

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

CRPF man dies after complaining of chest pain in Handwara

SRINAGAR, Aug 28 (Agencies): A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) man died after complaining of chest pain in north Kashmir's Handwara, officials said Wednesday.

Quoting an official, news agency NVI reported that the incident happened in the District Police Lines in Handwara when the CRPF man complained of unease in the chest and then collapsed.

The official said that the CRPF man was immediately taken to the District Hospital Handwara, from where he was later referred to SKIMS, Soura for advanced treatment, but he succumbed.

The CRPF man was identified as Dharmendra Singh (42).

The police have taken up the investigation, the official added.

Rains to continue in J&K parts till Sept 3: MeT

SRINAGAR, Aug 28 (Agencies): Meteorological Department on Wednesday predicted more back to back spell of rains and thundershower in Jammu and Kashmir parts till September 3, however it added there is a possibility of dry weather conditions afterwards.

"From August 28-29 there will be generally cloudy with light to moderate rain/thundershower at many places on August 30.

From August 31 to September 1 a brief spell of rain/thundershower at isolated places of Jammu and Kashmir is predicted.

From September 2-3 there is a possibility of generally cloudy weather conditions with possibility of spell of rain, thundershower at scattered places.

From September 4-7 the weather however will likely to remain dry, the officials held.

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 till

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Centre to provide Rs 4,136 Cr for 15 GW Hydropower Projects in Northeast Region

NEW DELHI, Aug 28 (Agencies): The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved equity support of Rs 4,136 crore to northeast states for developing hydropower projects, totalling 15,000 MW capacity over the next eight years.

The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Power for providing central



financial assistance (CFA) to the state governments of NER (North East Region) towards their equity participation in the development of hydroelectric projects through Joint Venture (JV) collaboration between state entities and Central Public Sector Undertakings, an official statement said.

This scheme has an outlay of Rs 4,136 crore

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Expecting high voter turnout: Div Com Kashmir on upcoming Assembly elections



SRINAGAR, Aug 28 (Agencies): The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar

Bidhuri on Wednesday said that they are expecting a higher voter turnout in the upcoming Assembly elections as compared to the recently held Lok Sabha elections. Many records were set in Kashmir during those elections.

Speaking to

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Govt orders transfers, postings of Police officers

SRINAGAR, Aug 28 (Agencies): Government of Jammu & Kashmir Wednesday ordered transfers and postings of police officer with immediate effect.

The order which was issued by Home Department J&K, has said the decision has been taken in the interest of administration.

"Ifroz Ahmad, SP Operations, Kishtwar, is transferred and posted as Dy. CO IR-5, vice Nisar Ahmad. While as Nisar Ahmad, Dy. CO IR-5, is transferred and posted as SP Operations, Kishtwar, vice Ifroz Ahmad," an order reads a copy of which lies with agency.

3 Army personnel killed, several others injured as their vehicle falls into Arunachal

ITANAGAR, Aug 28 (Agencies): Three Army personnel died and several others were injured when their truck skidded off the road and fell into a deep gorge in Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Subansiri district, police said on Wednesday.

The accident happened around 6 am on Tuesday on the Trans Arunachal Highway near Tapi village, they said.

The deceased were identified as Havildar Nakhat Singh, Naik Mukesh Kumar and Grenadier Ashish Kumar, according to Army sources.

Delhi court reserves order on Er Rashid's bail plea; judgment likely on Sept 4

SRINAGAR, Aug 28 (Agencies): The Delhi Patiala House Court has reserved its order on the bail application of Rashid Engineer after a detailed in-camera hearing. The court is expected to pronounce its decision on September 4.

Last week, a Delhi court sought the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) response to an application filed by imprisoned Kashmiri parliamentarian Rashid Engineer, who is

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Ladakh MP Mohmad Haneefa thanks PM Modi, Amit Shah for creating five new districts in Ladakh

LEH, Aug 28 (Agencies): Ladakh MP Mohmad Haneefa on Tuesday thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah after the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) announced to create the five new districts in Ladakh and urged to develop the districts.

"I thank PM Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for

this. I also congratulate the people of the newly formed 5 districts Dras, Zaskar, Nubra, Sham, and Changthang. Many areas of Kargil, the most populated region of Ladakh, have been ignored... For the last many years, there has been a demand of four other districts from the Kargil district," Haneefa said in a self-made video.

"I urge PM Narendra

Modi and MHA Amit Shah to reconsider this announcement and pay attention to the areas in Kargil which have been ignored. I also urge that these districts be developed as full-fledged districts with all necessary set-ups," he added.

Earlier on August 26, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Monday announced the creation of five new

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Past alliances turned out to be bad for J&K, says Altaf Bukhari on NC-Congress alliance



SRINAGAR, Aug 28 (Agencies): Jammu & Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) president Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari Wednesday said his party won't sit in any alliance as people of the region have experienced much bad experience of past alliances formed since 1987.

He said if Apni Party will come to power it will announce general amnesty to youth lodged in jails and summoned to police stations unnecessarily.

Bukhari who was speaking to reporters

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PC announces first list of seven candidates for assembly polls

SRINAGAR, Aug 28 (Agencies): J&K Peoples Conference on Wednesday announced first list of seven candidates contesting upcoming Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

The announcement made by the party said

that the list has been approved by the party president Sajad Gani Lone.

As per the list party senior leader Abdul Gani Vakil will contest polls from Rafiabab, Nazir Ahmad Laway from Kulgam, Abid

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Citing health concerns, Azad steps back from campaigning for DPAP candidates



JAMMU, Aug 28 (Agencies): Citing Health Concerns, Democratic Progressive Azad Party Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday said that he will not be able to campaign for his candidates in assembly elections.

Azad said that on the night of August 25th, he suffered acute chest

pain in Srinagar. "Following morning, I took the earliest available flight to Delhi and was admitted to AIIMS hospital, where I stayed for two days", statement added.

While doctors assured him that there was no immediate danger, Azad said that he is dealing with other health concerns that require both medication and rest. "These unforeseen circumstances have forced me to step back from the campaign trail", he added.

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J-K polls: BJP's Rajiv Jasrotia receives warm welcome in Kathua following his candidature



JAMMU, Aug 28 (Agencies): Rajiv Jasrotia, former minister

and BJP candidate for the Jasrota assembly constituency from the

Kathua district, was given a warm welcome on the National Highway in Kathua on the August 27 evening upon his return from New Delhi.

Jasrotia's name was announced in the third list of candidates on August 27 released by the BJP for the upcoming assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

The BJP workers and

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MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

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

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

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Samajwadi Party appoints Jia Lal Verma as J&K Chief

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 28: The Samajwadi Party unit of J&K UT expressed gratitude to Akhilesh Yadav for his timely and insightful approach to the complex issues in Jammu and Kashmir by appointing Jia Lal Verma as the State Head.

This decision demonstrates Yadav's commitment to effectively addressing the region's significant challenges and marks a crucial step towards resolving long-standing issues.

As the upcoming parliamentary elections approach, Jia Lal Verma said that the Samajwadi Party plans to participate alongside the India Alliance and will soon release its election manifesto and list of candidates.

This involvement under-



scores the party's focus on the unique concerns of Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring that the region's specific needs are addressed appropriately, Verma.

One of the major issues highlighted is the status and special status of Jammu, which historically reflected the region's cultural and historical identity.

The party emphasizes the importance of main-

taining this special status and addressing its significance.

The shift in terrorism, with Jammu now emerging as a new focal point, is also a serious concern. This change signals new and emerging threats that require a strategic and effective response to ensure regional stability.

The rising unemployment rate among the youth in Jammu is another urgent issue. The

Samajwadi Party stresses the need for equitable job creation in both the public and private sectors to provide opportunities for the younger generation.

Concerns about the current government's disregard for labor laws, which could negatively impact workers' rights and conditions, are also raised. Additionally, issues related to agricultural ownership rights are affecting farmers, exacerbating the region's economic challenges.

The increasing problems related to drugs and law enforcement in Jammu and Kashmir are highlighted as critical concerns that need immediate attention to restore public safety and stability.

Restoring full statehood for Jammu and Kashmir is another pivotal issue the

party aims to address, as it is crucial for restoring the democratic rights and autonomy of the region, Verma said.

Furthermore, the Samajwadi Party advocated for conducting a caste-based survey, similar to the one conducted in Bihar in 2023.

This survey would be essential for understanding the socio-economic conditions of various communities and for designing policies that effectively meet their needs.

Akhilesh Yadav's initiative and the Samajwadi Party's participation in the India Alliance coalition offer hope for addressing Jammu and Kashmir's pressing issues. The upcoming release of the party's election manifesto and candidate list will be an important step in this direction.

Dimple decides not to contest upcoming Assembly elections under Union Territory UT status

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 28: Sunil Dimple, the President of Mission Statehood, announced in a press conference that he will not contest the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections under the Union Territory (UT) status. Dimple expressed that his principles do not allow him to participate in an election where, after winning, elected officials would have to subordinate themselves to the Lieutenant Governor (LG), serving under a reduced authority. He criticized the current political environment, predicting that no single party or alliance will secure a majority in the upcoming elections, even with their combined efforts.

Dimple highlighted the fragmented nature of political alliances in Kashmir, mentioning that parties like Engineer Rashid's group, Jamaat-e-Islami, Awami National Conference, Apni Party, Azaad Party, and PDP will divide the vote, leading to each party securing only around 10 to 12 seats. He revealed that he was offered party mandates and tickets by various political groups but has decided to only contest the elections if Jammu and Kashmir is



restored to its statehood status.

Reflecting on the abrogation of Article 370 and the downgrading of Jammu and Kashmir to a Union Territory on August 5, 2019, Dimple stated that he cannot betray the youth and the people of J&K who have struggled alongside him for the restoration of statehood. He accused the current assembly elections of being a result of pressure from the Supreme Court to hold elections before September 30th, rather than a genuine effort to restore democracy under statehood.

Dimple reiterated his commitment to the cause of statehood, expressing his unwillingness to compromise on principles and ideology by contesting elections under the UT status. He accused other political leaders of prioritizing their personal ambitions, stating that many who previously

opposed UT status are now ready to contest elections for their gain, even at the expense of the dignity and autonomy of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

Dimple alleged that these leaders are ready to serve the LG and the Chief Secretary, effectively reducing themselves to subordinate roles for the sake of power. He criticized the election manifestos of various parties, calling them "lollipops" that remain only on paper and do not address the real issues, such as the implementation of the Instrument of Accession conditions, the restoration of Maharaja Hari Singh's state, and the unification of Jammu and Kashmir with Ladakh, PoK, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Dimple lamented that despite the struggles and sacrifices made by the people of Jammu and Kashmir for statehood, the current political landscape is dominated by leaders who are more interested in securing positions of power than in restoring the region's autonomy. He accused these leaders of betraying the people and aligning with a BJP-driven agenda that, according to him, aims to enslave the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

VRS employees of RTC hold protest, project demands



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 28: A demonstration and gherao of the Managing Director's Office were held at the Railhead Complex in Jammu, led by Dev Raj Bali, President of the VRS (Voluntary Retirement Scheme) Union Jammu.

The protest strongly criticized the behavior of the higher authorities in the Jammu & Kashmir Transport Department for failing to address the longstanding issue of arrears owed to retired employees.

Despite repeated assurances, the authorities have not included the case in the Board of Directors (BOD) meetings, resulting in a delay of nearly 12 years.

During this prolonged

period, 75 VRS/GHS and superannuated employees have passed away, unable to afford proper medical treatment due to a lack of funds. The union expressed its frustration over the false promises made by the authorities and the continuous harassment faced by the retired employees.

The demonstrators emphasized the severe impact of this negligence on the families of the deceased employees, who have suffered irreparable losses.

The VRS Union has made an urgent appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting his personal intervention in this matter to ensure the fulfillment of their legitimate demands. They highlighted that despite approaching all con-

cerned authorities, no action has been taken to address their grievances, leaving them trapped in a cycle of false assurances and neglect.

The specific demands raised by the union include payment of Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) arrears from June 1999 to December 31, 2005, 6th Pay Commission arrears from January 1, 2006, to March 2012 and DA arrears from April 2012 to March 2021.

The demonstration was attended by several members, including Sat Bhushan Singh, Surinder Singh, Balwinder Singh, Rajinder Sawhney, Shiv Kumar, Ram Paul, and others, all united in their call for justice and resolution of their long-pending arrears.

Commissioner JMC tours Jammu city, addresses sanitation, civic issues

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 28: In response to public grievances, Commissioner of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav, undertook a comprehensive tour of Jammu city today. The visit covered areas

sections and to include necessary repairs in the current financial year's plan.

The Commissioner also noted that the intercepting channel constructed by Jammu Smart City Limited is oversized compared to the nallahs, leading to the flow



including Krishna Nagar and Science College, where he reviewed ongoing construction works and assessed issues related to sanitation, drainage, sewerage, and other civic amenities.

During the inspection, the Commissioner identified several concerns, notably the damaged slab of the Krishna Nagar nallah, which poses risks to commuters and residents. He instructed the Executive Engineer, UEED, to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the damaged

of solid waste into these channels. He called for immediate measures to address this issue and announced that a committee would be formed to examine the situation and submit a comprehensive report within fifteen days. Meanwhile, the Commissioner directed the removal of encroachments and verification of land titles opposite the Indian Institute of Management, Jammu, with the goal of developing the area into a park and parking slot to enhance public convenience.

Cyber Crime Cell Jammu holds Cyber security awareness lecture to enlighten NCC cadets



Top News Report

NAGROTA, Aug 28: The Cyber Crime Cell Jammu, in collaboration with the National Cadet Corps (NCC), organized a comprehensive cyber security awareness lecture at the NCC Training Academy in Jammu.

The event, attended by 500 NCC cadets, aimed to educate and equip them with essential knowledge on staying safe in the digi-

tal world. Expert speakers from the Cyber Security Cell Jammu provided insights into the evolving cyber threats and risks in today's digital landscape.

Cadets were educated on best practices for online safety, secure password management, and recognizing and preventing cyberattacks.

The lecture emphasized the importance of responsible online behaviour and

protecting personal information in the digital age.

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

If comes to power, Apni Party will reserve 90% jobs for local youth in industrial sector in J&K: Manjit Singh



Top News Report

SAMBA, Aug 28: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has assured that if the Party comes to power in Jammu and Kashmir, a reservation policy for the local youth will be implemented in the industrial sectors of the erstwhile state.

As a part of the ongoing election campaign for the Legislative Assembly scheduled in Jammu and Kashmir, the Apni Party leaders continued their campaign in different areas of Samba District.

During these public meetings that was

largely attended by the young generation, who were worried about their future in the absence of any policy from the political parties contesting in the LA polls, extended their support to the Apni Party for commitment to reserve jobs – skilled and unskilled – in the industrial sector of Jammu and Kashmir up to 90%.

While assuring comprehensive policy for reservation of jobs in the industrial sector, and recruitment of all the vacant posts in the Govt Departments, the Former Minister said that the Apni Party is fully committed to bring positive changes in the lives

of the people, especially the young generation.

"The young generation in the last several years have lost their hopes in the Govt policies, and many of them have become overaged as the authorities were unable to hold any fair recruitment process in Govt departments. Whatever the recruitment has taken place, all of them have come under scanner and allegations of scam surfaced," he added.

He said that the next Govt, if formed by the Apni Party, will hold a transparent and fair selection process and will ensure accountability of the recruitment agencies.

"These agencies have compromised the future of the young generation, compelling them to migrate to other states for labour work. Unfortunately, the highly skilled and educated youth are working on minimal wages for their survival in the absence of a proper road map to generate employment in the private sector, and continue year wise recruitment in Govt departments," he further stated.

Meanwhile, he also referred to the increase in drug addiction that has become a major threat to the younger generation, and authorities have failed to deal with the emerging situation.

In this situation, he said that the people should vote and support the Apni Party candidates in the scheduled Assembly Elections of Jammu and Kashmir for equitable development, employment, safeguard to the land, jobs, and resources in favour of the local population.

Is Congress standing in support of NC's promise to restore separate flag in J&K: Amit Shah

Top News Report

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, Aug 28: As the J&K Assembly elections draw closer after 10 years, political activities in the region are intensifying. In the pursuit of power, Rahul Gandhi's Congress party has formed an alliance with the Abdullah family's National Conference (NC). The NC has always supported Article 370, a separate flag for Jammu and Kashmir, terrorism, separatism, and Pakistan. Negotiating with Pakistan instead of supporting the youth of Kashmir, giving jobs to the relatives of terrorists, and promoting separatism has been the politics of the National Conference. Should it then be assumed that Congress is supporting a separate flag in J&K? Congress played a central role in the partition of the country, and this election's alliance has once again exposed Congress's intentions to the nation.



Amit Shah, the politician who gave Indian politics a new identity and made J&K an integral part of India, has targeted Rahul Gandhi with his pointed questions.

In a strong attack on the power-hungry and divisive Congress party and the separatist NC alliance, Shah has put Rahul Gandhi and Congress in the spotlight. Amit Shah, a senior leader of the BJP and the Chanakya of Indian politics, believes

that Congress's alliance with the NC indicates that Congress stands in support of the promise of a separate flag in J&K, the restoration of Article 370, and the beginning of a new era of terrorism and separatism in the region. Shah has also asked Congress to clarify its stance on the NC's decision to resume trade with Pakistan.

J&K, a part of India that has suffered from terrorism and separatism for

decades after independence. Under the politics of three families—Congress, Abdullah, and Mehbooba Mufti—J&K, once called heaven on earth, has lived under the shadow of bomb blasts and terror. The partition-supporting Congress isolated J&K from India by imposing Article 370 and 35A, where the tradition of two legislatures, two flags, and two heads of state prevailed for decades.

Under the leadership of PM Modi and the efficient guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, a historic and bold decision was made on August 5, 2019, to revoke Article 370 and 35A, ending the tradition of two legislatures, two flags, and two heads of state, and making J&K an integral part of India. However, recent years have made it clear through Modi's foresight and Amit Shah's strategies that Congress can no longer divide this country again.

EDITORIAL

CYBER
SECURITY

In today's hyper-connected world, cyber security has become a critical concern for individuals, businesses, and governments alike. As technology continues to advance and digital systems become more integrated into every aspect of our lives, the need to protect sensitive information and maintain the integrity of digital infrastructure has never been more important. Cyber security encompasses the strategies, practices, and technologies designed to safeguard systems, networks, and data from malicious attacks, unauthorized access, and damage.

Cyber security is crucial for several reasons. First, it protects sensitive data from theft or exposure. Personal information, financial records, and corporate data are valuable assets that, if compromised, can lead to significant financial loss and reputational damage. For businesses, a cyber attack can disrupt operations, lead to loss of customer trust, and result in legal consequences. For individuals, it can lead to identity theft, financial fraud, and privacy breaches.

Second, cyber security is essential for ensuring the integrity and availability of digital systems. Attacks such as Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) can overwhelm and shut down critical infrastructure, including online services and communication networks. This can have cascading effects, impacting everything from e-commerce to emergency services. By maintaining robust security measures, organizations can ensure their systems remain operational and reliable.

Network Security involves protecting the integrity and usability of network and data. Measures include firewalls, intrusion detection systems (IDS), and intrusion prevention systems (IPS) that monitor and control incoming and outgoing network traffic based on predetermined security rules.

Information Security focuses on protecting the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data. Techniques such as encryption, access controls, and data masking are used to ensure that sensitive information remains secure from unauthorized access and manipulation.

With the proliferation of devices such as smartphones, laptops, and tablets, securing endpoints has become crucial. This involves installing anti-virus software, applying security patches, and ensuring devices are configured to prevent unauthorized access.

Application Security ensures that software applications are protected against vulnerabilities and attacks. Regular updates, security testing, and secure coding practices are essential to prevent exploitation of software flaws.

As more businesses move to cloud-based solutions, securing cloud environments is critical. This includes managing access controls, data encryption, and ensuring that cloud service providers comply with security standards and regulations.

Operational Security encompasses the policies and procedures for managing and protecting data assets. This includes creating security protocols, incident response plans, and conducting regular security audits to identify and address vulnerabilities.

Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity strategies ensure that organizations can recover from cyber attacks or other disruptions. Disaster recovery plans outline procedures for data backup and restoration, while business continuity plans ensure that critical operations can continue even in the face of a security breach.

The cyber threat landscape is constantly evolving, presenting new challenges for cyber security.

Malicious software that encrypts a victim's data and demands a ransom for its release. Ransomware attacks can cripple organizations and demand significant payouts for data recovery. A social engineering attack where attackers impersonate legitimate entities to trick individuals into divulging sensitive information, such as login credentials or financial details. Sophisticated and prolonged cyber attacks where intruders gain unauthorized access to networks and remain undetected for extended periods, often targeting high-value information. As IoT devices proliferate, they create additional entry points for attackers. Ensuring these devices are secured and properly managed is a growing concern.

To mitigate cyber risks, individuals and organizations should adopt best practices for cyber security.

Ensure all software, including operating systems and applications, are updated to patch known vulnerabilities. Use complex passwords and multi-factor authentication to protect accounts and systems. Conduct regular training to raise awareness about cyber threats and safe online practices. Regularly assess security measures and perform vulnerability assessments to identify and address potential weaknesses. Regularly back up important data to ensure it can be restored in the event of an attack or system failure.

As the digital landscape continues to evolve, cyber security remains a dynamic and essential field. By understanding the key components of cyber security, recognizing emerging threats, and implementing best practices, individuals and organizations can better protect themselves against the ever-growing range of cyber threats. In a world where data and digital systems are integral to everyday life, investing in robust cyber security measures is not just a necessity but a fundamental aspect of safeguarding our digital future.

Leverage digital technology to improve delivery of health services

By: JAI PRAKASH NARAIN

Digital technology can have an enormous impact on enhancing healthcare efficiency, access and outcomes, thereby helping to achieve universal health coverage and related sustainable development goals.

India, home to one-sixth of the world's population, is central to global health. The country has a rich pool of talent in science and technology, but it suffers disproportionately from the global burden of disease.

While tremendous progress has been made in the last few decades in reducing infant and child mortality and improving life expectancy, the public health sector is perennially plagued by an inefficient and inequitable healthcare system that is unable to provide better services. Nearly 80 per cent of the healthcare facilities are concentrated in major cities, and millions of people living in rural and remote areas across the country still lack access to quality healthcare. Besides, healthcare costs continue to rise, pushing many into a poverty trap.

Moreover, the population is ageing, and the nation is in the middle of an epidemiological transition, with chronic noncommunicable diseases rising rapidly, along with the continued burden of communicable diseases. This double burden is putting pressure on an already overstretched healthcare infrastructure.

Against this background, technology and innovation can play a vital role in enhancing efficiency in programme implementation, improving the quality of service and reducing the cost of healthcare, as demonstrated during the

Covid-19 pandemic.

We need to shift to a more digital-centric healthcare model. During the pandemic, the people faced many challenges in accessing healthcare. Besides, there was inadequate real-time data to track the evolving situation and plan interventions. With fragmented data and limited data exchange mechanisms, the need for an effective use of technology, such as data analytics, to improve facilities and solve healthcare problems has been felt.

Health informatics technology, including the national web portal and telemedicine, facilitated the delivery of the home-grown Covid vaccine at an unprecedented speed in India. The CoWIN platform helped people fix appointments online for vaccination and then download certificates after receiving the shot. Drones were deployed to deliver vaccines in hard-to-reach areas. A national telemedicine service, eSanjeevani, was launched in the middle of the pandemic in 2020. It saw three million consultations within the first year.

Since then, India has expanded information communication technologies, achieved near-nationwide mobile network coverage and strengthened digital public infrastructure, including the National Health Stack as a framework to create digital health records for all citizens of India.

Experiences in the country and around the globe demonstrate that technology has the potential to help in many healthcare areas, such as patient care, surveillance, data management, communication, information and prevention.

Diagnosis and treatment using telemedicine and teleconsultations, the provision of patient follow-up

for treatment adherence in chronic disease conditions, such as diabetes, and using mobile technology and artificial intelligence (AI) for the early detection of cancer can benefit a patient. Further, electronic health records can facilitate the digital sharing of patient information among specialists. These measures can help avoid delays in diagnosis and treatment, thereby reducing the cost.

To ensure health security, web-based disease surveillance, the use of handheld techniques for the collection and transmission of data, big data for predicting epidemics, and data analytics are some applications that can help strengthen the early warning system. A rapid response thereafter can contain further spread, preventing an outbreak in a local area from progressing to a pandemic.

Technology can also aid in capacity-building through distance learning, webinars, online training courses, video conferencing and information-sharing through social media sites.

The most disruptive among newer technologies is AI, defined simply as a simulation of human intelligence using computers. There are many types, including machine learning, which can harness vast open-source data and predict or detect epidemic signals much earlier than traditional surveillance based on case reporting, thereby complementing the ongoing surveillance system. In addition to the detection of cancer at an early stage, AI can play an important role in accelerating a vaccine or drug development process. By overcoming the challenges faced by a weak health system, AI can be both revolutionary and highly sustainable.

Recognising that healthcare costs

are growing day by day and that financial and human resources are limited, the concept of appropriate technology — technologies that are scientifically valid, socially acceptable and universally available to all at an affordable price — can help strike a balance between the available resources and the emerging needs.

Initiatives are needed to conduct a gap analysis in terms of the availability of infrastructure, human resources, data management, data security and privacy as well as the skill set needed for this field. The outcome of such an analysis can help develop a national digital health policy and strategy.

It is imperative to have a national policy and a firm commitment to investing in digital technology, which needs to be integrated in all health programmes and healthcare services. In this regard, it is important to build partnerships with the private sector, which offers the bulk of the healthcare provision in the country.

The integration of digital technology and AI into primary healthcare can indeed revolutionise India's public health system, paving the way for universal health coverage or healthcare for all by 2030. But the availability of appropriate bandwidth is a prerequisite for that.

The nation must prioritise research and the development of new technologies as well as the improvement of the existing ones. Researchers should be encouraged to develop appropriate technologies that promote health, ensure equitable access to these technologies and advance sustainability at the national and local levels. To build a sustainable pool of talent on a long-term basis, we should lay special emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics as part of the education policy.

Regulate e-commerce with foolproof policy

By: SUSHMA
RAMACHANDRAN

INDIA's online retail market has not expanded as rapidly as that of other countries despite the growing levels of Internet penetration. The share of e-commerce in the total retail market is a paltry 8 per cent compared to nearly 40 per cent in China, 22 per cent in the US and 16 per cent in the European Union (EU). It is in this backdrop that one must view the criticism of the widening role of e-retail by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal at an event recently. Though he softened his stance subsequently, the initial comments indicated deep concern over the impact of online sales on brick-and-mortar shops, especially the country's widespread network of kirana stores.

The stress on operating within the provisions of the law is unexceptionable.

He was also unhappy over the findings of a report presented there about the relatively low impact of e-commerce on offline stores. In contrast, he felt the economy could be heading for up to 50 per cent share of e-commerce in the retail segment. Other studies, however, corroborate the findings that online sales are a marginal player in the economy, at least for the time being. A study carried out by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and the Retailers Association of India (RAI) earlier this year noted that the share of e-commerce in the total retail market has grown from 4 per cent in 2018 to 8 per cent in 2023. It forecast that this would reach 13 to 15 per cent by 2028.

The potential, as is often pointed out, remains huge in this country but the e-commerce growth rate declined slightly last year. From 22 to 55 per cent rise over the period from 2019 to 2022, it fell to 10 per cent in 2023, according to the BCG-RAI study. Even so, it is clear that e-retail has not had the expected disastrous effect on traditional brick-and-mortar shops. No wonder there has been little comment on the issue either from the Swadeshi Jagran Manch or the Confederation of All India Traders in recent times, barring the latest statements of support for Goyal's stance. Both the manch — an RSS affiliate — and the traders' body were at one time vociferous lobbyists seeking protection for the country's physical retail markets.

The fact is that kirana stores or the neighbourhood grocery vendors still have a pre-eminent place in the country's retail arena. The study by the Pahle India Foundation that was contested by Goyal found that the advent of e-commerce has reinvigorated the growth of traditional retail. It noted that e-retail has spurred the move towards digital sales, increasing customer satisfaction, home delivery and after-sales service. Many stores are looking to expand their footprint. The study projects that e-commerce will touch 32 per cent of total retail sales by 2030, a far cry from the 50 per cent envisaged by the Commerce Minister.

Yet, he cannot be faulted for expressing concern over predatory pricing and B2C (business to consumer) sales by online platforms in violation of existing guidelines. The former issue has been raised

earlier as well in regard to deep discounts offered on marketing platforms like Amazon and Flipkart. The question of predatory pricing has gone up to the Competition Commission but could not be resolved since companies must have a dominant position in the market to be considered in this light.

As for B2C sales, this is prohibited for online marketplaces which are meant to be platforms for sale of products made by other companies. The unfortunate reality is that online entities had created their own subsidiaries and were selling in violation of guidelines. Though such firms have apparently now been delinked from the online platforms, there is still concern that their products are being given undue prominence on the sites.

The entire gamut of these issues needs to be clarified in the proposed new e-commerce policy, which has been in the works for several years now. The proposals are being debated by at least three ministries as well as the Niti Aayog. The Department of Industrial Promotion, the Consumer Affairs Ministry and the Ministries of Electronics and Information Technology are all involved in the process. The discussions have gone on for far too long. A final view must be taken soon, especially since the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is also holding talks on global e-commerce.

One of the critical aspects being discussed at the WTO as well as the domestic policy level is the issue of data protection and privacy. This country has been seeking that the algorithms behind e-commerce websites be made available

to it. This has been raised at the WTO too where India has sought data localisation and technology transfer.

Other countries have moved much more quickly to take a view on the issues of market dominance and data protection. The EU has been the leader in this regard. It adopted the Digital Markets Act last year to curb the market dominance of Big Tech with violations punishable with fines up to 10 per cent of a company's global sales. It also laid down the General Data Protection Regulation in 2018. Companies must now ask for consent when they collect personal information and may no longer use data from several sources to profile people against their will.

It is for the government to focus on ways to make e-commerce companies more accountable to consumers as this is a sector that is going to expand rapidly. Fears over the impact on the enormous physical retail network of this country — valued at roughly \$850 billion — need to be finally kept aside. There is no reason that both the brick-and-mortar infrastructure and e-retail cannot grow together in this extremely large marketplace. It is reassuring to know that Goyal has also commented on the beneficial aspects of e-commerce in terms of improving technology and innovation as well as providing quick delivery and convenience to consumers. The stress on operating within the provisions of the law is unexceptionable. The onus is on the government to provide detailed rules and guidelines for this sunrise sector in the form of a comprehensive e-commerce policy.

2.2 lakh develop chronic kidney failure annually, only 6000 manage to get transplant: Dr. Avinash

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 28: To create awareness on chronic kidney disease & kidney transplant a team of doctors from LIVASA Hospital, Amritsar addressed the media on Wednesday. Present on the occasion were Dr. Avinash Srivastava senior director urology & renal transplant, Dr. Paras Saini consultant urology & renal transplant, Dr. HK Imran Hussain consultant nephrology & Dr. Radhika Garg consultant nephrology.

Dr. Avinash Srivastava said, "2.2 lakh new patients develop chronic kidney failure (CKF) in India every year and only 6000 manage to get transplant for want of organ donations. Kidney failure is the 6th fastest growing cause of death, which may become the 5th leading cause by 2040. High blood pressure, diabetes, BPH, untreated kidney stones and UTI are the main reasons of kidney failure in India."

He further said that LIVASA Hospitals which is Now Punjab's biggest super speciality network, with 5 hospitals, 750 beds, 280 ICU beds has



completed 1200 successful kidney transplants in Punjab.

At LIVASA Hospital we are doing all types of living donor transplants, which include high risk transplants, paediatric transplants swap cases, ABO incompatible transplants (non blood group specific) & redo transplants, said Dr Avinash.

Patients from far off places like Dehradun, Jammu, Lucknow, Kanpur, Bihar, Jharkhand, Canada, UK have also undergone kidney transplant at Livasa Hospitals, he informed.

He also shared that LIVASA hospital Amritsar, has got approval from Govt to conduct cadaveric transplant and hospital has started registering patients for cadaveric kidney transplant.

Discussing how chronic kidney failure leads to

irreversible damage to the kidneys, Dr Imran Hussain said, "CRF is progressive in nature and irreversible damage to the kidneys could happen mainly because of diabetes, hypertension, infection, urinary obstruction, stone disease and some inherited abnormalities. Advanced stage of CKF or end stage renal disease requires some form of renal replacement therapy (RRT) like haemodialysis (filtering the blood off toxins & waste products) or continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD). The prevalence of this disease has almost doubled over the past decade, and is expected to increase further due to rise in risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity, stress, and unhealthy eating habits.

Elucidating the benefits of a renal transplant to the patient in the long

run, Dr. Paras Saini said all kind of kidney transplant services are now fully functional at LIVASA Hospital Amritsar and LIVASA is the only Hospital in Amritsar which is offering services for kidney transplant. He also shared that every 10 minutes one person is added to the organ transplant waiting list and 20 people die every day for an Organ in India. More than 3 Lac patients are waiting for Organ Donation, but less than 10 % of the patients waiting for organ donation get it on time. According to a recent survey only one Donor is available per million population.

Speaking on this occasion Dr. Radhika Garg said "Nationally, with a population of 1.4 billion people, the statistic stands at 0.08 persons as organ donors per million population (PMP) in India. This is an incred-

ibly small and insignificant number compared to the statistics around the world. Although India remains 3rd in World in Organ donation after USA & China, only 0.01 percent of People in India donate organs after death. Kidneys are the most frequently needed organ followed by liver. 85 % of people waiting for Organ Donation need a Kidney and Kidney is the most commonly donated Organ in India. By donating organs, a deceased donor person can save the lives of up to 8 individuals by way of organ donation and enhance the lives of over 50 people by way of tissue donation.

On this occasion, Dr Amarpreet Singh, General Manager Operations of LIVASA Hospital Amritsar said that "We have a State of the Art 8 Bedded Dialysis centre in our hospital and we offer 24x7 dialysis services, including Intervention nephrology services like permacath, AV fistula, renal biopsies and centre lines. He also shared that LIVASA Hospital Amritsar is now empanelled with ECHS, CGHS, ESI CAPF and all major TPA & corporates.

IPL star player Iqbal Abdullah joins All India Gufran Global Crickey Coaching Camp

Top News Report

DODA, Aug 28: Young Star Cricket Club (YSCC) Doda is thrilled to announce the grand inauguration of All India First 05 days Gufran Global Cricket Coaching Camp held at Sports Stadium Doda. The much awaited launch was graced by Former IPL Star Player Iqbal Abdullah, which marked a significant occasion for aspiring cricketers in the region.

Iqbal Abdullah, nominated by YSCC Doda is the Head Coach of the camp, who interacted with the players of this region besides from outside UT J&K as well, sharing his invaluable insights and amazing cricqueting skill and latest techniques. His presence has undoubtedly served as a huge source of inspiration for the young talents.

Iqbal Abdullah, has further stated his vision of promoting cricket in the by spotting talented cricketers from rural areas of the UT and then impart training to fine tune their skills and mental aspects of their game. The former IPL Cricket Player added that he wanted



to promote the game in schools and colleges across the union territory and currently providing cricqueting still at Doda's Sports Stadium.

Manzoor Ahmed Batt, Patron YSCC, said, "We invest copious time and energy interacting with students and their parents. With the launch of Cricket Academy in Doda, we are expanding in the near future and are looking to tap into the huge reserve of young cricket enthusiasts and give them world-class coaching infrastructure so that the local talent can start churning out district, state, national and International level players".

The Young Star Cricket Club Doda is organizing this camp which will last up to next five days

and first of its kind in chenab region where the reputed Cricket Coaches from Mumbai, Andhra Pradesh and Former IPL Players are contributing their expertise and experience to groom the budding cricketers in different age group categories.

Chief Advisor YSCC Prof Zaheer Hashmi said that the main purpose of the academy is to nurture cricketers at the grass root level and intends to be nursery for producing cricketers for bigger stage.

It is important to mention here that YSCC Doda has taken this initiative with the aim to nurture cricketers at the grass root level and intends to be nursery for producing cricketers for bigger stage.

Chairman LAHDC inspects preparations for "Climate Cup" Football Tournament



Top News Report

LEH, Aug 28: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson accompanied by Secretary Sports Vikram Singh Malik/DC/CEO, LAHDC, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve; SSP Leh, Shruti Arora visited Astroturf Open Stadium at Spituk to inspect the ongoing preparations for the upcoming "Climate Cup" Football Tournament to be held on first week of September.

SE PWD, Dorje Gyatso; OSD To Secretary Sports, Dr. Stanzin Thekchos; AD tourism; XeN, PHE; XeN, PDD; DYSSO Leh, Tsering Tashi and the others concerned officers and officials from LFA were also present during the visits.

CEC Gyalson instructed the concerned officials to ensure that the pending works are completed within the specified time frame.

Similarly, CEC Gyalson visited the Ice Hockey

Rink at NDS Sports Complex, Leh. He was accompanied by Secretary Sports Vikram Singh Malik; DC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, SE, PWD, Dorje Gyatso and officials of Ladakh Winter Sports Club, Leh.

The officials reviewed the status of the Ice Hockey rink at the Sports complex and discussed various other measures for further upgradation of the Ice-Hockey stadium in Leh.

Delegation of Gya village calls on Chairman LAHDC

Top News Report

LEH, Aug 28: The Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson was called on by the delegation of Gya village headed by Former Councillor, Tsering Paldan and

developmental works in their village mainly including the channeling of Gya-Meru Nallah.

Further, the delegation also discussed various other issues with the Chairman to which CEC Gyalson gave a patient



their executing members. The delegation expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Chairman for carrying out various

hearing of their grievance and also assured them to address their issues at the earliest possible.

Renowned Para Cricketer to attend Aryans Scholarship Mela from Aug 29 to Sep 8 in 5 states

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 28: Aryans Group of Colleges is going to organize a series of career counseling sessions cum scholarship mela & opportunity for on the spot admission from 28th August to 8th Sep in various cities of JK, Himachal, Haryana, Bihar, Delhi, Punjab, Tricity, Bihar, Jharkhand, UP etc..

Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group said that this 10 days scholarship events will be done in various cities in north India. Mr. Amir Hussain Lone, Captain, Para Cricket Team JK & Brand Ambassador of Aryans Group will also accompany this tour & meet the deserving students. He said students may also visit Aryans website www.aryans.edu.in.

Kataria added that added that in these events, the selected students would get 10%- 100% scholarship on merit cum mean basis. For any admission related queries, students can call on 98765-99888, 98781-08888, 98782-99888.

Born in 1990 in the village of Bijbehara, JK, Amir met with a horrific accident that resulted in the loss of both his arms. God of Cricket, Sachin Tendulkar has invited Amir Hussain



to play first ball of Indian Street Premier League (ISPL). Virat Kohli, Harbhajan Singh, Navjot Sidhu, Ashish Chopra, Ajay Jadeja have also appreciated his passion for cricket. The cricketer has a unique playing style. He bowls using his legs and bats using his shoulder and neck.

It is to be mentioned that, established in 2007, Aryans campus is located on Chandigarh-Patiala highway, near Chandigarh and has lush green

20 acres pollution free campus and has become the destination for students across nation. Aryans Group has been serving the educational and intellectual interests of the youth in a commendable manner. The Group is running Engineering College, Law College, Pharmacy College, Management College, Business School, Education College, and Nursing College, Faculty of Physiotherapy & Paramedical etc.

Legends League Cricket to kick off at Barkatullah Khan Stadium Jodhpur on September 20

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 28: The third leg of the Legends League Cricket will be played at the Maulana Azad Stadium, Jammu from the 6th of October 2024.

The last edition of the LLC was a massive success in Jammu with packed stadiums cheering on for the best national and international cricqueting stars.

The Legends League Cricket's upcoming edition will be starting on the 20th of September at the Barkatullah Khan Stadium, Jodhpur.

The franchise-based tournament, featuring a pool of over 200 players, will unfold across four cities- Jodhpur, Surat, Jammu and finally bring cricket back to Srinagar after 40 long years.

"Legends League Cricket is back for another season and we are very excited to also be back in Jammu for this season as well. The crowd support was immense and it definitely was a deciding



factor in returning to the Maulana Azad Stadium this year. LLC will also be played in Kashmir which is a huge opportunity for the people of Kashmir to come to the stadium and watch live cricqueting action for the first time in almost 40 years. It also presents a unique opportunity for the cricketers to experience the beauty of Kashmir and enjoy the

hospitality and love of the wonderful people of Srinagar," said Raman Raheja, CEO, Legends League Cricket.

The league, known for its thrilling matches and high viewership, attracted a massive audience of 180 million across India during the previous season's 19 matches. With an extended schedule and an even more star-

studded lineup including the recently retired Shikhar Dhawan, the upcoming season is poised to surpass previous records.

In the previous edition held in India, cricket fans witnessed former international stalwarts such as Suresh Raina, Aaron Finch, Martin Guptill, Gautam Gambhir, Chris Gayle, Hashim Amla, Ross Taylor, and many

others showcasing their skills alongside 150 other legendary cricketers.

Legends League Cricket will kick off at the Barkatullah Khan Stadium, Jodhpur on the 20th of September 2024, making its way to the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium, Surat on the 27th of September. The third leg will be played at the Maulana Azad Stadium, Jammu from the 6th of October 2024 where international cricquet made a comeback after 35 years with the fans finally getting the chance to watch their favourite cricqueting heroes live in action. The finals of the LLC will be played at the Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar from the 10th of October 2024 where the fans have eagerly waited for close to half a century to watch cricqueting action live.

Later this week, an auction will be held in New Delhi on the 29th of August 2024 where the franchises will fight out for the biggest stars from India and international cricket. Over 200 players will go under the hammer.

2nd day of Sports Festival held at GDC Udhampur

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Aug 28: On the occasion of National Sports Day the 2nd day activity was held at GDC Udhampur. In this the long race and tug-of-war competitions in both men and women section were held.

The Theme of National Sports Day 2024 in india is "Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies".

On Wednesday the Race was flagged off by Dr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Principal GDC Udhampur.

In his address, he

emphasized students and staff to perform sports activity 2 hours daily for healthy lifestyle.

In Long Race (10 km) Men category competition Gagandeep of BA 5th Sem stood 1st and Rakesh Singh of Sem 5th was Runner up. In Long Race (5 km) Women category competition Sonia of 3rd sem stood 1st and Sumeet of 3rd Sem was runner up.

In Tug-of-War Men Competition Shivaji Team beat Tagore Team 2-1 and In Tug-of-War women Competition Shivaji Team beat Ashoka Team 2-1.

Nearly 100 students participated during the 2nd day of sports festival.

Shashi Kumar Sharma (Physical Director) coordinated the sports festival. During the event the faculty members present were Dr. Mohinder Pal (Convener Sports Committee), 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 Sunil Kumar (Pharmacist). Refreshment was served to all the participants.

This is an Emergency!

As the Sikh community across the globe is seeking a blanket ban on Kangana Ranaut's upcoming film *Emergency*, here's a look at how the whole controversy panned out

Controversy's favourite child Kangana Ranaut is back with what she does best — create a controversy! In the news for the past few days, Kangana's recent interview, where she spoke critically of farmers' protest, did not go down well with the general public. While there's a nationwide furore against the actress, her upcoming film *Emergency* is also bearing the brunt.

Kangana, who plays Indira Gandhi in *Emergency*, which is about a dark chapter in Indian history, is literally facing one-of-a-kind personal emergency. The BJP has distanced itself from Kangana's provocative comments on farmers, her

film's release on September 6 is under the threat of a ban, and she has been receiving death threats too!

Kangana bravely retaliated with a tweet seeking protection from @DGPMaharashtra, @himachalpolice and @Punjab-Policelnd, but the same can't be said about her film, as the Sikh community across the globe is seeking a blanket ban on the film.

In the trailer, many other historical moments have also been touched upon, like the Shimla Agreement, the rise of the Khalistan movement and JP Andolan. Several organisations, including the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) and Akal Takht Amritsar, the highest political and



governing body of the Sikhs, have demanded a ban on the film's release, citing it spreads an 'anti-Sikh' and 'separatist-agenda' about those who practice Sikhism. A spokesperson of the SGPC, on condition of anonymity, shares, "We have served a legal notice to Kangana Ranaut, and the producer and production house of *Emergency*. It's a matter of concern and as representatives of our community we had to take it up. In the 2:54-minute trailer, for about half-a-minute Sikhs are represented in bad light. The subjects of history need to be handled with responsibility to not incite further division."

To express their strong objection to the film, separate letters

were shot off to the Government of India's Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Central Board of Film Certification's Chairperson Shri Prasoon Joshi. The SGPC is seeking the film's script before the release and also wants removal of objectionable scenes.

"Our call for a ban wasn't a follow up of Kangana Ranaut's recent interview, but came soon after the trailer release of *Emergency*. Time and again, we have noticed that not just her, but many are trying to portray the Sikh community in bad light. We have called upon a worldwide ban as a ban only in Punjab won't solve the purpose. Because the movie will

be released everywhere else, and then videos and clips will be shared on the internet," says Paramjit Singh Mand, working president, Dal Khalsa.

He also believes that *Emergency* is not the first film nor it will be the last to put the Sikhs in a certain 'objectionable' bracket. So, to stop that there should be a representative committee that works jointly with the Censor Board. He says, "If Akal Takht, the most important

Sikh Council, calls for a ban or boycott, all the subsidiary bodies have the same opinion."

Meanwhile, Kangana has been receiving death threats. A video of a group of men threatening her on X has also gone viral. In the video there are six men, who are sitting in a circle in a room, and two of them are dressed like Nihang Sikhs. One of the men says that if the movie is released, the Sikh community will condemn it. "Your movie will be received with chappals," he says. They also made a comment on the recent slaggate incident, saying, "Laafa toh apne kha liya."

Australia's Sikh community also wrote to Village Cinemas, an Australian-based multinational film exhibition brand, to ban *Emergency* in their country. The statement reads, "We are deeply concerned about screening this propaganda movie in your theatres, as it is disrespectful towards the Sikhs."

Malavika Mohanan speaks out on the safety of women, says she feels 'helpless'



Malavika Mohanan recently commented on the social challenges experienced by women in society. She shared her thoughts on the women's safety post the rape-murder incident involving a trainee doctor in Kolkata. In an interview with agency, Malavika highlighted the importance of addressing the mindset as a way to tackle the root causes of such incidents.

Malavika Mohanan reacts to violence against women

Malavika, when asked about the incidents of violence and harass-

ment against women, stated that, "It broke my heart because I remember we were in the middle of promotions, and here I am talking about female empowerment and about having played a character who's standing up for herself, who's fighting for herself, and then this happened. I was so shaken because I'm just like, it's such a large conversation."

She also said, "How do we get to the root of this and just stop it? It makes you feel helpless. It makes you feel like, 'how, where?' It

happens all the time. It's the mindset. It's a patriarchal mindset. Actually, it's not just a patriarchal mindset; it's not just blaming men, it's blaming the mindset. A lot of women are privy to that mindset as well. So attacking that, getting to the root of that, and just... I have a lot to say. I could go on."

Malavika Mohanan's acting career

Malavika made her acting debut with the Malayalam romantic-drama *Pattam Pole*. Her first Bollywood film was Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi's *Beyond The Clouds*. The actor played the role of Ishaan Khatter's sister in the movie. She also worked in films such as *Petta*, *Master*, *Maaran* and *Christy*.

Thangalaan Hindi version release

Malavika's recent Tamil epic action-thriller *Thangalaan* is set to re-release in its Hindi dubbed version. The Pa Ranjith directorial features Vikram, Parvathy Thiruvothu, Pasupathy, Daniel Caltagirone, Hari Krishnan and Sampath Ram in pivotal characters. The Hindi version will release on September 6.

Halsey announces new album she 'thought might be their last'

Halsey raised the curtains from their upcoming album called 'The Great Impersonator' as she released the trailer along with it. The concept of the album is based on their life and career where the singer is asking some heavy existential questions. The announcement of their new announcement was made on yesterday.

Halsey dropped the trailer of their new album, two months after she was diagnosed with Lupus and a rare T-cell disorder. At the beginning of the trailer, Halsey can be heard saying, "I really thought this album would be the last one I ever made," in a voiceover.

The trailer then includes a series of short clips including the 'Without Me' singer cosplaying David Bowie and Brittany Spears. She sports more retro outfits from various decades, she confessed in the narration, "When you get sick like that, you start thinking about ways it could've all been different" as reported by Billboard.

The clips then shifted to the behind-the-scenes of making the album as she continued to narrate, "What



if I debuted in the early 2000s? The '90s? The '80s? The '70s? "Am I still Halsey every time? In every timeline, do I still get sick? Do I become a mom?"

Halsey also used snippets of their single *Lucky* she released earlier this year along with others following the aesthetics of the decades she mentioned in their narration. She concluded the trailer with, "If it all ended right now, is this a person you'd be proud to leave behind? Is it

even you?"

Halsey feels 'lucky to be alive'

Halsey released an emotional track at the beginning of the year called *The End* when she expressed she felt "lucky to be alive," as she suffered from Lupus SLE which is an autoimmune disease which affects the skin, joints, kidneys, brain and other organs. She has not announced a release date for the album but their website hints it will release later this year.

Anjumm Shharma says balancing realism with engagement is crucial for any actor. Little wonder then, his role in Season 3 of *Mirzapur* has stood out

In the bustling world of *Mirzapur*, Anjumm Shharma's character, Sharad Shukla, has carved a remarkable trajectory from a mere shadow to a towering figure. Reflecting on his evolution from a minor introduction in Season 1 to a pivotal role in Season 3, Anjumm describes it as a testament to the story's expansive narrative and its influence on character development.

Anjumm notes, "The story began small, but as it grew, so did the characters, including Sharad Shukla. His growth from a minor role to a leading one highlights the triumph of the narrative. Initially, Sharad's introduction hinted at a powerful future conflict and as the seasons progressed, he evolved from being on the back foot to asserting himself as a dominant leader."

In Season 1, Sharad Shukla was introduced with a nuanced conflict. By Season 2, he was more of a strategic player, lingering in the background. "In Season 3, Sharad transforms into a formidable leader, showcasing his intelligence and strategic



pro prowess. He becomes a dynamic force, balancing strength and patience to reshape *Mirzapur*'s power dynamics," Anjumm explains.

Describing his character's essence, Anjumm elaborates on Sharad's strengths and vulnerabilities. "Sharad embodies subtlety and control, combined with a newfound sense of righteousness. He's relatable in his approach, seeking to avoid unnecessary destruction. His patience and ability to analyse situations make him a natural leader. However, his emotional vulnerabilities, particularly his sensitivity and moral compass, also play a significant role in his character's complexity."

When asked about his personal favourite characters from the show, Anjumm expresses admiration for several, noting, "Beena's resilience, despite her apparent weakness, is fascinating. I also appreciate the portrayals of Ramakant Pandit and Vasudha Pandit; they stand out for their depth. Additionally, Pankaj Tripathi's portrayal of Akhandanand Tripathi adds layers of dark humour to an otherwise intense character."

Reflecting on his journey through various projects, Anjumm shares insights from his early days in theatre to his more recent successes. "My journey began in theatre, where I honed my craft under the mentorship of Makrand

Deshpande. Transitioning from stage to screen was challenging, but rewarding. A notable turning point was being cast in *Sultan of Delhi* by Milan Luthria, a director I had previously worked with in a minor role. It was a surreal experience, symbolising a full-circle moment in my career."

Anjumm's approach to character preparation emphasises authenticity. For example, in the film *Wazir*, he aimed to present his character as realistic and understated, avoiding over-the-top portrayals. "The challenge was to maintain subtlety while making sure the character resonated with the audience. Balancing realism with engagement is crucial," he explains. Discussing his aspirations, Anjumm reveals a desire to explore diverse roles and collaborate with various directors. "I aim to work on projects that offer unique challenges and perspectives. Even within the same genre, I seek roles that push boundaries and offer new experiences."

Looking ahead, Anjumm is excited about his upcoming projects,

including a slice-of-life film and a show set in a small town. "These new ventures promise to expand my horizons and offer fresh storytelling opportunities," he notes. Reflecting on the industry's evolution, Anjumm points to the importance of clarity in career choices. "Finding work is not difficult; finding the right opportunities and clarity in the course of your career is more challenging. My journey with *Mirzapur* is a testament to how an initial small role can evolve into something significant."

Anjumm's connection to his roots in Delhi is palpable. "Growing up in Delhi, I have cherished memories of family gatherings, exploring the city, and enjoying movies. It's where my love for cinema and storytelling thrived."

As he looks back on his career, Anjumm appreciates the lessons learned from various highs and lows. "Every setback has been a stepping stone," he says and continues, "It's about growth, learning, and embracing the unpredictability of this industry."

Twinkle Khanna on 'Stree 2': Safer for women to encounter ghosts than men in dark

Actor-turned-author Twinkle Khanna showed praise on Rajkumar Rao and Shradha Kapoor's latest film 'Stree 2'. Sharing her views in her column for agency, Twinkle spoke highly of the film and commended its brilliant role reversal where 'women are safer in the dark with ghosts than with men'.

Twinkle Khanna's column was titled 'Why Ghosts Don't Scare

the Indian Stree.' She observed that horror films often contain fewer unsettling elements than the frightening realities we encounter daily, citing recent incidents such as 'the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata' and 'the sexual abuse of two four-year-olds in a school in Badlapur' as examples.

A section of Twinkle's column read, "Fifty years on this planet, and I find



that we are still teaching our daughters the same things that I was taught as a child. Don't go alone. To the park, to school, to work. Don't go alone with any man, even if it's your uncle, cousin or friend. Don't go alone in the morning or evening, and especially not at night. Don't go alone because it's not a matter of if, but when. Don't go alone because you may never come back (sic)."

She also mentioned, "It is time to ensure that laws are enforced and followed, guaranteeing safety measures for women in public spaces instead of confining us at home. Till then, I suppose it is safer for the strees (women) of this country to encounter a ghost in a dark alley than a man (sic)."

Twinkle additionally mentioned, in the 'Stree' franchise, there's a 'role reversal' as compared

to the types of stories her grandmother would tell her and her sister Rinkie Khanna during childhood to 'scare' them away from wandering off to the nearby Juhu beach.

Directed by Amar Kaushik, 'Stree 2' recently crossed Rs 500 crore earning at the box office. The film also features cameos by Akshay Kumar, Tamannaah Bhatia and Varun Dhawan.

Enough is enough: President Droupadi Murmu on Kolkata rape-murder

President Droupadi Murmu condemned the recent rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata, expressing her horror and calling for swift justice and societal introspection.

NEW DELHI, Aug 28 (Agencies): In a strong condemnation of the recent rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata, President Droupadi Murmu expressed her dismay and horror over the incident. Speaking to news agency, President Murmu stated, "Enough is enough," highlighting the urgent need for a societal overhaul to prevent such heinous crimes against women.

In her first public comment on the Kolkata rape and murder case, President Murmu expressed her support for the ongoing protests and called for swift justice. She reiterated the importance of changing societal attitudes towards women and ensuring their safety and dignity in all spheres of life.



In the interview, President Murmu said that while students, doctors, and citizens were protesting in Kolkata in response to the recent crime, criminals continued to roam freely elsewhere. She stressed that "no civilised

society can allow daughters and sisters to be subjected to such atrocities".

Reflecting on the 12 years since the infamous Nirbhaya case, President Murmu criticized the collective forgetful-

ness of society towards countless rape cases. "This 'collective amnesia' is obnoxious," she said, emphasising the need for lasting change in how crimes against women are remembered and addressed.

The President pointed out that a "deplorable mindset" often views women as lesser beings—less powerful, less capable, and less intelligent. She called for society to engage in "honest, unbiased self-introspection" and to ask itself difficult questions about its treatment of women.

For the unversed, a 31-year-old trainee doctor was raped and murdered at RG Kar hospital on August 9. The crime caused public outrage and protest across the state with demands for swift action and a death penalty for the accused.

A decade of financial inclusion: PM Modi hails Jan Dhan Yojana



CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI, Aug 28 (Agencies): The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 28, 2014, completes a decade of implementation today.

Under the scheme, more than 53.14 crore beneficiaries have already been brought under the banking ambit. The government intends to open more than three crore PMJDY accounts during the current financial year.

PMJDY being the largest financial inclusion initiative in the world, the scheme aimed to ensure comprehensive financial inclusion of all households in the country by providing universal access to banking facilities with at least one basic bank account for every household, financial literacy, and social security cover.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also congratulated all beneficiaries and thanked those who made this the scheme a success. He posted on X: "Today, we mark a momentous occasion—#10YearsOfJanDhan. Congratulations to all the beneficiaries and compliments to all those who worked to make this scheme a success. Jan

Dhan Yojana has been paramount in boosting financial inclusion and giving dignity to crores of people, especially women, youth, and the marginalised communities."

On the occasion, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman said, "The success of the initiative is reflected in 53 crore people having been brought into the formal banking system through the opening of Jan Dhan Accounts. These bank accounts have garnered a deposit balance of Rs 2.3 lakh crore and resulted in the issuance of over 36 crore free-of-cost RuPay cards, which also provide for a Rs 2 lakh accident insurance cover. There are no account opening fees or maintenance charges and no requirement to maintain a minimum balance."

"It is heartening to note that 67 per cent of the accounts have been opened in rural or semi-urban areas and 55 per cent have been opened by women," the Union Finance Minister said.

"The consent-based pipeline created through the linking of Jan Dhan mobile-Aadhaar has been one of the most important pillars of the financial inclusion ecosystem. It has enabled

swift, seamless and transparent transfer of government welfare schemes to eligible beneficiaries and promoted digital payments," she said.

Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said, "With the support of all stakeholders, banks, insurance companies and state governments, we are moving towards a more financially inclusive society and PMJDY would always be remembered as a game changer for financial inclusion in the country."

The PMJDY accounts have not only been instrumental in receiving Direct Benefit Transfers but also serve as a platform for hassle-free subsidies/payments made by government to the intended beneficiary without any middlemen, seamless transactions and savings accumulation. Moreover, they have been crucial in providing life and accident insurance to millions of unorganised sector workers through Jan Suraksha schemes (micro insurance schemes).

PMJDY accounts As on August 14, 2024, number of total PMJDY Accounts is 53.13 crore. Out of the total accounts, 55.6% (29.56 crore) Jan-Dhan account holders are women and 66.6% (35.37 crore) accounts are in rural and semi-urban areas.

Total deposit balances under PMJDY Accounts stand at Rs 2,31,236 crore. Deposits have increased about 15 times with an increase in accounts by 3.6 times.

The average deposit per account is Rs 4,352 as on August 14.

12-hour Bandh partially affects life in Bengal; several BJP leaders detained

KOLKATA, Aug 28 (Agencies): BJP workers clashed with the police at several places across West Bengal on Wednesday as they tried to enforce a 12-hour shutdown in the state.

Several BJP leaders, including former Rajya Sabha MP Roopa Ganguly and MLA Agnimitra Paul, were detained for blocking roads and railway tracks since the early morning.

The 'Bangla Bandh', which began at 6 am, was called by the BJP in protest against Tuesday's police action on participants of 'Nabanna Abhijan' or march to the secretariat, organised by the newly formed students' group Chatra Samaj over the rape and murder of the doctor at RG Kar hospital.

The shutdown partially affected daily life in the state with many people choosing to remain indoors apprehending trouble on the roads.

In state capital Kolkata, the usual weekday flurry was missing with a lesser number of buses, auto-rickshaws and taxis plying. Private vehicles were also significantly less, even as markets and shops remained open.

Schools and colleges were open, though the number of students was lesser. In many private offices, attendance was low with employees asked to work from home. However, attendance was as usual in government offices.

Several BJP leaders were detained across the state for attempting to enforce the shut-

down. Ganguly and Paul were detained from south Kolkata's Gariahat area when they were urging traders to down their shutters and requesting people to support the bandh.

Kolkata Municipal Corporation councillor Sajal Ghosh was detained from his residence in Sealdah shortly after BJP workers scuffled with TMC supporters while trying to enforce the bandh in the nearby Koley Market.

His wife Tania Ghosh then took out a rally, alleging that police held him without any warrant.

Later, Deputy Commissioner (Central) Indira Mukherjee said Ghosh was arrested for making provocative comments.

State BJP president Sukanta Majumdar, a Union minister, led a procession at Baguihati in the northern fringes of the city but had an altercation with the police who tried to stop him. Former MP Debasree Choudhury and hundreds of party workers accompanied him.

BJP workers also demonstrated in Shyambazar and Wipro More in the IT hub of Sector 5, but police were swift in removing them to clear the roads for traffic.

An official of the Eastern Railway said bandh supporters blocked tracks at 49 places under its jurisdiction in the state.

While the blockades were lifted at most places, it was continuing in nine stations, mostly in the Sealdah South section, he said.

BJP workers demonstrated at the Bongaon station in North



24 Parganas, Gocharan station in South 24 Parganas, and the Murshidabad station in support of the bandh. Tension was palpable at the Barrackpore station in North 24 Parganas as BJP supporters and TMC workers came face to face.

At Bhatpara in North 24 Parganas district, BJP alleged that two of its workers were shot at. Police, however, claimed that the two men were beaten up by some people outside Anglo India Jute Mill.

The injured persons were taken to the Bhatpara State General Hospital for treatment, they said.

Former BJP MP Arjun Singh and Jagaddal's TMC MLA Somenath Shyam along with their supporters reached the area after the incident, triggering tensions. Police intervened and brought the situation under control.

"Miscreants owing allegiance to the Trinamool Congress fired the shots, if police are not

around we will show TMC the people's power," Singh said.

Shyam countered saying that the BJP leader was trying to incite violence in the area.

Picketing by BJP supporters on the roads led to the disruption of public transport services in Cooch Behar, Alipurduar, Siliguri and Malda in northern West Bengal, and in Purulia, Bankura and some other places in the southern part of the state.

Leader of the Opposition Suwendu Adhikari led a protest march in Nandigram in Purba Medinipur, his home district.

In Malda, activists of the TMC and BJP engaged in a brawl over the blocking of a road. Police intervened to disperse the two groups.

In Alipurduar, BJP activists engaged in a scuffle with the police as they tried to block an arterial road, shouting slogans such as 'dafa ek dabi ek, mukhyamantrir padatyag' (one-point demand, chief minister's resignation).

Four killed after cement-laden truck hits car in Rajasthan's Sikar

JAIPUR, Aug 28 (Agencies): Four people were killed when their car was hit by a cement-laden trailer in Rajasthan's Sikar district on Wednesday morning, police said.

According to the police, the incident took place in Ringas on the Jaipur-Bikaner highway when the trailer went out of control and hit the car before overturning.

The victims got trapped inside the car and had to be pulled out with the help

of a few local people, the police said. They were taken to a local community health centre, where doctors declared them brought dead, they added.

The victims, Rajkumar (45), his mother Sanjya Devi (60), daughter Archana (20) and another man Ajad (40) were residents of Jhunjhunu district and were on their way to Jaipur.

Rajkumar was travelling to Jaipur to consult a doctor regarding treatment of his mother, the police said.

Corruption has peaked under Mahayuti Government: Uddhav Thackeray

MUMBAI, Aug 28 (Agencies): Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday hit out at the Eknath Shinde-led government over the collapse of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue, alleging that corruption has peaked under the Mahayuti dispensation.

A 35-foot statue of the 17th century Maratha empire founder, unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Rajkot fort in Sindhudurg on December 4 last year, collapsed on Monday afternoon.

Addressing a press conference here with NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar and Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole, Mr Thackeray said the government's claim that the statue collapsed due to gusty winds is "height of shamelessness".



To protest against the government, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) will take out a march from Hutatma Chowk to the Gateway of India in south Mumbai on September 1, the former chief minister said. "Those creating obstructions in the MVA's morcha today in

Malvan against the collapse of Shivaji Maharaj's statue are betrayers of the warrior king," he said.

He was referring to a clash between the workers of the Shiv Sena (UBT) and BJP MP Narayan Rane after a MVA delegation went to Rajkot fort.

Mamata Banerjee cracks whip on rape, vows capital punishment

KOLKATA, Aug 28 (Agencies): Asserting that her government has zero tolerance to incidents of rape, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said an amendment to existing laws will be passed in the state Assembly next week to ensure capital punishment to convicted rapists.

Banerjee said that she would sit for dharna outside Raj Bhavan here if the governor delays in giving assent to the amended bill or forwards it to the President for ratification.

The chief minister also said that the TMC will launch a movement from Saturday at the state's grassroots to create pressure on the Centre to pass legislation for capital punishment of convicted rapists.



"We will pass the amended bill in a special session of the Assembly next week. We will then send it to the governor for his nod. We will stage dharna outside Raj Bhavan if he sits on the bill," she thundered from the Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad foundation day rally here.

Banerjee also urged the agitating junior doctors of Bengal, who have struck work for 20 days

now to urgently consider returning to duty.

"I have remained sympathetic towards the cause of the doctors from the very beginning since they were seeking justice for their colleague. We did not take any action against them although so many days have passed since the incident. We understand your pain. But please come back to work now since patients are suffering," she appealed.

On August 9, the police recovered the body of the woman's postgraduate trainee doctor from the seminar hall of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

The junior doctors of state-run hospitals have been continuing cease-work since the August 9 evening, protesting against the alleged rape and murder of the woman medic and demanding justice for her.

"Sixteen days have passed since the Central Bureau of Investigation took over the doctor's rape-murder probe from the Kolkata Police. Where is the justice?" Banerjee asked at the rally.

Coming down heavily on the BJP for calling a 12-hour bandh, Banerjee said, "They called the bandh since they wanted political

dividends over a dead body. The BJP is trying to exploit the emotions of ordinary people in the wake of the death of the young woman. They want to malign Bengal and plotted a conspiracy to derail the probe into her death so that the victim and her family do not get justice."

She also alleged that the BJP was "indulging in large-scale cyber-crimes using AI, causing social unrest".

Lauding police personnel for countering the 'Nabanna Abhijan' violence on Tuesday, the chief minister said, "Police acted in restraint despite provocations of BJP-backed outfits who wanted to kill. Despite suffering physical injuries and having their blood split from the attacks on them, the police did not fall prey to provocations."

Israeli raids across occupied West Bank kill 9, say Palestinian officials

Palestinian militant groups say they are exchanging fire with the Israeli military

JERUSALEM, Aug 28 (Agencies): Israel launched raids across the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, where its forces killed at least nine Palestinians and sealed off the volatile city of Jenin, according to Palestinian officials.

Israel has carried out near-daily raids across the West Bank since Hamas' October 7 attack out of Gaza triggered the ongoing war there.

Palestinian militant groups said they were exchanging fire with the Israeli military. The governor of Jenin, Kamal Abu al-Rub, said on Palestinian radio that Israeli forces had surrounded the city, blocking exit and entry points and access to hospitals, and ripping up infrastructure in the camp.

The Israeli military confirmed



it was operating in the West Bank cities of Jenin and Tulkarim but did not provide further details.

Over 600 Palestinians in the West Bank have been killed by Israeli fire since the war in Gaza began over 10 months ago, according to the Palestin-

ian Health Ministry. Most have died during such raids, which often trigger gunbattles with militants.

Israel says the operations are required to dismantle Hamas and other militant groups and to prevent attacks on Israelis, which have also risen since the

start of the war.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said seven people were killed early Wednesday in Tubas, another West Bank city, and another two in Jenin. The ministry identified the two killed in Jenin as Qassam Jabarin, 25, and Asem Balout, 39.

Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want all three for a future state.

Israel has built scores of settlements across the West Bank, which are home to over 500,000 Jewish settlers. They have Israeli citizenship, while the 3 million Palestinians in the West Bank live under Israeli military rule, with the Palestinian Authority exercising limited control over population centers.

Traders observe a daylong strike across Pakistan to protest rising costs and new taxes

ISLAMABAD, Aug 28 (Agencies): Traders in Pakistan went on strike Wednesday, shutting down their businesses in all major cities and urban areas to protest a rise in electricity costs and new taxes imposed on shop owners.

The government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has steadily raised electricity prices since Pakistan last month struck a deal with the International Monetary Fund for a new \$7 billion loan. The higher cost of living and price hikes have triggered widespread discontent and drawn protests.

Most of the public markets across Pakistan were closed on Wednesday, though pharmacies and grocery stores selling basic food items remained open. Kashif Chaudhry, a strike leader, said those were not closed so as not to inconvenience the general public.

Stores were shuttered in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad, the nearby garrison city of Rawalpindi, as well as in the city of Lahore, the country's

culture capital, and the main economic hub of Karachi.

The strike was called by Naeemur-Rehman who heads the religious Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan party and endorsed by most of the various traders' unions and associations.

However, traders in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the southwestern Balochistan provinces observed a partial strike, keeping some stores open while closing others.

The strike is aimed at forcing the government to reverse the recent hikes in power bills and the controversial tax that followed the recent talks with the IMF, which wants to see Pakistan broaden its tax base.

The July deal was Pakistan's latest turn to the global lender for help in propping up its economy and dealing with its debts through big bailouts. Earlier this year, the IMF approved the immediate release of the final \$1.1 billion tranche of a \$3 billion bailout to Pakistan.

Woman TV journalist's body recovered from lake in Dhaka

The deceased was identified as Sarah Rahanuma, a newsroom editor at Gazi TV, a Bengali-language satellite and cable television channel owned by Gazi Group

DHAKA, Aug 28 (Agencies): The body of a 32-year-old woman TV journalist in Bangladesh was recovered from a lake here in the capital on Wednesday, according to media reports.

The deceased was identified as Sarah Rahanuma, a newsroom editor at Gazi TV, a Bengali-language satellite and cable television channel owned by Gazi Group.

Her body was found floating in Hatirjheel Lake in Dhaka, The Dhaka news agency reported.

Inspector Bachchu Mia, in charge of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) police outpost, confirmed the recovery of her body.

Pedestrians pulled the body from the lake and took it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where the doctor declared her dead around 2:00 am.

A man named Sagar, who brought Sarah to the hospital, said: "I saw the woman floating in Hatirjheel Lake. Later, she was brought to DMCH, where doctors declared her dead." Before her death, Sarah posted a status on her Facebook on Tuesday night tagging one Fahim Faysal.

"It was nice having a friend like you. God bless you always.



Hope, you'll fulfil all your dreams soon. I know we had a lot of planning together. Sorry, can't fulfil our plans. May god bless you in every aspect of your life," she wrote.

In an earlier post, she wrote: "It is better to die than to live a life akin to death." Inspector Bachchu Mia said the body was kept in the DMCH morgue.

Police have stated that an investigation will be conducted to determine the cause of her death.

However, deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's US-based son, Sajeeb Wazed, gave a political colour to the journalist's death, saying that it was "another brutal attack" on the freedom of expression in the country.

"Rahmuna Sara Gazi TV newsroom editor was found dead. Her body was recovered from Hatirjheel Lake in Dhaka city. This is

another brutal attack on freedom of expression in Bangladesh. Gazi TV is a secular news channel owned by Golam Dastagir Gazi who was arrested recently," Wazed Joy posted on X.

On the day of the incident, Sarah went to work but did not return home that night, her husband, Somyo News quoted her husband Sayed Shuvro as saying.

Shuvro was informed around 3 am that she had jumped into the waters of Hatirjheel Lake.

Shuvro said that Sarah had been expressing a desire to separate from him for some time.

They had planned to visit a Kazi office to finalise their divorce, but due to the current situation in the country, they could not do it.

The circumstances surrounding Sarah's death look mysterious, the news channel said.

Bangladesh wants harmonious ties with India, but New Delhi mustn't interfere: Jamaat-e-Islami chief

DHAKA, Aug 28 (Agencies): Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami supreme Shafiqur Rahman has said his party seeks harmonious and stable ties with India but asserted that New Delhi needs to reconsider its foreign policy in the neighbourhood, as bilateral relations do not entail interfering in each other's internal issues.

Rahman, who is the Ameer of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, stated in an interview with agency that his party supports close relations between India and Bangladesh but also believes that Bangladesh should maintain strong and balanced relations with countries like the US, China, and Pakistan, by leaving behind the baggage of the past.

Rahman, 65, contended that New Delhi's perception of Jamaat-e-Islami as anti-India is mistaken, asserting that Jamaat-e-Islami is not against any country; it is a wrong perception.

"We are pro-Bangladesh and are solely interested in safeguarding the interests of Bangladesh, and emphasise that this perception needs to change," he said.

The Jamaat-e-Islami suggested that it would have been better if former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, after resigning due to unrest, had not fled to India. He advocated for her to return to Bangladesh to face the law.

"India is our neighbour, and we want a good, stable, and harmonious bilateral relationship. However, India has done a few things in the past that did not sit well with the people of Bangladesh," he said.

"For instance, during the 2014 Bangladesh elections, a senior Indian diplomat visited Dhaka and dictated who should participate and who should not.



This was unacceptable, as it is not the role of a neighbouring country. We believe India will eventually reevaluate its foreign policy concerning Bangladesh. We think interference in each other's internal issues should be avoided," he added.

Rehman stated that Jamaat-e-Islami desires India to be a friend and play a responsible role in bilateral ties, while also emphasising that his party acknowledges its responsibility to improve relations but insists that these ties must remain non-interfering in each other's internal issues.

"Working together and interfering are two different things. Working together has a positive connotation, whereas interference is negative. Bilateral ties should mean cooperation and mutual respect. India is our closest neighbour; we share both land and sea borders, so we should have good ties as you cannot stay away from your neighbour," he told agency in Dhaka.

Rehman acknowledged that while Jamaat-e-Islami had interactions with the Indian establishment in the past, these contacts diminished during the Awami League rule over the last 16 years, but he believes that "effective relationships with India can now be re-established."

Replying to a query on allegations of attack on Hindus in

Bangladesh by Jamaat activists, Rahman refuted the allegations as "baseless".

Rahman attributed the negative portrayal of Jamaat-e-Islami to a malicious media campaign and noted that, despite being the worst sufferer of the atrocities committed by the Sheikh Hasina government over the past 15 years, But still we are on the ground, and Jamaat still enjoys people's support.

Regarding relationships with Pakistan, Rahman said, "We want good ties with them as well. We seek an equal and balanced relationship with all our neighbours in the subcontinent, including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. This balance is crucial to maintaining stability."

Bangladesh, earlier known as East Pakistan, was born out of Pakistan following the Liberation War in 1971.

Regarding diplomatic ties with other global powers, Rahman said,

"We seek balanced and stable ties with world powers like the US and China, as in this globalised world, we are interconnected in various ways."

On the recent flood situation in Bangladesh, Rehman stated that India should have provided prior information to Bangladesh before releasing water.

"We are not saying that India is to blame for the heavy rains, but India should have informed us before releasing water so that we could better manage the situation and save lives. We believe this dam should not be there at all, and water should be allowed to follow its natural course," he said.

His comments come amid reports from Dhaka blaming India for the floods in Bangladesh.

Monsoon rainfall-triggered

floods in deltaic Bangladesh and upstream Indian regions have resulted in several deaths and affected nearly three million people in Bangladesh, posing a significant challenge to the newly installed interim government amid a political transition.

India recently described factually incorrect reports in Bangladesh suggesting that the current flood situation in certain areas has been caused by the opening of a dam on the Gumti River in Tripura.

India's Ministry of External Affairs has stated that floods in shared rivers between the two countries are a "shared" problem affecting people on both sides and require close mutual cooperation to resolve.

Speaking about Sheikh Hasina's decision to flee to India, he said, "It would have been better if she had not fled. I don't want to use the term extradition, but we believe she should return and face the law in Bangladesh."

After unprecedented anti-government protests that peaked on August 5, Hasina resigned as prime minister and fled the country. She arrived in India on August 5 and is currently residing there, leading to speculation in Bangladesh.

The interim government in Bangladesh has revoked the diplomatic passports of ousted prime minister Hasina and all members of her former Cabinet.

Rahman stated that Jamaat will participate in the elections in Bangladesh whenever they are held.

"We believe the interim government should be given time, but it should not be indefinite. We will clarify our position on the timing of fresh elections in due course. But whenever elections are held, we will participate," he said.

24 people missing after floods tore through a northern Yemen village

CAIRO, Aug 28 (Agencies): Floodwaters swept through a village in northern Yemen, inundating homes and shops and leaving at least 24 people missing, authorities said Wednesday.

Heavy rains over the past few days pounded the Melhan district in Al-Mahwit province, triggering floods that caved in seven homes and four shops, according to a statement by Yemen's Houthi rebels.

Yemen was already the poorest Arab nation before it was plunged into civil war in 2014, when Iran-backed Houthi rebels took control of the capital,

Sanaa, and much of the country's north, forcing the government to flee to the south, then to Saudi Arabia.

Seasonal monsoon rains in the late summer often turn into flooding in Yemen, but there are indications that the country is experiencing more extreme weather events due to climate change.

A 2024 report by Yemen's Red Crescent projected that the country will see less precipitation overall, but that flooding events are expected to be more severe in the monsoon season. Yemen's rainy season begins in late

March, and rains intensify in July through mid-August.

The World Health Organization said this week that Yemenis were suffering "disproportionately from climate change due to their already undermined capacities, limited resources and fragile infrastructure."

It warned that more heavy rains were expected in the coming weeks and months. Though the country's conflict and disorder makes determining the true toll of the floods difficult, the organization said that at least 36 people had been killed

in the western province of Hodeida alone by flooding in recent weeks, and in the central province of Marib there are roughly 8,400 internally displaced families.

A Saudi-led coalition entered the war in March 2015, backed at the time by the U.S., in an effort to restore the internationally recognized government. The war has killed more than 150,000 people including civilians and combatants, and in recent years deteriorated largely into a stalemate and caused one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

Japan is preparing for powerful Typhoon Shanshan, which is threatening to bring heavy rains and strong winds

TOKYO, Aug 28 (Agencies): Japan was preparing for powerful typhoon as it slowly approached the country's southwest at a bicycle speed, threatening to bring heavy rains and strong winds and causing airlines to cancel flights and train operators to delay or suspend services through the weekend.

Typhoon Shanshan was at about 120 kilometers (75 miles) south of the southern island of Yakushima on Wednesday morning as it headed north toward Kyushu, packing winds of up to 180 kilometers

(112 miles) per hour, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency. The agency said the typhoon is expected to reach southern Kyushu and possibly make landfall Thursday, and issued a high-level warning against violent winds, high waves and heavy rain for the Kagoshima prefecture.

Disaster Management Minister Yoshifumi Matsumura, at a taskforce meeting Wednesday, urged residents in Shanshan's predicted path to take precautionary measures early, such as by checking

their nearest shelters, to save their own lives. Matsumura urged residents, especially older adults, not to hesitate and take shelter whenever there is any safety concern. The government also canceled its annual earthquake drills Sunday to free up disaster response resources.

So far, no damage nor injuries have been reported from the typhoon.

Dozens of domestic flights connecting southwestern cities and islands will be canceled through Friday. Japan Railway companies

said most bullet trains and local train services were operating normally Wednesday, but many on Kyushu would be suspended Thursday. Similar steps may be taken on the main island of Honshu through Sunday.

Postal and delivery services have been also suspended in the Kyushu region, and supermarkets and other stores announced plans to close early.

The JMA forecast up to 600 millimeters (23.6 inches) of rainfall on southern Kyushu over 24 hours.

"Jay shah bhai i know...": Gautam Gambhir, top cricketers react as he gets elected icc chairman

BCCI secretary Shah was elected unopposed as the next ICC head, making him the youngest ever to reach the pinnacle of global cricket administration at the age of 35

NEW DELHI, Aug 28 (Agencies): India head coach Gautam Gambhir, BCCI president Roger Binny, and all-rounder Hardik Pandya led the long list of joyous members of the cricketing fraternity in lauding Jay Shah, who was on Tuesday elected unopposed as the ICC Chairman. BCCI secretary Shah was elected unopposed as the next ICC head, making him the youngest ever to reach the pinnacle of global cricket administration at the age of 35.



"Congratulations to BCCI Honorary Secretary Mr. Jay Shah for being elected unopposed as the next Independent Chair of the International Cricket Council," the BCCI posted in its official 'X', formerly twitter, handle.

Gambhir, who has taken over as head coach from Rahul Dravid, said: "Many congrats @JayShah bhai! I know world cricket will grow tremendously under your exceptional leadership!"

Pandya, who played a pivotal role in India's recent T20 World Cup triumph wrote: "Congratulations @Jay Shah bhai on being elected as the youngest chairman of ICC.

"Look forward to seeing you take cricket to even greater heights. Your vision and drive will help ICC, just like it did with BCCI."

Binny, the 1983 World Cup winner, rated Shah as a "strong pillar" of BCCI. "I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Jay

Shah on his appointment as the independent chair of the International Cricket Council (ICC). He has been a strong pillar as the BCCI Honorary Secretary and the President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC). "He has been a cornerstone in ideating and implementing some of the pathbreaking initiatives in cricket. As he takes over as the ICC Chairman, I am sure his foresight and leadership will further enhance the reputation and well-being of our beloved game," he said.

Former Indian captain and head coach Anil Kumble said: "Jay Shah's election as ICC Chair marks a new chapter in global cricket. Congratulations and best wishes for the journey ahead!" Ravi Shastri, another former Indian captain and head coach, said: "Congratulations to @JayShah on being elected unopposed as ICC Chairman—the youngest ever at just 35! His

experience running @BCCI will undoubtedly serve him well.

"The cricket community can be rest assured that Jay will work tirelessly to help World Cricket and @ICC to realize their full potential and take them to another level."

BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla added: "I would like to wish Mr. Jay Shah all the very best in his new role at the ICC. He has been a visionary and has taken great pride in making sure that the game of cricket reaches newer heights and reaches a wider audience. His forthright approach and astute leadership means the game of cricket will continue to prosper across the globe."

Veteran batter Cheteshwar Pujara wrote in his 'X' handle: "Heartiest congratulations to @JayShah on being elected as the ICC Chair. Under your visionary leadership, cricket is set to touch new heights global-

ly." Former Indian spinner Harbhajan Singh too hailed Shah's appointment.

"Congratulations to Secretary @BCCI Shri @Jay Shah Ji on your election, unopposed, as Chairman @ICC. Confident that the ICC will benefit from your experience of handling Indian cricket. Your leadership will guide world cricket to a new height. My best wishes."

Senior batter Ajinkya Rahane said: "Congratulations Jay bhai on your appointment as the ICC chairman."

Former sports minister and BCCI administrator Anurag Thakur too congratulated Shah on his new role.

"Congratulations to our BCCI Secretary, Sh. @JayShah on your new role and responsibility as the next Chairperson of the International Cricket Council (ICC), the supreme body of cricket.

"Your elevation as the youngest-ever cricket administrator is a moment of immense pride and celebration for all Indians, serving as a testament to India's rise on the international stage," he said.

India pacer Mohammed Siraj wished Shah success in his new stint.

"A massive moment. My best wishes to @Jay Shah Sir on being elected as the new ICC chairman. May you grow to greater heights and continue doing fine work for our sport. Congratulations."

Zaheer Khan set to join Lucknow Super Giants as team mentor

Zaheer will thus take up the role left vacant by Gautam Gambhir last year when he went to join his former franchise KKR



KOLKATA, Aug 28 (Agencies): Lucknow Super Giants are set to appoint former India speedster Zaheer Khan as their mentor ahead of the IPL mega auction.

The appointment marks the return of the 45-year-old left-arm pacer to the IPL fold after two years, having been associated with five-time champions Mumbai Indians from 2018-2022.

A formal unveiling is scheduled at the RPSG Group Headquarters here on Wednesday.

"Zaheer has been appointed as team mentor and the unveiling will happen later today," sources told PTI.

Zaheer will thus take up the role left vacant by Gautam Gambhir last year when he went to join his former franchise Kolkata Knight Riders and guided them to the IPL title in 2024. Gambhir is now the Indian head coach.

At Mumbai Indians, Zaheer first served as the director of cricket before taking on the role of head of global development.

LSG currently do not have a bowling coach after the departure of South African speedster Morne Morkel, who has joined Gambhir's coaching staff.

It is learnt that Zaheer will also be involved in scouting and player-development programme during the off season.

Before his coaching career, Zaheer played for three IPL teams -- Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore, and Delhi Daredevils.

Over 10 seasons, Zaheer appeared in 100 matches for these teams, claiming 102 wickets with an economy rate of 7.58.

His final appearance in the IPL was in 2017 when he captained the Delhi Daredevils, after which he retired from all forms of cricket.

LSG have Justin Langer as head coach with the Australian replacing Andy Flower before the last IPL as he is set to continue with his deputies Lance Klusener and Adam Voges.

T20 world cup: Harmanpreet to lead tried and tested team

NEW DELHI, Aug 28 (Agencies): India named a tried and tested squad for the Women's T20 World Cup under the leadership of Harmanpreet Kaur, hoping the experienced bunch takes the team to an elusive ICC trophy. Star batter Smriti Mandhana has been named Kaur's deputy and like always will be the key at the top of the order.

Barring Uma Chetry, all the squad members who were part of an unsuccessful Asia Cup campaign in July have been retained for the marquee event beginning in the UAE from October 3.

The competition was shifted to the UAE from Bangladesh following unrest in the South Asian nation owing to a students' protest.

Spinner Shreyanka Patil and batter Yastika Bhatia have been included in the squad subject to fitness. Shreyanka fractured her finger during the Asia Cup while Bhatia is recovering from a knee injury.

Following the loss to Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup final, Kaur will be under pressure to lead her team to the coveted title. The men were finally able to get the monkey off their back and win an ICC title after an 11-year gap. The women too would be expected to cross the finishing line on this occasion.

India will take on West Indies and South Africa in their two Women's T20 World Cup warm-up fixtures in Dubai. India will take on West Indies on September 29 and South Africa on October 1.



Final barrier

Skipper Kaur remained optimistic that India can grab their maiden global title in the upcoming World Cup. "Whenever we play on this kind of stage, we always want to do well. We have always done well in the past as well, and hopefully, this time we will break that final barrier and go all the way," Kaur said.

The 35-year-old did not read too much into the venue shift. "We have not played much cricket in the UAE. But the conditions in the UAE are going to be similar to Indian conditions. We will see how the conditions play out and try to adjust ourselves to the conditions as soon as possible," she added.

She wanted the team to dish out a "positive" game in the World Cup. "As a team, we learn from our defeats and break those barriers that are pushing us back. Hopefully this time we can express ourselves in a more positive way in the World Cup," she said.

Well rested Kohli, Rohit, Bumrah could have played Duleep trophy: Manjrekar

NEW DELHI, Aug 28 (Agencies): Former India cricketer and commentator Sanjay Manjrekar has sparked a debate with his recent comments on the absence of key Indian players, including Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and Jasprit Bumrah, from the upcoming Duleep Trophy. In a tweet, Manjrekar pointed out that India has played 249 international matches in the last five years, but Rohit has played only 59%, Kohli 61%, and Bumrah just 34% of those games. He argued that these players, who have been well-rested compared to their peers, should have been selected for the domestic tournament to gain valuable match practice.

The Duleep Trophy is set to begin on September 5, 2024, at Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, and Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium. Despite the presence of some notable stars like Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, KL Rahul,



and Shubman Gill, the absence of Kohli, Rohit, and Bumrah has raised questions about the team's preparation for the upcoming Test series against Bangladesh.

In his column for mid-day, cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar echoed Manjrekar's sentiments, suggesting that Kohli and Rohit, both in their 30s, could benefit from playing in the Duleep Trophy to keep their skills sharp and stay mentally refreshed. Gavaskar acknowledged the need for Bumrah to rest due to his recent injury history but emphasized that the

star batters could have used the game time to fine-tune their red-ball form.

The four squads for the first round of the Duleep Trophy-

Team A: Shubman Gill (C), Mayank Agarwal, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel, KL Rahul, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Tanush Kotian, Kuldeep Yadav, Akash Deep, Prasad Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan, Vidwath Kaverappa, Kumar Kushagra, Shaswat Rawat.

Team B: Abhimanyu Easwaran (C), Yasahasvi Jaiswal, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant,

Musheer Khan, Nitish Kumar Reddy*, Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohd Siraj, Yash Dayal, Mukesh Kumar, Rahul Chahar, R Sai Kishore, Mohit Awasthi, N Jagadeesan (WK).

Team C: Raturaj Gaikwad (C), Sai Sudharsan, Rajat Patidar, Abhishek Porel (WK), Suryakumar Yadav, B Indrajit, Hrithik Shokeen, Manav Suthar, Umran Malik, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Anshul Khamboj, Himanshu Chauhan, Mayank Markande, Aryan Juyal (WK), Sandeep Warrier.

Team D: Shreyas Iyer

(C), Atharva Taide, Yash Dubey, Devdutt Padikal, Ishan Kishan (WK), Ricky Bhui, Saransh Jain, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Aditya Thakare, Harshit Rana, Tushar Deshpande, Akash Sengupta, KS Bharat (WK), Saurabh Kumar.

Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma last featured in India's recent and shocking ODI series defeat to Sri Lanka, which also marked the first taste of defeat for the side under their new head coach Gautam Gambhir.

The Indian team is set to play two Test matches against Bangladesh starting on September 19 in Chennai and on September 27 in Kanpur. While the decision to play in the Duleep Trophy ultimately rests with the players, Manjrekar's comments have sparked a broader discussion about the importance of domestic cricket as a preparatory platform for international stars.

Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid's ex India teammate, snubbed after 2 ODIs, now works at SBI

NEW DELHI, Aug 28 (Agencies): The competition for every single role across the Indian cricket team is fierce. Every single year, many new faces make their debuts, but only a handful of them manage to get consistent opportunities in the team. The vast talent pool that exists in Indian cricket makes it practically impossible for associations and boards to give equal chances to every single player. Such was the case with

former India all-rounder Gyanendra Pandey, who vanished after just representing India in two ODIs.

Pandey made his debut for India against Pakistan in 1999 and only played one more game before being phased out of the team.

The all-rounder caught selectors' eyes after picking up 254 wickets from 199 games in First-Class and List A cricket. In 97 Ranji Trophy matches, Pandey scored 4425 runs and took 148

wickets, proving his worth as an all-rounder and earning a call-up for the 1999 Pepsi Cup tri-series featuring Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

"In 1997, I had put up a good performance. In the Duleep Trophy final, I scored 44 runs and took three wickets. I had an extraordinary outing in the Deodhar Trophy. The North Zone featured Vikram Rathour, Virender Sehwal and Navjot Sidhu. I took five wickets and scored an unbeaten 23. Against West Zone,



I scored 89 not out and took 2-3 wickets against East Zone. Against

South Zone, scored 28 or 30 not out and 2-3 wickets," Pandey told

The Lallantop in an interview.

"In the Challenger Trophy, I dismissed Robin Singh and Amay Khurasiya. For India A, I took two wickets for 26 runs and then got an India call-up. That was in the year 1999."

Pandey rubbed shoulders with stalwarts like Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly, Mohammed Azharuddin and Virender Sehwal in the dressing room but it soon went downhill for him.

Pandey could've played for India again in the 1999 Test series against New Zealand but Jaywant Lele, the then-BCCI secretary, reportedly did not approve of his selection.

The anchor revealed that Lele said, "If Kumble has asked for a break, why not go for Sunil Joshi?"

Pandey was snubbed and he never came back into consideration again.

"Mr. Lele should have thought about what he said. He should have

seen my performance. He was an umpire as well. I get it; it was my fault. I didn't know the tricks; didn't understand how these things work. I couldn't handle it and hence, got defamed. Even the media did not print my side of the story. No one came to ask me anything. They only contacted the top brass," Pandey said.

The former India cricketer now works as a State Bank of India PR agent.

Sainik Samaj Party releases its election manifesto

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 28: The Sainik Samaj Party J&K UT has released its election manifesto following a detailed discussion within its core group.

Col. S.S. Pathania, the Chief Convener and President of the party, presented the manifesto, which reflects the party's strong stance against certain prevalent political practices. Pathania expressed the party's firm opposition to reservation policies and the distribution of freebies or guarantees, arguing that such measures are eroding the foundation of the country and should be halted immediately. He criticized other political parties for their tendency to make hollow promises, often encapsulated in lengthy manifestos, which he believes are designed to deceive the public and secure votes without any intention of genuine implementation. The manifesto of the



Sainik Samaj Party is distinct in its concise and focused approach, outlining 13 achievable goals. First and foremost, the party advocates for the creation of a separate Jammu State or Union Territory, aiming to address the unique needs and aspirations of the region.

The manifesto also prioritizes the protection of Jammu's land, art, culture, and job opportunities, particularly for the local youth in both the government and private sectors. Recognizing the potential of the region, the party pledges to develop tourism in Jammu, with an empha-

sis on religious, rural, and border area tourism, which are seen as underutilized assets.

A significant part of the manifesto is dedicated to security and governance issues. The party calls for the early deportation of illegal immigrants, specifically Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals, who are seen as a threat to the region's stability. The reintroduction of the Old Pension Scheme is also a key point, reflecting the party's commitment to the welfare of government employees. In terms of representation, the party advocates for 33% reservation for women in Pan-

chayat, District Development Council (DDC), and Assembly elections, aiming to enhance female participation in governance.

Further, the manifesto proposes the establishment of a 24x7 HD satellite channel, named Duggar Channel, dedicated to the Jammu region, which would promote local culture and issues.

To strengthen the fight against terrorism and narco-terrorism, the party suggests appointing a General or Lt. General as the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, supported by two military advisers, to ensure a robust security framework.

The manifesto also highlights the need for optimizing hydro power resources to ensure continuous power supply across both urban and rural areas. The party commits to reserving government jobs for ex-servicemen, with

additional provisions for one-time grants and annuities for gallantry award winners, ensuring parity with neighboring states. Moreover, the party promises the regularization of daily wagers and ad hoc workers, addressing long-standing employment issues.

To promote sports and physical education, the Sainik Samaj Party plans to establish institutions modeled after the National Institute of Sports (NIS) Patiala, known for its excellence in sports training. Lastly, the party emphasizes the need for transparent, accountable, and corruption-free governance, promising to uphold these principles if elected.

Col. Pathania concluded by urging the public to become more politically aware and discerning, highlighting the Sainik Samaj Party's commitment to practical and achievable goals that prioritize the region's development and security.

EC should ban Jamaat members, separatist faces from contesting elections in J&K: Shiv Sena

New wave of nefarious intentions of separatism in Kashmir, why is Modi government silent? Sahni



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 28: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has demanded the Election Commission (EC) to ban members of banned organizations like Jamaat-e-Islami and separatist faces from participating in the Jammu-Kashmir assembly elections.

In a press conference held on Wednesday at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that right under the nose of the Modi government at the center, which makes big claims of restoring peace in Kashmir, which is the self-proclaimed contractor of Hindus, banned separatist organizations and

faces are preparing to derail the entire system by entering the election field and establishing their nefarious separatist agenda in a new form.

Sahni said that separatist leaders should not be allowed to contest elections.

He said that Jamaat-e-Islami is a banned organization on which there are serious allegations like terror funding, spreading terrorism. This organization was banned in 1975, 1990, 2014, 2019 for inciting the fire of fundamentalism.

In 2019, the current Modi government banned this organization under serious charges like terror funding. Which has

been upheld by the Delhi-based Prevention of Illegal Activities Tribunal and the ban on it has been continued for the next five years.

Sahni has asked the public not to let the new wave of separatism and evil intention succeed in Kashmir by voting and has demanded from the Election Commission to ban the members of Jamaat-e-Islami and separatist faces who have taken refuge in various parties from participating in the assembly elections of Jammu and Kashmir.

On this occasion Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice president Balwant Singh, Sanjeev Kohli, Rajesh Jadia, Sumit Sharma were present.

Chairman LAHDC assesses progress of ongoing developmental works in Leh district



Top News Report

LEH, Aug 28: The Chairman/CEC LAHDC, Leh Adv. Tashi Gyalson, chaired a meeting to assess the progress of ongoing developmental works in Leh district in the Conference Hall of the Council Secretariat, Leh.

The meeting was attended by District Superintending Engineer, PWD, Dorjay Gyatso; Chief Planning Officer, Tsewang Gyalson; Executive Engineer, R&B Division, Leh; Lobzang Yonton; Executive Engineer, Const. Division, Leh Imran Khan; Executive Engineer, I&FC, Leh, Murtaza Hyder Ali; Exec-

utive Engineer, SSD, Khaltis, Thinles Zangpo (virtually); Executive Engineer, SSD, Nyoma, Ghulam Abbas; Executive Engineer, SSD Nubra Shamin Ahmed (virtually) and other concerned officials.

During the meeting, CEC discussed various key projects. He urged timely completion of Bakula Shradhanjali Park, Club House, road widening at Saboo and the new Council Secretariat Building.

Additionally, CEC Gyalson inquired about the progress of developmental works in Nubra, Khaltis and Nyoma sub division. Executive Engineers from Nubra and

Khaltis briefed CEC on the status of ongoing works in their respective regions, while XEN Nyoma concerns about staffing shortage.

Emphasizing the commitment of the CRPF personnel, the CEC instructed the relevant officials to construct a new shed for the CRPF at Agling for relocation of existing CRPF camp at the bus stand, use of existing location for other development projects.

The CEC emphasized the need to accelerate the completion of major projects and urged all departments to collaborate effectively in order to meet the region's development objectives.

Monika Kumari qualifies Ph.D

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 28: Monika Kumari, daughter of Maggar Singh and Raj Kumari, has been declared qualified for the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the School of Computer Science and Engineering by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, Jammu.

The candidate has worked on the topic entitled "Hybrid Approach To Remote Sensing Scene Classification" under the supervision of Dr. Ajay Kaul, Associate Professor, School of Computer Science and Engineering, SMVDU.

Monika Kumari has published various papers in SCI/SCIE-indexed journals and presented her research papers at international confer-



ences.

The scholar expresses her gratitude to her parents and supervisor for guidance, and to the School of Computer Science and Engineering, SMVDU, for providing all necessary facilities and support during her research.

Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, and other committee members congratulated Monika Kumari and wished her a bright future.

Sculptor Ganesh confers Int'l Platinum Award

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 28: Eminent Senior contemporary internationally acclaimed Sculptor Ganesh Kumar Sharma son of the soil has been conferred "International Platinum Award" by "Gold Master International Academy of Arts and Literature" Hungary.

Mari Lipták, President of the Academy presented the International Platinum Award certificate to Ganesh Kumar Sharma virtually for his great work in the field of art, culture, literature and creativity at the international platform.

Maria Lipták President and the management team congratulated and wishes more success in future to Ganesh Kumar Sharma.

Gold Master International Academy of Arts and Literature is a very professional and prestigious institution and working to provide international platform for international artists, intellectuals and writers across the globe.

It is to mention here that Ganesh Kumar Sharma Eminent senior contemporary Sculptor is working in the field of art and



culture from more than forty five years and have received so many State, National and International awards, honors and recognitions.

Ganesh Sharma has organized 25 solo shows of his creative works in different parts of the country and abroad. His creative art works are in permanent collections of different art galleries in India and abroad.

DPS Jammu students win medals in inter-school roller skating championship

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 28: Students of Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu brought laurels to the school and their parents by winning gold, silver and bronze in various categories in Inter-School Roller Skating Championship for boys & girls held at J.K. Public School, Kunjwani, Jammu on 24th August, 2024.

Saanvi Grover (IX-A) won 2 Gold medals (14-17 age category); Vidhan Mahajan (VII-H) won 2 Gold medals (11-14 age category); Mridul Jungral (IV-E) won 2 Gold medals (9-11 age category); Aisha Shah (V-C) won 1 Gold medal (9-11 age category); Mujtaba Sajad (IV-G) won 1 Gold medal (7-9 age category); Aayan



Singh Langeh (V-B) won 2 Silver medals (9-11 age category); Avikam Ashok Gupta (III-F) won 2 Silver medals (7-9 age category); Daivik Oberoi (II-L) won 1 Silver medal (7-9 age category); Virraaj Gandotra (VII-B) won 2 Bronze medals (11-14 age category); Amoli Sharma (V-J) won 1 Bronze medal (9-11 age category); Riyansh Mahajan (II-C) won 1 Bronze medal (7-9 age

category).

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. Gulmeet and Parth Slathia for their achievement. They also extended their best wishes to them for all their future endeavours.

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