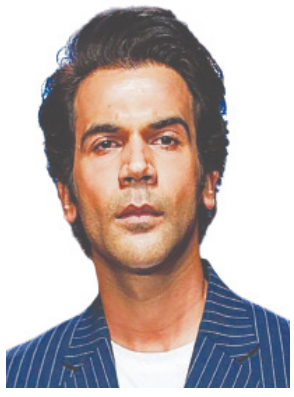


TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Woman dies by lightning strike in Rajouri

SRINAGAR, Aug 27 (Agencies): A 32-year-old woman was killed by a lightning strike in Rajouri district on Monday evening.

According to officials, Akhter Begum, 32, wife of Mohammad Riaz, resident of Hubbi, Tehsil Kotranka, was collecting grass for cattle near Rupri Gali in Chhe-Sari Dhok when the incident occurred.

The police have taken up the investigation into the incident.

PDP constituency in charge Ganderbal Sheikh Bilal quits party

GANDERBAL, Aug 27 (Agencies): Constituency in charge for Ganderbal and vice chairperson district development council (DDC) Sheikh Bilal has quit Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Bilal confirmed that he has resigned from the party, but didn't cite any specific reason.

He said that he will decide his future course of action in the coming days.

J&K parts likely to receive rains, thundershower till Sept 3: MeT

SRINAGAR, Aug 27 (Agencies): The parts of Jammu & Kashmir likely to receive rains and thundershower till September 3, officials of Meteorological Department said on Tuesday.

The officials said from August 27 to 30 there is a possibility of light to moderate rains and thundershower at many places of Jammu & Kashmir towards late night/early morning. Further a spell of rain and thundershower at many places towards afternoon is also expected, they said.

They said from August 31 to September 1 a brief spell of rain and thundershower at isolated places of Jammu & Kashmir is expected, while as during September 2 to 3 the weather will likely remain generally cloudy with possibility of spell of rain/thundershower at many places.

From September 4 to 5 the weather will remain generally dry, the officials said.

They added in past 24 hours Jammu received 64.2 mm rain-fall, Kathua 65.2 mm, Udhampur 64.8 mm and Samba 53 mm.

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BJP issues third list of candidates for J&K assembly polls

JAMMU, Aug 27 (Agencies): BJP on Tuesday released third list of candidates for Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls a day after it withdrew the same list, making just one change from Vaishno Devi seat.

The party changed just one candidate from Vaishno Devi and fielded Baldev Raj Sharma in place of Rohit Dubey.

As per the list, for Habbakadal, the party's candidate will be



Ashok Bhat, Gulabgarh Mohammad Akram Choudhary, Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey, Mata Vishnav Devi Baldev Raj Sharma, Kalakote-

Sunderbani Randhir Singh, Budhal Zulfiqar Choudhary, Thanamandi Iqbal Malik, Surankote Syed Mushtaq Bhukhari, Poonch Haveli Choud-

hary Ab Gani and Mendhar Murtaza Khan.

The party's candidate for Udhampur west will be Pawan Gupta, Chenani Bulwant Singh Mankotia, Ram Nagar Sunil Bhardwaj, Bani Jeevan Lal, Billawar Satish Sharma, Basohli Darshan Singh, Jasrota Rajiv Jasrotia, Hiranagar Adv Vijay Kumar Sharma, Ramgarh Devinder Kumar Maniyal, Samba Surjit Singh Slathia, Vijaypur

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Ramban flash floods: Seven missing, two bodies retrieved so far



BANIHAL, Aug 27 (Agencies): Seven people have gone missing after a cloud-burst triggered flash floods in Rajgarh tehsil of Ramban district of

Jammu and Kashmir on Monday. However two male bodies have been retrieved so far from the flooded nullahs.

Officials said two bodies identified as

Khalid Ahmed (12), son of Haji Sajjad Ahmed Parihar, resident of Suli Kamait and Yasir Ahmed (20), son of Bagh Din Gujjar, resident of Gadgram Rajgarh have been retrieved so far.

The all missing/retrieved have been identified as Naseema Begum wife of Bagh Din, his son Yasir Ahmed (retrieved) and his daughter Shazia Banoo resident of Gadgram.

The missing wife of Haji Sajjad Ahmed Parihar identified as

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DIG JSK range conducts late-night border inspection ahead of elections

JAMMU, Aug 27 (Agencies): In light of the current security scenario and the upcoming Assembly elections, DIG JSK Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma, conducted a late-night surprise inspection of the border areas in Kathua, Samba, and Jammu districts.



During his visit, he stopped at Hiranagar's Londi Morh, where he interacted with SHO Inspector Arun Koul and officials from the Border Police Post (BPP). He also met with BSF officials at the Chak Dulma BOP post and

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Jailed cleric Sarjan Barkati to contest assembly polls as Independent

SRINAGAR, Aug 27 (Agencies): A popular religious cleric Sarjan Ahmad Wagay, who is in jail in a terror funding case, is set to contest the upcoming legislative assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir as

independent candidate. Family said that they are filing nominations papers today at DC office Shopian.

They said that they have already conducted a meeting with locals in Reban, the native village

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VDGs open fire on observing suspicious movement in Rajouri

JAMMU, Aug 27 (Agencies): A group of Village Defence Guards opened fire on observing suspicious movement in a village in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Tuesday.

The guards noticed two unidentified persons near the house of a political activist at village Meira-Nagrota, eight km from Rajouri district headquarters, late Monday night, the officials said.

Security forces cordoned off the village and carried out searches following the incident but there was no trace of the suspected persons.

The search operation was extended to adjoining villages this morning and was continuing when last reports were received, the officials said.

Aim of Alliance with Congress is to defeat communal forces, Says Sajjad Shaheen

JAMMU, Aug 27 (Agencies): Ahead of the Jammu and Kashmir (J-K) assembly polls, National Conference (NC) candidate from Banihal, Sajjad Shaheen, said on Tuesday that the aim of their party's alliance with Congress is to defeat communal forces in the valley.

Speaking to news agency, Shaheen thanked the party leadership for choosing him as its candidate.

"I thank the party leadership. We are fully prepared. National Conference is not just a political

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NC releases 2nd list of candidates, Omar to contest from Ganderbal

SRINAGAR, Aug 27 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) on Tuesday announced its second list of candidates contesting upcoming Assembly elections phase-1 in Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the list the party's vice president and former chief minister Omar Abdullah will contest elections from



central Kashmir's Ganderbal.

Those named in the list and given mandate include Mian Mehar Ali

will contest polls from Kangan (ST); Omar Abdullah-Ganderbal; Salam Ali Sagar-Hazratbal; Ali Mohammad Sagar-Khanyar; Shameema Firdous-Habba Kadal; Ahsan Pardesi-Lal Chowk; Mushtaq Guroo-Chanapora; Tanvir Sadiq-Zadibal; Mubarak Gull-Eidgah; Saif-ud-Din Bhat-Khan

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NCERT report proposes inclusion of class 9-11 marks in class 12 board results

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (Agencies): The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has suggested a new evaluation model, proposing that students' performance in Classes 9, 10, and 11 should contribute to their Class 12 board results.

The suggestions were made in the report titled 'Establishing Equivalence across Education

Boards' (released in the month of July).

The report suggested a progressive assessment framework for Classes 10 and 12. The new framework divides the academic year into two terms. The report also recommended that Class 12 board results to now include marks from Classes 9, 10, and 11.

The report mentioned, "The weightage of for-

mative and summative marks will be adjusted progressively from class 9 to class 12, increasing the emphasis on summative assessment as learners advance in grades. Specifically, class 9 features a 7 per cent formative and 30 per cent summative split, class 10 an equal 50% formative and summative division,

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BJP OBC Morcha welcomes mandate for Yudhviri Sethi, organizes Bhandara

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 27: The BJP OBC Morcha hosted a grand felicitation function and organized a Bhandara at New Plot, Jammu, to celebrate the announcement of Yudhviri Sethi's candidacy for the upcoming Assembly elections from the Jammu East constituency.

This event marked a significant moment for the BJP supporters in the region, who gathered in large numbers to show their support for Yudhviri Sethi, a veteran leader with over 40 years of dedicated public service.

The Bhandara was inaugurated by Yudhviri Sethi, who is not only the BJP candidate from Jammu East but also serves as the Vice President of the BJP in the region.

He was joined by Brahm Jyot Satti, the Incharge of BJP OBC Morcha, who played a key role in organizing



the event.

The Bhandara was organized under the leadership of Omkar, highlighting the collective effort of the party's various wings to celebrate this important occasion.

Several prominent BJP leaders were present at the event, including Raman Sharma, the Ambhalla Mandal President of BJP, Rakesh Pandey, the Mandal President of the OBC Morcha, and Rohit Sharma, Vice President of the Yuva Morcha.

Other notable attend-

ees included Varun, Jameel, Nakeeb (District General Secretary Yuva Morcha), Rakesh Kumar Vicky Pandey (OBC Morcha Mandal President), Ajay Mehra (Vice President), Aman (General Secretary), Subash (Secretary), Vijay, and Suraj (Shakti Kendra Pramukh). These leaders, along with many others, extended their greetings and expressed their full support for Yudhviri Sethi's candidacy.

The atmosphere at the event was one of enthusiasm and optimism, with many people expressing their

happiness over Yudhviri Sethi's nomination. They described him as a deserving candidate, praising his long-standing commitment to public service and his ability to connect with the people. Yudhviri Sethi has been a stalwart in the Jammu political scene, known for his tireless efforts to address the needs of the community, even during challenging times.

In his address, Yudhviri Sethi expressed deep gratitude towards the BJP OBC Morcha and the attendees for their overwhelming support. He spoke about the BJP's nationalist ideology and its commitment to the welfare of all segments of society, emphasizing that the people of Jammu East are like his family. He assured the public that he would continue to work diligently to ensure that the best possible facilities and services are provided to them.

Yudhviri Sethi also took the opportunity to thank

the BJP high command for their trust and confidence in him. He highlighted his four-decade-long association with the party, noting that his work has always been guided by the BJP's core philosophy of reaching out to the last person in the queue. He pledged to continue his efforts to serve the people of Jammu East with the same dedication and resolve that has characterized his long career in public service.

The event concluded on a high note, with the distribution of food to the gathered crowd, symbolizing the BJP's commitment to community service and unity. The felicitation function and bhandara not only celebrated Yudhviri Sethi's candidacy but also reinforced the strong bond between the BJP and the people of Jammu East, setting the stage for what many hope will be a successful election campaign.

Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal to contest Assembly Elections; declares candidates for first phase

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 27: National President Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal, Advocate Ankur Sharma, on Tuesday declared that Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal, famous earlier as IkkJutt Jammu will contest upcoming Assembly Elections in J&K.

Three candidates namely Manoj Padha (State President J&K); Meenakshi Kalra and Shrikant Rathore were declared party candidates from Bhandarwah, Doda-West and Padder-Nagaseeni Constituencies respectively.

"More candidates for second and third phases shall also be declared shortly", said Ankur

Sharma. Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal (Earlier IkkJutt Jammu) is a registered political party with Election Commission of India.

It has recently contested 2024 Lok Sabha Elections on Bansuri Common Symbol (Flute) from 20 Lok Sabha Constituencies spread across 15 States of the country.

The declared objectives of the party are its Sapt Sankalpas aimed at empowering and safeguarding Sanatan Indic Civilisation. Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal also demands a Separate Jammu State with division of Kashmir into two UTs, one exclusively for victims of Hindu Genocide.

It's National President is famous for his successful fight against Roshni Act, a tool of Demographic Invasion of Jammu and is a vocal critic of Delhi's policy on J&K though which Jammu Province is consciously made subservient to Kashmir Province's manufactured hegemony.

Ankur Sharma appealed people of Jammu Province to vote in favour of Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal and its candidates, so that Jammu can be empowered holistically especially politically. He also declared that the party shall not put up any candidates in Kashmir Province.

Movement Kalki calls for sensible voting in upcoming Elections



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 27: Movement Kalki Board Member Vikram Mahajan expressed deep concern over the growing trend of leaders offering false promises and luring voters during elections.

In a press conference here on Tuesday, he highlighted how the mistakes made in the last 70-75 years have brought suffering to the people, and urged the public to make informed and wise choices in the upcoming elections, avoiding selfish leaders who only prioritize personal gains over the welfare of society.

Mahajan stated that these leaders forget the people once they win the elections and focus solely on securing their positions and wealth. He also mentioned the strategies used to marginalize and suppress capable and honest individuals in society, allowing corruption and self-

serving politics to thrive.

He appealed to the voters not to repeat such mistakes and urged political parties to give tickets to candidates genuinely committed to social welfare, not to those driven by greed and corruption.

He also praised the reign of Maharaja Hari Singh, emphasizing how he brought about several reforms in Jammu and Kashmir with a vision of equality for all.

Vikram Mahajan further called on the Election Commission to keep a close watch on the agendas and manifestos of political parties. He stated that parties not working for the benefit of society and the nation should have their registrations cancelled.

Mahajan criticized the manifesto of the National Conference (NC), terming it divisive and highlighting its demand to restore Article 370 and 35A, which he strongly condemned.

He reminded every-

one of the troubled days before the abrogation of Article 370 when curfews, stone-pelting, school closures, and widespread terrorism plagued the region. The 1990 exodus of Kashmiri Pandits was also a direct consequence of the NC government's failure. Today, after the abrogation of Article 370, peace has returned to Kashmir, and the people are content.

He also pointed out that the NC's manifesto calls for repealing the Public Safety Act (PSA), which was initially introduced by NC leaders themselves.

Back then, they used it to push their political agenda, and now that the central government is using it effectively post-370 abrogation, they are uncomfortable and wish to remove it. Furthermore, plans to rename the Shankaracharya Temple as 'Takht-e-Sulaimani' and Hari Parbat as 'Koh-e-Maraan' are completely unacceptable.

In addition to Vikram Mahajan, the press conference was attended by Thakur Arjun Singh (Core Committee Member), Sanjeev Dubey (Board Member), Ram, Pawan Narang, Mahant Jasmer, Dr. Sudesh Kumar, and other prominent members.

DPS Jammu students win medal in District Yogasan Sports Championship

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 27: Students of Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu brought laurels to the school and their parents by winning gold, silver and bronze medals in different age group categories in Jammu District Yogasan Sports Championship organized by Yoga Association of J&K held at Brahma Kumaris Meditation Centre, Jammu on 25th August, 2024.

Dhayan Sharma (IV-B) won Gold medal in U/8-10 age category; Keyush Sharma (IV-F)

won Silver medal in U/8-10 age category; Aadhya Gupta (IV-B) bagged Bronze medal in U/8-10 age category; Rehan Sharma (V-K) won Bronze medal in U/10-12 age category; Divyesh Sharma (VI-A) got Silver medal in U-14 age category; Nishita Meeniya (IV-G) won Silver medal in U/8-10 age category; Bhavya Sharma (IV-F) bagged Bronze medal in U/8-10 age category; Anishka Gupta (IV-E) won Bronze medal in U/8-10 age category.

Further, all the stu-

dents have also been selected for the State level championship to be held later.

The management DPS Jammu, President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC- Dr. Ritu Singh, Director- S.S. Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated all the winners, their parents and coaches, Veena Chib and Ranjana Verma for their achievement. Further, they also extended their best wishes to them for all their future endeavours.

Large number of Kaith Biradari members throng at Sankri Dev Asthan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 27: The Kaith Biradari members came in large number at Sankri Dev Asthan in Domana here on Tuesday and paid obeisance to Sankri Devta to seek his blessings for the welfare of their families.

The festivity began with performing of Havan, Puja and singing hymns in praise of Sankri Devta.

Kaith Biradari hailed Singer Ashok Singh Thakur's recently released Dogri Bhajan on Sankri Devta and said that the bhajan shows gratitude and love for Sankri Devta.

All present on the occasion partook Parsad from the Langar and contributed immensely for the development of Asthan.

Priest Sonu Kumar

said, Sankri Devta is very kind and compassionate. believed to be protector of Kaith families. Besides, he fulfills one's wishes.

A development committee comprising Rajesh Kumar as President; Lal Chand as Vice President; Kuldeep Kumar as Organizer; Rahul Kumar, Raj Kumar and Ashwani Kumar as Cashiers; and Gourav Kumar, Sahil Kumar, Vishnu Kumar, Rahul Kumar and Deeraj Kumar as members, were constituted.

Prominent among the Biradari members were Messers R.L.Kaith, Subedar Major Gunni Ram (Retd), Subedar Hans Raj (Retd), Havildar Bhupinder Singh (Retd), Master Rattan Lal, Ram Saran, Ambu Ram, Bishan Dass, Chaman Lal, Bishan Lal and Bodh Raj.

ARO Jammu holds awareness lecture on Agniveer scheme



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 27: An awareness lecture on the Agniveer Scheme was organized by the Army Recruiting Office (ARO), Jammu, for 540 NCC cadets at the Training Academy in Nagrota.

The Agnipath Scheme, designed to maintain a youthful profile of the Armed Forces, offers a remarkable opportunity for young individuals

eager to serve in the military.

The lecture aimed to educate the cadets about the key features and benefits of the Agniveer Scheme.

The cadets displayed significant interest in the session and actively participated, asking questions and clearing their doubts regarding the scheme. The interaction allowed them to gain a

deeper understanding of how the Agniveer Scheme could pave the way for a career in the Armed Forces.

In addition to the Agniveer Scheme, the lecture also covered various other entry pathways into the Armed Forces, both as officers and jawans.

The cadets were informed about the special benefits available to NCC cadets, highlighting the support provided by the Central Government for those aspiring to join the military.

This informative session was well-received by the NCC cadets, who left with a clearer perspective on the opportunities available to them in the Armed Forces, particularly through the Agniveer Scheme.

Batwal Maha Sabha demands fair share of Assembly seats from reserved constituencies

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 27: The Batwal Maha Sabha Jammu & Kashmir held a press conference at the Press Club Jammu, where key leaders of the community addressed the media regarding their representation in the upcoming Assembly elections.

The press conference was led by President Romesh Sargotra and General Secretary Ram Lal Lakhotra, along with Advisor Duni Singh Motan, Deputy Chairman Kamal Motan, Joint Secretary Gurdas Sargotra, Cashier Narayan Bassa, Organiza-

tional Secretary Uttam Sandhu, and Rashpal Lakhotra.

During the conference, they highlighted the significant presence of the Batwal community in Jammu division, particularly in constituencies such as Marh, Bishnah, Suchetgarh, RS Pura-Jammu, Bahu, and Jammu North.

Despite being one of the largest communities in these regions, they expressed frustration over the consistent neglect of their community by major political parties in previous elections.

The leaders of the Batwal Maha Sabha

demand a fair share of Assembly seats from reserved constituencies in the upcoming elections from major parties like the BJP and Congress.

They warned that if their community's demands are not met, the Batwal community would consider its own course of action, including the possibility of fielding their own candidates in the affected constituencies.

This move, they asserted, would be a significant step towards ensuring proper representation and addressing the longstanding grievances of the Batwal community.

CEC Tashi Gyalson lays foundation stone worth more than Rs 27 crore in Khaltse Constituency

Top News Report

LEH, Aug 27: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson accompanied by DC/CEO LAHDC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve and Councillor Khaltse constituency Lobzang Sherab visited the villages of Khaltse constituency during his one day tour on August 26. The visit included the inauguration of several community projects and the laying of foundation stones for key developmental works, with an estimated cost of more than Rs 27.75 crore.

He was accompanied by Superintendent Engineer, PWD, Stanzin Gyatso; Superintendent Engineer, PMGSY; Assistant Commissioner Development, Leh; Project Officer, ICDS, Leh; Chief Education Officer; Chief Agriculture Officer; SDM, Khaltse; XeN, PHE; XeN, PDD and other concerned officials were present during the visits.

CEC Tashi Gyalson visited Ulley, Mangu, Lhardo and Alchi vilag-



es and interacted with public gatherings. The villagers of Sham region accorded a warm welcome to all the officials during their visit.

At the outset of the tour, the officials paid visits to Ulley village followed by the foundation stone laying ceremony of construction of Community Hall under the district plan.

After the thorough assessment, the team led by CEC Gyalson visited Mangu village to review and assess the gathering. CEC Gyal-

son in the presence of DC/CEO, LAHDC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve and Hon'ble Councillor Khaltse, Lobzang Sherab laid the foundation stone for the flood protection work at Mangu Nalla also.

Similarly, CEC Gyalson led team visited Lhardo village where he laid the foundation stone for the construction of Community Hall at Lhardo in the presence of DC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve and Hon'ble Councillor Khaltse, Lobzang Sherab. During their visit to the

said villages, the major issues highlighted by the villagers included completion of road connectivity with blacktopping, strengthening of Tele-connectivity networks, repairment of motorable bridges, developmental requirements at monasteries and various others.

Furthermore, CEC Gyalson visited Alchi village to review developmental requirements. The village representatives of Alchi also met CEC with their grievances at a public gathering.

In addition to that, CEC Gyalson laid foundation stone for the construction of public gathering Community Hall, Futsal ground, link road to Alchi Dok and the construction of ICDS Centre at Alchi village in the presence of DC, Leh and Councillor Khaltse constituency.

CEC Gyalson lauded the efforts of local people in developing and transforming their region and also assured the villagers to resolve all the issues and would work on fulfilling the genuine demands raised before him.

CEC also extended his congratulations to the people on the announcement of five new districts in Ladakh, calling today both auspicious and historic.

This was highlighted when, during the ceremony to lay the foundation stone for various new projects in the Sham area, we received the exciting news that Sham has been designated as a new district.

EDITORIAL

UNIFIED PENSION
SCHEME-A
WELCOME STEP

The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) is an innovative initiative designed to streamline and simplify pension benefits for employees across various sectors in India. It aims to unify multiple pension schemes under one umbrella, ensuring consistent and equitable benefits for all employees, regardless of their employment sector. This reform is particularly significant in a country like India, where the pension system has traditionally been fragmented, with different schemes catering to government employees, private sector workers, and those in the unorganized sector.

India's pension landscape has been complex, with multiple schemes in place, such as the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), the National Pension System (NPS), and various state government pension schemes. Each of these schemes had its own rules, eligibility criteria, and benefit structures, leading to disparities in retirement income for different groups of workers. Government employees traditionally enjoyed more generous pension benefits, while private sector and unorganized workers had limited or no access to pension security. This fragmentation not only created inequality but also made the system difficult to manage and navigate for beneficiaries.

Recognizing the need for reform, the government proposed the Unified Pension Scheme, aiming to create a more inclusive and streamlined system that would provide a uniform set of benefits to all workers, irrespective of their employment status. The goal is to ensure that every citizen has access to a secure and predictable source of income during retirement, reducing dependency on family support or state welfare.

The UPS seeks to extend pension coverage to all workers, including those in the unorganized sector, who have historically been excluded from formal pension schemes. This inclusivity is a significant step towards ensuring social security for all citizens.

One of the major advantages of the Unified Pension Scheme is its portability. Employees can carry their pension benefits from one job to another, across different sectors and states, without losing any accrued benefits. This feature is particularly beneficial in today's dynamic job market, where individuals often switch jobs and sectors.

The UPS is primarily a defined contribution system, where both the employer and the employee contribute a fixed percentage of the employee's salary to the pension fund. This system ensures that the pension amount is directly linked to the contributions made over the course of the employee's career, promoting savings and financial discipline.

To ensure that even low-income workers can benefit from the scheme, the government may provide subsidies or matching contributions for workers in certain income brackets. This feature is designed to encourage participation from economically weaker sections of society.

By consolidating multiple pension schemes into one, the Unified Pension Scheme simplifies the management and administration of pension funds. This centralization reduces administrative costs and enhances the efficiency of fund management, ultimately benefiting the pensioners.

The scheme offers various investment options, allowing contributors to choose their preferred risk-return profile. The pension funds are managed by professional fund managers, with the aim of generating optimal returns while ensuring the security of the invested capital.

The UPS emphasizes transparency in operations, with regular updates and clear communication to the beneficiaries about their contributions, the fund's performance, and the expected pension benefits. This transparency builds trust in the system and ensures accountability from the fund managers.

While the Unified Pension Scheme offers numerous benefits, its implementation poses certain challenges. Ensuring widespread adoption, particularly among workers in the unorganized sector, requires significant outreach and education efforts. Additionally, the government must ensure that the scheme is financially sustainable, with appropriate safeguards against market volatility and inflation.

Moreover, integrating existing pension schemes into the UPS may face resistance from stakeholders accustomed to the current system. It will require careful planning and coordination to transition smoothly without disrupting the benefits of current pensioners.

The Unified Pension Scheme represents a progressive step towards creating a more equitable and efficient pension system in India. By extending coverage to all workers, simplifying management, and ensuring portability, the UPS has the potential to provide a secure retirement income for millions of Indians. However, its success will depend on effective implementation, robust financial management, and widespread awareness and participation. If executed well, the Unified Pension Scheme could significantly improve the quality of life for retirees across the country, ensuring financial stability and dignity in their later years.

Without fair defence, right to fair trial is meaningless

By: Mohan Guruswamy

Earlier this month, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud decided to hear the matter related to the rape-murder at Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, taking "suo moto" cognisance of it. "Suo moto" is a Latin term that means "on its own motion". The CJI took cognisance of it based on the uproar in the mainstream and social media. Our Supreme Court has the power to take up cases on its own initiative, without a petition being filed. This power allows the court to address issues of public concern, especially those that involve public safety and fundamental rights. Given the passions and outrage the Kolkata rape-murder case generated, the CJI decided to hear it almost immediately and also to broadcast the hearings live on channels like YouTube. Senior lawyers Kapil Sibal and Menaka Guruswamy were appointed by the State of West Bengal to represent it in the Supreme Court in this matter. Also Read - Aakar Patel | Stop violence within India before bid for global peace Advertisement The brutal rape and murder of a trainee doctor on August 9 within the hospital premises was allegedly by a person known to frequent the premises and who was considered as known to the then principal, Dr Sandip Ghosh. It could have been an open and shut case but typically the state government's immediate response was ham-handed and gave rise to many apprehensions, much it well fuelled in the social media by political adversaries of the chief minister. It may not have been so, but it did appear that a coverup was underway, particularly as the hospital head was posted out

and appointed as head of another well-known institution within four hours. Also Read - Abhijit Bhattacharyya | Some historical lessons on old & new imperialist wars The Calcutta high court was already seized of the matter and had directed that the case be taken away from the West Bengal police and be investigated by the CBI. The court also pulled up the state government over the manner in which it was dealing with the agitating doctors and advised it to "sympathise with the doctors and their agitation, and also to appreciate popular feelings". But nevertheless, the Supreme Court decided to act, saying: "Why we decided to take suo moto (action) though the Calcutta high court was hearing it because this is not just a case of a horrific murder in a Kolkata hospital, but this is about the systemic issue about the safety of doctors across India." Clearly, the apex court was concerned about the much larger issue of the security of hospitals and their staff all over India. We can understand this concern as we read and hear with monotonous frequency about how doctors and nursing staff are belaboured and assaulted when some patients and their families are not satisfied with the medical outcomes. Also Read - Anita Anand | Can a 'bottom-up' approach help in tackling crimes targeting women? The case has aroused passions and typically many people have prejudged the matter. The drama of the SC's hearing broadcast live was further exacerbated by social media postings of habitual trolls. A popular post lists out the names and photos of 21 lawyers headed by senior counsels Kapil Sibal and Menaka Guruswamy, facing a team headed by solicitor-general Tushar Mehta with just five law-

yers by his side. The power and the majesty of the Union of India which he represents obviously doesn't matter? Besides, this particular post makes it out that 21 lawyers were appearing against the victim. Also Read - Shreya Sen-Handley | The King's plumbing and other toilet tales The lawyers appearing for the West Bengal government are being trolled for doing their job. These people don't seem to realise that under our judicial system, described as an adversarial system, the judge is expected to judge on the merits of the case and not general sentiments. The adversarial system is a legal system used in common law countries where two or more advocates represent their parties' case or position before an impartial person or group of people, such as a judge or jury, who attempt to determine the truth and pass judgment accordingly. It is in contrast to the inquisitorial system used in some civil law systems (such as those deriving from Roman law or the Napoleonic code) where a judge investigates the case. The adversarial system is a two-sided structure under which trial courts operate, pitting the prosecution against the defence. In free and democratic countries like India, the right to counsel is regarded as a constituent of the right to a fair trial. This right is often included in national constitutions. Of the 194 constitutions currently in force, 153 have language to this effect. The Constitution of India guarantees the right to counsel. In fact, without both sides being represented by recognised and registered legal counsel, the case cannot be conducted. In a case, legal counsel on both sides are regarded as officers of the court and their intellectual and legal jousting is only to estab-

lish the truth based on evidence. Lawyers are expected to provide counsel without prejudging their clients or pandering to public sentiment. True professionals are not expected to pick and choose sides. At any given time, a lawyer such as Menaka Guruswamy appears for all manner of clients. She appears for the defence and also for the State. When she appeared for a RSS-linked outfit, I was recipient of troll attention just as I am now a recipient of it because of the Kolkata matter. My late father-in-law, whose senior counsel gown my daughter Menaka proudly wears, enjoyed a big reputation in the Andhra Pradesh high court for his judicial acumen and success. He appeared in some highly publicised cases, and when asked about defending the apparently indefensible, used to simply reply that it was up to the court to judge, his job was to ensure his client or sometimes the state, gets the best advocacy and the laws of the land are respected. My late grandfather, who was a famous lawyer of his time in Madras, once appeared for the hereditary mahant of the Tirupati temple, who was aggrieved for having been removed by the government for his extravagances and personal habits. When I asked him about it many years later, he simply replied that he was not defending the mahant's character but the manner in which he was removed. It was unlawful. The state had to later enact new legislation and got rid of the pernicious system of hereditary mahants. "The right to a fair trial is one of the fundamental guarantees of human rights and the rule of law, aimed at ensuring administration of justice. A fair trial includes fair and proper opportunities allowed by the law to prove innocence."

Stop violence within India before bid for global peace

By: Aakar Patel

While we are going to Ukraine and Poland to end violence all around the world, it is instructive to see what the world is saying about violence in India. On June 9, 2022, three United Nations Special Rapporteurs wrote to the Narendra Modi government on our bulldozer justice. Balakrishnan Rajagopal, Fernand de Varennes and Ahmed Shaheed wrote of their concerns on "forced evictions, housing and property demolitions directed against the Muslim minority communities in Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh state, in Anand district of Gujarat state and in the Jehangir-puri locality and other locations of New Delhi. These arbitrary housing and property demolitions were allegedly ordered by local governments arbitrarily to punish Muslim minorities and low-income communities for inter-communal conflicts between Hindus and Muslims that had broken out during and after religious processions". Also Read - Mohan Guruswamy | Without fair defence, right to fair trial is meaningless Advertisement India did not reply to this letter. On July 12, 2023, the European Parliament passed a resolution on Manipur. It said that violence had left at least 120 people dead and 50,000 displaced and destroyed over 1,700 houses, over 250 churches and several temples and schools. The resolution said that "intolerance towards religious and belief minorities, including Christians, contributes to the violence"; that there had been "concerns about politically motivated, divisive policies promoting

Hindu majoritarianism, and about an increase in activity by militant groups"; and that the European Parliament seeks "the utmost effort to promptly halt the ongoing ethnic and religious violence, to protect all religious minorities, such as Manipur's Christian community, and to pre-empt any further escalation". Also Read - Abhijit Bhattacharyya | Some historical lessons on old & new imperialist wars In response, India said this was a colonial mindset and was an intrusion into our internal matter. On March 7, 2024, more than two dozen United Nations human rights experts wrote to the Modi government to "sound the alarm over reports of attacks on minorities, media and civil society in India" and they called for "urgent corrective action". They said: "We are alarmed by continuing reports of attacks on religious, racial and ethnic minorities, on women and girls on intersecting grounds, and on civil society, including human rights defenders and the media." Also Read - Anita Anand | Can a 'bottom-up' approach help in tackling crimes targeting women? India did not respond to this (India does not respond to the United Nations though we are keen to be given a seat on its Security Council). Let us go further back. On June 13, 2021, the Group of Seven nations, which are advanced economies and liberal democracies, put out a sort of charter. The document was called the G-7 and Guest Countries: 2021 Open Societies Statement. The G-7 are the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Japan and Italy plus the European Union and the guest nations invited this time to the G-7 meet were South Korea, India, South Africa and

Australia. Also Read - Shreya Sen-Handley | The King's plumbing and other toilet tales The document says that all these nations reaffirm their shared belief in open societies, through democratic values and that they would embrace and encourage others to embrace these eight values, which are listed out. The first is human rights, both online and offline. The second is democracy, including "everyone's right to assemble, organise and associate peacefully, within a system of accountable and transparent governance". The third is social inclusion, and "full enjoyment of civil and political rights in both physical and digital spheres". Fourth is gender equality. Fifth is freedom of expression, "both online and offline". Sixth is rule of law and independent and impartial judicial system. Seventh is a multilateral system with free and fair trade and global collaboration. Eighth is the "importance of civic space and partnership with diverse, independent and pluralistic civil societies, including human rights defenders, in promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms". These eight apparently were "founding values" which "define our inclusive way of life". They would be promoted by the G-7 and guest nations through the following eight steps: First, "protecting civic space and media freedom, promoting freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association, and freedom of religion or belief, and by tackling all forms of discrimination". Second, "to exchange information and coordinate effective responses to shared threats to human rights, democracy and the rule of law, such as disinformation and arbitrary deten-

tion". Third, to promote economic openness "reasserting our shared economic model which is founded on open markets". Fourth, to prevent and tackle corruption. Fifth, to protect the digital civic space respecting human rights. Sixth, to prioritise gender equality and inclusion. Seventh, to collaborate on science. Eighth, to promote sustainable development goals, specifically to "promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies". The G-7 and its guests said they would build on these commitments in other multilateral fora. A few points arise from this development. Indian governments generally speaking and this government in particular are hostile to most of the things on the list. The Indian Prime Minister signed the statement and spoke in favour of the Open Societies charter, saying that India was a naturally ally. Perhaps we are, but the problem is that we cannot be signing these things and then doing the sort of actions that we do at home. Because if we do them, we will have to hear from the United Nations and the European Parliament. And even they are not the only ones. The US Congress (on Kashmir), the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (on the "love jihad" laws in various BJP states) and the US state department (on various atrocities against minorities) have been vocal on India in this same period. For us to have basic credibility as a global leader which wants violence stopped elsewhere, we should first look at and acknowledge what we have done to ourselves. To not do so opens us to the accusation of rank hypocrisy and also reduces the stature of our globe-trotting peaceniks.

Modi Govt is committed to eradication of Left-Wing Extremism: Amit Shah

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, during a review of anti-Naxal operations with the Directors General of Police and Chief Secretaries of Chhattisgarh and neighbouring states, clearly stated that Left-Wing Extremism would be completely eliminated from the country before March 2026. He also appealed to the youth involved in Left-Wing Extremism to renounce violence and join the grand cause of development.

A glimpse at the past few years reveals that under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi the efficient guidance of Shah, the battle to dismantle the entire ecosystem of Left-Wing Extremism with a ruthless approach is now in its final stages. Under Shah's precise strategy, intense operations against Naxalites in Chhattisgarh have been



carried out over the last 8 months, resulting in 147 Naxalites being killed in encounters, 631 surrendering, and 723 being arrested. The establishment of new camps for Central Armed Police Forces, their deployment, and their supervision of development works in areas affected by Left-Wing Extremism indicate that this battle is now at a decisive stage.

Shah's top priority is to provide an opportunity for the youth involved in Left-Wing Extremism, who have served as an obstacle in the country's development

for decades. As a result, people's faith in development over the ideology of Left-Wing Extremism has increased.

Under Shah's strategies, vigorous efforts are being made to bridge the gaps in development and security in areas affected by Left-Wing Extremism. It is due to Shah's dedicated plans for the country's security that many states have nearly been freed from Left-Wing Extremism between 2019 and 2024.

Indeed, containing and eradicating Left-Wing Extremism is a victory for the country's secu-

rity forces and democracy.

Under Shah's policies in the Modi Govt, central and state agencies are working together to dismantle the financial support for Left-Wing Extremism. While the highest death toll was recorded in 2010 with 1,005 deaths, this number has decreased to 138 in 2023.

Under the skilled leadership of Amit Shah, who has given a new identity to Indian politics, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Chhattisgarh Govt are launching a campaign to provide education to

those who remained illiterate due to Left-Wing Extremism. In this Amrit Kaal, decisive steps are being taken in areas such as road construction, telecommunications, financial inclusion, skill development, and education to accelerate development in states affected by Left-Wing Extremism.

From the very beginning, Shah has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against Left-Wing Extremism, resulting in the lowest recorded violence and deaths in affected areas in 2022 compared to the past four decades. Left-Wing Extremism has been a challenge in the country for several decades. In this year of the resolve to completely eliminate Left-Wing Extremism within the next two years, it seems that this battle has now reached a decisive stage. Shah who considers Naxalism a curse on humanity, is committed to uprooting all forms of it.

LFO-BHF leads cleanliness drive at Navdurga Dedhni Mata Temple



Top News Report

KHELLANI, Aug 27: In a strong collaborative effort and guidance of Vivek Parihar, Director & CEO, LFO-BHF; Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF) joined hands with Navdurga Parbandhak Committee and Talla Jewellers, with valuable support from New Standard Higher Secondary School Khellani, to organize an impactful cleanliness drive at Nav Durga Dedhni Mata.

The flag off was done by Rajeinder Singh (Ex. Sarpanch, Paryote) along with Rakesh Manhas (Ex. Sarpanch Hambal) and Omprakash (Rtd. Principal).

The drive, saw volunteers trekking a challenging 8-9 km route to reach the activity site, demonstrating their dedication to the cause.

The event aimed to address the growing issue of plastic waste in the area and to promote sustainable practices among the local population.

Key highlights of the event include

the distribution of 10 dustbins and 500 cloth bags to encourage proper waste disposal and reduce the reliance on single-use plastics.

Volunteers collected an impressive 1,400 kg of waste from the site, making a significant impact on the local environment.

On speaking with Karan Sharma, Member LFO-BHF said, "The cleanliness drive also served as an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of maintaining our natural surroundings. Educational sessions were conducted on-site, emphasizing the role of each individual in preserving the environment for future generations".

The volunteers who were present during this drive are Arun Manhas, Princy Katoch, Amit Kumar, Bhupal Singh, Radhika Chandail, Sheetal Manhas, Arushi Devi, Prince Bandral, Sahil Singh, Diya Chandail, Ronak Sharma, Ameet Sarvash, Smile Rana, Puja Katoch, Karan Singh and many more.

Higher Secondary School Bhoond dominates in Inter-School Zonal Level Tournament emerges



Top News Report

BASOHLI, Aug 27: Zone Basohli organized an Inter-School Zonal Level Tournament for girls under the guidance of DYSSO Kathua, Sunil Singh Sambyal.

The event, held at Government Model Higher Secondary School Bhoond (GMHSS) Basohli, was supervised by Incharge ZPEO Basohli, Tara Singh, and inaugurated by the Vice Principal of GMHSS Basohli.

The tournament featured various sports, including Volleyball, Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Wrestling, Table Tennis, Chess, and Badminton, with a total of 80 participants.

In the Kabaddi match, Higher Secondary School Bhoond defeated Model HSS Basohli by 18 points. Higher Secondary School Bhoond also triumphed in Volleyball, winning against MHSS Basohli by 2 sets, and

in Kho-Kho, where they secured victory against Model Higher Secondary School Basohli by 3 points.

The event showcased the talent and competitive spirit of the girls in the zone, with Higher Secondary School Bhoond emerging as a strong contender across multiple sports, highlighting the success of the tournament in fostering athleticism and camaraderie among the students.

GDC Udhampur inaugurates Sports Festival on National Sports Day

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Aug 27: National Sports Day is a momentous occasion which honors the birth anniversary of Indian Hockey Wizard, Major Dhyan Chand and encourages the youth to participate in sports activities.

The theme of National Sports Day 2024 in India is "Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies" Department of Sports in collaboration with Red Ribbon Club, NCC and NSS units of GDC Udhampur organizes sports festival with effect from 27th Aug to 29th Aug 2024 to mark National Sports Day.

The sports festival was inaugurated by Dr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Principal GDC Udhampur. In his inaugural address the Principal congratulated the students and staff, he motivated the students



to raise awareness about drug de-addiction among the youth. He emphasized students to focus both on academics as well as sports activities vehemently.

National Sports Day aims to raise awareness on the values of physical activities and sports in everyone's daily life. Before kick starting the program both staff and students pledged for 'Nasha Mukh Bharat', in order to put their efforts in making the society and the surroundings free of such nuisance.

On Tuesday a series of sports events were

organized inside campus which includes Intra-college Chess and Table Tennis tournament for men and women.

In Chess Men category semifinal-1, Govind Singh defeated Vinesh Kumar and in Semifinal-2 Jai Dev Singh beat Atul.

In the final match Jai Dev Singh B.Com Sem-III defeated Govind Singh B.A Sem-V. In Chess women category semifinal-1, Swati Thakur defeated Ambica and in Semifinal-2 Siya Manhas beat Miss Sumeet.

In Chess women Final Miss Swati Thakur B.Sc Sem-V defeated Siya Manhas BBA Sem-III. However, in T.T Men category semifinal-1 Sourav Sharma defeated Akhil (Set Score=3:1) and in Semifinal-2 Parval Basotra beat Navam (Set Score=3:1) In the Final, Sourav Sharma B.A Sem-III defeated Parval Basotra B.Com Sem-V (Set Score=3:2).

In Table Tennis Competition between staff members, semifinal-1 was won by Dr. Jagjeet Singh Associate Professor Chemistry

defeated Prof. Vijay Kumar Assistant Professor Department of English, whereas, in semifinal-2 Prof Anil Kumar Thappa, Assistant Professor Geology beat Prof. Rajesh Singh Manhas, Assistant Professor Geology.

Nearly 100 students participated during the inaugural day of sports festival. Shashi Kumar Sharma (Physical Director) is the overall coordinator of the sports festival.

During the event the faculty members present were Dr. Mohinder Pal (Convener Sports Committee) Prof Suresh Kumar Dogra, Dr. Jagjeet Singh (Staff secretary), Dr. Firdoos Ahmad Itoo (Convener Red-Ribbon Club) Dr. Revika Arora (Co-Convener Red Ribbon Club), Prof. Vijay Kumar (NCC officer) and Sudesh Kumar (Pharmacist). Refreshment were served to all the participants.

Janata Dal (United) holds mega rallies in 14 areas of Kreeri Constituency

Top News Report

KREERI, Aug 27: In a significant show of political strength, Janata Dal (United) held mega rallies across 14 different areas of the Kreeri Constituency on Tuesday.

The rallies were led by JD(U) State President GM Shaheen, marking the launch of the election campaign for his wife, Rehana, who is contesting the upcoming Assembly elections from the Kreeri Constituency segment.

The rallies saw an overwhelming turnout, with thousands of people from the region attending to express their support. Addressing the crowds at various locations, GM Shaheen highlighted the party's commitment to addressing the issues faced by the people of Kreeri and vowed to bring about positive changes in the constituency.

"Our campaign is not just about winning an election; it is about transforming Kreeri into a model constituency," Shaheen said in his address. He assured the people that if elected, Rehana would focus on improving infrastructure, education, healthcare, and job opportunities in the area.

While speaking to media GM Shaheen said that the participation of Jamaat-e-Islami in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir polls. "Our doors are open for Jamaat-e-Islami to contest the J&K polls," he said, signaling



JD(U)'s willingness to collaborate with various political entities in the region to ensure a unified front in the elections.

The JD(U) President's call for inclusion reflects the party's broader strategy of building alliances and fostering unity among different political and social groups in Jammu and Kashmir. This move is seen as a way to strengthen the party's position in the region, especially in light of the upcoming elections.

Rehana, who accompanied her husband during the rallies, expressed her gratitude to the people of Kreeri for their overwhelming support. She reiterated her commitment to working tirelessly for the betterment of the constituency and ensuring that the voices of the people are heard at all levels of government.

The rallies concluded with enthusiastic support from the attendees, many of whom pledged their vote for JD(U) in the upcoming elections. As the campaign continues to gain momentum, JD(U) appears poised to make a significant impact in the Kreeri Constituency.

SPPND GDC Samba organizes Anti-Ragging Awareness Camp

Top News Report

SAMBA, Aug 27: Anti-Ragging Awareness Camp was organised by the Anti ragging cell of Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Government Degree College Samba in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) under the guidance of the revered Principal, Prof (Dr.) Twinkle Suri to address the serious issue of ragging in educational institutions.

Hitesh Sharma, Advocate DLSA, the resource person for the event delivered a compelling keynote address focusing on the legal ramifications of ragging under the Anti-Ragging Act. The camp aimed at educating students about the legal implications of ragging and promote a zero-tolerance policy against such behaviour. The resource person discussed the anti-ragging laws in detail, including the roles and responsibilities of students, faculty, college administration and parents in preventing such acts. The address underscored the necessity for students to understand that engaging in or tolerating ragging can have severe legal and academic consequences. The camp also featured real-life case studies aiming at nurturing a safe and respectful campus environment and was attended by volunteers of Shikshit Bharat, Pravard Electoral club, NSS and NCC wings.

The event concluded with an interactive session where students asked pertinent questions about their rights, to which the legal expert responded with clarity and reassurance. This joint effort by the DLSA and the college underscores the commitment to safeguarding students' rights and fostering a culture of dignity, respect, and mutual understanding in educational institutions.

GDC Udhampur hosts Slogan Writing Competition to promote voter awareness

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Aug 27: In a vibrant display of creativity and civic engagement, Committee for SVEEP activities of Government Degree College (GDC) Udhampur successfully organized a Slogan Writing Competition under the theme "Awareness Regarding the Right to Vote".

The programme was organized under the able guidance of Dr. Sanjay Verma, Principal GDC Udhampur.

The event, which saw the enthusiastic participation of 13 talented students, aimed to foster a deeper understanding of the importance of voting among the youth.

The competition provided a platform for students to express their views on the significance of electoral participation through the medium of slogan writing. Participants were encouraged to create impactful and thought-provoking slogans that would inspire their peers to exercise their democratic right. A distinguished jury comprised of Dr. Anita Sharma, Assistant Professor of Physics and Prof. Monika, HOD History evaluated the entries based on

originality, relevance, and the ability to convey a strong message. The first, second and third position was bagged by Abhishek Kumar of 5th semester, Gagandeep Singh of 5th Semester and Abhimanyu Singh of 3rd semester respectively.

Dr. Sanjay Verma, Principal GDC Udhampur in his address praised all the participants for their active involvement and innovative contributions.

He further said that this initiative is part of SVEEP's broader efforts to educate and encourage students to participate in the electoral process, ensuring that every voice is heard.

As we move forward, the hope is that such events will continue to inspire young minds to take an active role in shaping the future of our democracy. He also thanked the jury members for their invaluable support and expertise.

The event was a resounding success, with the slogans capturing the essence of the theme and showcasing the participants' commitment to promoting voter awareness.

The proceedings of the programme were co-ordinated by Dr. Shaveta Sharma, HOD Political Science.

Romancing the screen

The recent success of *It Ends With Us* is a testament to how bestsellers succeed on the big screen. Here's a look at other contemporary romances that did well

As Colleen Hoover's best-seller *It Ends With Us* enters the club of Hollywood's highest grossers in 2024, there is another book adaptation that movie buffs are eagerly awaiting for — *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*. Taylor Jenkins Reid's 2017 historical drama is set for a screen outing by Netflix, but readers are already curious as to how a film would do justice to this 400-page book! Many memorable romcoms have stemmed from books, but it's a double edged sword. While readers make the ready-made all-eager audience segment, they are hard to please. Yet, more often than not, books adaptations have led to some successful movie outings!

It Ends With Us wasn't a book, but a phenomenon. It's equally hyped film version, which Hoover is also the creative producer of, is a commercial success. While the film got mixed reviews, netizens have gone ahead to blame its lead star Blake Lively for turning a book about domestic violence into a floral party, promoting brands rather than the cause. None the less, the numbers prove once again that bestsellers are a steady bet when it comes to romances. Here are some of the contemporary romances that took their plot from the bestsellers and made quite a mark.

Red, White & Royal Blue (2023)

The first son of the United States and the Prince of England, Casey McQuiston's best-seller *Red, White & Royal Blue* (2019) is all the stuff romance



is made of. A queer, contemporary love story, the book gained immediate attention. Tapping into the current mood, Amazon Studios won the rights of the book at an auction. The Taylor Zakhar Perez-Nicholas Galitzine-starrer won over the young viewers. The film, obviously is different than the book, since the short screen outing cannot accommodate all the characters and sub-plots. The movie still clicked, even gaining an Emmy nomination!

The Crazy Rich Asians (2018) Kevin Kwan's debut novel *The Crazy Rich Asians* (2013) offered a window to contemporary Asia to the rest of the world. It soon saw a screen adaptation. Kwan sealed the film deal only with \$1 but bargained his way to creative control over the movie, directed by Jon M. Chu. One of the first movies in the 21st century with majority cast of Asian descent, the film made a splash as much as the book, becoming one of the highest grossing film worldwide.

The Fault in Our Stars (2014)

The beauty of book adaptations in the romcom genre is that it's not just the regular plot — protagonist going from the busy city to small town to find love — but a lot of variations. John Green's 2012 novel has two terminally ill teenagers who fall for each other. The film, directed by Josh Boone, did well at the box-office, winning many awards. Its Hindi feature film adaptation *Dil Bechara*, with Sushant Singh Rajput and Sanjana Sanghi in the lead roles, released a month after Rajput's unfortunate demise, became famous as the 'most-viewed film on a smartphone' in India.

To All the Boys I've Loved Before (2018)

Three books, three films...this is one successful book and film franchise! Jenny Han's book *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* became a hit in 2014, leading to its screen outing in 2018. One of the Netflix's original hit, the book's sequels — *P.S. I Still Love You* and *Always and Forever* duly made it to the screen too. The films and their success

was followed by TV series *XO, Kitty* in 2023.

The Kissing Booth (2018)

Again, three books and three movies; *The Kissing Booth* managed to become a pop culture sensation, even though they were panned by the critics. Beth Reekles' first instalment came in 2012 and saw a Netflix outing in 2018. The book fanatics have largely given a green signal to the movie, calling it more of a comedy even if it misses out on the book's detailed drama.

Closer home, romances are tempered with family drama. Bestselling author Chetan Bhagat's *2 States* got a movie outing in 2014 and did well, critically as well as commercially! His *Half Girlfriend* too got a screen adaptation and did reasonable well.

Book adaptations that led to most memorable movies

Eat Pray Love is an American biographical romantic film, starring Julia Roberts as Elizabeth Gilbert. It's based on the stupendously successful memoir of Gilbert's journey to self-discovery.

Two soul mates who met too late, *Bridges of the Madison County*, based on bestselling novel of the same name by Robert James Waller, is a moving tale of love.

The Notebook, based on Nicholas Sparks' bestseller, is an endearing tale of summer romance that lasts a lifetime.

P.S. I Love You, based on the bestseller by Cecelia Ahern, is a story to love that stays even after death!

Based on a book by Helen Fielding, *Bridget Jones's Diary* is a riveting tale of a woman wooed by two eligible bachelors.

Why Selena Gomez was 'nervous' to join cast of 'Only Murders in the Building'



Actress-singer Selena Gomez has revealed that she was "nervous" about joining the cast of her comedy-drama streaming series, *'Only Murders in the Building'*. Selena made her name as a teenager with the leading role of *'Wizards of Waverly Place'* but carved out a

pop career in the years that followed, reports *Female First UK*.

However, when she gave her nod to star in the Apple+ series alongside Steve Martin and Martin Short, it proved to be a major comeback to the small screen for her.

Selena, who has been nominated for an Emmy

for her role in *'Only Murders in the Building'*, told *Extra*: "I was nervous. This was my second TV show that I'd ever done. I was really excited, but I have to be genuine. The first day we shot I felt I could take a deep breath because I knew I was in good company."

As per *Female First UK*, the actress-singer is also a part of the reboot of *'Wizards of Waverly Place'*. However, she will be seen serving as an executive producer for the show, and will also appear in the first episode as she prepares to return to the role of Alex Russo on the magical show, admitted that she is "honoured" to be going back to her roots.

She said: "It took years, honestly. It was just an idea and then after probably four years we came up with an idea. I was immediately on board, and I can't wait to bring this show to a whole new generation. And I'm honoured to pay homage to where I started."

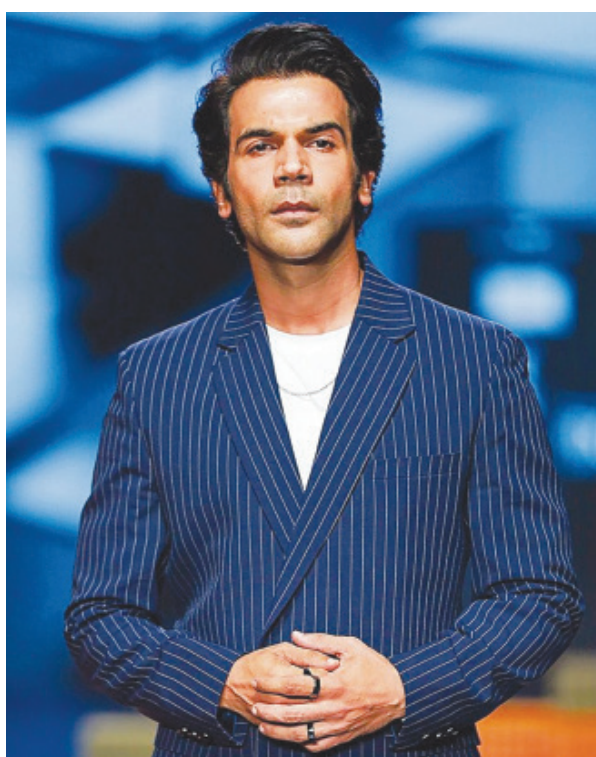
Selena's Emmy nomination is the first time she has been up for any major award in the field of television and recently revealed that she had no clue about her sudden career milestone until her friend texted her.

Rajkumar Rao believes when the universe is guiding you, everything falls into place

Actor Rajkumar Rao, who has recently delivered the blockbuster *Street 2*, has opened up about the times when he was replaced or dropped from projects. Rajkumar recently appeared on *The Longest Interview* podcast by Audible where he said, "There were a couple of times when everything was going well, but then I was dropped from the film for some reason. That wasn't my failure; it was theirs for not handling it properly. Those experiences taught me how to always be prepared."

He further mentioned that looking back, he realised it might have been for the best — either the film never got made or the character wasn't impactful. "I believe when the universe is guiding you, everything falls into place," he shared.

He also spoke about how he manifested that he wanted to work in *Kai Po Che*. He said, "I enjoyed reading *The*



Three Mistakes of My Life by Chetan Bhagat. Before that, one of his other books, *One Night at the Call Centre*, had already been adapted into a film, so I knew he was a writer whose books were getting turned into movies. I still remember, when I was new in Mumbai, I read *Three Mistakes*

of My Life and actually manifested it to the universe. There are three characters in the book and I hoped that if a film was ever made, I would get one of those roles. I didn't specify which one, but I really wished for it—and then *Kai Po Che* happened. It's surreal, but true," he added.

Screenwriter Kanika Dhillon, who has made a mark with *Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba*, loves pulp fiction. She believes it gives her the scope to defy logic and the choice to explore more

Kanika Dhillon is the real haseena behind *Haseen Dillruba* and *Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba*. Only unlike the femme fatale of her movies, she wields a pen. Indeed, writing a sequel of a hugely loved film is easier said than done.

She, also the co-producer of recently released Netflix thriller *Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba*, has found the responsibility of pleasing the fans of characters of the prequel, not just Rani and Vishu, but, more importantly, the invisible author Dinesh Pandit, doubly onerous. And if you are wondering who is Dinesh Pandit? Well, he is as much her 'alter ego' as a tribute to Hindi pulp fiction writers like Ved Prakash Sharma and Surendra Mohan Pathak. She says, "Pulp fiction writers really know the pulse of their audiences and offer you a window into real India." The beauty of 'becoming' Dinesh Pandit for her lies in, "I need not follow a structured narrative. I can defy all logic. Writing pulp is like dancing with the beast."

For someone who studied at St Stephen's College, New Delhi, and at the London School of Economics, she enjoyed reading Hindi pulp fiction writers as much as James Hadley Chase and Sidney Sheldon. She says, "I grew up in Amritsar. I may have studied at premier institutions, but I am as rooted in my soil." If her hometown figured in her career defining movie *Manmarziyaan*, it also cemented her creative partnership with her frequent collaborator Taapsee Pannu, for whom she has written in no less than five movies. Together, she laughs, "We call ourselves 'Sardarni & Company'. We are headstrong women who know and speak their minds. When I am writing for her, I know I can push the buttons."



Interestingly, when she writes the second draft of her films, she clearly has actors in her mind and taps into their strengths. "It's important to know which actor is playing what character so the synergy can happen." And that's why she takes pride in etching out some memorable parts for her actors, be it Sara Ali Khan in *Kedarnath*, Abhishek Bachchan in *Manmarziyaan*, Kangana Ranaut in *Judgmentall Hai Kya*, and Sunny Kaushal in *Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba*.

As a woman writer, she is not compelled to paint women in certain hues; in her world she can be a seductress, an adulterer, a flawed sassy being. The only woman she would not care to write is, "A helpless one who doesn't have the agency of choice. Or even if I were to, it would be as a cautionary tale." In fact, Kanika is perturbed by the rigid way in which we are defining feminism. "Our understand-

ing of it is not inclusive and leaves out women from the heartland. They may not have any glass ceilings to break, but their voice has to be factored in."

If back in time she defended Sandeep Vanga Reddy's *Kabir Singh*, today she sees no reason to pan *Animal* either. She counter-questions, "What is the problem with the wife's character? She marries the man she wants to, walks out of the marriage when it becomes an ordeal. It would be a concern if she is depicted as subservient and yet an ideal. She has all the choices in the world... she may have chosen wrongly. But then there is cause and effect, as it is for Rani in *Haseen Dillruba*."

Talking of man-woman relationship, her equation with her husband Himanshu Sharma, also a noted writer, is as exciting as can be. She shares, "Our friends often tell us; put a camera in your house and you will have a ready sitcom." They both love to have the last word, tell stories and indeed there are many she is dying to tell. With *Do Patti*, starring Kajol and Kriti Sanon, she turns a full-fledged producer. Kanika's *Katha Productions* gives her the privilege and power to write the kind of stories that she wants to. For this beauty with brains, life is not made by chance but right choices.

No unsavoury tales to tell
Rumour mill may have deluded you into believing that stars often dictate terms and try to change the narrative, but Kanika Dhillon begs to differ, or, at least, has no personal unsavoury tales to tell. She says, "I have worked with the biggest stars, but they have never interfered. Once they know they are in safe hands, they let you do your job."

Bollywood has long banked on folk music to capture listeners' attention. Right from *Pallo Latke* to *Genda Phool*, folk fusion is enjoyed by composers & listeners alike

Bollywood's rich musical landscape has often drawn from the diverse cultural tapestry of India. It's best presented as folk fusion that resonate with audiences across generations.

So, we bring five standout instances where Bollywood music composers masterfully blended traditional folk elements with contem-

porary sounds.

Diamond Ni by Sachin-Jigar

Sachin-Jigar, the versatile duo known for their eclectic compositions, brought a fresh and vibrant folk fusion to Bollywood with *Diamond Ni*.

The song, steeped in the sounds of Gujarati folk music, beautifully blends traditional instru-

mentation with modern beats, creating a track that is both culturally rooted and universally appealing.

Arjan Vailly by Manan Bhardwaj

Manan Bhardwaj, known for his soulful melodies, brought a unique folk fusion to Bollywood with *Arjan Vailly*. The song, which draws heavily from Punjabi

folk traditions, is a stirring blend of rustic folk elements with contemporary arrangements. This high sonic song captures the essence of Punjab's rich musical heritage while appealing to modern sensibilities.

Dholida by Sanjay Leela Bhansali

Sanjay Leela Bhansali, a master of grand, operatic musical com-

positions, delivered a powerful folk fusion with *Dholida* from *Gangubai Kathiawadi*.

Drawing inspiration from the traditional Garba rhythms of Gujarat, *Dholida* is a high-energy track that fuses traditional folk music with contemporary cinematic elements.

Dhindhora Baje Re by Pritam

Pritam, a composer known for his ability to fuse diverse musical styles, crafted an alluring folk fusion with *Dhindhora Baje Re*.

The song, which features in a vibrant Bollywood dance number, incorporates traditional Indian percussion instruments like the dhol and nagada, blending them with modern orchestra-

tion to create a high-energy track.

Pasoori by Shae Gill & Ali Sethi

Though not a Bollywood production, *Pasoori* by Shae Gill and Ali Sethi has gained immense popularity in India.

The song, which is part of the popular Pakistani music series *Coke Studio*, is a stun-

ning blend of classical South Asian music and contemporary sounds. It draws from traditional folk themes while incorporating electronic and modern musical elements, creating a cross-border hit that has resonated with the masses in Pakistan and India. It was also recreated for *Satyaprem Ki Katha* and sung by Arijit Singh.

PM Modi speaks to Russia's Putin, shares insights from Ukraine visit

The visits by PM Modi to Russia and then Ukraine are being viewed by experts as India's attempts to play a larger role in resolving the conflict.

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who paid a historic visit to Ukraine last week, spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday and exchanged perspectives on the Russia-Ukraine conflict. In a post on X, PM Modi said he shared insights from his recent visit to Kyiv, during which he met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and urged him to sit with Putin to find a way out of the crisis.

PM Modi, who has not yet condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine, also reiterated India's



firm commitment to support an "early, abiding and peaceful

resolution" of the conflict, which is now in its third year.

"Discussed measures to further strengthen Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. Exchanged perspectives on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and my insights from the recent visit to Ukraine," PM Modi tweeted.

Modi's visit to Ukraine, the first by an Indian Prime Minister, came six weeks after he held a bilateral meeting with Moscow. The visits by PM Modi are being viewed by experts as India's attempts to play a larger role in resolving the conflict, which has killed nearly a lakh soldiers on both sides.

Mayawati unanimously re-elected as Bahujan Samaj Party president

Mayawati is a 4-time former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh. BSP founder Kanshi Ram had declared her as his political successor over 2 decades ago.



LUCKNOW, Aug 27 (Agencies): Mayawati was unanimously re-elected as the national

president of the BSP, the party said here on Tuesday. The decision was

taken during a special meeting of the BSP Central Executive Committee (CEC) and senior national-level office bearers and state party units and representatives selected from all over the country, it said.

Mayawati, 68, is a four-time former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh.

BSP founder Kanshi Ram had declared her as his political successor over two decades ago.

Kolkata police lathi-charge, use tear gas, water cannons to stop 'Nabanna Abhijan' protestors



KOLKATA, Aug 27 (Agencies): Police on Tuesday lathi-charged, used water cannons and tear gas to disperse agitators at Howrah Bridge's Kolkata end and near Santragachhi Railway station on Kona Expressway as protestors attempted to break through police barricades in an effort to reach the state secretary, Nabanna.

At Santragachhi, agitators threw bricks at police, injuring several officers, while protestors claimed that police action also injured several students.

The protestors were attempting to reach the state secretary to demand the removal of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee

over the rape-murder of a doctor at RG Kar Medical College.

Police said they began lathicharging and tear gassing after the agitators managed to breach the barricades at some locations and attacked the security personnel.

Trouble escalated when the student organisation, 'Paschim Banga Chhatra Samaj', and the dissident state government employees' platform 'Sangrami Joutha Mancha' began their 'Nabanna Abhijan' rally from various points.

Hundreds of processionists, mainly youths, participated in the 'Nabanna Abhijan' from two locations across the city.

The rally, organised by student platform 'Chha-

trasamaj' and 'Sangrami Joutha Mancha' of state government employees, began from two locations - College Square in north Kolkata and Santragachhi in Howrah. One processionist said, "We will reach Nabanna no matter what. We must get to the state secretariat to demand the resignation of the Chief Minister, whose administration has been trying to shield the perpetrators of this heinous crime and suppress the incident. We want to hear from her."

Chhatrasamaj spokesperson Sayan Lahiri emphasised that the rally is apolitical.

"Despite provocations, we intend to keep this a peaceful, democratic movement against the horrific crime committed against our sister at R G Kar hospital. We demand justice for her and her family. The call for justice by the people of Bengal and the country must be acknowledged by the Mamata Banerjee government," Lahiri said.

Delhi excise policy 'scam': Supreme Court grants bail to BRS leader K Kavitha

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (Agencies): In a major relief to BRS leader K Kavitha, the Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered her to be released on bail in the corruption and money laundering cases linked to the Delhi excise policy 'scam'.

"The investigation is complete and a chargesheet has been filed. Custody of the appellant (Kavitha) is not necessary. She has been behind bars for five months. The likelihood of the trial being concluded in the near future is impossible. As said in various pronouncements of this court, undertrial custody should not turn into a punishment," a Bench led by Justice BR Gavai said, setting aside the July 1 Delhi High Court order denying her bail.

It took note of the fact that the trials in money laundering and corruption cases were unlikely to be completed soon as there were 493 witnesses to be examined and the documentary evidence ran into around 50,000 pages.

The Bench also ques-



tioned the fairness of the probe agencies — ED and CBI — for their alleged selective approach in making some accused as approvers.

"Prosecution has to be fair. A person who incriminates himself has been made a witness! Tomorrow you pick up anyone as you please? You cannot pick and choose any accused. What is this fairness?" it said.

Kavitha — who has denied all allegations — is the third prominent politician to be granted bail by the Supreme Court in the Delhi excise policy 'scam' after Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders Sanjay Singh and Manish Sisodia.

On July 12, the top court had granted

interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convener in the money laundering case linked to the excise 'scam'. However, Kejriwal continues to be in jail following his June 26 arrest by the CBI in a corruption case linked to the scam.

Arrested by the ED on March 15 from her Banjara Hills home in Hyderabad, the 46-year-old daughter of former Telangana chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao has been accused of being a key member of the "South Group", which allegedly paid the ruling AAP in Delhi kickbacks of Rs 100 crore in return for a big share of liquor licences in the national capital.

Subsequently, the CBI arrested her on April 11

from Tihar jail in connection with the corruption case.

The Delhi High Court had dismissed Kavitha's bail pleas in both cases, saying she was prima facie one of the main conspirators in the criminal conspiracy related to the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22.

The Bench — which also included Justice KV Viswanathan — said Kavitha was entitled to special consideration available to a woman under the proviso to Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The top court strongly disapproved of the Delhi High Court's remarks that an educated, sophisticated woman was not entitled to bail under the beneficial provision for women under PMLA.

"If this Delhi High Court order is allowed to become the law, these perverse observations would mean no educated woman can get bail. It would apply at least to all courts in the jurisdiction of Delhi. What is

this?! On the contrary, we say courts should not differ between an MP and common person, but here (Delhi HC is) finding an artificial discretion not there in the statute," the Bench said.

On behalf of the probe agencies, Additional Solicitor General SV Raju said Kavitha could not be extended the benefit of the proviso to Section 45 of the PMLA as she destroyed evidence by formatting her phone and that her conduct amounted to tampering with evidence.

Raju's submissions were countered by senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi on behalf of Kavitha. Rohatgi said that her iPhone was formatted since she had given it to her servant.

"Mr. Raju, a phone is such a private thing. There will be other things in it... There may be partial removal of messages in exchanging. Like I have a habit of deleting messages in school and college groups where so many things are put and it gets messed up," Justice Viswanathan said.

Man arrested for repeatedly raping neighbour, 13, beating her: Thane cops

THANE, Aug 27 (Agencies): A man has been arrested for allegedly repeatedly raping his 13-year-old neighbour and beating her up in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Tuesday.

The police on Monday arrested the 28-year-old accused, a resident of the New Azad Nagar

locality in Bhiwandi, an official said.

The accused befriended the girl and started visiting her family frequently. When the girl's parents were away for work, he came to her house and allegedly forced her to enter into a physical relationship with him by promising to marry her, he said.



The abuse began in May, and on Monday,

when the girl refused to give in to his advances,

the accused beat her up and threatened her, the official said.

Based on a complaint lodged by the girl, a case was registered against the accused under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, he said.

2 Teen girls found hanging in UP village, family alleges murder

Akhilesh Yadav, Samajwadi Party chief, has demanded swift investigation into the incident and said such incidents create an environment of fear in the society.



will reveal details about the case. We have found a phone and a SIM card. We are using them to gather information and speaking to the family members. The matter will be investigated in detail and action taken," he said.

The bodies have been sent for autopsy and a forensic team collected evidence from the spot.

Akhilesh Yadav, leader of Uttar Pradesh's main Opposition Samajwadi Party, has demanded swift investigation and said such incidents create an environment of fear in the society.

Calling the incident sensitive, Mr Yadav said in a post on X, "The BJP government should immediately conduct a fair investigation and clear the air on this suspected case of murder. Such incidents create an atmosphere of fear in the society and deeply hurt the women community."

"The time to rise above politics and treat women's safety as a serious issue has come," the Lok Sabha MP added.

Nursing trainee raped in Maharashtra, auto driver had spiked her drink

MUMBAI, Aug 27 (Agencies): A 19-year-old nursing trainee was raped, allegedly by an auto-rickshaw driver, in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri district. According to preliminary information, the victim had taken an auto-rickshaw ride home when the driver offered her drinking water. The water was spiked and the teenager lost consciousness. The driver then allegedly took the victim to a deserted place and sexually assaulted her.

On regaining consciousness, the victim informed her family and later registered a police complaint. An FIR has

been registered and police are scanning CCTV footage to zero in on the accused. The woman is recovering at a state-run hospital.

The incident has sparked protests in the area. Local residents blocked a road for hours last night, demanding swift action in the case.

The Ratnagiri incident comes amid nationwide outrage against crime against women in the aftermath of the horrifying rape and murder of a 31-year-old doctor in Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

The doctor, who was

on night duty at the state-run hospital, was found dead in a seminar hall the next morning. Medical examination confirmed sexual assault. Sanjoy Roy, a civic volunteer who frequented the hospital, was arrested the day after the incident. The investigation into the case was transferred to the CBI after a Calcutta High Court order.

Maharashtra, too, is outraged after two minor girls were sexually assaulted at a school in Badlapur. Police have arrested an attendant of the school for allegedly abusing the girls.

Bharat Biotech launches Oral Cholera Vaccine after successful phase 3 trial

HYDERABAD, Aug 27 (Agencies): Bharat Biotech International Ltd on Tuesday announced the launch of Hillchol, a novel single-strain oral cholera vaccine.

A press release from the vaccine maker said Hillchol (BBV131) was developed by Bharat Biotech under licence from Hilleman Laboratories (funded by Merck USA and Wellcome Trust) to combat Cholera.

Global demand for Oral Cholera Vaccines (OCVs) exceeds 100 million doses annually, making them crucial for cholera control. Globally, there is a shortage of OCVs as there is only one manufacturer.

BBIL has established large-scale manufacturing facilities in Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar with a capacity to produce up to 200 million doses of Hillchol, it further said.

A multi-stage, clinical evolution process, culminating in a Phase 3 study confirmed the vaccine safety, immunogenicity and non-inferiority to existing OCVs, establishing its potential for white spirit, and public health use.

The vaccine, a single dose resupple, is administered orally on day 0 and 14 and is suitable for individuals older than one year.

Philippine defense chief says China is 'the biggest disruptor' of peace, seeks stronger censure

MANILA, Aug 27 (Agencies): The Philippine defense chief said Tuesday that China is "the biggest disruptor" of peace in Southeast Asia and called for stronger international censure over its aggression in the South China Sea, a day after China blocked Philippine vessels from delivering food to a Coast Guard ship at the Sabina Shoal.

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. spoke at an international military conference organized in Manila by the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command amid a spike in clashes between China and the Philippines in the disputed South China Sea and in its airspace.

China is "the biggest disruptor of international peace" in Southeast Asia, Teodoro told the conference, which was attended by military officials and senior diplomats from the U.S. and allied countries.

He later told reporters on the sidelines of the conference that international statements of concern against China's increasingly assertive actions in the disputed waters and elsewhere were "not enough." "The antidote is a stronger collective multilateral action against China," Teodoro said, adding that diplomats and defense officials should determine those stronger steps.

Pressed by reporters to be more specific, Teodoro said a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning and ordering a stop to Chinese acts of aggression would be a strong step but acknowledged the difficulty of pursuing that. "The world is not that perfect," Teodoro said.

There was no immediate reaction from Chinese officials. China, like its geopolitical rival the U.S., is one of the five permanent members of the



U.N. Security Council and has power to veto such an adversarial step.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations has paid "attention" to China's aggressive actions but should do much more, Teodoro said. The 10-nation Southeast Asian bloc includes the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei, which have South China Sea claims that overlap with each other, as well as China's and Taiwan's.

"ASEAN, to remain relevant and credible, cannot continue to ignore what China is doing in the South China Sea," Teodoro said.

In the latest incident in the South China Sea, Philippine officials said China deployed "an excessive force" of 40 ships that blocked two Philippine vessels from delivering food and other supplies to Manila's largest coast guard ship in the disputed Sabina Shoal in the latest flare-up of their territorial disputes in the busy sea passage.

China and the Philippines blamed each other for the confrontation on Monday in Sabina Shoal, an uninhabited atoll both countries claim that has become the latest flashpoint in the Spratlys, the most hotly disputed region of the sea passage that is a key global trade

and security route.

China and the Philippines have separately deployed coast guard ships to Sabina in recent months on suspicion the other may act to take control of and build structures in the fishing atoll.

The hostilities have particularly intensified between China and the Philippines since last year and Monday's confrontation was the sixth the two sides have reported in the high seas and in the air. The confrontations have sparked concerns of a larger conflict that could involve the United States, the longtime treaty ally of the Philippines.

Sabina is near the Second Thomas Shoal, another flashpoint where China has hampered the Philippine delivery of supplies for Filipino forces aboard a long-grounded navy ship, the BRP Sierra Madre. Last month, China and the Philippines reached an agreement to prevent increasingly hostile confrontations at the Second Thomas Shoal, allowing a Philippine vessel to deliver food supplies a week later without any hostilities.

The Philippine coast guard said Chinese coast guard and navy ships, along with 31 suspected militia vessels, illegally obstructed the delivery, which including an ice cream treat

for the personnel aboard the BRP Teresa Magbanua as the Philippines marked National Heroes' Day on Monday.

The Philippine coast guard said it "remains steadfast in our commitment to uphold national interests and ensure the safety and security of our waters" and urged "the China coast guard to abide with the international law and stop deploying maritime forces that could undermine mutual respect, a universally recognized foundation for responsible and friendly relations among coast guards."

In Beijing, China's coast guard said that it took control measures against two Philippine coast guard ships that "intruded" into waters near the Sabina Shoal. It said in a statement that the Philippine ships escalated the situation by repeatedly approaching a Chinese coast guard ship. The Chinese coast guard did not say what control measures it took.

China has rapidly expanded its military and has become increasingly assertive in pursuing its territorial claims in the South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety. The tensions have led to more frequent confrontations, primarily with the Philippines, though the longtime territorial disputes also involve other claimants, including Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei.

Japan's government also protested to Beijing on Tuesday, saying that a Chinese reconnaissance plane violated its airspace and forced it to scramble fighter jets.

Sabina Shoal lies about 140 kilometers (85 miles) west of the Philippine province of Palawan, in the internationally recognized exclusive economic zone of the Philippines.

Former Malaysian leader Muhyiddin charged with sedition for allegedly mocking former king



KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 27 (Agencies): Former Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin was charged Tuesday with sedition over a speech he made that allegedly questioned the integrity of the country's previous king.

Muhyiddin, who led Malaysia from March 2020 until August 2021, pleaded not guilty in a court in northeast Kelantan state. According to the charge sheet, Muhyiddin made the seditious remarks last month during a by-election campaign in Kelantan.

Nine ethnic Malay state rulers take turns as Malaysia's king for five-year terms under the country's rotating monarchy, which began when Malaysia gained independence from Britain in 1957. The monarchy plays a largely ceremonial role, but are revered by the nation's majority Muslims.

In his speech on Aug. 14, Muhyiddin had questioned why then-King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah didn't invite him to be

prime minister following a hung Parliament in November 2022. Muhyiddin had claimed he had the backing of majority lawmakers.

Muhyiddin's Islamic nationalistic bloc received stronger-than-expected support from Malays, who account for two-thirds of Malaysia's 34 million people. Sultan Abdullah appointed then-opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim as prime minister after Anwar cobbled up support from rival parties to form a unity government.

Sultan Abdullah from central Pahang state, who ended his reign on Jan. 30 this year, didn't comment on the case. But his son issued a strong rebuke to Muhyiddin, saying his remarks were dangerous and could divide the people and undermine the royal institution.

Muhyiddin was questioned by police following complaints against him. He had denied insulting the royalty, saying his remarks were factual and that he had handed in sworn oath of support by 115 lawmakers in the 222-member parliament.

Zaid Malek from Lawyers for Liberty, a human rights and law reform group, slammed the use of the colonial-era Sedition Act against Muhyiddin. He said questioning or criticizing the exercise of constitutional power by the king wasn't seditious.

The law, introduced by the British in 1948, criminalizes speech or actions with an undefined "seditious tendency," including that which promotes hatred against the government and monarchy or incites racial discord.

"The king is a constitutional monarch, and not a feudal ruler. His exercise of his power can thus be debated, questioned or criticized. This is the very bedrock of our system of constitutional monarchy," Zaid said. Anwar had backtracked on his pledge to repeal the Sedition Act, which has long been used to suppress dissenting voices, he added.

Muhyiddin, 77, faces up to three years in prison or a fine or both if found guilty. He is also still battling corruption and money-laundering charges that he claims are politically motivated.

Muhyiddin was the second former leader charged with crimes after ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak, who received multiple charges after losing a 2018 general election. Najib began a 12-year prison term in 2022, with several more graft trials underway.

Russian missiles and drones strike across Ukraine and kill at least 4 people

KYIV, Aug 27 (Agencies): Nighttime Russian drone and missile attacks struck across Ukraine, killing at least four people, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday, a day after a heavy barrage pounded energy facilities throughout the country.

Zelenskyy said the attacks included 81 drones, as well as cruise and ballistic missiles and that 16 people were injured. He did not say where the four deaths occurred, but two people died in a strike on a residential building in the industrial city of Kryvyi Rih, according to Oleksandr Vilkul, head of the city's military administration.

"We will undoubtedly respond to Russia for this and all other attacks. Crimes against humanity cannot go unpunished," Zelenskyy wrote on X.

In the Kyiv region, which had struggled with blackouts after Monday's onslaught, five air alerts were called during the night. The regional administration said air defenses destroyed all the drones and missiles but that falling debris set off forest fires.

After the Monday barrage across Ukraine of more than 100 missiles and a similar number of drones, Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said "the energy infrastructure has once again become the target of Russian terrorists" and

urged Ukraine's allies to provide it with long-range weapons and permission to use them on targets inside Russia.

President Joe Biden called Monday's Russian attack on energy infrastructure "outrageous" and said he had "reprioritized U.S. air defense exports so they are sent to Ukraine first." He also said the U.S. was "surging energy equipment to Ukraine to repair its systems and strengthen the resilience of Ukraine's energy grid."

The Russian Defense Ministry said the attacks used "long-range precision air- and sea-based weapons and strike drones against critical energy infrastructure facilities that support the operation of Ukraine's military-industrial complex. All designated targets were hit."

In Russia, meanwhile, officials reported four Ukrainian missiles were shot down over the Kursk region, where Russian forces are fighting Ukrainian troops that made a surprise incursion this month.

The fighting in the region has raised concerns about the nuclear power plant there. International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi arrived in the Kursk region on Tuesday intending to inspect the plant, Russian news agencies reported.

Pacific Ocean rising at alarming rate: Antonio Guterres's 'SOS' warning

NUKU'ALOFA, Aug 27 (Agencies): United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres voiced a global climate "SOS" at a Pacific islands summit on Tuesday, unveiling research that shows the region's seas rising much more swiftly than global averages.

"I am in Tonga to issue a global SOS -- Save Our Seas -- on rising sea levels. A worldwide catastrophe is putting this Pacific paradise in peril" he said.

Sparsely populated and with few heavy industries, the Pacific islands collectively pump out less than 0.02 percent of global emissions every year.

But this vast arc of volcanic islands and low-lying coral atolls also inhabits a tropical corridor that is rapidly threatened by encroaching oceans.

The World Meteorologi-



cal Organisation has been monitoring tide gauges installed on the Pacific's famed beaches since the early 1990s.

A new report released by the top UN climate monitoring body showed seas had risen by around 15 centimetres in some parts of the Pacific in the last 30 years.

The global average was 9.4 centimetres, according to the report.

"It is increasingly evident that we are fast running out of time to turn the tide," said the

forecasting agency's top official Celeste Saulo.

Some sites, particularly in Kiribati and Cook Islands, measured a rise that matched or was just under the global average. But other sites, such as the capital cities of Samoa and Fiji, were rising almost three times higher.

In low-lying Pacific nation Tuvalu, land is already so scarce that throngs of children use the tarmac at the international airport as their own makeshift playground.

Scientists have warned that, even under some moderate scenarios, Tuvalu could be almost entirely wiped off the map within the next 30 years.

"It's disaster after disaster, and we are losing the capacity to rebuild, to withstand another cyclone or another flood," Tuvalu Climate Minister Maina Talia told agency on the summit's sidelines. "For low-lying island states, it's a matter of survival for us."

The plight of Pacific islands has been easily overlooked in the past, given their relative isolation and lack of economic might.

But the region is increasingly seen by scientists as a climate canary in the coal mine, hinting at the troubles possibly facing other parts of the planet.

"This new report con-

firms what Pacific leaders have been saying for years," Australian climate researcher Wes Morgan told agency.

"Climate change is their top security threat. Pacific nations are in a fight for survival, and cutting climate pollution is key to their future."

Surrounded by millions of square miles of tropical ocean, the South Pacific is uniquely threatened by sea-level rise.

The vast majority of people live within five kilometres of the coast, according to the United Nations.

Rising seas are swallowing up scarce land and tainting vital food and water sources.

Warmer waters are also fuelling more intense natural disasters, while ocean acidification slowly kills the reefs that nourish key marine food chains.

Dolphin bites surge at Japanese beaches, authorities warn beachgoers

TOKYO, Aug 27 (Agencies): Authorities in central Japan are urging beachgoers to steer clear of dolphins after a sharp increase in biting incidents, with one expert saying the culprit may be a single overly playful individual.

This year has so far seen 18 swimmers bitten at several beaches in the Fukui region, according to the local Tsuruga coastguard, which logged just a handful of injuries related to dolphins in each of the past two years.

Most of the bites were minor -- some were little more than scratches -- but in one recent

incident, an elementary school child wound up requiring 20 to 30 stitches, coastguard official Shoichi Takeuchi told agency.

At Suishohama Beach -- also known as "Diamond Beach" -- a local tourism association is calling for vigilance, issuing warnings on its website and handing out fliers advising people not to approach or touch the animals.

"Dolphins are usually calm creatures, but they can make you bleed by biting you with sharp teeth, drag you underwater and, in the worst-case scenario, threaten your life," the association warns online.

The coastguard said it was unclear whether a single dolphin was behind the incidents or whether there were multiple culprits.

One expert, however, thinks one rogue dolphin may be responsible for the incidents, given identifying characteristics such as its dorsal fin and scars. "It is probably the work of the same individual," Tadamichi Morisaka, a professor of cetology at Mie University, told broadcaster NHK.

"Instead of trying to harm humans, it might be seeking to interact with humans the way it does with fellow dolphins."

Israeli strikes across Gaza kill 14, including children, Palestinians say

GAZA, Aug 27 (Agencies): Palestinian officials say Israeli airstrikes across the Gaza Strip have killed at least 14 people, half of them children.

The Civil Defense, first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government, said three children and their mother were killed in an airstrike late Monday in the Tufah neighborhood of Gaza City. It said three other people were missing after the strike.

Another strike late Monday hit a building in downtown Gaza City,

killing a child, three women and a man, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

In southern Gaza, a strike on a home early Tuesday killed five people, including a man, his three children as young as 3 years old and a woman, according to a casualty list provided by Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, where the bodies were taken.

Palestinian health officials do not say whether those killed in Israeli strikes are civilians or fighters.

Israel says it tries to avoid harm-

ing civilians and accuses Hamas of putting them in danger by fighting in residential areas. But the military rarely comments on individual strikes, which often kill women and children.

Gaza's Health Ministry says Israel's offensive has killed over 40,000 people in Gaza.

The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250 people.

Janmashtami celebrated at Panch Mandir Trikuta Nagar with devotion

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 27: The grand festival of Sri Krishna Janmashtami was celebrated with devotion, dedication, enthusiasm, and gaiety at Panch Mandir, Trikuta Nagar.

This auspicious occasion, filled with spiritual significance, allowed devotees to deepen their connection with Lord Krishna, experiencing a sense of spiritual fulfillment and divine grace.

The festival served as a poignant reminder of Lord Krishna's teachings in the Bhagavad Gita, emphasizing the principles of righteousness (Dharma), devotion, and the importance of living a virtuous life. Prominent dignitaries



from civil society graced the event, including Arun Gupta, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, State Chairman of the Indian Yoga Association, and President of Vichar Kranti Manch International, A.K Arora, former Superintending Engi-

neer & Patron of SOS Balgram, Rajesh Jasrotia, SHO Trikuta Nagar, Narinder Sharma, a social activist, and Prithvi Raj Sharma, Retired CAO.

These distinguished guests, along with participants from various sections of society, were felicitated by S.K. Jolly, Mandir President, and

Executive Members.

The ceremony was meticulously organized by Arnav Seth, with support from Ramneek Dubey, Vikas Jolly, and other Executive Members of the Mandir Committee.

The celebration highlighted the importance of such festivals in bringing communities

together, preserving traditions, promoting values, and engaging in positive activities.

The joy and positivity infused into the occasion reflected the deep sense of dedication among the devotees.

The meticulous preparations for the festival, including decorating the temple and participating in various religious activities, showcased the commitment of the devotees to live a life guided by the teachings of Lord Krishna.

Vijay Vaid, the Secretary and a dedicated member of the community, conducted the proceedings of the program and presented a heartfelt vote of thanks to all participants and contributors.

Army celebrates Women's Equality Day at Parore Gujjaran



Top News Report

RAJOURI/REASI, Aug 27: The Indian Army, on the occasion of Women's Equality Day, which is celebrated annually on August 26, conducted an event based on the theme 'Gender equality today for sustainable tomorrow', to promote the agenda of women equality and women empowerment, at Parore Gujjaran & Balmatkote, in Rajouri & Reasi district. In the view of the event

a lecture was conducted for students to promote gender equality, women empowerment and to raise awareness about the importance of women's participation in all aspects of society including Armed forces.

It is also a time to acknowledge the contributions of women throughout history and in contemporary society. During the lecture impetus was also given to women entry in Armed Forces and CAPF via various schemes.

Girl students were motivated to enrol for competing in the entrance exams for the same.

The girl students appreciated the efforts of the Indian Army to educate them on these relevant schemes and conveyed their gratitude for the same. They added that these lectures are their source of learning things of which they are mostly ignorant. Same will help them in long term in improving their vision and standard of living.

Army holds amity meeting at Dogrian

Top News Report

POONCH, Aug 27: Indian Army organized an Amity Meeting with the local residents of Dogrian in Poonch District.

The meeting was organized to increase the outreach to locals and improve the coordina-



tion between Awam and Indian Army.

The locals were informed of the prevailing situation and the ongoing Indian Army efforts in order to negate militant activity in the AoR. It also provided an opportunity for residents to openly address various issues they face

within their village.

The role of Indian Army and Awam to fight together Terrorism in the region was the key highlight during the meet. All attendees expressed their appreciation for the Indian Army's efforts to reach out to the locals. A total of 25 locals were present.

Army organizes integrated AYUSH Medical Camp at Agri



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Aug 27: During an outreach programme to ensure well-being of AWAM, Indian Army in conjunction with medical team of AYUSH department, Rajouri conducted an AYUSH medical camp for local populace at Government Higher Secondary School Agri, Rajouri district. A joint team of doctors from the Indian Army, and AYUSH department provided medical care, consultation and counselling to the poor and under privileged residents of the border

areas.

More than 450 patients of all ages attended the medical camp and were provided with free medicines for deworming, Vitamin A supplements and immunization against tetanus.

HB checkup of all female patients and medical advice and treatment for hypertension, diabetes and anaemia for patients above 30 years of age was also carried out. Special medical issues of women and children were also addressed by a lady doctor.

The opportunity was also utilized by the

doctors to educate the general public on prevention of communicable eye diseases and focused on various lifestyle diseases. Apart from the medical camp, various initiatives not only enabled patients to be treated closer to their homes but also helped in increasing the awareness about cleanliness, hygiene and healthy living.

The medical professionals took this opportunity to make AWAM aware about the importance of maintaining cleanliness thereby attaining a sound health.

This medical camp was well received by the beneficiaries especially in view of the bad weather especially in last few days and heavy rains in the region.

NOTICE
I, Inderjeet Kour, W/o Randhir Singh, R/o F-54, New Rehari, Jammu have changed my name as Inderjeet Kaur for all future purposes. Objection if any may conveyed to concerned authority within 7 days from the publication of this notice.

Regional PF Commissioner holds awareness, outreach programme under "Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0"

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Aug 27: Employees' Provident Fund Organization, Jammu conducted an awareness program of Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 in the presence of Rizwan Uddin, Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-I, along with District Nodal Officer Devinder Singh, Enforcement Officer, Harshit Pathak at Hotel Trinetar, Patnitop.

The representatives of Employers who were present in the programme were Rohit Gupta (Nodal Officer), Hotel Trinetar, Darshan Lal (Manager), Hotel Oasis, RS Katoch (Manager), Hotel Samson, Suresh Sharma (Manager), Hotel Subash Palace and others. Sandeep Kumar, SS (Ladakh) conducted similar programme at Director, National Institute Leh, Ladakh.

While speaking on the occasion, Rizwan Uddin, Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-I, apprised the stakeholders about various initiatives undertaken by EPFO under Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 such as E-Nomination, UAN Activation, KYC Updating, Bank, Aadhar Seeding, Online ECR Filing, Salient Features of Employees Deposit

Linked Insurance (EDLI) Scheme, 1976, Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 benefits for the Registered Employees and other benefits. The handholding session was also provided to the employers for registration of DSC/E-Sign, filing of ECR challans etc.

Another issue was that it was told that employees don't want to enroll themselves in the schemes by EPFO since many of the workers work for only 5 to 6 months.

However, during the address by Rizwan Uddin, Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-I on Salient Features of Employees Deposit Linked Insurance (EDLI) Scheme, 1976, Employees' Pension Scheme 1995, the miscommunication was removed and all the stakeholders agreed and wanted to be a part of EPFO.

During the course of discussions, the members present raised numbers of issues pertaining to the EPFO Office and on spot directions has been given by Rizwan Uddin, Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-I, to resolve the issue on priority basis. Employers were also educated on how to access the Principal Employer Portal to check subcontractor compliance and benefits of e-

nomination. Apart from this, grievances were redressed and members got PF related guidance, how and when to withdraw their PF, under which para they should apply.

The workshop lasted for more than one hour, where P. F. Commissioner Rizwan Uddin heard the issues being faced by the establishments and employees. A hand holding and interactive session continued for another hour in which various stakeholders went live and learnt how to deal with the problems faced by them.

Services and benefits of "Social Security"-Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 and enhanced quantum (up to Rupees Seven Lakhs) of Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Schemes, 1976 are being rendered to employees of Union territory of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh with effect from November 2019 onwards. The features of these schemes were discussed in detail at the Nidhi Aapke Nikat programme.

The programme was also held at The Director, Institute of SowaRigpa Leh, Ladakh by Shri Sandeep Kumar, SS where representatives of establishments and employees were present in the program.

FROM PAGE 1

BJP issues third list of candidates for J&K assembly polls

Chander Prakash Ganga, Suchetgarh Gharu Ram Bhagat, RS Pora Jammu South Narinder Singh Raina, Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi, Nagrota Davinder Singh Rana, Jammu West Arvind Gupta, Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma, Akhnoor Mohan Lal Baghat and on Chhamb party candidate will be Rajiv Sharma.

Ramban flash floods: Seven missing, two bodies retrieved so far

Gulshan Begum (42), his son Khalid Ahmed (12) (retrieved) and his daughter Seerat Banoo (8) years old are still missing.

Officials said one more girl of the area identified as Qazia Banoo (6) daughter of Sajjad Ahmed resident of Dungar Dandllah is also missing.

Tehsildar Rajgarh Major Singh who is supervising the rescue operations told Greater Kashmir that rescue teams comprising police, SDRF and locals retrieved the dead body of Khalid Ahmed on Monday evening, while as the dead body of Yasir Ahmed was recovered this morning.

He said Police, SDRF, and local volunteers are engaged in ongoing rescue operations to find and retrieve the missing

persons. He said more rains have started in the area.

DIG JSK range conducts late-night border inspection ahead of elections

conducted a security check at the BPP in Rajpura.

In Samba, SHO Inspector Sikandar Singh briefed DIG Shiv Kumar on the functioning of the Border Police, discussing old routes and previous incidents. Later, the DIG reviewed the security arrangements at Narsingh Temple, which is witnessing a heavy rush of devotees, especially from the border areas.

SSP Vinay Kumar accompanied DIG Shiv Kumar throughout the visit, providing a detailed overview of the security measures in place and the preparedness for the upcoming elections.

Jailed cleric Sarjan Barkati to contest assembly polls as Independent

of Barkati, and will leave toward Shopian to file his nomination papers.

Barkati's daughter is expected to hold a press conference before filing nomination papers.

Barkati, who was the face of the 2016 agitation after the killing of Hizbul commander Burhan Wani, was arrested on October 01, 2016 and was released in October 2020.

He was later rearrested by the State Investigation Agency in August last year in a terror funding case and is still under custody. Later his wife was also arrested.

NC releases 2nd list of candidates, Omar to contest from Ganderbal

Sahib; Abdul Raheem Rather-Chrar-e-Shareef; Ali Mohammad Dar-Chadoora; Er Khurshed-Gulab Garh (ST); Yashu Vardhan Singh-Kalakote/Sunderbani; Surinder Chowdhary-Nowshera; Javid Chowdhary-Budhal (ST); Ajaz Ahmad Khan-Poonch Haveli; Javid Rana-Mendhar(ST); Javid Mirchal-Karnah; Mir Saif ullah-Trehgam; Nasir Aslam Wani (Sogam)-Kupwara; Qaiser Jamsheed Lone-Lolab; Chowdhary Mohamad Ramzan-Handwara; Irshad Rasool Kar-Sopore; Javid Ahmad Dar-Rafiabad; Dr. Sajad Shafi Uri-Uri; Javid Hussain Beigh-Baramulla; Farooq Ahmad Shah-Tangmarg; Javid Reyaz Bedar-Pattan; Hilal Akbar Lone-Sonawari; Nazir Ahmad Gurezi-Gurez(ST); and Ajay Kumar Sadhotra-Jammu North.

NCERT report proposes inclusion of class 9-11 marks in class 12 board results

class 11 a 40 per cent formative and 60 per cent summative distribution, and class 12 a 30 per cent formative and 70 per cent summative ratio."

"Consequently, the cumulative marks at the end of the secondary stage are 15 percent for class 9, 20 percent for class 10, 25 percent for class 11, and 40 percent for class 12," the report mentioned. This means that students' performance over the years will play a significant role in their final scores.

The suggested assessment framework for learners in classes 9 through 12 will employ a comprehensive approach that balances both, formative (ongoing) and summative (end-term) assessment methods to provide a holistic view of learners' progress.

For classes 10 and 12, the assessment framework will be divided into two terms, the report suggests.

"Terms will feature Classroom Assessments through HPCs, involving Portfolio Assessment, Self Assessment, Peer Assessment, Teacher Observation, Group Work, and Laboratory activities," it mentions.

The report also proposed the End Term Assessment will continue with competency-based assessments using ITMS, with teachers selecting from the question bank. Term II will introduce formative assessment with additional components such as Project Work, Paper Presentations with viva voce,

and Group Discussions.

"The summative assessment will consist of a common paper consisting of Long Answers, Short Answers, Very Short Answers, and Multiple Choice Questions linking with the Learning Outcomes, based on the question paper design and blueprint," the report mentions.

Aim of Alliance with Congress is to defeat communal forces, Says Sajjad Shaheen

party. All the people who have joined us enthusiastic. We are fully hopeful that the party will win here and form the government," he said.

"We will not only fulfil the promises we made to the people in the manifesto but will also restore dignity and honour here. The sole aim of this alliance is to defeat communal forces. Where we do not have a direct contest with the BJP, we are making a friendly contest," he added.

J&K parts likely to receive rains, thundershower till Sept 3: MeT

The officials warned that there is a possibility of intense showers for a brief period at few places with heavy rain at isolated places of Jammu division during August 27 to 30 towards late night/early morning.

They continued that flashfloods, landslides, mudslides and shooting stones may occur over few vulnerable places.

Shiv Sena (UBT) candidates file nominations



Top News Report

BHADERWAH / RAMBAN/DODA, Aug 27: Shiv Sena (UBT) filed nominations from Bhandarwah, Ramban and Doda on Tuesday for the first phase of Jammu and Kashmir

assembly elections in the presence of party state chief Manish Sahni.

Party candidates Vinod Kotwal filed his nomination from Bhandarwah-51 assembly constituency, while Tilak Raj from Ramban and Tilak Shan

from Doda (West).

Sahni appealed to the public to make Shiv Sena (UBT) candidates win for restoration of their rights.

Sahni said that our every candidate will contest the elections with the promise of better health education facilities, anti-corruption, toll-free Jammu and Kashmir and free electricity and water, unemployment allowance, rights of PoJK displaced people, permanent jobs for daily wagers, safe return of Kashmiri Pandits etc.

On the occasion General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice president Balwant Singh and many others were present.

KCPS delegates excel at Jodhamal Youth Conclave 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 27: Eight students from KC Public School (KCPS), namely, Shreedha Gupta, Pranay Sharma, Suhas Koul, Kaavin Bhushan, Adhiraj Mahajan, Aarav Singh, Divyanshi Rajput and Achyut Khajuria participated in 7th edition of JYC held at Jodhamal Public School from August 23 to 25.

The three days' conference featured seven committees including Lok Sabha, SPECOL (Special Political and Decolonization Committee), ICIJSC (International Consortium Of Investigative Journalism Special Corps), UNW (UN Women), AIPPM (All India Political Party Meet), IP (International Press) and CPH (Concilium Prospera Hindustan).

Each committee addressed national and international issues and their agendas covered a wide range of topics including SPECOL which focused on colonialism in the contemporary world with an emphasis on Chinese hegemony in the Asia-Pacific and the Israel-Palestine territorial dispute.

Lok Sabha deliberated on measures of decoloniality in India post-independence. AIPPM reviewed electoral reforms with a focus

on The CEC and other Election Commissioners Bill, 2023. UN Women addressed gender equality barriers with an emphasis on international conventions like CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention. ICIJSC, a classified committee, and IP captured the event.

Many leading schools like JK Public School, GD Goenka School, Jammu Sanskriti, Delhi Public School Udhampur, KC International School and the host Jodhamal Public School participated in the conference.

KCPS delegates delivered an outstanding performance with Suhas Koul winning Outstanding Delegate Award and Pranay Sharma winning a Special Mention in Lok Sabha. Kaavin Bhushan secured a Special Mention in UN WOMEN. Aarav Singh received a Verbal Mention in SPECOL (Special Political and Decolonization Committee). Achyut Khajuria earned a Verbal Mention in CPH (Concilium Prospera Hindustan).

Chairman Raju Choudhary, Vice Chairman Arjun Choudhary, MD Arti Choudhary, Principal A K Mishra and Vice Principal Sanjay Pandey commended the delegates for their participation in the event.

Dr. Bhupinder lauds NC's manifesto

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 27: Dr. Bhupinder Singh, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Dental Council, has lauded the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference's (NC) recent manifesto promise to address the recruitment of dental surgeons. This pledge is regarded as a significant advancement for the oral and dental health sector in the region.

In his statement, Dr. Singh expressed his appreciation for the National Conference's commitment to time-bound recruitment for over 6,000 dental surgeons currently registered with the Council. The manifesto's focus on resolving the long-standing issue of stagnant recruitment processes highlights a crucial step towards enhancing the delivery of dental health-care services.

Since 2008, there has been no Public Service

Examination (PSE) for the recruitment of dental surgeons in Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in uncertainty and delays for many qualified professionals.

Dr. Singh emphasized that this prolonged stagnation has created a significant backlog and underlined the pressing need for a structured recruitment process to meet the growing demands for dental care in the region.

The National Conference's promise is a step in the right direction," Dr. Singh said. "It reflects a commitment to advancing oral and dental health-care by ensuring that qualified dental surgeons are recognized and given the opportunity to serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

Dr. Singh also commended Mian Altaf, honorable a Member of Parliament, for raising the issue of recruitment challenges faced by dental professionals in Parlia-

ment. Mian Altaf advocacy has played a pivotal role in highlighting these issues, urging political parties to address them in their manifestos.

The pledge from the National Conference has been received with cautious optimism by the dental community in Jammu and Kashmir. It signals a potential shift towards a more responsive and responsible approach to dental recruitment and underscores the need for ongoing dialogue and action to resolve these long-standing issues.

As the political landscape evolves, the dental community and oral health advocates will be closely monitoring the implementation of these promises. There is hope that other political parties will also address the critical need for systematic recruitment processes, ensuring a more effective and efficient approach to oral and dental health in the region.

Civil Defence Jammu concludes five days training programme

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 27: Five days Civil Defence basic training programme was concluded at Govt. Degree College for women, Jammu which was started on 21-08-2024 under the supervision of Deputy Controller Civil Defence, Jammu.

In the training camp 59 Students have attend the basic training.

The said training was given by the Civil Defence Experts on the knowledge of First Aid, prevention, management and control of Fire Fighting, Snake bite, Choking and other basic life saving technique and preventive measures during the natural/manmade disaster.

On the occasion, a



demonstration on first aid fire fighting including improvised emergency rescue methods during road accidents etc. was presented by the Civil Defence team. Dr. Ravinder Tikoo, Principal of the College appreciated and thanked the Civil Defence team for imparting such training

programme.

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

AIIMS Jammu starts Fundus Fluorescein Angiography SERVICES

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 27: In a significant advancement for eye care in the region, the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu has officially launched Fundus Fluorescein Angiography (FFA) services at the Department of Ophthalmology.

This new facility marks a major milestone in the institute's commitment to offering state-of-the-art medical care and advanced diagnostic services.

The faculty in the Department, Dr. Bhavani Raina (Additional Professor), Dr. Nitin Kumar (Associate Professor), Dr. Nazia Anjum (Assistant Professor) and Dr. Ridham Nanda (Assistant

Professor), expressed their gratitude for the introduction of this new service and thanked Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, ED and CEO, AIIMS Jammu, for his encouragement and unending support.

With the introduction of wide-field FFA, AIIMS Jammu is poised to enhance the diagnostic capabilities available to patients in the region. Previously, individuals requiring this procedure had to travel long distances, leading to delays in diagnosis and treatment. The availability of FFA at AIIMS Jammu will now provide timely and accurate diagnosis, allowing for better management of eye conditions and improving patient outcomes. This unit

will help diagnose and plan treatment for various retinal and uvea diseases.

The procedure was performed in the specialised Retina lab at the Department of Ophthalmology under the supervision of Dr Nitin Kumar, Associate Professor, Ophthalmology Department at AIIMS Jammu.

The optometrist team included Bhavya Kapoor, Sohail Sheikh and Gagan Jha. A team of nursing officers assisted the clinician and optometrists in the Department of Ophthalmology in successfully conducting the diagnostic test. Dr. Nitin Kumar emphasized the importance of this new service.

Signature Campaign organised in GDC Ramkote under SVEEP

Top News Report

RAMKOTE, Aug 27: The Electoral Literacy Club of GDC Ramkote organised a Signature Campaign under SVEEP for voter awareness on 27th August, 2024. The event was organised with an aim to educate and aware first time voters to exercise their right to vote.

Nearly 30 students alongwith faculty and staff participated in the campaign and committed themselves towards democratic process of voting by putting their signatures.

After the campaign the students were also shown a brief docu-

mentary on SVEEP, its objectives and importance for enhanced understanding of voting procedures and electoral processes.

Both the events of Signature Campaign and Documentary Screening were successful in educating the students about the significance of voting and promoting active participation in the democratic process.

The event was organised by Prof. Pankaj Nandan, Nodal Officer, SVEEP under the guidance of Prof. Rameek Kaur, Principal of the college. Faculty present included Prof. Suresh Chander, Prof. Anu Sharma and Prof. Vasundra Rajee.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 27: Students of Govt. PG College of Women, Gandhi Nagar participated in a symposium on Child Rights & Child Protection and deliberated on Child Rights and Girls Safety.

The Symposium on Child Rights and Child Protection was organized by National Development Foundation, in collaboration with, Govt. PG College for Women, Gandhinagar Jammu and UNICEF India. It aimed at raising awareness among students and teachers about child rights and protection.

The symposium saw enthusiastic participation from students, delivering compelling speeches on child rights and protection. Manvi, Shivya and Kashish, stood 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively, while the consolation prizes, were bagged by Akriti and Tanya. All the par-

ticipants were given certificates.

The principal of the College, S.P Saraswat was the chief guest on the occasion. He actively promoted awareness, advocate for policy changes, and support initiatives aimed at ensuring the safety and well-being of children and girls in our communities.

Sunita Bhagat – Asst. Professor Dept. of Social Work also sensitised the Children on child rights, safety measures for girls, and the importance of awareness regarding available helplines and support systems.

Ayeesha Kour acted as stage secretary while, Vinay Lata – Asst. Professor Psychology, Dr. Nazi – Asst. Professor Environmental Science & Suraj Mohini Jamwal – Asst. Professor Sociology judged the participants.

In addition, Nisha Pan-

ditia, Addl. Programme Officer, NDF conducted a highly informative sensitization session for both students and teachers, valuable insights on legal frameworks, community initiatives, and the role of education in safeguarding children's rights. She focused on research findings, personal perspectives, and recommendations for fostering a culture of respect and protection.

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

SMVDU in collaboration with JKSTIC Udhampur deliberates on "Empowering Climate action: Strategies for Sustainable Future"

Top News Report

KATRA, Aug 27: School of Energy Management, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, a leading educational institution and promoter for sustainability and environmental conservation organised one-day awareness program focused on "Empowering Climate action: Strategies for Sustainable Future" in collaboration with J&K Science Technology and Innovation Council, Udhampur.

The primary objective of this initiative was to equip us with the knowledge, tools, and inspiration needed to drive meaningful climate action. Through insightful discussions, expert presentations, and interactive sessions, we will explore strategies to not only mitigate the effects of climate change but

also to adapt and thrive in an evolving world.

In his keynote address Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU highlighted the steps taken by SMVDU in organizing high quality awareness programmes, workshops and conferences. He stressed that such event help in broadening the knowledge base of the participants.

Prof. Pragati Kumar highlighted various aspects Of Strategies for Sustainable Development. He said that by raising awareness among participants and the public, this awareness campaign would help us all realise how important it is to pursue sustainable growth and empowering climate change for sustainable future.

Shruti Khanna District Coordinator JKSTIC high-



lighted the event's objective to encourage the young minds across and hoped they would be role models with a particular emphasis on promoting climate change mitigation aspects.

Prof. Deepak Pathania, Professor, Department of Environment Sciences, Central University of Jammu, Jammu laid emphasis on different strategies on how the waste can be collected and

used to produce energy. He stressed on various aspects where the young minds should take a lead in combating the climate change.

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Attri, Assistant Professor, Depart-

ment of Environmental Sciences, University of Jammu, Jammu presented a talk on how it may assist the environment in the context of a global energy future.

In addition to lowering the likelihood of environmental catastrophes, renewable resources help protect the planet's natural resources. Additionally, he presented different protocols being there to cater the climate change.

Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Associate Dean R&D and Coordinator of the programme in his welcome address explained about the schedule of the awareness programme and stressed upon the need for the same.

He stressed that our planet is facing unprecedented challenges, from rising temperatures and extreme

weather events to diminishing natural resources and ecosystem degradation.

The impact of these changes is felt across every corner of the globe, affecting communities, economies, and wildlife alike. We aim to deliberate on these aspects in such programmes.

"It is crucial to promote knowledge and understanding of climate change action in order to expedite the shift towards a sustainable future," added Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Assistant Professor, and organizing secretary of the awareness programme.

The inaugural function of the event co-ordinated by Dr. Vineet Tyagi, Dean R&D was attended by Deans and Heads of different schools. The formal vote of thanks was given by Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Assistant Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering, SMVD University.

How Rohit Sharma helped Rinku Singh overcome T20 World Cup snub

Rinku Singh revealed the wise words by Rohit Sharma which helped him recover from the disappointment after T20 World Cup snub.

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (Agencies): Rinku Singh revealed how Rohit Sharma helped him overcome the disappointment after T20 World Cup 2024 snub. The 26-year-old shared the details of his conversation with the former India T20I captain Rohit Sharma after he missed out from the 15-member squad for the marquee tournament. Rohit motivated him to keep working hard and said that there is a World Cup after every two years. Rinku travelled with the Indian team as a reserve player to the US as well as the West Indies. "Haan woh (Rohit Sharma) aaye the samjane ki koi baat nahi, teri umar hi kya hai. World Cup aage bohot hai. Mehnat karte reh. Har do saal mein World Cup aata hai, uspe dhyaan de. Koi dikaat nahi hai,



pareshan mat ho [He came to me and made me understand that it was okay, you are quite young. There will be many many World Cups in the future. Keep on working hard. There is a World Cup every two years, focus on that. Don't be disappointed]," Rinku told News24. Rohit extends support to

Rinku Despite his breakthrough performances, Rinku was not picked in India's main squad and that became one of the talking points ahead of the main tournament. However, India went on to win the T20 World Cup 2024 and ended the nation's 11-year-long wait for

an ICC trophy. However, Rohit's wise words will help Rinku gain more confidence and with age being at his side, he will be aiming to cement his spot for the upcoming T20 World Cup in 2026. "I like Rohit Sharma's captaincy" Rinku also hailed Rohit for his captaincy and also acknowledged Virat Kohli's aggressive style of leadership. "I like Rohit Sharma's captaincy. I like Virat Kohli as well because aggression is very important while leading a team. So, his captaincy was also very good." Rinku is the captain of the Meerut Mavericks in the ongoing UP Premier League 2024. His side opened their campaign with a seven-wicket win over Kashi Rudras in Lucknow.

T20 World Cup: Renewing the rivalry

India, Pakistan to clash on October 6 in Women's T20 World Cup



DUBAI, Aug 27 (Agencies): India will be taking on arch-rivals Pakistan on October 6 here as per the revamped fixtures of the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup released by the ICC today. The tournament starts on October 3. The global competition, initially scheduled to be held in Bangladesh, was moved out of the country by the ICC after many players

expressed concerns around security due to the prevailing political unrest. Dubai and Sharjah are the only two venues for the event, hosting a total of 23 matches. The groups remain the same, with defending champion Australia clubbed alongside India, New Zealand, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Group B comprises South Africa, England, West Indies, Bangla-

desh and Scotland. Each side will play four group matches at the tournament, with the top two teams from each group progressing to the semifinals on October 17 and 18 ahead of the final in Dubai on October 20. A reserve day has been fixed for both the semifinals and the final. If India advance, they will feature in the first semifinal. Sri Lanka and Scotland qualified for the tournament via the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier event held in Abu Dhabi earlier this year. There will be 10 warm-up matches held prior to the tournament from September 28 through to October 1.

IPL franchise boss makes Rohit Sharma intent clear ahead of auction

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (Agencies): The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 mega auction promises to be a nail-biter, with many top players expected to join new franchises. Among the biggest names linked with a move away from their existing teams is Rohit Sharma. The Hitman's fallout with the Mumbai Indians isn't a hidden story, ever since he was removed as the franchise's captain, ahead of the IPL 2024 season. Hardik Pandya replaced him as the team's skipper, with the change earning both the India all-rounder and MI bosses plenty of criticism from fans and former cricketers. Rohit, considering the brand value he has, isn't

expected to be short of suitors if he does come into the auction pool. With the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) unlikely to allow teams to retain more than six players (including Right To Match), the chances of Rohit playing for a new side next season are quite high. One of the franchisees that has clearly expressed interest in Rohit is Punjab Kings, a team that hasn't yet won the IPL title. PBKS' Director of Cricket Operations, Sanjay Bangar, expressed his interest in Rohit, but admitted that a move for the opening batter would depend upon money left in the purse. "It all depends on whether we have the

money in our pockets. If Rohit comes in the auction, I certainly believe, he is going to go for a high price," said Bangar in a chat on the RAO Podcast YouTube channel. Shikhar Dhawan was the designated captain of the Punjab Kings till the last season but he has now announced his retirement from all forms of the game. PBKS, hence, would be keen to sign a new captain in the mega auction, and there aren't many better options than Rohit for the role. Right might already be 37 years of age, but his performances in the T20 World Cup campaign this year clearly suggest that the Hitman still has some fire left in his belly.

Novak Djokovic's secret to fitness at 37: 'Prevention equals longevity'

NEW YORK, Aug 27 (Agencies): Defending champion Novak Djokovic beat Radu Albot to start his US Open on a positive note on Tuesday, August 27. Djokovic showed some incredible court coverage on the day and beat Albot in straight sets. Despite looking rusty with his shot-making, Djokovic managed to fashion a 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 win against the Moldovan. After the win, the 24-time Grand Slam champion was asked about his secret to fitness at the age of 37. Djokovic said that he was fortunate enough to be surrounded by many knowledgeable people from a young age, who asked him to follow cer-



tain principles, which would help him reap rewards later in his life. Speaking about the secret to fitness at the twilight of his career, Djokovic said that it was not just one mantra that he followed all the time. "There's not one word or secret that would describe it all. It's just a way of life. Way to approach my tennis career. I was fortunate very early on in my life to be surrounded by knowl-

edgeable and passionate people who were kind enough to share their guidance with me for years and they taught me very early on that prevention equals longevity. Stretching. Warm-up. Everything I do early on in my life will come back to me later in my career," Djokovic said during his on-court interview on Tuesday. "The body is one part. The mentality and emotional, mental aspect is

something on the other side. You've got to find the optimal balance between the two. I'm still enjoying myself to compete. I'm very self critical on the court. I get frustrated at times. At the end of the day, this sport gave me so much. Me continuing to play and giving 100% every time I step on the court is paying back to this wonderful sport," Djokovic said. The Serbian star equalled Roger Federer for winning the most matches at the US Open and also set the record for becoming the man with the most wins on Arthur Ashe in history. The player admitted that he was not aware of this record and said that no other stadium in the

world matches Arthur Ashe's energy at night. "I wasn't aware of it to be honest.. It's the biggest stadium. Definitely the loudest we have in the history of our sport. The night sessions are the best in the world on Arthur Ashe.. ever since the roof was introduced it became even louder. Electric atmosphere. Incredibly energy. Obviously with some new rules this year with the crowd able to move around, there are a lot of things happening on the court ?? we're clocking midnight right now. I love night seasons.. maybe not this late.. but nevertheless, it was great fun. I want to thank everybody for staying. I appreciate you," concluded the player.

Nepal thanks BCCI for NCA training camp, featuring Rahul Dravid, Shami

NEW DELHI, Aug 27 (Agencies): Cricket Nepal has extended its heartfelt gratitude to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for facilitating a crucial training camp at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru. The camp was part of Nepal's preparations for the upcoming ICC CWC League 2 series, set to take place in September. The Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN) expressed its appreciation through social media, highlighting the

significant support from BCCI Secretary Jay Shah and the Indian Cricket Board. The CAN acknowledged the role of Indian officials, including Indian External Affairs minister, Dr. S Jaishankar in making the camp possible. The NCA camp provided Nepal's national team with an invaluable opportunity to hone their skills and strategies ahead of their critical matches. The training program also featured interactions with notable Indian cricket figures, including former India head



coach Rahul Dravid and pacer Mohammed Shami. Their presence and guidance were acknowledged in the thank you post shared by CAN, underscoring the collaborative spirit between the two cricketing nations.

This camp marks Nepal's second visit to India in 2024, following their previous engagements in Gujarat against Baroda as part of their T20 World Cup preparations. The focus of the Bengaluru camp was to bol-

ster Nepal's readiness for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2, following a challenging tri-series at home earlier this year. With this enhanced preparation, Nepal is set to face Oman and Canada in their upcoming series, aiming to improve on their recent performances. The support from the BCCI and the experience gained from the NCA camp are expected to play a crucial role in Nepal's quest for success on the international stage.

Aryna Sabalenka sails to Round 2 of US Open despite 'not playing her best'



NEW YORK, Aug 27 (Agencies): The No. 2 seeded Aryna Sabalenka has cruised into the round 2 of the US Open 2024. She registered a 6-3, 6-3 win over Australian qualifier Priscilla Hon in the first round. The runner-up from last season holds a 7-0 record at the US Open in Round 1. Sabalenka will be aiming to become the first woman to win both hard-court majors in the same season since Angelique Kerber in 2016 after successfully defending her Australian Open title in January this year. Though, Sabalenka felt like she did not play her best tennis at the court and called her opponent a very tricky player. "I think even though I didn't play my best tennis, I was fighting for every point and I was trying to use any shot that was working today. I'm happy even though I didn't feel my best on court today, I was

able to win in straight sets. Especially against someone like her.. very tricky player. She played really aggressive, great tennis today. It wasn't easy facing her in the first round," Sabalenka told the broadcasters after the win. Sabalenka wins round 1 at US Open Sabalenka won her record 24th match on the hard court this year. Only two more players have recorded more wins on the surface, apart from Sabalenka. Emma Navarro has 26 and No. 1 seeded Iga Swiatek has 25 wins on same court this year. Sabalenka will face Italy's Lucia Bronzetti in the second round on Wednesday. The Italian player reached the next round after New Zealand's Lulu Sun was forced to retire after losing the first set 6-3. Hon entered the contest aiming for a win in her first tour-level main-draw of the season. She

had qualified for her first Grand Slam main draw since the Australian Open 2022. The Australian looked in control but could find her way out against a confident and in-form Sabalenka. She recently won her 15th WTA Tour title last week at the Cincinnati Open. Sabalenka's quest for US Open title Aryna Sabalenka cruised through the opening set without facing a break point. In the second set, she secured an early break but Hon managed to convert her first break point of the match, bringing the score to 3-2. Despite this, Sabalenka remained composed. She clinched her sixth consecutive victory by breaking Hon's serve for the fourth time, with a series of clean return winners that put her ahead 4-2. Sabalenka then maintained her lead to secure her 40th win of the season, extending her winning streak to 12 consecutive sets. The last time Aryna played a match at the US Open, she was 1 set away from winning the title. Now, she is back with a vengeance 6 consecutive wins, including 12 consecutive sets win as her trophy title hunt in New York is up and running.

UTT 2024: G Sathiyam's Dabang Delhi TTC aim for first win against Harmeet Desai's Athlead Goa Challengers

CHENNAI, Aug 27 (Agencies): Both Dabang Delhi TTC and Athlead Goa Challengers will have a point to prove when they meet for the first time in Ultimate Table Tennis 2024 at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium on Wednesday. Led by Sathiyam Gnanasekaran, the team from Delhi has lost both its ties so far. However, the low margins of their defeats mean Dabang Delhi TTC are one heavy win away from jumping from their current spot in seventh to one reserved for the playoffs. Harmeet Desai's Athlead Goa Challengers, on the other hand, are heading into their tie against Dabang Delhi TTC on the back



of a heavy defeat against Ahmedabad SG Pipers; they will be looking to make amends quickly and prove their mettle as the reigning champions. 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. Sathiyam's potential bout with Harmeet will headline the clash between Dabang Delhi TTC and Athlead Goa Challengers. The pair are two of India's finest paddlers and have an Olympic appearance each to their name. Further down the pecking order, Dabang Delhi TTC's Diya

Chitale will be under the spotlight following her impressive win against Poymantee Baisya of Chennai Lions. She will likely square up against Athlead Goa Challengers' young prodigy looking to make her mark this season: Yashaswini Ghorpade. From the teams' foreign contingent, all eyes will be on Athlead Goa Challengers' Yangzi Liu and her sensational unbeaten streak that has not left her company since the start of the previous season. Liu has won both her singles matches in UTT 2024 and will look to prolong that run in a potential clash against Dabang Delhi TTC's Orawan Paranang.

SVEEP Cell for Assembly Constituency Budhal organizes series of diverse activities to promote voter awareness

Top News Report

BUDHAL, Aug 27: Under the directions of District Nodal Officer SVEEP, Bishamber Dass (CEO Rajouri) and under the guidance of Nodal Officer SVEEP for Budhal Assembly Constituency, Prof. Tahir Nadeem, a painting competition on the theme "Your Vote, Your Voice" was organized at Higher Secondary School, Kandi by Electoral Literacy Club of the school.

The competition, showcasing the artistic talents of the participants, was held under the supervision of the principal of the Higher Secondary School



Roop Lal and the members of SVEEP Cell for Assembly Constituency Budhal. The event aimed at providing a platform to students for self-expression besides fostering a sense of civic responsibility in them.

Aparna Singh, a student of 12th Class, clinched 1st prize with her artistic depiction of power of ballot whereas Aqsa Jabeen Mir, a student of 12th Class and Tahira Anjum, a student of 10th Class won 2nd and

3rd prize respectively.

The jury for the event comprised of teachers Mohd Razaq, Mohd Shabir and Mohd Younis.

In parallel, a number of students of GDC Budhal got their messages recorded for dissemination through Social media, in which they encouraged people of the UT to come out of their homes on Poll Day and exercise their voting rights without any inducement and intimidation.

In another initiative, an awareness camp was held at Badhan by BLOs alongwith Anganwadi Workers & Helpers. A number of residents of the area were educated about importance of exercising ones voting rights.

GDC Kathua organizes lecture on Journalism



Top News Report

KATHUA, Aug 27: Department of English, Hindi, and Urdu of Govt. Degree College, Kathua organized a Lecture on Journalism today. On the occasion, the Resource Person was Sandeep Singh a renowned Journalist of Information Department, Kathua and propagator of Intel JK Media.

In his speech he elabo-

rated the meaning and importance of the journalism in our day to day life. He asked the students to be a part of Journalism being students of the languages as this profession can help the younger to earn money along with name and fame.

He asked the students of skill Journalism to visit his Media house to get practical knowledge

about the digital media its role and working purpose.

The program organized under the patronage of Prof. Seema Mir Principal of the college and the introductory remarks and welcome address were presented by Dr. Yash Paul Sharma, HOD Urdu. Prof. Shivani Kotwal, HOD English presented the vote of thanks.

All students of skill journalism Sem 5th with the faculty Dr. Jagmohan Sharma, Prof. Esha Verma, Prof. Rakhi Malhotra, Dr. Kamaljit Kour, Prof. Supreet Kour, Dr. Sunil Sharma were present during the program. This event was a part of curriculum of Skill Internship of language departments.

GCW Bhagwati Nagar organizes orientation workshop

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 27: The NSS Unit "Veerangana" of Government College for Women, Bhagwati Nagar, organized an orientation workshop for its NSS volunteers under the esteemed patronage of Dr. Meeru Abrol, the Principal of the college. The

workshop commenced with a formal welcome address delivered by Dr. Preeti Salathia, the NSS Programme Officer.

In her address, she highlighted the primary objective behind establishing NSS units at the college level by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Dr. Salathia also outlined the various activities planned for the 2024-25 academic year, emphasizing the role of NSS in fostering a sense of community service and social responsibility among students.

The workshop saw active participation from approximately 72 NSS volunteers, who engaged in discussions, raised queries, and offered suggestions for enhancing the effectiveness of their community service initiatives. These suggestions will be considered for implementation in future NSS activities.

In addition to the workshop, the Electoral Literacy Club, in collabora-

tion with the NSS Unit "Veerangana," organized a pledge-taking ceremony. This event aimed to raise awareness among students about the importance of voting and to encourage them to participate responsibly in the upcoming state elections.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Meeru Abrol, the Principal of the College, delivered a compelling message on the significance of voting in a democratic society. She emphasized the critical role that each vote plays in shaping the future of the state and the nation. Dr. Abrol encouraged the students to approach the voting process with a sense of responsibility and integrity, reminding them that their vote is a powerful tool for change.

She urged the students to cast their votes without fear, highlighting the importance of exercising their right to vote freely and confidently.

Dr. Abrol stressed that the electoral process should be approached with a clear and unbiased mind, unclouded by external pressures or influences. She cautioned against being swayed by factors such as caste, religion, language, or community, which have often been used to divide voters

and undermine the true spirit of democracy.

Dr. Abrol's address underscored the importance of making informed and independent decisions, encouraging the students to evaluate candidates based on their policies, qualifications, and vision for the future, rather than on superficial or divisive criteria.

She reiterated that a fair and impartial voting process is essential for ensuring that the most capable and deserving leaders are elected to represent the people.

By inspiring the students to vote with courage and conviction, Dr. Abrol aimed to instill in them a deep sense of civic duty and an understanding of their role in upholding the values of democracy. Her words served as a powerful reminder that every vote counts and that each individual has the power to contribute to the collective progress and well-being of society through their participation in the electoral process.

The event, coordinated by Prof. Gagan Jyoti, was well-attended by faculty members and students, reflecting the college's commitment to promoting civic responsibility and active participation in the democratic process.

Sports awareness is in full swing in various schools of Zone Pouni

Talent hunt under Beti Ko Khiladi Banao initiative held

Top News Report

POUNI, Aug 27: Anuradha Sharma, NIS Wrestling coach is leading the awareness among youngsters especially girls of various schools of zone Pouni, district Reasi ahead of National Sports Day to be celebrated in the premises of Girls High School Pouni on August 29, 2024.

Anuradha Sharma disclosed that sports awareness is being created to identify the talent and to sharpen it for further competitions.

Anuradha made a strong appeal to girl students to participate in various games especially wrestling wherein free coaching will be provided and given opportunity to participate in various competitions.

Earlier sports awareness campaign was inaugurated by Sahil Randhawa Tehsildar Pouni from Girls High school Pouni with the

motive for mass participation of students in various games on the celebration of National Sports Day.

GL Sharma Principal GHSS Bharakh hailed the volunteer initiative of Women wrestling coach for motivating the students especially girls under PM initiative of Beti Bachao Beti Ko Khiladi Banao.

On the occasion some medicinal plants were planted in the school premises beside girl wrestling team of Pouni along with their coach Anuradha who has brought glory in various Dangals viz Moungr and Shiv Khori were also felicitated by Principal of GHSS Bharakh.

Raj Kumar Sharma, Head Master of GHS Kheralair, expressed gratitude for organising talent hunt program in various schools which will open new vistas for sports development in distt Reasi.

J&K deserves its own national law university: Malik



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 27: Socio-Civic leader, legal advisor Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM) for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh UTs and Chairman The Social Welfare Organisation of India (TSWOOI) NGO, Adv. Malikzada Mohd Shahzad has said that the current unemployment situation in Jammu and Kashmir is alarming with many educated youth struggling to find jobs.

Meanwhile, he has observed that J&K equally deserves its own National Law University (NLU) and has demanded its early establishment.

"Given the sheer number of unemployed individuals, it is impossible for the government alone to provide employment to everyone. Instead of waiting for government jobs, young people should consider becoming entrepreneurs and start their own small business ventures," Malik said.

He, however added that for those with academic qualifications, especially law students, there are still opportunities and with their knowledge, they can excel in competitive exams or join various departments.

He further asserted that pursuing private practice after studying law can lead to a successful career as a top lawyer, filling a critical

need in the legal field.

"Twenty one states in India have already established National Law Universities (NLUs), but J&K, despite being the 12th largest among the 28 States/08 UTs in terms of geographical area, institute of such repute ceases to exist here," Malik lamented.

He added that J&K has a total number of three government Universities and private law colleges which offer the law courses like L.L.B and B.A, L.L.B. "It is high time to improve legal education here in J&K. We need a National Law University to cater to the needs of the legal profession", Malik suggested.

Advocate Malik appealed the government of Union Territory of J&K to hasten up the process of recommendation to set up a National law University(NLU) here, in order to bring J&K at par with other states. He further demanded the Narendra Modi led NDA Government of the Union to accord early sanction to this much required institution in wake of the unemployment scenario of the region.

Drug abuse awareness program held at Naveen Vidya Mandir High School



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 27: The National Incredible Literacy Mission J&K conducted an Drug abuse awareness programme in collaboration of Directorate of School Education Jammu, involving school students of Naveen Vidya Mandir High School Paloura, here to create awareness on drug and substance abuse and its negative fallout on the individual. The program was conducted in the

school premises.

According to NILM Chairman Thakur K.D. Kurhan, the aim of the programme is to empower students to say no to drugs and create awareness of substance abuse by helping them channel their energies into creative pursuits.

NILM staff members who deliver lecture during program included R.S Thakur, Sheetal Devi, Kavita Bali and Pooja Sahu. Principal of the School,

Sanjay Sharma gave a impressive lecture on the Drug abuse.

Principal of the School also appreciated the role of NILM NGO for synthesizing awareness among masses.

School staff who actively participated in the awareness program included Vice Principal Mohinder Kumar, Shalu Jasrotia Program Coordinator, Teachers including Upasna Sharma, Shivangi Kaphi, Rajni Sharma and Shilpa Sharma.

GDC Marheen organizes Carrom Competition

Top News Report

MARHEEN, Aug 27: In the series of activities under National Sports Week Celebration, Department of Physical Education in collaboration with IQAC of GDC Marheen, organized Carrom Competition on Tuesday.

The programme was organized under the overall supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Anupama Gupta, Principal

of the College.

She emphasized the pivotal role of such sporting events in promoting a healthy and active lifestyle among the students. She also underscored the significance of sports in personal and professional development and lauded the participants for showcasing dedication, talents and passion which contributed to the resounding success of the event.

In the competition, single matches for men and women were played. In the Men's matches, 11 students participated in which Neeraj and Dharmveer secured 1st and 2nd position respectively. In the Women's matches, 25 students participated in which Poonam and Monika secured 1st and 2nd position respectively. The event was managed by Dr. Balbinder Singh, Physical Director, GDC, Marheen.

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