, and Former State President of Uttarakhand Madan Kaushik, chaired an important meeting with



BJP workers in the Bahu Constituency.

The meeting was coordinated and organized by BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan.

The meeting saw the presence of Vice President J&K Aseem Gupta, Prabhari Jammu South Ayodhya Gupta, Prabhari Bahu Constituency Jaidev Rajwal, former MLC Charanjit Singh Khalsa, State Executive Member Ultra-khand Neeraj Panthri, Election Convenor Bahu

Rikki Gupta, District General Secretary Pushpinder Charak.

The meeting was attended by a large number of party workers, who gathered to discuss strategies for the assembly elections in J&K.

Kaushik emphasized the need to strengthen the party's presence at the grassroots level and directed the cadres to increase their outreach and engagement with the general public.

He emphasized the

vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the people of J&K, highlighting the government's commitment to development, peace, and prosperity in the region. He urged party workers to spread the message of good governance and work tirelessly to ensure a decisive victory for the BJP in the assembly polls.

Rekha Mahajan expressed confidence that the party's efforts would yield positive results in the upcoming elections. "We are committed to bringing real change and progress to J&K. Our cadres are the backbone of our party, and we are confident that they will deliver."

She stated that people of J&K are looking for a change, and it's our responsibility to ensure that we deliver on their aspirations.

Aseem Gupta asserted that the BJP is committed to bringing about a new era of development and progress in J&K. We are confident that our party will emerge victorious in the upcoming polls with a thumping majority.

Charanjit Singh Khalsa highlights PM Modi's vision for J&K is a beacon of hope, and we must work together to make it a reality.

The meeting was seen as a significant step towards bolstering the party's presence in J&K and ensuring a strong showing in the upcoming elections.

The event saw a significant turnout of party workers, who were energized and motivated by senior leadership.

The gathering was a testament to the growing momentum of the BJP in J&K, as the party gears up for the assembly polls.

JKNPP (Bhim) holds meeting on Assembly Elections



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 25: The J&K National Panthers Party (Bhim) convened an important meeting today under the leadership of its President, Vilakshan Singh, to strategize for the ongoing assembly elections. The session was pivotal in finalizing the party's candidates and reinforcing its commitment to the electorate of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, Singh emphasized the party's dedication to the underprivileged

and marginalized communities, highlighting the JKNPP (Bhim)'s ongoing efforts to uplift the poor and down-trodden. "Our party remains steadfast in our mission to protect the Dogra identity and to enhance the quality of life for every resident of Jammu and Kashmir," Singh stated. He reassured party members and supporters of the JKNPP (Bhim)'s relentless efforts to champion the causes that matter most to the people of the region.

Rajeev Jolly Khosla, President of the Delhi

State Unit of JKNPP (Bhim), also spoke at the meeting, praising the significant contributions of Prof. Bhim Singh to social welfare. Khosla stressed the impact of Singh's legacy on the party's current policies and goals, underscoring the enduring influence of his leadership.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment from the JKNPP (Bhim) to actively engage in the electoral process and work tirelessly for the betterment of the J&K populace.

Chairman GDCT Jammu inaugurates Blood Donation Camp

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 25: A Blood Donation Camp was organized by Welfare Department Dawate-Islami India (Garib Nawaz Relief Foundation) in Collaboration with Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust (Regd.) a Non-Governmental & premier Organisation working for the downtrodden communities of Jammu & Kashmir for the last Three decades, at Sahir Ludhianvi Cultural Hall of Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust, Gujjar Colony, Jammu on Sunday.

The Blood Donation Camp was inaugurated by Jenab Arshad Ali Choudhary Chairman of

the Trust as Chief Guest.

The Doctors/Technicians from various faculties participated in the camp and provided free medical consultation and collected Blood from the people from various walks of life who came in large number from different areas in the camp.

The Donors, Coordinators, Deptt. of IHBT, Blood Centre, GMC, Jammu, Staff, Trustees and Community members were welcomed by Arshad Choudhary, Chairman of the Trust.

The Chief Guest in his inaugural address lauded the role of Welfare Department Garib Nawaz Relief Foundation Dawate-Islami India and its

organizers Maulana Noor Mohammad Qadri & Qari Ghulam-ud-Din Attari in encouraging the 'young generation for donating their blood towards the sacred cause.

The Chief Guest appreciated the arrangements of Blood Donation Camp and thanked all doctors, technicians and other staff members for making Blood Donation camp a great success.

During the camp, Er. M. Sadiq Azad General Secretary, Bashir Ahmed Noon Financial Advisor, Advocate Anwar Choudhary Trustee, Advocate Aslam Khan Trustee also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the importance of organizing such

Camps.

The GDCT Management felicitated the donors, volunteers and also presented certificates of appreciation to the donors.

The Doctor/Technicians from Department of IHBT, Blood Centre, GMC, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu who provided free consultation & services to the donors included Dr. Taseer Mehraj, Girdhari Lal, Rakesh Dogra, Deepak Ranyal, Anmol Rattan, All Technicians, Susheel Driver of Blood Mobile Van and many others.

At the end, all the participants of the Blood Donation Camp were served with juice and fruits.

BRO organises medical & dental camp at Chumathang High School

Top News Report

LEH, Aug 25: In alignment with Government's Vibrant Village Programme for comprehensive development of villages along the northern borders, 111 RCC of 753 BRTF under Project HIMANK organised a medical & dental camp, on 24 Aug 2024, at Chumathang High School for children & parents living in remote areas with limited access to medical, dental and healthcare facilities.

A dedicated Medical Team comprising of Medical and Dental Specialist conducted thorough medical examinations of the students and their parents



as part of general Health Checkup to identify any illnesses and ailments. Essential medicines were also distributed to children and parents.

The Camp saw an encouraging turnout, with a total of 100 individuals including 70 students, along with parents and

staff members, were benefited from the medical service provided by BRO. With an aim to ensure ongoing health monitoring, the students were issued with health record cards.

Understanding the crucial role of community awareness in overall health, the medical and dental team also conducted health lectures and live demonstrations.

These sessions focused particularly on children's health care and hygiene. The lectures included vital topics such as proper handwashing techniques, correct methods of tooth brushing and other essential hygiene practices.

The camp served not only as a means to check the health of the students but also provided an immediate medical aid, empowering the community with basic healthcare knowledge and tools to improve their long-term health and wellbeing.

FROM PAGE 1

BJP to bank more upon new faces in 3-phase J&K Assembly Polls

bigwigs but barring few, the high command will be fielding more new faces in 90 constituencies to realise their 'ab ki baar, 50 paar' slogan," they said.

The J&K BJP Chief Ravinder Raina had recently said that the party will contest Assembly elections on its own on 70 to 80 seats in Jammu and Kashmir but in the Kashmir valley, deliberations are on with some independent candidates and those who will be capable of winning the seats will be supported by the BJP.

"The BJP at present is the first choice for several political leaders desiring to contest elections and many have joined the party's fold including from the regional parties," party sources said adding that the BJP is on the one hand relying on the new faces to gain maximum seats but at the same time, the 'old pals' in the party, are also eyeing a ticket for devoting decades into the saffron brigade.

"The names of new entrants are under consideration but ignoring news faces and the old loyalists, who selflessly contributed to the party's rise in Jammu and Kashmir, will not be a favourable decision at this juncture," they expressed.

Moreover, the announcement of candidates on caste and community basis in the wake of reserved and open category seats will also not be less than a litmus test for the national party.

The last assembly elections in J&K were held in 2014 after which BJP and PDP formed a coalition government in the erstwhile state of J&K, which fell in June 2018, when BJP withdrew support from the government.

NRI shooting case: Police arrest 5 people, including father-in-law of victim

had a couple of NDPS cases against him, was released from the same jail in September last year.

Earlier, the police had booked three USA-based NRIs, including Sukhwinder Singh, brother-in-law; Kuljinder Kaur, sister-in-law; and her husband Jasvir Singh; besides

mother-in-law Nishan Kaur. Sukhchain Singh was in his house at Daburji when two armed assailants shot at him in front of his family members. Their pistols malfunctioned and they fled the scene. Sukhchain was rushed to hospital after he suffered two bullet injuries. He is out of danger now, said the officials.

"Welcome step": Omar Abdullah on reports Jel to contest J&K polls

as independents, which is a welcome step. We wanted them to contest polls on their own symbol, however, the ban on the organisation has not been lifted," he said.

He also said that now that they have decided to contest polls as independents, let them come forward with their own manifesto and promises. "It is up to the people whom they will choose. We welcome them if they have decided to contest elections," Omar added.

Replying to query that there are reports about fissures in the NC-Congress alliance, he stated that it's up to the party to decide things.

He also said that it is welcome development that home minister Amit Shah has read the manifesto of the National Conference and he mentioned about the same.

"I thank Amit Shah for mentioning our manifesto. After his comments I once again went through our manifesto and ensured if we haven't missed anything. A person like home minister of the country reading one parties manifesto is big achievement for us," he said.

11-member gang of interstate criminals arrested for killing Jammu cabbie: SSP Jammu

ing a gang of interstate criminals from Ratia Fatehabad area of Haryana," Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police Joginder Singh told reporters here.

He said a missing report was filed on August 19 by Singh's brother after he failed to return home from Katra.

On August 21, the case was escalated with the filing of an FIR under relevant sections of law when it was suspected that

the cab driver had been abducted along with his vehicle, based on CCTV footage, he said.

The SSP said the police teams collected and analysed CCTV footage from various locations, along with call data records and hotel records in Katra.

After getting an actionable lead, a police team travelled to Sirsa, Haryana, where raids were conducted at multiple locations with the assistance of the local police and counter-intelligence unit, leading to the arrest of 11 accused — 10 residents of Haryana and one from Punjab.

The stolen vehicle belonging to the cab driver was also recovered, the officer said.

He identified the arrested accused as Gurpreet Singh alias Gopi, Sukhvinder Singh alias Preet, Gursavak Singh, Gurdeep Singh alias Bana, Lucky Singh, Sahil alias Tara Singh, Arjun alias Katiya, Lucky Singh, Gopal Kumar alias Gopi and Gurjeet Singh — all residents of Nagal Tehsil Ratia of Fatehabad district of Haryana — and Kuldeep Singh alias Kala of Khusla Sardulgarh in Punjab.

The gang conspired in Katra to abduct the cab driver and, with criminal intent, brutally murdered him near Bajalta, where they later disposed off his body, the officer said, adding that the body was recovered and handed over to his family.

Give mandate to Mohinder Bhardwaj for Vijaypur seat: Congress workers urge leadership in Insaaf rally

and influential candidate who can properly highlight problems of the area. Traditionally the constituency has been a Congress stronghold which has been further strengthened by PCC general secretary and veteran advocate Mohinder Bhardwaj through his hard-work, understanding of the issues, grit and determination.

"In a unanimous resolution passed in the 'Insaaf' rally by the Congress workers, leaders and prominent persons of the society belonging to all three blocks of the constituency, while demanding party mandate for Bhardwaj, they assured the party leadership that they will ensure his victory. The Vijaypur constituency known for its religious, cultural

and peaceful social ethos will play an important role with Bhardwaj as their representative in formation of the next government and overall development of the area," the workers held.

Thanking the people for their overwhelming affection in his favour and reposing full faith in him, Bhardwaj said that Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi has infused a new life in the party organisation and strengthened their resolve to defeat the communal forces, through his inspiring leadership and relentlessly working to highlight people's problems and social injustice across the country. "His recent visit to Jammu and Kashmir accompanied by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has been a morale booster for the party leaders and workers who are buoyed up to ensure victory of the party candidates," he added.

Lauding the effort of Rahul Gandhi to streamline and strengthen the secular and democratic forces under the aegis of INDIA combine with the active cooperation of National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah, he said this is a move in the right direction to defeat, communal, divisive and anti-people forces which are represented by the BJP. "The saffron party is solely responsible for the current mess in which Jammu and Kashmir has been pushed by the anti-people policies of the Narendra Modi government and the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha's administration. Secular forces under Congress umbrella only have the where-withal to defeat BJP's nefarious designs of further dividing Jammu and Kashmir in all ways."

Bhardwaj while stating that he has been active in this area for many decades now and is well-versed with the problems, he said Rahul Gandhi has provided a visionary leadership at the national levels and this is what we need at the Union Territory and constituency levels. "I assure you of my unflinching support in resolving problems of the area and usher Vijaypur constituency in a new era of over-all development," he added.

He rued that despite being home to holy Hindu shrines and immense tourism potential the twin-engine governments of the BJP have totally neglected the constituency. Those who have represented the constituency in the recent past in assembly and in the cabinet, are answerable to the people. "You must demand an explanation from such people particularly BJP leaders when they come to ask for votes," he asked.

BSF seeks additional manpower for drone-affected Punjab Border

border, a senior officer told PTI.

The request is under "active consideration" of the Union home ministry, he said.

Atul Fulzele, inspector general for the BSF's Punjab Frontier, had recently said that all the drugs from across the Pakistan border was coming into Punjab through the air route via drones against the earlier land route.

According to official data, more than 120 drones have been recovered by security agencies at the front this year so far, as compared to 107 such seizures made during the entirety of 2023.

The force, according to officials in Punjab and Delhi, also wants to add more troops to effectively guard the riverine areas along the Punjab front.

As many as 48 culverts are being constructed over the Ravi and the Sutlej rivers along the Punjab border, out of which work on 25 is complete.

The culverts are provided with sewage gates and locks and these are being checked regularly by BSF patrols, another officer said.

An additional battalion will bring about an operational strength of around 800-900 personnel to better guard this front, he said.

The BSF also needs more personnel in its intelligence (G branch) setup — currently operating in a 50-kilometre area from the border.

The deployment of G branch teams along this front has led to the recovery of a number of drones and its droppings (drugs and arms), apart from having "enhanced" liaison with local police and central anti-narcotics agencies to check drug syndicates, the second officer said.

ABSF commander said, "We are getting good response from locals in the border areas who inform us about drone droppings and drug traffickers. Cash rewards have been given to such informers in about 50 cases till now." The BSF in Punjab has shared contacts of about 75 drug smugglers and suspects with the Punjab Police based on these inputs, he said.

The force is also raising a mounted unit of horse-riding women troops to patrol the front like the male personnel, officials said.

The BSF recently bolstered its strength along the Punjab-Jammu border by deploying more troops in Gurdaspur that abuts Jammu. This was done to check the infiltration of terrorists from the India-Pakistan border to Jammu via Punjab.

Dr Jitendra chairs India-US bilateral meeting, highlights cooperation in critical areas

Top News Report

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, Aug 25 : Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh chaired a pivotal bilateral meeting on India-US Civil Nuclear Commerce, highlighting the deepening cooperation between the two nations in critical areas of science, technology, and clean energy at Prithvi Bhavan here.

Dr. Jitendra Singh announced that an Indian astronaut from the Gaganyaan Mission is set to join the International Space Station, marking a significant milestone in Indo-US Space collaboration. He emphasized the importance of this partnership in securing global supply chains, especially in sectors like semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, and clean energy technologies, which are increasingly vital in today's interconnected world.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh underscored the Green Hydrogen Mission as a cornerstone of India's strategy to decarbonize heavy industry, transportation, and power generation. He highlighted that this mission is crucial for driving innovation in clean technologies and achieving global climate goals. Through robust policy frameworks and international collaborations, India is poised to lead the transition to a sustainable and resilient energy future.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also revealed that the Indian government is exploring international part-

nerships, investing in research and development, and considering regulatory frameworks to support the deployment of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). He stated that SMRs would play a significant role in India's clean energy transition, contributing to energy self-reliance and meeting climate commitments.

Drawing parallels between India's "Anusandhan" National Research Foundation (NRF) and the United States' National Science Foundation (NSF), Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the critical roles both organisations play in advancing scientific research and innovation. He recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Panchamrit" climate action plan, reaffirming India's commitment to increasing non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW, reducing carbon emissions by 1

billion tons and finally achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

Dr. A. K. Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, echoed the significance of the Indo-US partnership, stating that it is not just about exchanging knowledge but about co-creating solutions that will shape the future. He emphasized the collaboration's potential to pave new paths for sustainable development and economic prosperity.

Dr. Ravi Chandran, Secretary of Earth Sciences, highlighted the partnership's progress in ocean energy and Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage (CCUS) technologies, while Dr. Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology, underscored India's focus on biomass to energy conversion and the successful implementation of first

and second-generation biofuels.

Prof. Abhay Karandikar shared insights into India's progress in emerging technologies, including data analytics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and machine learning, emphasising the strategic importance of innovation in these fields. Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General of CSIR, discussed India's advancements in Lithium-Ion Battery development and indigenous battery manufacturing, stressing the importance of creating sustainable and circular energy storage solutions.

The meeting concluded with both nations reaffirming their commitment to strengthening their cooperation in emerging technologies, with mutual interests in enhancing economic growth, national security, and global leadership in technological advancements.

Dimple demands justice for gang-rape victim doctor in Kolkata



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 25: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, led a strong protest march and rally in Jammu today, demanding justice for the gang-rape victim doctor in Kolkata. The rally began at Amphalla Dental College and proceeded along Janipur High Court Road, passing through New Plot, Sarwal, and various parts of Jammu city.

During his address, Sunil Dimple strongly condemned the heinous crime and criticized the government for its lack of stringent laws to deal with rape criminals.

He demanded the establishment of fast-track courts for rape cases and called for the death penalty for those convicted of such crimes. Dimple expressed concern over the increasing number of gang rape cases, stating that criminals are no longer afraid of the law.

He also appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to ensure tight, foolproof security for doctors in Jammu and Kashmir's hospitals and medical colleges.

Dimple emphasized the need for harsher punishments for rapists, including those responsible for the Kolkata incident, to

deter such crimes in the future.

Additionally, he raised concerns about the widespread sexual abuse of minors and females across the country, highlighting that women and young girls are not safe in government and private workplaces.

Dimple called for the implementation of more stringent laws and punishments to protect women and ensure their safety.

Other leaders who participated in the rally included Nitin Sain, Ashok Sharma, Swarn Singh, Kala Singh, Vijay Virdi, Arun Verma, Vikas, Balu Kumar, Lohri Shah, and many others.

IIT Jammu launches Competency Development Programme to strengthen India's cybersecurity

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 25: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu today inaugurated its Competency Development Programme (CDP), a crucial initiative aimed at bolstering India's cybersecurity capabilities. Funded by the National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation, and Training (NTIPRIT) under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT),

the programme will provide specialized training to DoT officers and industry stakeholders.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by prominent figures from the government, industry, and academia. Dr. Gaurav Varshney, Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering and Project Coordinator of the CDP, emphasized the programme's importance in building a robust cybersecurity framework. He highlighted the need

for collaboration between academia and industry to address the evolving digital landscape.

Representatives from various partner organizations, including the Data Security Council of India, GMR Aero Academy, GRAMAX Cybersec, Quick Heal Technologies, CompTIA, and EC Council, shared their insights and perspectives on the significance of cybersecurity and the role of industry-academia part-

nerships.

Shri Deb Kumar Chakrabarti, Director General of NTIPRIT, and Shri Atul Sinha, Deputy Director General of ICT at NTIPRIT, highlighted the government's strategic initiatives to strengthen the nation's telecommunications and cybersecurity sectors.

The event also featured the inauguration of the state-of-the-art Cyber Defense Lab at IIT Jammu, which will serve

as a hub for research and training in cybersecurity.

The Competency Development Programme marks a significant step forward in India's efforts to protect its digital infrastructure and ensure national security. With the support of the government, industry, and academia, the programme is poised to equip DoT officers with the skills and knowledge necessary to address the challenges of the digital age.

Public of Bhalessa protest against denial of Soti-Kakoti Road

Top News Report

DODA, Aug 25: The long-standing struggle of the residents of four panchayats including areas of Kakoti, Upper Kakoti, Dhera, and neighboring areas hold a massive public protest under the leadership of well-known social worker Abdul Kareem Malik. The protestors, angered by the continued denial of road construction on the Soti-Kakoti route via Dhera, expressed their deep discontent.

The road project, which was initially approved in 2006 under the Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), has faced delays due to hurdles and political interference. Despite 18 years of repeated pleas and applications DPRs to the concerned authorities, the No-Objection Certificate (NOC) for the road has not yet been issued, leaving the residents without a road link. It is noteworthy that the survey for this road was conducted in 1982, yet four decades later, the people remain without connectivity.

Leading the protest, Abdul Kareem Malik voiced the collective

demand of the people: "We have been waiting for decades for this road, which is our lifeline. The local politicians and authorities have failed us repeatedly. Despite assurances, we are still denied our basic right to connectivity. As a result, we have decided to boycott the upcoming elections in protest. We refuse to be used as mere tools during election campaigns without any real action on the ground."

The protestors have accused the local politicians of influencing the decision to halt the road project, leaving the panchayats neglected and deprived of essential infrastructure. With the Soti-Kakoti road being a lifeline for many, its completion is essential for connecting these remote villages to the rest of the areas, ensuring access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunities.

Sajad Ahmed, another prominent voice at the protest, stated "We have had enough. We have been continuously promised development, but nothing has materialized. The authorities need to understand that

our patience has limits, and we will not remain silent anymore."

Other protestors raised these sentiments, criticizing the politicians for using the road project as a political tool during election campaigns but failing to deliver on their promises.

The protestors have vowed to continue their agitation until the road project is completed and have urged the government to act swiftly. They also called on the District Administration and the Public Works Department (PWD) to expedite the necessary approvals and begin construction without further delay.

The boycott of the forthcoming elections is seen as a powerful statement from the people, highlighting their disillusionment with the political system and its inability to address their basic needs. The protestors are demanding an immediate response from the authorities and warning that failure to act will result in an escalation of their agitation for collective grievances, their decision to boycott the elections, and the urgent demand for road connectivity.

'Bhardwaj as Cong nominee from Vijaypur'



Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Aug 25: "The constituents of Vijaypur assembly segment need a competent, intelligent, widely acceptable across the communities and influential candidate who can properly highlight problems of the area. Traditionally the constituency has been a Congress stronghold which has been further strengthened by PCC general secretary and veteran Advocate Mohinder Bhardwaj through his hard-work, understanding of the issues, grit and determination.

We demand that keeping in view these facts and social and political standing of Bhardwaj, the Congress should give him the party mandate without any further delay. He will not only win the seat but can prove a game changer in this entire belt."

In a unanimous resolution passed in the 'Insaaf' rally by the Congress workers, leaders and prominent persons of the society belonging to all three blocks of the constituency, while demanding party mandate for Bhardwaj, they assured the party leadership that they will ensure his victory.

The Vijaypur constituency known for its religious, cultural and peaceful social ethos will play an important role with Bhardwaj as their representative in formation of the next government and overall development of the area.

Thanking the people for their overwhelming affection in his favour and reposing full faith in him, Bhardwaj said that Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi has infused a new life in the party organisation and strengthened their resolve to defeat the communal forces, through his inspiring leadership and relentlessly working to highlight people's problems and social injustice across the country.

"His recent visit to Jammu and Kashmir accompanied by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has been a morale booster for the party leaders and workers who are buoyed up to ensure victory of the party candidates," he added.

Lauding the effort of Gandhi to streamline and strengthen the secular and democratic forces under the aegis of I.N.D.I.A combine with the active cooperation of National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah, he said this is a move in the right direction to defeat communal, divisive and anti-people forces which are represented by the BJP. "The saffron party is solely responsible for the current mess in which Jammu and Kashmir has been pushed by the anti-people policies of the Government of India and LG administration. Secular forces under Congress umbrella only have the where-withal to defeat BJP's nefarious designs of further divid-

ing Jammu and Kashmir in all ways."

Bhardwaj while stating that he has been active in this area for many decades now and is well-versed with the problems, he said Mr Gandhi has provided visionary leadership at the national level and this is what we need in Jammu and Kashmir. "I assure you of my unflinching support in resolving problems of the area and usher Vijaypur constituency in a new era of over-all development," he added.

He ruled that despite being home to holy Hindu shrines and immense tourism potential the twin-engine governments of the BJP have totally neglected the constituency. Those who have represented the constituency in the recent past in assembly and in the cabinet, are answerable to the people. "You must demand an explanation from such people particularly BJP leaders when they come to ask for votes," he asked the people.

Among others who addressed the rally included Rashpal Choudhary, Former Block President Vijaypur, Sarpanch Bashir Ahmed, Former Block President Vijaypur, Rashpal Sharma, Block President Bari Brahma, Surinder Sharma, Rakesh Kumar, Advocate, Munish Choudhary, Advocate, Jagdeep Singh, Dr. Rajesh, Block President Purmandal, Sarpanch Mohan Singh, Harbans Singh, Jeet Raj, Dr. Romesh, Raman Chalotra, Advocate, Rakesh Chalotra, Amarnath Sharma and others.

They announced their unconditional support to Bhardwaj as the party candidate. "We will wholeheartedly support him in all respects and make victorious," was their common refrain.

Voter Awareness Camp organised at GHSS Bagga under SVEEP

Top News Report

MAHORE, Aug 25: Considering the upcoming Assembly Elections in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, an Awareness Camp was conducted at Higher Secondary School Bagga.

The camp was organized by Prof. Ajaz Ahmad, Nodal Officer for SVEEP for the 56-Gulabgarh Constituency (ST), in collaboration with the Electoral Literacy Club of Government Degree College Sarh Bagga Mahore.

A significant number of college and school students participated in the event, which aimed to educate the youth about their electoral rights and responsibilities. The session focused on several key aspects of the electoral process.

Prof. Ajaz Ahmad and the Nodal Officer of the Electoral Literacy Club of the College, addressed the students, emphasizing the importance of voter registration, especially for those who may have been left out during the initial registration process. They highlighted the critical role that every vote plays in a democratic society and encouraged the students to ensure that they, and their eligible family members, are registered to vote.

The camp also introduced students to various online tools and applications designed to assist voters. An application that allows citizens to report any violations of the Model Code of Conduct during elections directly to the Election Commission.

An app that provides a comprehensive range of services for voters, including the ability to check voter details, apply for new voter registration,

and get information on polling stations.

The students were educated on the importance of ethical voting, which involves making informed choices based on the merits of the candidates rather than succumbing to undue influence or incentives.

The camp was a successful initiative to engage the youth in the democratic process and ensure that they are well-informed about their rights and responsibilities as voters. The event concluded with a call to action for all students to actively participate in the upcoming elections and to encourage others in their communities to do the same.

Congress tie-up with NC exposes its real face: Dr Parneesh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 25: Dr Parneesh Mahajan, Convenor Department of Training, BJP, J&K, slammed the Congress over its alliance with the National Conference for the Assembly polls and said the move exposes "the real face" of the party. In a statement issued here today, the senior BJP leader said that the Congress, which has been out of power for a

decade, has once again shown its intention to play with the unity and security of the country in its greed for power.

"By allying with the Abdullah family's National Conference, the Congress party has revealed its intentions. The people of the country want to know how the Congress is supporting the promises made in the National Conference's manifesto," he said.

Restoration of Article

370 and Jammu and Kashmir's statehood as well as implementation of the autonomy resolution passed by the erstwhile assembly in 2000 are among the National Conference's 12 guarantees announced in its manifesto for the upcoming polls.

Dr Parneesh asked whether the Congress supported the promise of a Separate Flag in Jammu and Kashmir and if it wanted to push the UT back into "the era of

unrest by bringing back Article 370 and Article 35A".

"The real face of the Congress, which supports the divisive thinking and policies of the National Conference of giving autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir, has now been revealed to the people. There is no doubt that the Congress has formed an alliance with the NC with the sole intention of gaining power," he further said.

FTII holds global conference at Constitution Club of India

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Aug 25: The FTII Global Conference, held on Sunday at the Constitution Club on Rafi Marg in New Delhi, was a momentous occasion that brought together esteemed dignitaries from over 40 countries. FTII National President Dr. Sanjay Bansal welcomed all the invited guests to the conference. Ministers, Ambassadors, Chairmen, Consul Generals, and other prominent personalities from around the

globe attended the event.

Union Minister Harsh Malhotra and Shri Sunil Singhi praised Dr. Sanjay Bansal for bringing the whole business community National and International together on a single platform which was FTII Global conference.

Dr. Sanjay Bansal is also a national Board Member NTWB, Ministry of Commerce and Industry Government of India.

The conference focused on promoting exports from India and enhancing bilateral trade, with the

Federation launching its ambitious Bharat Business Connect program. This initiative aims to connect Indian businesses with global markets, fostering economic growth and cooperation.

A highlight of the conference was the presentation of the prestigious Vyapar Ratna award to eminent individuals who have made significant contributions in their respective fields of business. These visionaries have inspired countless others through their achievements and leadership.

Rohit Sharma trains hard with Abhishek Nayar ahead of packed Test season

NEW DELHI, Aug 25 (Agencies): India captain Rohit Sharma was spotted engaging in an intense training session with assistant coach Abhishek Nayar ahead of upcoming packed Test season. Notably, India are all set to play two-match Test series against Bangladesh from September 19.

The Rohit Sharma-led side will further play three Tests against New Zealand at home in October followed by a five-match Test series against Australia beginning in November. Ahead of the season, India captain is preparing himself through rigorous training sessions.

A video of the India captain training with Abhishek Nayar has been going viral on social media. In the video, Rohit can be seen training in a park under the supervision of Nayar. The India skipper is the sec-



ond-highest run-scorer from his team in the ongoing World Test Championship (WTC) cycle 2023-25. The opening batter has amassed 700 runs from nine matches at an average of 46.66 with three hundreds and as many fifties.

India are currently on the top of the WTC points table with six wins from nine matches along with a draw and have a points

percentage of 68.51%. Australia are ranked second with eight wins from 12 matches and one draw having points percentage of 62.50%.

India to take on Australia in five-match Test series

The two teams are once again favourites to reach the final having met in the summit clash of the last cycle as well. Australia beat India by 209 runs in the

final held at the Oval to become the first nation to have all the major ICC trophies in their cabinet.

However, ahead of the final, the two teams will clash in the highly anticipated Border Gavaskar Trophy set to begin from November 22. India have retained the trophy since 2017 having won the last four series over the current World Test Champions.

They also beat them in Australia in back-to-back series held in 2018-19 and 2020-21 further adding the spice for the upcoming edition. It will be the first time that the two teams will be contesting in a five-match series since 1991-92. Hence, fans are eagerly waiting for it to get underway as captain Rohit Sharma aims to help India reach their third consecutive WTC final.

PAK vs BAN: Babar Azam narrowly escapes consecutive ducks in Rawalpindi Test



RAWALPINDI, Aug 25 (Agencies): Pakistan batter Babar Azam narrowly survived the worst fate for a batter in the Test first match against Bangladesh in Rawalpindi. After scoring 0 in the first innings, Babar almost got out for another duck in the second innings off pacer Shoriful Islam on Sunday, August 25. The senior batter had edged Shoriful's delivery back to the keeper, but Litton Das was not able to hold on to the ball behind the stumps. Babar, who has been in woeful form since the 2023 ODI World Cup just about escaped falling for consecutive ducks in a Test match, also known as a 'pair'. Incidentally, Babar had gotten out to Shoriful in the first innings of the match as well, after he edged a ball

down to the leg side. Wicketkeeper Litton Das had grabbed the catch with a sensational diving effort to the leg side but he was not able to repeat the same in the second innings of the match.

Babar Azam has faced intense criticism since Pakistan's group-stage exit from the T20 World Cup 2024. Pakistan had lost group-stage matches against USA and India, which led to their early exit from the tournament. Babar was expected to do well in the docile pitches of Pakistan in the home season but that did not turn out to be the case in the first innings of the Rawalpindi Test.

At the time of writing, Pakistan were 67/4 after losing Saim Ayub, Shan Masood, Babar Azam and Saud Shakeel in the second innings of the match. Babar got out to youngster Nahid Rana on Sunday, after dragging a ball into his stumps. Babar got out after scoring 22 runs.

Pakistan still trail Bangladesh by 50 runs and will need to show some resilience to save the match on the final day of the Test.

Manu Bhaker meets Suryakumar Yadav: 'Learning techniques of a new sport'

NEW DELHI, Aug 25 (Agencies): Paris Olympics double medalist Manu Bhaker posted a special photo alongside India's T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav. Bhaker, who is currently enjoying a 3-month break after her double bronze medal win in Paris wrote in her post that she was trying to learn techniques of a new sport from the India captain.

Bhaker made history at the Paris 2024 Olympics, securing two bronze medals in the women's 10m air pistol and mixed 10m air pistol events. She became the first ever Indian athlete since independence to win two medals in a single edition of the games. The remarkable achievement marked a significant redemption for Bhaker, who had faced disappointment at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics where she failed to reach the finals in all three of her events.

"Learning techniques of a new sport with the Mr. 360 of India," Manu Bhaker posted on her social media accounts on Sunday, 25 August.

Bhaker's success in Paris was nothing short of phenomenal. She



won her first bronze medal in the women's 10m air pistol event and then followed it up with another bronze in the mixed 10m air pistol event alongside Sarabjot Singh. This double medal win has catapulted her to the top of India's sporting pantheon, making her the first Indian woman to win two medals in a single Olympics edition.

The 22-year-old shooter's journey to this success has been marked by perseverance and determination. After her setback in Tokyo, Bhaker worked tirelessly to improve her skills, and her efforts have paid off in spectacular

lar fashion. Her coach, Jaspal Rana, has been instrumental in her growth, and their partnership has been crucial in Bhaker's development as a world-class shooter.

Bhaker's achievement has not only brought pride to India but has also inspired her fellow athletes. Satwik Rankireddy credited Bhaker's win with boosting the morale of the entire Indian contingent. As Bhaker looks ahead to her next event, the 25m pistol, she has the opportunity to make history once again by becoming the first Indian shooter to win three Olympic medals.

Angelo Mathews calls out England's 'unfair' ball change on Day 3 of 1st Test

MANCHESTER, Aug 25 (Agencies): Sri Lanka batter Angelo Mathews called out the 'unfair' ball change by the England team on Day 3 of the first Test at Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester. Notably, England won the match by five wickets on Day 4 after they chased down 205 in the fourth innings.

A particular moment on Day 3 turned out to be game changing for the hosts as their request for a ball change after the 41st over of Sri Lanka's second innings was accepted by on-field umpires Chris Gaffaney and Paul Reiffel. The game was at a crucial juncture with Sri Lanka



on 146/4 having a lead of 24 runs with Mathews (59*) and Kamindu Mendis (33*) at the crease with an unbeaten stand of 51 runs.

However, the ball change worked wonders for England as they managed to end the fifth wicket partnership on 78 getting Mathews caught at gully for 65. Com-

menting on the change, Mathews said that England seemed to be running out of plans but the ball change changed the entire momentum.

"It looked like they were running out of plans but unfortunately the ball was changed. We were told they didn't have old enough balls to replace. It changed the

entire momentum of the game. You work so hard to get rid of that shine, and we did that. Once the ball was changed, it was a whole different game," Mathews told Sky Sports ahead of play on Day 4.

Further speaking ahead, he called the move unfair for batters of both teams and mentioned that they were comfortably playing them before the change.

Ball Change controversy of Ashes 2023

"It was unfortunate, to be honest. Yesterday we were sitting pretty until the ball was changed. I think it could be unfair for batters on both teams, because

the batters want to get rid of the hard, shiny ball, and once we got to the 48-over mark, I think we were quite comfortably playing them," he added.

England managed to take just two wickets before the close of play on Day 3 but their bowlers got massive help with the changed ball which was dancing to their tunes. Meanwhile, earlier during the Ashes 2023 a similar ball change controversy came to light on the final day of the fifth Test at the Oval as England managed to run through the Australian batting lineup after the ball change.

Paris medallists Swapnil Kusale, Manu to miss World Cup Final

NEW DELHI, Aug 25 (Agencies): Two of the three shooters who combined for three medals at the recent Paris Olympics will miss the season-ending ISSF World Cup Final, to be held here in October.

Pistol shooter Manu Bhaker — who won bronze in the women's 10m air pistol and then combined with Sarabjot Singh to bag another bronze in the mixed team event — and 10m air rifle bronze medal winner Swapnil Kusale have pulled out of the competition.

The World Cup Final, which is the last competition on the calendar for international shooters, is scheduled to be held here from October 13 to 18. However, many of the shooters — including Manu, Swapnil and even Arjun Babuta, who finished fourth in the men's 10m air rifle event in Paris — have chosen to take some time away from the sport. They have informed the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) of their decision. Sarabjot and a few others, however, have yet to send their writ-

ten consent about taking part in the event.

Manu, as her coach Jaspal Rana revealed, decided to take a break to rest and recover after the Olympics. "We had already decided that she will take rest after the Olympics. The World Cup Final was not our priority as she needs to give her body and mind some rest," Rana told agency.

"She has had no break in the last six-seven years. She is not a machine. Now the time is right. She has been dry-training and

working on her fitness, but will take more time to start training seriously," he added.

Swapnil, too, has taken a break and will start training seriously a month before the National Championships, to be held in November.

"Swapnil has also pulled out," his coach Deepali Deshpande said. "Currently, because of numerous felicitation functions, he is not able to do his daily physical exercises. But he should be back in all earnest before the Nationals."

24 seconds: Luis Suarez scores fastest goal in Inter Miami's history

Former Barcelona star Luis Suarez scored the fastest goal in Inter Miami FC's history on Sunday, August 25. Suarez took just 24 seconds to open the scoresheet against Cincinnati FC.

FLORIDA, Aug 25 (Agencies): Legendary Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez scored the fastest goal in the history of Inter Miami on Sunday, August 25. Playing against Cincinnati FC in Major League Soccer (MLS), Suarez scored Miami's opener in the 24th second of the match. After getting a cross into the centre of the box, Suarez chested the ball down and took a first-time shot to fire the ball past Cincinnati's goalkeeper.

Suarez, now 37, was once an integral part of the MSN trio at FC Barcelona alongside Lionel Messi and Neymar. In the absence of Messi at Cincinnati Suarez came crunch collecting a brace on Sunday's match. The goals fired Inter Miami into the MLS playoffs.

Miami (17-4-5, 56 points) opened an eight-point lead on Cincinnati (15-8-3, 48 points) in the East and avenged a 6-1 loss on July 6 at Cincinnati, where it



played without six starters and had a seventh starter red-carded in the second half.

Suarez was one of the missing six that night. So was fellow star Lionel Messi, who sat out this one as well with a right ankle injury suffered last month during the Copa America championship match. But Messi's presence wasn't needed in the rematch.

With legendary former NFL quarterback Tom Brady looking

on, Suarez put Miami ahead to stay only 30 seconds into the fixture. Marcelo Weigandt crossed from right to left and Suarez settled the ball in the middle of the box, then beat goalie Roman Celentano with a clinical finish inside the right post.

After scoring the fastest goal in franchise history, Suarez made it 2-0 in the sixth minute. Sent in on a pretty through ball by Matias Rojas, Suarez sailed

down the right side and made no mistake in scoring his team-leading 14th goal of the year.

That was pretty much it for the Herons' attack as they settled into a defensive shell after Tomas Aviles picked up his second yellow card in the 42nd minute from referee Armando Villarreal. But Miami was able to hold off Cincinnati while a man down.

Not even the insertion of MLS assists leader Lucho Acosta for the second half made a difference for Cincinnati. Worse yet, Acosta picked up a yellow card, meaning he's automatically suspended for the team's Aug. 31 home match against CF Montreal due to yellow card accumulation.

Chasing the game nearly the entire night, Cincinnati enjoyed a 17-4 advantage in shots. But Miami goalie Drake Callender helped lock the result down with four second-half saves.

UTT 2024: PBG Bengaluru Smashers face Puneri Paltan Table Tennis in clash of Giant-Slayers

CHENNAI, Aug 25 (Agencies): Both PBG Bengaluru Smashers and Puneri Paltan Table Tennis will look to continue their winning ways when they meet in Ultimate Tennis 2024 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium on Monday. The teams won their first ties against Chennai Lions and Ahmedabad SG Pipers, courtesy of giant-killing efforts by Jeet Chandra and Ayhika Mukherjee. The franchise-based league is promoted by Niraj Bajaj and Vita Dani under the auspices of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI).

All the thrilling ties are being aired on Sports18 Khel on TV and streaming live on JioCinema in India and Facebook Live outside India. Tickets are available online through BookMyShow and offline at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium box office near Gate no. 1.

Jeet and PBG Bengaluru Smashers laid down a strong statement in their opening tie against hosts Chennai Lions, winning by a margin of 11-4. En route to the thumping win, Jeet defeated India's top-ranked male paddler, Achanta Sharath Kamal, 3-0, adding to his team's comprehensive victory.

Captain Alvaro Robles, USA ace Lily Zhang, and experienced Indian paddler Anthony Amalraj - who only participated in the mixed doubles - also stood

out for their displays for PBG Bengaluru Smashers, who will be aiming to build on the strong showing in their opening tie when they face Puneri Paltan Table Tennis.

"It's a great feeling, especially beating him (Sharath) in Chennai," Jeet said. "We're looking forward; we're just getting started. We're preparing for the upcoming matches."

While they would later relinquish that milestone to the team from Bengaluru, Puneri Paltan Table Tennis had earlier claimed the season's biggest win in their 10-5 victory against debutants Ahmedabad SG Pipers. Giant-killing, again, was the theme of the tie, especially as Ayhika beat the league's highest-ranked player, Bernadette Szocs, 3-0. Seventeen-year-old Ankur Bhattacharjee, too, had impressed in his sweeping win over French paddler Lilian Bardet. "I was excited to play with her (Szocs); I was really happy because I have always loved playing against higher-ranked players," said Ayhika. "I prepared myself. I wasn't thinking about winning or losing; I was only thinking about playing my best game. And yeah, it turned out well!"

Another big win for either side could help them bring closer to the first target: crossing into the playoffs.

SMVDU launches week-long campus plantation drive

Top News Report

KATRA, Aug 25: The NSS team at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) University has started a week-long campus plantation drive, aiming to plant 2,500 saplings of various species across the university campus.

This initiative, supported by the Project led by Mr. Deeraj, Director of NGO Grow-Trees.com in association with the Wildlife Conservation Fund, Jammu & Kashmir and Eco-Watch, highlights the broader community effort in supporting environmental conservation efforts.



This collaboration highlights the broader community effort in supporting environmental conservation efforts. The event started with the welcome address by NSS Programme Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, who provided an overview of the plantation

drive's objectives. Dr. Kumar highlighted the significance of this endeavour in fostering ecological balance and community involvement. The event was graced by Prof. R.K. Mishra, Dean of Student Welfare, Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean, Academic Affairs,

Neeraj Gupta (JKAS), Finance Officer, Dr. Varun Dutta, NCC Coordinator, and Dr. Kamaldeep, Asst. Prof. SMVDU along with other faculty & staff members of SMVDU. Their presence reinforced the collective commitment of the university's leader-

ship to this environmental cause.

It is pertinent to mention that Ar. Aditya Kumar Singh, faculty member at SMVD University, along with his student team, volunteered to serve as an advisor in designing the campus plantation policy. As the week progresses, students, faculty, and staff will work together to plant and nurture these saplings, contributing to a greener and more sustainable campus environment.

The event was coordinated by Sadhisharma and. Abhishek sharma, NSS student coordinators.

Natrang presents Hindi play 'Coffee House Wali Ladki'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 25: Natrang presented a scintillating performance of a Hindi play 'Coffee House Wali Ladki' in its Sunday Theatre Series at Natrang Studio Theatre.

The play has been written by Dr. Satya Parkash Sangar and directed by Neeraj Kant.

It is pertinent to mention here that every Sunday, Natrang features highly relevant plays of different genres, and languages for its audience for their cultural, social and literary orientation. Prominent amongst those who graced the occasion included Angel Kotwal, Sanjeev Luthra, Rajeev Luthra and Vinod Padha. In the play 'Coffee

House Wali Ladki', a lad is shown as a flirtatious person who makes friendship with girls, spends money on them and makes false promises. As he belonged to a very rich and influential family he did not face any problem till time a girl, knowing his real intentions, decides to teach him a lesson. She meets him at a 'Coffee House' and sets a trap to make him confess his habitual mistakes. She very cleverly invites him to meet her in her hostel, where the principal, warden and security were already informed about his visit. When he arrives and flamboyantly declares the reason for his visit, he was exposed before everyone and was threatened to be publically humiliated, moreover his family and the principal of his college were also informed about this. Caught and scared, he expressed repentance for his lies and deceits and pledges to be truthful and respectful towards girls in future.

Those who acted in the play included Brijesh Avtar Sharma, Kananpreet Kaur, Kushal Bhat, Aadesh Dhar, Vrinda Gujral, Lalita Sharma and Palshin Dutta.

The lights of the play were designed and executed by Neeraj Kant and the music was rendered by Vishal Sharma. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen and the presentations were done by Mihir Gujral.

Anil Sawhney is President Rotary Club Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 25: Rtn Anil Sawhney has taken over as President of the Rotary Club Jammu for the year 2024-25. Rtn Deepak Baboo has taken over as Secretary of the Club, besides other office bearers of the club have also taken over for the year 2024-25.

The outgoing President Rtn Sat Pal, while briefing about the last year achievement for the year 2023-24, said that more than 10000 Sanitary Napkins were distributed in the rural as well as urban schools and colleges for girls students.

The seminars on menstrual hygiene were also held during the period. In his presiden-



tial address Rtn Anil Sawhney thanked the club members and the Rotarians present in the functions for giving him opportunity to serve the humanity.

He pledged that the projects in hands will be further boosted in his tenure.

He also pledged and assured Rtn Sat Paul Verma the immediate

Past President that he will complete the pending projects during his period of President ship.

He further said that the two pending global grants amounting to Rs.70 lakhs will also be completed during his period. One out of two grants is almost completed and will be closed soon. The other grant of establishment of Rotary Eye Hospital at Raya will also be completed during his tenure.

Rtn Deepak Baboo Secretary of the club also spoke on the occasion.

Various Rotarians i.e., Rtn Prem Shankar, Rtn Sunil Sawhney and Rtn Gourav Vaid, Rtn Rtn Dr. Navneet Gupta, Rtn Harbans Singh were also present on the occasion.

Malik greets people on Krishna Janmashtami

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 25: Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM) J&K, Ladakh UT's legal advisor and Chairman The Social Welfare Organisation Of India (TSWOOI) Adv. Malikzada Mohd Shahzad has extended warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Janmashtami. This festival is to celebrate the birth of Lord "Krishna" as a symbol of joy, spirituality and unity.

"The aim of Muslim Rashtriya Manch"(MRM) is to promote communal harmony and inclusivity in Jammu and Kashmir, fostering an environment where people of all faiths can come together to celebrate their diverse cultures and traditions," Malik observed.



"It is the occasion when Minority and Majority collectively join in celebrating the festivities of Janmashtami," he further said.

Further, in his message to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, he prayed for peace and prosperity of every citizen living in the nook and the corner of the state, emphasizing the importance of unity in diversity.

AIIMS Jammu launches Endoscopic Procedure Unit in Surgical Gastroenterology Deptt



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 25: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu announced the initiation of a state-of-the-art Endoscopic Procedure Unit within the Department of Surgical Gastroenterology. This significant advancement marks a new chapter in our commitment to providing world-class healthcare services to the region.

On 24th August 2024, two patients underwent endoscopic procedures, which were performed by Dr Sahil Sandal and his team. The team was staffed by Harshita Sharma, Senior Nursing Officer, Madhusudan, Endoscopic technician, and Nursing Officers of the department.

One patient had dyspepsia and underwent an Upper GI Endoscopy, while the second patient had bleeding and mucus discharge per rectum who underwent a colonoscopy.

The Endoscopic Procedure Unit is equipped

with the latest technology, allowing for minimally invasive procedures that enhance patient care and outcomes.

These advanced procedures will enable our Surgical Gastroenterologists to diagnose and treat a wide range of gastrointestinal conditions with greater precision and efficiency.

Dr. Sahil Sandal, Officer in Charge/ Assistant Professor of the Department of Surgical Gastroenterology at AIIMS Jammu, stated, "The initiation of the Endoscopic Procedure Unit is a milestone for our department. It will not only improve the quality of care we provide but also expand the range of services available to our patients. Our team is trained to use the latest endoscopic techniques, which are less painful, faster recovery, and more cost-effective."

He added, "The success of this initiative would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the Director of AIIMS Vijaypur, Prof. Shakti Gupta. His leader-

ship and dedication have been instrumental in driving the hospital's mission to achieve excellence in healthcare.

The new unit will offer various diagnostic endoscopic services, including diagnostic Upper GI Endoscopy, Sigmoidoscopy, and Colonoscopy in OPD on an appointment basis. Moreover, advanced procedures such as endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) and therapeutic endoscopic procedures will be introduced in the near future. These procedures are crucial for the early detection and treatment of gastrointestinal cancers, pancreatitis, and bile duct disorders.

AIIMS Jammu has always been at the forefront of adopting new technologies to improve patient care. The establishment of this unit is part of our broader vision to transform healthcare delivery in Jammu and the surrounding regions. By providing these advanced services locally, AIIMS Jammu continues to reduce the need for patients to travel long distances for specialized care.

Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, ED & CEO of AIIMS Jammu, emphasized, "This initiative is a testament to our team's hard work and the collaborative spirit at AIIMS Jammu to bring the best healthcare practices to the people of Jammu and adjacent region. We are committed to enhancing our facilities and services to meet the growing needs of our community."

AJBRCEAK leadership mourns death of Ankush of Education Deptt Baramulla

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 25: All Jammu Based Reserved category Employees Association Kashmir (AJBRCEAK) deeply saddened by the tragic accident and untimely demise of Ankush Chowdhary MTS posted in District Baramulla.

His sudden passing has left the entire employees community in a state of profound grief and loss.

In a heartfelt statement, Chairman AJBRCEAK Vipen Kumar expressed deep sorrow on behalf of all AJBRCEAK leadership and extended condolences to the grieving family. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families. We pray that God may bless eternal peace to the departed soul and give strength to their loved ones to bear this irreplaceable loss," Vipen Kumar stated.

He further remarked, that the entire leadership of AJBRCEAK is devastated to hear about this tragic incident, which has claimed the lives of two persons including Ankush Chowdhary.

His contributions to the education sector and service to society will never be forgotten. We express our deepest condolences and stand firmly with the families in this hour of grief. As an organization, we pledge our unwavering support to them in these challenging times," Chairman AJBRCEAK added. The President AJBRCEAK Anil Radhey in his statement, along with the broader employees' community, shares in the sorrow and pain of the affected families, recognizing the immense



loss they have endured. The organization reaffirms its commitment to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the grieving families and offer any assistance they may require during this painful period.

Indeed its very painful incident our thoughts and emotions are with the family members of deceased employee we assure that association shall continue to extend every possible support in all matters, AJBRCEAK in being only representative organization of Jammu Based Reserved category Employees working in Kashmir urged administration to provide all possible support to family of Deceased employee.

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