OP NEWS OF J&K



BRIEFLY

Heavy rain likely on September 2, 3 in Kashmir parts: MeT

SRINAGAR, Aug 31 (Agencies): The Meteorological Centre, Srinagar on Saturday said there is a possibility of heavy rain between September 2 and 3 in remote areas, while it said moderate rain should be expected at many places.

In addition to rain, the MeT said that flash floods, landslides, and shooting stones should too be expected over few vulnerable places. The weather department also said that there might be snowfall over the higher reaches of Kashmir, advising trekkers and tourists to plan accordingly.

However, it said, that nothing significant is expected after Sept 4 till 12 Sept, with only brief spell of light rain at few places on 6th and 7th September.

SDRF starts search operation after boy drowns in river in Rajouri

JAMMU, Aug 31 (Agencies): Two more BJP leaders, including a district president, submitted their resignations from the primary membership of the party on Saturday, citing their resentment against the choice of candidates in their constituencies for the Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir. In a related development, hundreds of BJP workers took out a Turn to page 9



Two more leaders quit BJP over selection of candidates

for J&K Assembly Polls

bly constituency in the MLA Rajeev Sharma

On being asked about

from there. The BJP is facing resentment over its ticket distribution in the Union Territory immediately after it started releasing the list of candidates for the Assembly elections on August 26, with party leaders and workers protesting in several districts of the Jammu region. In a damage control exercise, the party

mobilised several top Turn to page 9

Rahul Gandhi will address 2 poll rallies in J&K on Sep 4: Cong Leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir

ANANTNAG, Aug 31 (Agencies): Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will address two election rallies in Jammu and Kashmir on September 4 to campaign for the candidates of the NC-Congress alliance, a senior Congress leader said on Saturday.

AICC general secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir said that it was the desire of the candidates



people of J&K in gen-

eral to have Gandhi

campaign in the Union

territory. "Rahulji will visit J&K on September 4 and will address election campaign rallies in Kashmir as well as Jammu for the alliance candidates," he added.

Mir, who is contesting the assembly elections from Dooru in the south Kashmir district here. said Gandhi will address an election rally at the Dooru stadium. Turn to page 9

Farooq Abdullah congratulates Jama'at for fielding candidates in J&K elections

SRINAGAR, Aug 31 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) president Dr Farooq Abdullah Saturday congratulated banned Jama'at-e-Islami for fielding candidates in the upcoming assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

"I congratulate Jama'at for stepping out and taking part in assembly elections. It is a good step," Dr Farooq as per



reporters after paying obeisance at Kashmir's revered saint's shrine Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom Sahib (RA) in Srinagar.

PDP chief Mehbooba cies): Two persons were Mufti's recent remarks killed and nine injured in in which she alleged NC separate road accidents for poll rigging and forcin Jammu and Doda ing Jama'at and other districts of Jammu and political parties to stay Kashmir on Saturday, away from elections in police said. 1987, Dr Faroog replied A student, Surbhi that she should focus on Kumari (18), was killed safeguarding the country rather than engaging

and eight other passengers, including six girls, were injured when a minibus turned turtle after colliding with a car

Two killed, nine injured in separate road accidents in Jammu JAMMU, Aug 31 (Agenat the Kunjwani bypass

said.

here. The students were headed to school, they

Both the vehicles suffered extensive damage. The injured were taken to the hospital and the condition of two of them was stated to be serious, according to the officials. In the second incident, a car plunged into a gorge near Malhori vil-

lage in Doda district, killing Mumtaza Begum (36) and leaving her husband Mohsin Ahmad critically injured, police

said. The two were headed home to Kishtwar from Jammu at the time of the incident. Ahmad was referred to the Government Medical College Hospital Jammu for treatment, they said.

ECI Appoints Expenditure **Observers for** Srinagar's 8 Assembly **Constituencies**



SRINAGAR, Aug 31 (Agencies): In view of the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly in JK, the Election Commission of India has appointed Capt Pradeep Shoury Arya and Subodh Singh as Expenditure Observers for all eight Assembly Constituencies in Srinagar District.

Give strong fight to rivals in J&K elections: **Omar Abdullah's Divorce Plea:** Supreme Court Instructs Mediation, Ashok Koul to party candidates Hearing on November 4

RAJOURI, Aug 31 (Agencies): The State Disaster Response Force has started a search operation after a young boy drowned in the overflowing river at Manjakote in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday.

The search operation is currently underway, said the officials. There has been heavy rainfall in the region.

The officials said that the search operation had started at 5:30 am today.

"We have been here. conducting our search operation since 5:30 in the morning. We have not found the body yet," the SDRF Team Incharge Mohd Nasser Kamlak said.

Delhi Trekker **Dies Amid Extreme** Weather in **Kashmir's** Gangbal Region

SRINAGAR, Aug 31 (Agencies): A 44-yearold trekker from Delhi. identified as Rohit Sayal, died while trekking in the Gangbal region of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Friday. As per media reports, Sayal was part of a 15-member trekking Turn to page 9

NEW DELHI, Aug 31 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday asked National Conference leader Omar Abdullah and his estranged wife Payal Abdullah to appear for mediation for exploring the possibility of a settlement.

A bench of Justice

Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah said it would hear the matter on November 4, after a report from the Supreme Court Mediation Centre is submitted. The top court had ear-

lier sought a response from Payal Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Aug 31 (Agencies): Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul on Saturday emphasized upon party candidates and leaders to give tough fight to rivals in the upcoming assembly elections of Jammu and Turn to page 9 Kashmir.

in blame game.

"May Allah keep

Turn to page 9



stressed upon the unity He at the occasion

among candidates and party leaders, and directed them to focus on strengthening the party at the grassroots level.

The BJP leader expressed these remarks while chairing an election review meeting with BJP candidates

Turn to page 9





According to a notice issued here, Capt Pradeep Shoury Arya has been appointed as the Expenditure Observer for the 19-Hazratbal, 20-Khanyar, 21-Habbakadal, and 22-Lal Chowk constituencies. Similarly, Subodh Singh has been appointed as the Expenditure Observer for the 23-Chanapora, 24-Zadibal, 25-Eidgah, and 26-Central Shalteng constituencies.

To ensure the free, fair, transparent, and smooth conduct of elections, the District Election Officer Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, has notified that all stakeholders can contact the Expenditure Observers, Capt. Pradeep Shoury Arya (8899744409) and Subodh Singh (9906883393), on their respective numbers for any information, issues, or grievances regarding expenditure queries or complaints related to the elections.

Additionally, stakeholders can also file grievances on the C-vigil App.

Top News of J&K Jammu, Saturday, August 31, 2024



OBITUARIES

Singh Jamwal and Asha Devi, who left this world on 21st August, 2024. He was the source of great joy to many, leading with his ferce spirit and a tender heart.

The Tenth Day rituals will be performed on Friday, 30th August 2024 from 11 am onwards at our residence 163 A/D Green Belt

Ganchi Nagar, Jammu. The Rituals of Kriya will be performed on Monday, 2nd September 2024 from 12 pm onwards at our residence 163 A/D Sanchi Nagar, Jammu.

The Uthala Ceremony will also be performed on Monday, 2nd September 2024 between 4 - 5 pm at Panch Mandir, Green Belt

Park, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. Grief Stricken: Mrs. Mohini Jamwal - Wife Mas Shefali Jamwai - Daughter Ma. Sapna and Mr. Aditya Gourav Singh Jamwai - Son and Daughter in Law **Brothers and Sisters** Late Mr. Yashvaidhan Singh Jamwal Late Mr. Bhupinder Singh Jamwal Mr. Rajinder Singh Jamwal

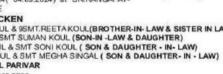
Mrs. Shashi Katoch Ms. Sujata Rana

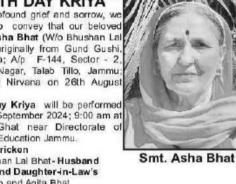
For further information, Please Contact- 9797723225, 9906322695

OBITUARY & TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we announce the sad demise of our beloved Shri Suresh Koul S/o Late Shri Madusudan Koul R/o Dewan Bagh Baramulla Kashmir, at present Uninav Heights, F-405 Raj Nagar Extension

No. - 63, Jagati Colony Nagrota Jammu.





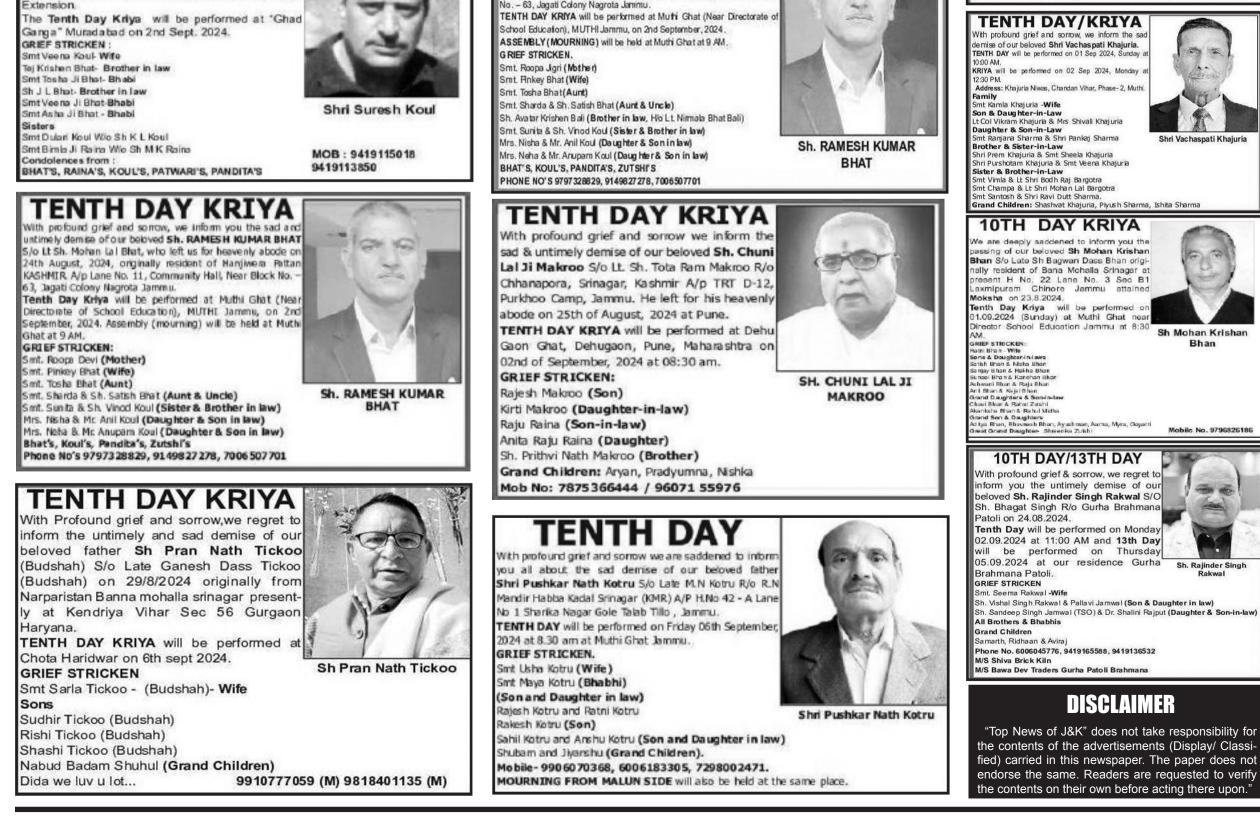


Monday from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m followed by (Retd. Office Supdt. 1 FOD)

Sdn. Basant Kour & Engr. S. Piara Singh (Sister & Brother in law) S. Ajit Pal Singh & Sdn. Pardeep Kour (Son & Daughter in law) S. Satinder Pal Singh & Sdn. Tanjeet Kour (Son & Daughter in law) GRAND CHILDREN: Alvin, Nirlambh, Harshpreet, Arshpreet, Livpreet.

SMT VEENA KOUL (THATHI)





LOCAL/ ADVT

'BJP-led government fails to redress issues of OBCs in J&K'

considers this census cru-

cial for accurately reflect-

ing their population and

ensuring proper represen-

tation in various sectors.

Mohan Lal Pawar,

General Secretary of All

J&K OBC-Mahasabha

pointed out that the Modi

government repealed the

State Backward Classes

Commission Act of 1997

and established a new

"Socially & Educationally

Backward Classes Com-

mission" under Article

340. This commission,

headed by Justice (Retd)

G.D. Sharma, included no

OBC members and was

criticized for including 13

communities in the OBC

list that were not identi-

fied by the Mandal Com-

mission or recognized as

socially and educationally

backward by the Supreme

Court. These communi-

ties include upper-caste

groups like Acharya

Brahmins, Sunar, Jat,

and others, which dilutes

the true essence of OBC

Since India's inde-

pendence in 1947, the

OBC community in J&K

has had no representa-

tion in the State Assem-

bly (State Law Making

Body). Fotra and other

leaders demanded politi-

cal reservation for OBCs

reservation.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: Kewal Fotra, President of All J&K Sain Samaj, along with other leaders from various OBC organizations, expressed deep dissatisfaction and highlighted a series of grievances against the BJP-led government concerning the treatment of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The conference focused on the alleged failure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government to fulfill promises made to the OBC community in J&K, particularly regarding the implementation of reservations and recognition of OBC rights

Kewal Fotra recalled that during the 2014 Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had committed to implementing a 27% reservation for OBCs in government services and educational institutions in J&K. This promise was made at prominent events held in Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu and Hiranagar. However, despite the passage of time, this commitment remains unfulfilled.

"The OBC community in J&K has long demanded the implementation of reservations as per Article 15(4), 16(4), 15(5), and 16(5) of the Indian Constitution. These provisions are backed by the Supreme Court's judgment dated November 16, 1992, which upheld the Mandal Commission Report recommending 27% reservations



for OBCs across India. Despite this, the BJP government has continued to enforce the Reservation Act of 2004 and state Reservation Rules under SRO-294 of 2005, which were framed under Article 370 by previous governments, and do not reflect the central reservation policy" he said.

Despite the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, which led to the reorganization of J&K into a Union Territory on October 31, 2019, he said, the Modi government continued to apply the old reservation policies that were in place before the abrogation. These policies do not

align with the central reservation policy that guarantees 27% reservation for OBCs. Fotra criticized this

as a clear indication of the Modi government's discriminatory attitude towards the OBC community in J&K.

The BJP government's reluctance to conduct a caste census with a separate column for OBCs, similar to that for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, was highlighted as a significant issue. The OBC community Legislative Assembly, Urban Local Bodies, and Panchayati Raj System. This would ensure that the voices of OBCs are heard in the political process and their concerns are addressed more effectively The OBC leaders called for the implementation of

in the Jammu & Kashmir

27% reservation for OBCs along with 10% EWS (Economically Weaker Section) reservation, totaling 37%, in government services and educational institutions. They argued that OBCs represent 68% of the total population of J&K, yet they are only provided with 8% reservation in government services, which is grossly inadequate.

The OBC leaders also criticized the current vertical reservation system, which allocates 10% reservation to residents of backward areas (RBA) and 4% to ALC + IB (Area Line of Control + International Border). They argued that these reservations are unconstitutional and primarily benefit upper castes, taking away opportunities meant for OBCs as per the Mandal Commission recommendations.

The recent amendment to SRO-294 of 2005, which changed the nomenclature from OSC (Other Socially Castes) to OBC (Other Backward Classes), has led to chaos and confusion, with numerous files pending before revenue authorities. This has resulted in significant delays and hardships for OBCs trying to obtain their rightful certificates.

The appointment of non-OBC individuals to the Backward Classes Inclusion & Exclusion Commission and the OBC-Dedicated Commission was also criticized. The OBC leaders argued that these commissions lack proper representation from the OBC community, which undermines their legitimacy and the fairness of their decisions.

The OBC leaders called for the abolition of the creamy layer criteria, which currently restricts certain OBCs from availing reservations. They argued that this criterion should be removed, similar to how it does not apply to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The leaders demanded the immediate inclusion of certain OBC communities, such as Hanji, Gow Gujri, Ahanger, and Jullaha, whose applications are pending before the Socially & Educationally Backward Classes Commission. They also requested that Yogi and Bowria castes be entered into the central list of OBCs, as they are already recognized in the J&K OBC list under SRO-408 dated June 18, 2019. They urged the government to remove the word "Rural" from the central list of OBCs, as it has already been deleted from the J&K government's SRO-124 of 2000. This designation currently pre-

vents many OBCs resid-

ing in urban areas from

obtaining their rightful

OBC certificates.

Transgender, LGBTQIA+ community of J&K holds rally demanding political reservation



ties for transgender and

LGBTQIA+ candidates

to contest elections. The

ongoing exclusion of our

community from the elec-

toral arena is a clear viola-

tion of our constitutional

rights and democratic

The demands raised

during the rally are

arounded in key judg-

ments by the Indian judi-

ciary, which have recog-

nised the rights of trans-

gender individuals. The

Supreme Court of India,

in its landmark ruling in

National Legal Services

Authority v. Union of India

(2014), acknowledged

transgender persons as

the 'Third Gender' and

directed the government

to treat them as socially

and educationally back-

ward classes. This ruling

makes transgender indi-

viduals eligible for res-

ervations in education

and employment, and by

extension, should apply

restore trade across the

principles.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: The Transgender and LGBTQIA+ community of Jammu & Kashmir, under the leadership of Raveena Mahant, Incharge of the J&K Unit of the Transgender Community, held a rally from Bikram Chowk to Hari Singh Park.

The rally was organised to voice the community's strong demand for political reservation and representation in the electoral process, a necessity that has long been denied by political parties in the region.

The rally highlighted the urgent need for political reservations for transgender individuals in legislative bodies. Without such reservations, the community remains underrepresented and unable to influence decisions that directly impact their lives. Participants demanded that political parties proto political representation as well.

Further supporting this cause, the Madras High Court in Nangai v. The Superintendent of Police (2014), emphasised the necessity of including transgender individuals in all aspects of society, including political life.

These judgments provide a strong legal basis for the demands for political reservation and representation raised by the community during the rally.

The rally was a powerful demonstration of the community's resolve to fight for their rights and ensure that their voices are heard in the political arena.

The Transgender and LGBTQIA+ community of J&K will continue to advocate for these crucial changes and call on the government and political parties to address this issue with the urgency it deserves

Yuva Jatt Sabha calls for urgent political representation for Jatt Community

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: In a significant move to address the ongoing concerns regarding the assembly election ticket distribution, Amandeep Singh Boparai, President of the Yuva Jatt Sabha, convened an urgent conference today to shed light on the injustices faced by the Jatt community in Jammu and Kashmir. The conference highlighted the alarming trend of political parties, particularly the BJP, neglecting the Jatt community, which numbers in the lakhs within Jammu Province. Boparai expressed deep concern over the reservation of Jattdominant seats such as Suchetgarh, Marh, and Ramgarh, while simultaneously noting the complete lack of representation for the Jatt community in open seats. "In the last Assembly, we had 2 MLAs and 2 MLCs from the Jatt community, but we fear that there will be no representation for us in the upcoming Assembly," stated Boparai. "Despite our significant population



<u>"Modi brought new dawn in J&K"</u>

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: In a fiery address today, Union Minister for Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, and BJP's In-Charge of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections, called ongoing assembly elections in J&K as "a movement for the people" as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) continues its efforts to redefine the future of Jammu and Kashmir, Speaking to an energized crowd in support of party candidate from Jammu West Arvind Gupta, Reddy reaffirmed that J&K remains the heartbeat of India, and the party's vision for its people reflects the legacy of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, who established the party with the aim to protect J&K from dynastic rule and divisive politics. Reddy reminded the gathering of the BJP's historic opposition to Article 370, dating back to the founding of the party. He paid homage to the sacrifices made by leaders like Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, who gave

BJP leads movement to empower, defend people's rights: Kishan Reddy

भारतीय जनता पार्टी वेधानर

militancy and bloodshed. The Minister pointed out the ongoing development in the region, citing the establishment of key institutions like IITs, AIIMS, and IIMs in J&K. Reddy criticized the Congress for opposing these advancements and aligning with the NC's out

He referenced Congress

leader Rahul Gandhi's

and contributions to the region, we find ourselves sidelined in the political arena. It is disheartening to witness our community being overlooked during this critical election period."

While emphasizing that the Yuva Jatt Sabha is a non-political organization, Boparai asserted that they will take action whenever representation for the Jatt community is denied. "We urge all political parties to recognize the importance of inclusivity and representation. Our community deserves a voice, and we will stand by candidates who genuinely represent our inter-

ests," he added. Boparai specifically urged the Congress party to ensure proper representation for the Jatt community by granting a ticket to a Jatt candidate for the Jammu South

seat. The BJP should consider giving the Bahu seat to a Jatt candidate, as it remains undeclared. This move could strengthen their support base and address community representa-

tion effectively. "We will ensure victory in Jattdominant seats if our community is properly represented. However, if we are ignored, we will have no choice but to boycott both the BJP and Congress and support independent candidates instead," he emphasized. In light of this situation, the Yuva Jatt Sabha has declared its commitment to advocate for justice and equality in the political landscape The Sabha calls upon all stakeholders to reconsider their strategies and ensure fair representation for the Jatt community in Jammu and Kashmir.

He noted that the 2019 abrogation of Article 370 marked a turning point in the BJP's long struggle to fully integrate Jammu

and Kashmir into India. a cause the party kept alive in their manifestos for over 70 years. The Union Minister

emphasized that this election is the first after the historic abrogation of Article 370, signaling a new era for the people of J&K. "This is not just an election." he said. "it's a movement for the restoration of dignity for women, West Pakistani refugees. SCs. STs, and Valmiki Samaj, alongside all the people of Jammu and Kashmir." He extended gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for their unwavering resolve in implementing this historic decision. Recalling Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi's historic journey to unfurl the tricolor in Srinagar's Lal Chowk, Reddy highlighted the symbolic importance of today's youth proudly carrying the Indian flag in rallies across Dal Lake. "The youth of Kashmir have shown their love for India and its unity," he said, contrasting this positive shift with the resistance of opposition parties like Congress and the National Conference (NC), who Reddy claimed "are not liking the big change in Kashmir post-Article 370 abrogation."

Reddy remarked that the world's eves are on J&K now, as India demonstrates how peace, development, and democracy are taking root in the region. He urged voters not to see this election as a mere political contest but as a crucial step in securing the rights and futures of all people in J&K. "This election is a movement aimed at ensuring that no party like NC, Congress, or PDP ever snatches back the rights of the common people in J&K," he asserted.

Taking a strong stand against the NC's recent announcements, Reddy warned of dangerous designs to revert to dual flags and return power to militants. He pointed out that the NC's promises to Line of Control and their statement of having a potential dialogue with "blood relation" with the militants and Pakistan Abdullah family, implying could unravel the progress that this closeness undermade since Article 370's mines the region's progabrogation. "It is up to the ress people to see through this Speaking on occasion dangerous plan," Reddy party candidate Arvind urged, highlighting that Gupta in his remarks Congress is supporting the urged the people of NC's regressive policies. Jammu and Kashmir to Under BJP's leadership, vote for the BJP, which Reddy said, militancy in he described as the only J&K is on its last legs, and party capable of ending the region is entering an the bloodshed and restorera of peace and prosing lasting peace to the perity. "The tables have region. "These elections turned," he claimed, "and are an opportunity to end we now see peace, prosdynastic rule, restore perity, and development democratic institutions. across the region thanks and bring lasting peace to Prime Minister Modi and to the region," he stated. Amit Shah's leadership." He called on voters to put He also praised Modi for aside divisions of caste. isolating Pakistan globcreed, and religion and ally, stating that the rogue unite for a future that prination no longer has suporitizes development and port from the international stability community due to its role

Earlier, G. Kishan Reddy ended his address by calling for an end to the political dominance of families like the Abdullahs and Muftis. "The people of J&K deserve a government that will strengthen Panchavati Raj institutions and local bodies like Municipal Committees and Corporations," he concluded, asking the people to vote for change and prosperity over the dynastic politics that have defined the region for decades.

JSS Jammu ranked-1 in UT of J&K for Academic
Excellence by Education Today

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu, is proud to announce its distinction as the No. 1 school in Jammu & Kashmir and Jammu for Academic Reputation, as recognized by Education today. This prestigious accolade highlights the school's exceptional commitment to academic excellence and educational innovation.

Education Today's recent survey, which included

over 1,120 schools across North India, identified only 298 institutions for awards based on rigorous criteria including jury rankings, parent votes, and detailed survey analysis. Jammu Sanskriti School's top rankings reflect its outstanding educational standards and dedication to student success Education Today was established in 2013, and stands as one of the top education magazines in

India, offering unparal-

leled insights and informa-

tive articles for students, teachers, and parents nationwide

The North India's School Merit Awards ceremony took place on August 30, 2024, at The Crowne Plaza in Gurugram. The event was covered by the Education News Network and featured in the September issue of Education Today magazine. The recognition is a testament to the school's continual efforts to provide an exemplary learning environment. The award was received

by Rohini Aima -Principal Cum Vice-Chairperson of the school and Sunakshi Anand - Director operations of the school.

their lives for the cause of

"Ek Nishan, Ek Vidhan, Ek

Pradhan" (One Flag, One

Constitution, One Head).

Rohini Aima, Principal Cum Vice-Chairperson of Jammu Sanskriti School, expressed her pride in the school's achievements and conveved her gratitude to the Management, the Faculty and the parents for carving the niche. She further added "We are honored and thrilled to receive this recognition. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and the entire school community. Our commitment to academic excellence and holistic development remains unwavering, and we will continue to strive for excellence in all aspects of education.'

scores Jammu Sanskriti School's dedication to nurturing academic excellence and its role as a leader in education in the region.

This accolade under-

ROTATINE REALEWAY E-Tender Notice Sr.DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.iresp.gov.in) against below titled Tenders Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.							
Tender No	Name of Work	App Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Completion Period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars	
T-35-	Electrical work in c/w Upgradation/ Improvement of Jandiala, Butari, Patti & Bhagtanwala goods shed under SSE/P/ASR.		1,94,100.00/-	06 Months	20.09.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps. gov.in	
No. 251-Elect/T.Notice No.28-Elect/2024-25 Dated: 29.08.2024 2708/2024 2708/2024 Serving Customers With A Smile							

in sponsoring terrorism.

Reddy credited Modi's

policies for turning Paki-

stan into a failed state,

isolated from the world

stage due to its continued

support of terror. "While

Pakistan struggles, India's

vision for J&K is moving

forward with peace and

progress," Reddy noted.

He criticized Congress for

supporting NC's regres-

sive agenda, which, if

allowed to prevail, would

return J&K to a dark era of

OP-ED

EDITORIAL

SAVING NATURAL RESOURCES

ammu and Kashmir, with its stunning landscapes, lush valleys, and diverse ecosystems, is endowed with a wealth of natural recources. However, rapid urbanization, population growth, and climate change pose significant threats to these invaluable assets. Protecting and conserving Jammu and Kashmir's natural resources is not just a necessity but an urgent priority for ensuring the region's environmental sustainability and overall well-being.

Jammu and Kashmir is blessed with abundant freshwater resources, including rivers, lakes, and glaciers. Major rivers like the Jhelum, Chenab, and Ravi are crucial for drinking water, agriculture, and hydroelectric power. However, the region faces challenges such as water pollution, overextraction, and glacier melting due to climate change.

Implement Sustainable Water Management: Promote efficient irrigation practices, such as drip irrigation, and adopt rainwater harvesting techniques to reduce dependency on freshwater sources. Protect Water Bodies: Prevent pollution by regulating industrial waste disposal and encouraging community-led initiatives for the cleaning and maintenance of rivers and lakes. Monitor Glaciers and Snowfall: Establish research programs to track glacier health and snowfall patterns, which are crucial for managing water availability in the future.

The forests of Jammu and Kashmir are home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, including endangered species such as the Hangul deer and the Kashmir stag. These forests play a critical role in maintaining ecological balance, preventing soil erosion, and contributing to the region's climate regulation.

Promote Afforestation and Reforestation: Encourage tree planting campaigns and the restoration of degraded forest areas to enhance biodiversity and combat deforestation. Protect Wildlife Habitats: Establish and enforce wildlife protection laws to prevent poaching and habitat destruction. Support conservation programs and wildlife corridors to ensure the survival of endangered species. Sustainable Forestry Practices: Adopt eco-friendly logging practices and manage forest resources in a way that meets current needs without compromising future generations.

The fertile soil of Jammu and Kashmir supports agriculture, which is a major livelihood for many residents. However, soil erosion, land degradation, and improper agricultural practices threaten soil health and productivity.

Promote Soil Conservation Techniques: Implement practices such as terracing, contour plowing, and agroforestry to reduce soil erosion and improve soil fertility. Encourage Organic Farming: Reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides by promoting organic farming methods that enhance soil health and reduce environmental impact. Implement Land Use Planning: Develop and enforce land use policies that prevent over-cultivation and ensure sustainable land management practices. Jammu and Kashmir's potential for renewable energy is significant, particularly in hydroelectric, solar, and wind energy. However, over-reliance on non-renewable sources and inefficient energy use are concerns that need addressing. Invest in Renewable Energy Projects: Expand investments in hydroelectric, solar, and wind energy projects to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and decrease environmental impact. Promote Energy Efficiency: Encourage energy-efficient appliances and practices in homes, industries, and public buildings to reduce overall energy consumption. Support Research and Development: Invest in research for new technologies and innovations in energy conservation and renewable energy sources. The success of natural resource conservation efforts largely depends on public awareness and community involvement. Educating residents about the importance of natural resource conservation and involving them in local environmental initiatives can drive positive change. Organize workshops, seminars, and educational programs to raise awareness about the importance of conserving natural resources. Engage local communities in conservation projects, such as tree planting drives, waste management programs, and water conservation initiatives. Advocate for the development and enforcement of robust environmental policies and regulations to protect natural resources. Preserving Jammu and Kashmir's natural resources is essential for maintaining the region's ecological balance, ensuring the well-being of its residents, and safeguarding its unique biodiversity. By adopting sustainable practices, protecting ecosystems, and fostering community engagement, we can ensure that these precious resources are conserved for future generations. The collective efforts of individuals, communities, and policymakers are crucial in this endeavor, as each action taken today will contribute to a more sustainable and resilient future for Jammu and Kashmir.

The India-Pakistan wind's changing

By: JYOTI MALHOTRA

AS the time come for Prime Minister Modi to drop his inhibitions and say, "Yes, I Will", to Pakistan? For the uninitiated, much has

happened in the last 48 hours. In Punjab, as the Aam Aadmi Party consolidates itself in the face of a shrinking Shiromani Akali Dal – whose MLAs, significantly, are not joining their former partners, the BJP – Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose family hails from Amritsar, has written to Modi, inviting him to attend a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Islamabad in October.

An honest and face-to-face conversation with your enemy is real catharsis.

The Ministry of External Affairs has confirmed that it has received such an invite, but not what it intends to do about it. It is also true that the Pakistani establishment may have put out this news in the hope that it builds some public pressure inside India — bleedingheart liberals, who for their livelihood depend on reaching out and touching someone, as well as the candle-lighting brigade at Attari-Wagah can always be depended upon to push the envelope in favour of talks.

Equally true is the boring predictability of the naysayers. Modi cannot, must not, should not go to Islamabad because Pakistan is the enemy and cannot be trusted. In case you belong to this ilk, then, you should quickly pack your bags and take the next bus to Gurdaspur, so that you have a chance to reaffirm your animosity.

Here, where the drones fall within spitting distance of the Zero Line,

that is a few km inside of the India-Pakistan border, you know that the purest-grade white heroin load — in local parlance, chitta — that the hexacopters carry, has been packed and placed on the orders of the Pakistani establishment. There are many ways to carry out a 'proxy war', of course.

Another way is to infiltrate trained terrorists into the Jammu region. Military analysts believe that the ambushes of Indian soldiers and paramilitary in recent months — as many as 18 soldiers have been killed so far this summer — is a well-considered strategy by the Pakistani state to shift the focus away from the Kashmir valley.

So, what should PM Modi do? Should he go to Pakistan or not? Remember that 10 long years ago, Modi had invited Nawaz Sharif, then Prime Minister of Pakistan, to his swearing-in ceremony in Delhi and Sharif had turned up – against the advice of his own powerful military establishment. When Sharif returned home from Delhi, it was said that he and his job were in trouble, because he had chosen to shake the hand of the man who was the Chief Minister of Gujarat when the 2002 riots had taken place, in which more than a thousand Muslims had been killed. The way Sharif explained it - Modi was the PM of South Asia's most powerful country, Pakistan was India's neighbour and both had been through the rough-and-tumble of history – it was his duty to offer the hand of peace.

The peace pipe didn't last long. On January 2, 2016, Pakistani terrorists attacked the Pathankot airbase. Soon, Modi had announced that he was breaking off all conversation with Pakistan until crossborder terrorism came to an end. The deep freeze was turned on.

But the truth is that eight years on, cross-border terrorism has not come to an end. The Jammu terror incidents from this summer indicate that someone continues to orchestrate the whole show from behind the scenes. "Uski tooti mere haath main hai" (I hold the lever in my hands) – that is how in the summer of 1999, at the height of the Kargil War, a senior Pakistan General described Pakistan's control of cross-border terrorism to then army chief Gen Pervez Musharraf. The conversations were recorded by Indian intelligence, transcribed and shown to then Pakistan Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz when he stopped over in Delhi en route to Beijing.

Aziz had been trying to defend the indefensible, that is, the Pakistani invasion at Kargil, when he was confronted with the tapes. He had nothing more to say after that. Modi has been confronted with the same dilemma since 2016. He fully understands that the nature of the Pakistani state hasn't changed and what's more, is unlikely to change in the near future. If he had any doubts, the carefully instigated overthrow of Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh next door no doubt, she is fully responsible for allowing the situation to reach this crescendo – should give him a clearer picture of India's dangerous neighbourhood.

So, should he continue with upping the ante — 'surgical strikes' in 2016, followed by missile strikes in Balakote in 2019 — even though it's clear that Pakistan will find new ways to hurt India every day? Or should he take a leaf out of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's book and try to make peace with the nation that the latter went to war with?

It's clear that the wind is shifting in the India-Pakistan corner again. Modi remains a strong third-term Prime Minister, but he has had to go the extra mile to woo both Russia and the US over Ukraine. It's not clear whether the Big Powers want Modi to renew contact with Pakistan again, which is what explains the timing of the Islamabad invite. Even if the invite is for a pro-China organisation, which is what the SCO is, perhaps the Americans are testing the waters. They certainly don't want Pakistan to be fully drawn into China's sway.

And then there's Kashmir. More than one India-Pakistan-US Track Two conversation has come away with the revelation that Pakistan may be willing to tone down its very harsh criticism of the abrogation of Article 370 and return to a conversation if India conducts elections in Jammu & Kashmir. Guess what's happening there in September.

The fact remains that Modi should make the decision to go or not to go to Islamabad on his own merit – and how it will play at home. (For one, it is bound to burnish his credentials with the influential candle-lighting constituency at Attari-Wagah.) Second, Modi knows that secure leaders and nations are not afraid to speak to anyone, especially their enemies. Third, key state elections are around the corner. If Haryana and Maharashtra are lost to the Opposition, the sense of the BJP and PM Modi being further pushed into a political corner will increase.

Apart from the fact that an honest and face-to-face conversation with your enemy is real catharsis, imagine the boost to his popularity if Modi goes to Pakistan.

Social media overuse taking its toll on consumers

By: KP SINGH

T was shocking to learn during an orientation pro-▲gramme for new entrants at a law college in Punjab that students remain occupied on social media (SM) for an average of over seven hours a day, leaving them with little time for sports and other community engagements or personal activities. It is estimated that 65 per cent of the teenagers are hooked on social networking service (SNS) and 72 per cent of them have direct access to the Internet. The number of SM accounts and Internet users has crossed the 100 crore-mark in India. According to Pew Research Centre statistics, 77 per cent of employees admit to using social networking sites while at work. No one can deny that SM provides people who desire to expand their social networks, promote their businesses or overcome loneliness with an incredible platform. It fosters a feeling of belongingness among those who need company but cannot physically interact with their family members, friends and relatives. SNS also makes for a good pastime and a source of entertainment for all, especially senior citizens. However, overindulgence in SM has a harmful impact on the physical, mental and overall wellbeing of its users. According to a University of Buffalo study, excessive use of SNS by college students has detrimental effects on their physical health. They have higher levels of C-reactive protein (CRP), a sign of chronic inflammation connected to major diseases like

diabetes, malignancies and cardiovascular problems. The new generation addicted to SM is at a high risk of suffering from the 'blue light effect', which is produced by the light emanating from electronic devices while in use. It adversely affects the production of the melatonin hormone, which controls the sleepwake cycle or circadian rhythms, resulting in sleeplessness and a weak immunity. A National Institutes of Health study (2018) at the New York-Presbyterian medical centre reported that children spending more than two hours a day on screen-time activities scored low on language and thinking tests. Some children exposed to the screen daily for more than seven hours experienced thinning of the brain's cortex, the area related to critical thinking and reasoning. In 2015, psychologist Marion Underwood and sociologist Robert Faris analysed about 1.5 lakh social media posts from more than 200 students aged 13 years and found that they had created drastically different online personas for themselves. They felt the freedom to do or say whatever they wanted to without any inhibition or fear of consequences or repercussions. Media theorist Douglas Rushkoff calls this phenomenon 'digiphrenia', which is "the experience of trying to exist in more than one incarnation of yourself at the same time." Studies have established that frequent stimulations received from SM sites shorten the attention span of the users, triggering far-reaching consequences. Such individuals may find it difficult to express themselves clearly, make mistakes as a result of a diminished attention to detail, and perform badly in a variety of settings, such as social situations, at their workplace and at educational institutions. Comparison is ingrained in human nature. The fake videos, manipulated information, impractical solutions and mischievous prescriptions published on SM are so mesmerising that ill-informed and innocent users start comparing their 'real life' with others' 'reel life', leading to self-doubt and making them feel frustrated and depressed. It is sickening that the rat race to get maximum likes on digital platforms and the quest for creating the best videos and stories have made many gullible individuals share each and every moment of their private life and that of others, allowing an intrusion into their privacy. It is leading to different kinds of behavioural abrasions, relationship discord and social conflicts. Such people do not understand that SM platforms are best meant for impacting people and not for impressing others. The bombardment of crypted and unverified information on social networking sites is cluttering the users' minds. It has snatched away from them the joy of being and living in the moment. Moreover, biased SM algorithms passively make the users consume unsuitable content that might lead to moral desensitisation.

already emerged. They can be seen checking their cell phones involuntarily – 79 times a day, according to a study - compelled by the desire to seek screen stimulation. Excessive time spent on networking sites has the potential of dragging such individuals into solitude and loneliness. In the absence of regular face-to-face interactions, humans lose the ability to recognise and respond to facial cues, voice tone and inflection, body language and the warmth of emotions. The ethical consequences of addiction to SM are far more serious and extend from cyberbullying to privacy violations. Notably, 30 per cent of students in middle and high school are either victims or culprits of cyberbullying; 18 per cent of them are girls. Unfortunately, 15 per cent of the victims of cyberbullying attempt suicide out of depression. Anonymity on SM often encourages users to post inappropriate material and indulge in cybercrimes. Although the Telecommunications Act, 2023, prescribes duties of the SM users and measures to protect consumers from unauthorised intrusion into their privacy and empowers enforcement agencies to intercept objectionable communication, it is not proving a deterrent in the absence of rules and a lack of awareness among the masses. Humankind now stands at a critical juncture regarding social media overuse. It must introspect: "Are we using SM or has it started consuming us?" SM should be used with due responsibility.

An overindulgence in SM leads to psychological disorders; a new class of such victims has

LOCAL

GDCW organises lecture on three criminal laws

Top News Report

KATHUA, Aug 31: Kathua Women's Degree College recently organized an informative lecture to raise awareness about India's newly enacted criminal laws.

This event was coordinated by the Departments of Education, Geography, Sociology, Home Science, and History, in collaboration with Vikshit Bharat and the SVEEP Committee.

The lecture concentrated on the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bhartiya Nagrik Surksha Sanhita, and Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023. Dr. Syed Naser, a

renowned expert, delivered a thorough presen-



tation, explaining the key aspects and implications of each law.

His discussion provided attendees with a comprehensive understanding of how these legislative measures will influence India's legal framework

Dr. Savi Behal, Principal of Kathua Women's Degree College, addressed the audience, highlighting the importance of staying informed about legal changes.

She praised the initiative as a vital part of the college's mission to equip students with knowledge that will help them navigate and contribute to the evolving legal environment.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Rachna. She expressed her gratitude to Dr. Naser for his valuable insights and to all participants for their active involvement. Dr. Rachna acknowledged the efforts of the organizing committees and emphasized the significance of such educational events in fostering a well-informed student body. This lecture was a part

of the college's ongoing commitment to providing students with a robust understanding of crucial legal and societal issues, preparing them to engage effectively with the legal changes affecting their world.

Yoga Session organised at **GDC Marheen**

Top News Report

MARHEEN, Aug 31: Yoga session was orgainzed by NSS unit of GDC, Marheen on Saturday under the patronage of Prof (Dr.) Anupama Gupta, esteemed Principal of Govt. Degree College Marheen.

She encouraged and supported the volunteers by saying that Yoga is beneficial for our health and day to day routine work which will reduce the tension, stress and work pressure

On this occasion, Neha

Top News Report

POUNI, Aug 31: In

a significant move to

empower the youth and

highlight the pivotal role

of women in fortifying

Indian democracy, the

Electoral Literacy Club of



Chib Lubita and Kanika NSS volunteers displayed demo regarding various Yog Asanas and gave tips for improving the health standard of society and the students as well. The event was managed by Dr. Arun Dev Singh, NSS Programme officer Dr Shallu Rani Prof Manu Saini .The faculty members were present on the occasion Prof Sandeep Chaudhary , Dr. Balbinder Singh, Dr. Munisha Devi, of the college.

5

Health Department honors Hafiza Begum



Top News Report

DODA, Aug 31: In a heartfelt ceremony held in Bhaderwah area of Doda district, the health department bid farewell to Hafiza Begum, a dedicated and respected staff member, who retired after more than 38 years of exemplary service.

Hafiza Begum, the mother of Abrar Batt, a journalist with The Chenab Times, has been a cornerstone of the department, contributing significantly to the community's health and well-being over her long and distinguished career. The retirement ceremony, organized by the health department. was a fitting tribute to

her years of hard work

and commitment. Block

Medical Officer, along

with other staff members,

expressed their gratitude

and admiration for Hafiza

Begum's dedication. The

event was marked by

warm speeches, shared

memories, and a sense

of appreciation for her

invaluable contributions.

Abrar Batt, in atten-

dance at the event,

expressed his deep pride

in his mother's achieve-

ments and thanked the

department for their sup-

port and the beautiful

send-off. "My mother's

to her work has always been an inspiration to me. I am deeply grateful to BMO Sir and the entire health department for honoring her with such a wonderful ceremony," he said.

unwavering dedication

Hafiza Begum leaves behind a legacy of service and care that will be remembered by her colleagues and the countless individuals she helped throughout her career. As she steps into retirement, her contributions to the health department will continue to be felt, and her example will inspire those who follow in her footsteps.

GOC White Knight Corps, **GOC CIF Delta conduct security** review in Doda-Kishtwar

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 31: To review security measures in the strategically important Doda-Kishtwar region, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the White Knight Corps, along with the GOC of Counter Insurgency Force (CIF) Delta, carried out a thorough assessment of the operational readiness in the Suigarh and Patnazi sectors

The GOC White Knight Corps personally inspected the deployment of troops and their preparedness in these key areas

He expressed satisfaction with the professionalism and determination shown by the soldiers despite ongoing challenges.

The GOC praised the troops for their dedication and their ability to maintain a high level of readiness, which is vital for the region's stability and

security, as reported by the White Knight Corps. The review also covered the security arrange-

ments for the ongoing KaplasKund Yatra, a significant annual pilgrimage in the region. Given the large number of pilgrims and the area's

sensitivity, the GOC stressed the importance of staying highly vigilant. Security forces have been directed to ensure all necessary measures are in place to prevent any potential threats. To boost security

efforts, aerial platforms are being used for overwatch and real-time surveillance. These aerial assets play a crucial role

in detecting and promptly addressing any suspicious activity, providing an extra layer of security The GOC's visit is part of a broader strategy to ensure the security

framework in the region remains strong and ready to respond to any potential threats.

GDC Khour organizes symposium on SVEEP to boost voting awareness

Government Degree College, Pouni, in collaboration with District Nodal Officer SVEEP, Reasi, successfully hosted a poster making event and Signature Campaign and Symposium events

The topic of symposium centered on the theme, "The Role of Youth, Especially Women, in Strengthening Indian Democracy." Dr. Prem Singh, Convener of Electoral Literacy Club administered the event under the able guidance of Dr. Udhay Bhanu, Principal GDC Pouni.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty,

GDC Pouni hosts poster making event and distinguished guests, making it a landmark occasion in the college's history. Prof. Bishan Das, Prof. Beant Singh, Dr. U S Liza, Prof. Mohit Anand and Tanpreet Singh coor-

> dinated the event. Dr. Prem Singh, HOD Political Science, gave a welcome speech. The symposium commenced with the singing of National Anthem and Pledgetaking ceremony under SVEEP. Arun, a student of semester 5th, hosted the event. The event was graced by the presence of Sachin Sharma, Nodal Officer SVEEP. Principal, Dr. Udhay Bhanu, welcomed the guest and presented him the bouquet as

a gesture of honor. In the keynote address, Sachin emphasized the importance of youth engagement in democratic processes and the unique contributions women can make in leadership roles.

Students shared their perspectives on democracy and gender equality. Their passionate speeches and creative presentations underscored the potential of young leaders to shape the future of Indian democracy.

The symposium event concluded with Vote of thanks by Dr. U S Liza, HOD English.

The Signature Campaign and symposium on "The Role of Youth, Especially Women, in Strengthening Indian Democracy" was a resounding success, fostering a deeper understanding of democratic engagement and the critical role of women in leadership. The Government Degree College, Pouni, remains dedicated to promoting civic education and empowering the next generation of leaders.

Hundreds form human chain in Baramulla to promote voter awareness ahead of Assembly Elections

Elections.

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 31: In a lively show of democratic spirit, hundreds of new voters gathered in Baramulla town to form a human chain as part of a Systematic Voters' Education

and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program. The event, held in the center of the town, aimed

symbol of unity and civic

Most of the participants were first-time voters who came together to highlight the need for active participation in elections. The human chain, which stretched across the main streets of Barammitment to voting in the

to emphasize the importance of every vote in the duty. The SVEEP program upcoming 2024 Assembly

also included the distribution of voter education materials to encourage informed and enthusiastic voting. The initiative was well-received by the local community, with many expressing their com-

Top News Report

as SSP Kupwara

SRINAGAR, Aug 31: Ghulam Jeelani, a senior officer of the Jammu and Kashmir Police Service (JKPS), officially assumed charge as the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kupwara.

A formal handover ceremony was held at the District Police Headquarters, Kupwara, where the outgoing SSP, Shobhit Saksena, IPS, passed on the responsibilities to Jeelani.

The ceremony marked a smooth transition of leadership within the district police.

Shobhit Saksena, who has served with distinc-

GDC Sunderbani organizes Poster Making Competition to raise voter awareness program

Top News Report

SUNDERBANI, Aug 31: GDC Sunderbani organized a Poster Making Competition to raise Voter Awareness Program. The competition was organized by the Electoral Literacy Club under the SVEEP (Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation).

The programme held in the College campus to built a participative democratic character among students and encourage them to cast the vote and make an informed decision during the election. Dalip Kumar (JKAS) CDPO Sunderbani and Suresh Kumar (Supervisor) ICDS Project Suntion, expressed his gratitude to the police per-

Jeelani assumes charge

sonnel and local administration for their support during his tenure. Ghulam Jeelani, in his remarks, acknowledged the work done by his predecessor and pledged to continue efforts to maintain law and order while ensuring the safety and security of the citizens of Kupwara.

The event was attended by senior police officers, district officials, and other dignitaries who conveyed their best wishes to the new SSP and commended the outgoing officer for his service.

bers on the occasion. They judged this SVEEP event and declared as Jyoti Potoch semester 3rd on 1st position, Retish Sharma semester 3rd got 2nd position and Amisha Sharma semester 3rd and Shakti Devi semester 5th shared 3rd position.

derbani were jury mem-

Principal of the college Dr. Ashu Vashist appreciated the efforts of Electoral Literacy club members Dr. Kuldeep Raj Sharma, Prof Davinder Kumar, Dr. Manjeet Singh, Dr. Umesh Paudel and Prof. Jyoti Sharma. She congratulated the students for their participation and securing their positions

Top News Report

KHOUR, Aug 31: GDC Khour organized an enlightening symposium under the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative, aimed at enhancing voting awareness among students.

The event, held under the esteemed patronage of Prof. (Dr.) T.K. Sharma, Principal of the college, featured a range of engaging activities designed to underscore the significance of voting in a democratic society. The symposium included speeches, slogan writing, and a pledgetaking ceremony, all focused on highlight-

ing the importance of exercising one's voting rights.

Active participation came from NCC cadets, NSS volunteers, and students from the Political Science and Physical

Education departments, demonstrating a strong collective commitment

to promoting democratic engagement. Notable speakers Sonia Sharma, Neha Devi, and Rakhi Manhas, all from the third semes-

ter, delivered speeches on the value of voting as both a fundamental right and a civic duty. They emphasized the

power of every single vote in fostering positive change within the country. Additionally, Taniya Sharma and Mannu Devi, also from the third semester, captivated the audience with their poems on the crucial role of voting.

Students showcased their creativity and enthusiasm through slogan writing, with impactful messages such as "Shape Your future, Vote Now" and "Every Vote Matters," aimed at spreading awareness about the significance of

The term 'Stemletics'

voting. In his keynote address Principal Prof. (Dr.) T.K. Sharma highlighted the dual nature of voting as both a privilege and a responsibility. He stressed that voting is not only a way to express individual opinions but also a powerful tool for shaping the collective future of society. The symposium concluded with a pledge-

taking ceremony, where students committed to advancing voting awareness and encouraging their peers to exercise their voting rights.

The event was organized under the aegis of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the college. Prof. Reeta Menia, Dr. Rashmi Sharma, Prof. Shivani Sharma, Prof. Himanshu Khajuria, Prof. Sunil Kumar, and Prof. Pooja Kumari also graced the occasion with their presence

ulla, served as a powerful

upcoming elections.

Koul conducts election strategy meeting

Top News Report SRINAGAR, Aug 31:

Ashok Koul, BJP's General Secretary (Organization) for Jammu and Kashmir, held a crucial election strategy meeting in Anantnag with party candidates including Rafiq Wani, Sofi Yousuf, Javid Qadari, Veer Saraf, Arshad Bhat, Showkat

Gayoor, Advocate Wajahat, Choudhary Roshan, and Ashok Bhat (Habbakadal candidate).

Koul addressed the candidates, senior leaders, and District Presidents such as Dr. Darakshan Andrabi. Altaf Thakur. Charanjeet Singh Khalsa, Mudasir Wani, and others, emphasizing the need for unity to ensure a strong performance in the upcoming 2024 assembly elections. He urged the party's leadership and workers to concentrate on strengthening the party's grassroots network. Expressing confidence in the party's prospects, Koul asserted that the BJP is on track to form the next government in Jammu and Kashmir

Kho-Kho selection trials from Sept 3

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: The J&K Kho-Kho Association is organizing selection trials for the upcoming 34th Sub Junior National Kho-Kho Championship, scheduled to take place

in Jharkhand. The selection trials will be held from September 3 to 4, 2024, starting at 3 PM at Greenplay Field 1, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. Aspiring players are encouraged to participate in these trials to showcase their skills and earn a spot on the team representing Jammu and Kashmir at the national level.

For more information, interested individuals can contact on 9419141007, 9149509617, 9906204257, or email jkkhokho@gmail.com

KCPS students excel at Stemletics event hosted by Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya Gwalior

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: Five students of KC Public School (KCPS), namely, Aryan Mahajan, Mrigaanka Bhat, Medhavi Arora, Lavanya Koushal and Divyansh Sharmatook part in the 'Stemletics' event hosted by Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya Gwalior on August 28 and 29, 2024.

refers to an innovative programme that combines sports and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) education to engage students in hands-on learning experiences. The programme aims at equipping the next generation of leaders with essential tools to succeed in today's world and

encourages students to pursue careers in STEM fields.

The event commenced with an impressive opening ceremony with the DRDO Director presiding over it. Thereafter, participating teams from several reputed schools from India took part in a number of activities such as Castle Run Robot Workshop, Technovate

Competition, Castle Run Robot Competition and **Obstacle Avoiding Robot** Competition.

The team from KCPS escorted by Mohit Uppal of IT department put up a marvellous performance during the event and won the third position in the **Obstacle Avoiding Robot** competition.

In this event, robots built by students utilized

sensors and advanced algorithms to expertly manoeuvre through a complex maze, avoiding collisions and finding the optimal path. Aryan and Divyansh of KCPS handled this event with remarkable dexterity. This accomplishment showcased KCPS team's exceptional skills, innova-

tive thinking, dedication to

the field of robotics and

KCPS Chairman Raju Chowdhary and Principal AK Mishra complimented the school Science Club 'KC Science Crusaders' and its mentors Kapil Kashyap and Surbhi Mahajan for taking up the initiative of training the school team for this futuristic scientific contest in which they emerged victorious.

excellent team spirit.

ENTERTAINMENT

Javed Akhtar says society is not clear who is a contemporary woman

Javed Akhtar and Zoya Akhtar recently spoke about about cinema and storytelling. In an interview with agency, the veteran lyricist-screenwriter reflected on the portrayal of female characters and contemporary society's understanding of women.

6

Javed Akhtar on contemporary women in cinema

Javed, while speaking of contemporary morality in storytelling, said, "When society is clear about contemporary morality and aspirations, great writing can emerge. The writer is a part of society, breathing the same air. This is how great roles come about. Meena Kumari in Saheb, Biwi Aur Ghulam, Nargis in Mother India, and Waheeda Rehman in Guide exemplify this. However, when morality is unclear, issues arise."



that point, society was not clear

about the contemporary woman.

'Main chup rahungi' is out, but

who is in? Nobody knows. Till

today, we are roaming in the

dark trying to find the modern

woman. Zova had told me, 'You

He also said, "Look at these two girls - Sridevi and Madhuri Dixit. They were not less talented than any so-called heroine of the past. But did they get one big role? Not because anybody was their enemy. But at will not praise me on the stage. I find it embarrassing when you say good things about me.' But Zoya, the fact is the only contemporary woman I have seen is in your films."

Javed Akhtar in Angry Young Men

Javed recently featured in a documentary series titled Angry Young Men. The show depicts the cinematic journey of his partnership with Salim Khan. Directed by Namrata Rao, the documentary highlights how the Salim-Javed partnership resulted in 22 blockbusters out of their collaboration in 24 films. The veteran screenwriters also discuss their split in the series. The show features Zoya and Farhan Akhtar, Salman Khan, Amitabh Bachchan, Jaya Bachchan, Shabana Azmi, and many other celebrities.

Celesti Bairagey sees constructive criticism as a gift



Celesti Bairagey, who has been part of the show Rajjo as well as Amazon Mini TV series Amber Girls School, says it is very important to manage criticism well. "I see constructive criticism as a gift. It's a chance to refine my skills and gain new perspectives. I take feedback seriously, reflect on it, and use it to enhance my future performances. Growth happens outside of our comfort zone, and feedback helps me push those boundaries," she says.

Ask her how she contributes to a positive and collaborative work environment on the sets, and she says, "On the sets, I believe in the power of teamwork. I always bring a positive attitude, respect everyone's contribution, and stay open to ideas. A collaborative environment makes the magic happen."

Ishaan Khatter is ecstatic as he gets featured first time on billboard in Los Angeles

Actor Ishaan Khatter is over-the-moon as he got featured in a billboard for the first time in Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles.

Ishaan took to Instagram, where he shared a video, which seems to be by his co-star Eve Hewson. The billboard had the poster of his upcoming series 'The Perfect Couple' featuring him and his co-stars. He wrote, 'My first billboard in Sunset Blvd Ft only the most appropriate commentary by @ evehewson. Sept 5th. The Perfect Couple. Netflix. Let's go.

The actor later shared a glimpse of his passport and ticket, and wrote, 'May the excitement begin.'

He did not mention the details about his travelling.

Talking about 'The Perfect Couple', it is a mystery drama star-



Liev Schreiber, Dakota Fanning, Hewson and Ishaan. It is an adaptation of the 2018 novel of the same name by Elin Hilderbrand.

The show tells the story of Hewson's character Amelia, who is about to marry into the wealthy Nantucket Winbury family, to the disapproval of their matriarch novelist played by Kidman. But when a body is found on the beach and secrets are revealed, everyone becomes a suspect.

Apart from 'The Perfect Couple', Ishaan will be seen in 'The Royals' alongside names such as Bhumi Pednekar, Zeenat Aman, Sakshi Tanwar, Nora Fatehi, Chunky Panday, Dino Morea and Milind Soman. In the ever-evolving world of cinema, where trends shift as quickly as the latest blockbuster, one phenomenon has recently emerged with compelling force — the re-release of prequels when sequels hit the screens! Here's a look at the trend.

Retracing the past In 2023, as the buzz around Gadar 2 peaked. cinemas across India rolled out a timely rerelease of its prequel, Gadar: Ek Prem Katha. Originally premiered in 2001, this epic film had become a huge hit. The re-release was not just a nostalgic gesture, but more of a strategic move. By bringing back Gadar just before the release of its sequel, the filmmakers cleverly tapped into the growing excitement and anticipa-

Back to big screen

Call it nostalgia or a strategic move, blockbusters such as Gadar: Ek Prem Katha and Maine Pyar Kiya have been re-released in theatres to draw in crowds. Is the trend here to stay? We take a look



tion surrounding Gadar 2.

Covid effect The Covid-19 pandemic left theatres in the dark and there was a significant decrease in new releases. Cinemas reopened in India after a seven-month-long break. With barely any new films being made and the pandemic still raging, studios and distributors found an innovative way to address the void — which was 're-releasing classic films'. So, iconic films from the past like Rockstar and Hum Aapke Hain Koun returned to the big screen. Tapping blockbuster material

A notable example is Sajid Ali's Laila Majnu. The 2018 classic love story found its way back to theatres six years after its debut. Written by Sajid Ali and Imtiaz Ali, this modern adaptation of the classic Persian love story stands out as a refreshing tribute to the timeless theme of eternal love.

Triptii Dimri and Avinash Tiwary shine as Laila and Majnu. The film crossed the boxoffice collection of its original release within just a few days of its re-release. The film's popularity saw an unexpected boost due to a viral incident involving actor Avinash Tiwary. While visiting a café in Kashmir, a region where the film was extensively shot, Tiwary was recognised by locals not by his real name but by his character's name ---

Qaes Bhatt. The videos capturing this incident quickly spread across social media platforms. The buzz created by these viral clips reignited interest in the film. Hit formula

Recently, the films Laila Majnu and Maine Pyar Kiya are running in theatres across Chandigarh. Similarly, as many went to watch Tamasha in theatres pondered why Imtiaz Ali's directorial was a flop when it first ran in theatres. Speaking of Tamasha, another of Ranbir Kapoor's powerful performance in Rockstar was appreciated by audiences as the film re-premiered in theatres recently. Those who missed out on Gangs of Wasseypur can now watch the film in theatres from August 30 till September 5.

Jacqueliene Fernandez opens up about 'being in spotlight for reasons unrelated to work': What has helped me the most is...

Actor Jacqueliene Fernandez has spoken about how she handles being in the "spotlight for reasons unrelated to your work" and which aren't "positive in nature". Speaking with agency, Jacqueliene also talked about her 'language barrier' in Bollywood and added that she is "still managing" it.

Jacqueliene of going through ups and downs Jacqueliene said, "Positives and negatives are always going to be there...But what has helped me the most is giving up this constant desire and need to be loved and realising that this is truly the last illusion we all have and that we all face. This is what has kept me free, humble, and calm. I believe in God, I always have. It's an extremely strong force in my life. And because of that, I never really fear anything. I meditate often. Now I'm able to distinguish between right and wrong people, and I keep my family and good people close. I hold on to my ability

to be empathetic as my superpower, and not a weakness."

Last month, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) summoned Jacqueliene to appear for questioning in the 200 crore money laundering case involving alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar. She was earlier questioned several times by the ED officials in the case for her links with Chandrashekhar, who is accused of extorting substantial sums from various individuals and allegedly using the funds to sustain a luxurious lifestyle. The ED seeks to probe her connection to Chandrashekhar and her potential involvement in the laundering activities. Jacqueliene on her

language barrier On her language barrier, the actor said, "Honestly, I'm still managing the language barrier. I train and work hard on it—speaking and performing in a language that is not my mother tongue and battling a perception that I am weak in the language. I love to see myself get-



ting better in that field and approaching it more positively...I remember my initial years as well. It was a nightmare for me because I was badgered by the critics pretty harshly. It was only after my third film, which was Murder 2 (2011), that I was able to gain some positive judgments and constructive criticism, which then led to Housefull 2 (2012) and Race 2 (2013)."

Jacqueliene's upcoming film

Jacqueliene will be next seen in Welcome to the Jungle. The film, which is directed by Ahmed Khan, will be out in theatres on December 20, 2024.

The film also stars Akshay Kumar, Disha Patani, Raveena Tandon, Lara Dutta, Arshad Warsi, Shreyas Talpade, Suniel Shetty, Johnny Lever, Kiku Sharda, Krushna Abhishek, Rahul Dev, Daler Mehndi and Mika Singh. The film is the third installment of the hit franchise Welcome. The second instalment, titled Welcome Back released in 2015.

Kangana on Emergency: I'm determined to even go to court to protect my film



on September 6, Kan-

gana said, "Hopefully, it

will. My film got cleared-

by the censor board.

And the day we were

about to get the certifi-

cate, a lot of people did

"There are a lot of

issues with the censor

board as well. So I

a lot of drama."

Actress-filmmaker Kangana Ranaut says the censor board has not given the certificate to her for the upcoming movie Emergency and hopes that it comes on time, otherwise she is determined to fight for it and go to court. About the film getting released hope it gets released. Because suddenly, as they say, the carpet is pulled from belwo someone's feet. I was very confident that I got the certification. But now they are not giving me my certificate," she added. Kangana is determined to give a tough fight to protect her film. "And it's getting too late. I hope the film comes on time. Otherwise, I am determined to fight for it. I am determined to even go to court to protect my film. To save my right as an individual. You can't change history and scare us by threats," she said.

"We have to show the history. An almost 70-year-old woman was shot 30-35 times in her house... Someone must have killed her. Now you don't want to show it... Because, apparently, you think you can hurt someone. But you have to show the history. So how did she die?... If they are going to suppress the voice of an artiste and my creative liberty... Some people have wielded their guns and we are not afraid of guns," she said.

NATIONAL

Need faster verdicts: PM Modi on crimes against women amid Kolkata rape-murder

Amid the outrage over the Kolkata rape-murder, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that the country needs faster verdicts in cases of crimes against women to ensure their safety.

NEW DELHI, Aug 31 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that the country needs faster verdicts in cases of crimes against women to ensure their safety. He noted that atrocities against women and the safety of children are matters of grave concern for society. The PM's comments came amid the outrage over the rape-murder of a woman doctor at a government hospital in Kolkata.

"There are several laws in the country that address the issue of women's safety. In 2019, the fast-track courts law was passed, under which witness deposition centres were created. District monitoring committees play an important role. We must ensure these committees are further strengthened and that faster verdicts are delivered in cases involving women's safety," PM Modi said.

Addressing an event in Delhi



on the 75 years of the Supreme Court, he said, "Today, atrocities against women, the safety of children... are serious concerns of society. Many strict laws have been made in the country for the safety of women, but we need to make it more active".

"The faster the decisions are taken in cases related to atrocities against women, the greater assurance of safety half the population will get," he empha-





The Prime Minister made these remarks a day after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee wrote to him, reiterating her request for stringent cen-

tral legislation and exemplary punishment for heinous crimes like rape and murder. The Trinamool Congress supremo also said that she had written to the Prime Minister earlier but had received no reply from him on the "sensitive issue". The central government, responding to Banerjee's letter, also stated that existing laws are

strong enough to deal with such crimes and urged the state to act in letter and spirit. "If the state government follows the central legislation in letter and spirit, it will certainly have a lasting impact on strengthening the criminal justice system, bringing the perpe-

trators of such crimes to face the consequences commensurate with the offence and also in ensuring justice to the victims or survivors," Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Annapurna Devi, said.

PM Modi, at the Supreme Court event, also stressed that several steps have been initiated in the past 10 years to eliminate delays in delivering justice and to improve judicial infrastructure.

"Hindu, Muslim MLAs sat together": Himanta Sarma on Namaz break decision



RANCHI, Aug 31 (Agencies): After facing criticism over the state assembly's decision to scrap the practice of 2-hour adjournment for Jumma pravers in Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Saturday that Hindu and Muslim MLAs together sat and unanimously took the decision that they will work during this period also.

CM Himanta said, "The Hindus and Muslims of our assembly sat in the Malas Rule Committee and unanimously resolved that the two-hour break is not right. We should work during this period as well. This practice started in 1937 and has been discontinued from vesterday."

"This is a unanimous decision. This is not just my decision alone," he added. The state assembly ended the practice of a two-hour adjournment for Jumma Prayers, every Friday that was introduced by Saadulah's Muslim League government in colonial Assam.

Assam Speaker Biswajit Daimary said that the decision was taken as it had become difficult to hold discussions on Fridays due to a lack of time.

Former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav hit out at CM Sarma and alleged that the Assam Chief Minister wants "cheap popularity" and further said that the BJP wants to "bother Muslims in some way or the other."

Samajwadi Party leader ST Hassan said, "Himanta Biswa Sarma spreads poison in the society. His government is against Muslims.'

According to the previous rule, the sitting of the Assembly on Friday used to be adjourned at 11 am to facilitate Muslim members to go for namaaz, but, as per the new rule, the Assembly will conduct its proceedings without any adjournment for religious purposes.

As per the amended rule, the Assam assembly will commence its proceedings at 9.30 am every day, including Fridays. The order stated that the amendment was done to scrap the colonial practice which aimed at dividing the society on a religious basis.

Drunk civic volunteer rams divider at RG Kar protest site, arrested after sit-in

KOLKATA, Aug 31 (Agencies): A civic volunteer with the Kolkata Police has been arrested for hitting a divider at Sinthi near RG Kar Medical College and Hospital where students were protesting against the rape and murder of a trainee doctor. The protesters claimed the civic volunteer, Gangasagar Ghosh, was drunk, and his bike had a Kolkata Police sticker.

The incident happened at 3.45 am on Saturday when a group of students of Rabindra Bharathi University were protesting against the doctor's rape and murder. The civic volunteer appeared at the

immediately intercepted Ghosh and handed him to an on-duty traffic officer, Tarakeshwar Purie. However, the protesters alleged that the traffic sergeant helped the civic volunteer escape from the spot as a huge

crowd gathered The students' group then staged a sit-in and protested against the police, demanding immediate action against the civic volunteer and the traffic cop. Later, Kolkata Police arrested the accused civic volunteer based on a complaint filed by the students. A departmental inquiry has been launched against the traffic sergeant while the

Civic volunteers are hired by Kolkata Police to help manage traffic and assist police during festivals and awareness campaigns.

The development comes as the protests over the RG Kar rapemurder case refuse to die down. The 31-yearold doctor was found dead in the seminar hall of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9.

A civic volunteer of the Kolkata Police, Sanjoy Roy, was arrested a day later. He was arrested after the police found a Bluetooth device near the crime spot. CCTV footage also showed him on the third floor of

"Discussion on Maharashtra Assembly poll seat-sharing done": Ajit Pawar

NAGPUR, Aug 31 (Agencies): National Congress Party (NCP) chief Ajit Pawar on Saturday informed that the first round of discussions on seat sharing between Mahayuti alliance has been completed ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections

Ajit Pawar also said that the alliance will sit together again for the second time to decide on 288 seats.

"We had our first round of discussions on seat sharing. We will sit again for the second time and decide who gets which seat, out of the 288 seats. We will discuss and decide on that." Ajit Pawar said.

"Elective merit will be the criteria for seat sha ing," he added. Ajit Pawar refused



to comment over Shiv Sena leader Tanaji Sawant's controversial statement over NCP leaders.

"If someone has said something, I don't want to comment on it. I have decided at the beginning of the Jan Samman Yatra that I will not comment on anyone. If someone criticizes me,

Maharashtra Health Minister Tanaji Sawant had expressed his dissatisfaction with the alliance

"Even if we sit next to each other in the cabinet, I feel like vomiting after coming out," Sawant was quoted as saying.

Earlier, Ajit Pawar visited the site in Malvan where the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj collapsed on

August 26.

Pawar stated, "Everyone is saddened by what has happened. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is our deity, and we are all proud of his legacy. The Chief Minister has held meetings regarding this incident. Efforts are being made to rebuild the memorial. Action will be taken against those responsible. No matter where they flee, they will be found. There is no point in debating whether it was the Navy or the PWD.'

Maharashtra legislative assembly elections will be held in 288 constituencies. The Election Commission of India has yet to announce the dates for the election. The upcoming Mahacoalition, comprising the UBT Shiv Sena, NCP (Sharad Pawar faction), and Congress, and the Maha Yuti Alliance, which includes the BJP, Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde faction), and NCP (Ajit Pawar faction). The recent Lok Sabha

Election has given a boost to the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance, with the Shiv Sena (UBT) winning nine seats, the Congress 13, and the NCP-SP winning eight, bringing the total tally of the alliance to 30.

On the other hand, the Mahayuti alliance suffered a major blow with BJP winning only nine seats, Shiv Sena winning seven and NCP folded with one seat bringing the total tally of alliance to 17.

protest spot on his bike and hit a road divider. The student protesters

civic volunteer has been removed from service.

the hospital where the seminar hall is situated.

it does not matter to me. I believe in working." Ajit Pawar said.

rashtra election will see a contest between the Maha Vikas Aghadi

Vinesh Phogat joins farmers' stir at Shambhu border: Your daughter is with you

NEW DELHI, Aug 31 (Agencies): Wrestler Vinesh Phogat showed her unwavering support for the farmers' protest as she joined them at the Shambhu border, saying, "Your daughter is with you". Farmers at the Shambhu border marked the 200th day of their ongoing protest on Saturday with a large gathering. Phogat joined them in a show of solidarity. Farmers have been stationed at the Shambhu border since February 13, after authorities prevented their march to Delhi.

The protesters are demanding a legal guarantee for the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all crops, among other key issues.

Phogat, a prominent sports personality and supporter of the farmers' movement, was honoured with garlands by the farmers.

In her speech at the Shambhu border, Vinesh Phogat expressed admiration for the farmers, acknowledging that they have been sitting there for a long time, fighting for their rights, but their energy and determination have not diminished

She shared her pride in being born into a farmer's family and assured the protesters that she stands with them as their daughter.

"I am lucky that I was born in a farmer's family. I want to tell you that your daughter is with you. We have to stand for our rights because nobody else will come



for us. I pray to God that your demands are met and don't return back without taking your rights," said Phogat

In her address at the Shambhu border, Vinesh urged the government to fulfil their demands. She voiced her disappointment that the farmers have not been heard for such a long time, emphasising that their determination has inspired others to continue fighting for their rights.

"Farmers are sitting here for 200 days for their rights. I appeal to the government to fulfil their demands. It is very sad that they have not been listened since 200 days. We got a lot of strength by seeing them." she said.

She reiterated that her primary focus is on supporting the farmers in their fight for justice.

Farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher stated that the protest is being conducted peacefully but with great intensity. He mentioned that the Centre is testing their

resolve, and their demands have not yet been met.

"We will present our demands to the government once again, and new announcements will also be made," Pandher told agency. He emphasised that completing 200 days of protest is a significant milestone.

The farmers have called for strict action against Bollywood actress and Member of Parliament (MP) Kangana Ranaut. They have urged the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to take a firm stand against Ranaut, whose remarks have previously sparked controversy and opposition among the farming community.

The farmers have also hinted at revealing their strategy for the upcoming Haryana polls. They plan to announce their next steps in the coming days, emphasising their intention to play an active role in the political landscape of the state.

Pilot drops damaged helicopter mid-air to avoid accident

DEHRADUN, Aug 31 (Agencies): In a heartstopping manoeuvre, a pilot flying an Airforce Mi-17 helicopter was forced to drop a damaged helicopter being transported for repairs after the Mi-17 experienced sudden imbalance mid-air. The dramatic incident occurred when the pilot, realizing the danger, released the crippled helicopter, which crashed to the ground.

Fortunately, no casualties or damage to property were reported, thanks to the swift action by the pilot. The disabled helicopter belonged to Crystal Aviation Company.

"We were transporting the damaged helicopter to Gauchar when the Mi-17 suddenly became imbalanced," said a source.

"The pilot, sensing danger, quickly scanned for an empty space and dropped the helicopter into the valley," he said. According to government sources, the helicopter being carried for repair had made an

emergency landing on May 24, 2024, due to technical issues. Following this, the aircraft was being transported to Gauchar airstrip for repairs, suspended from an Indian Air Force Mi-17 helicopter. Rahul Choubey, District Tourism Officer,

told this newspaper,

"On May 24, a technical

glitch in a Crystal Avia-

tion company helicop-

ter prompted the pilot

to make an emergency

landing short of the

Kedarnath helipad, and

fortunately all passen-

gers on board landed safely." According to sources

at the District Disaster Management Office, "There were no passengers or cargo on board the crippled helicopter when it crashed."

A rescue team rushed to the scene immediately after receiving the news and is currently assessing the situation. "We urge everyone not to spread rumours about any casualties in the helicopter crash," said a spokesperson for the rescue team.

Former JMM MLA Lobin Hembrom joins BJP

RANCHI, Aug 31 (Agencies): In yet another shocker for the ruling JMM ahead of the Assembly polls, expelled former JMM MLA from Borio, Lobin Hembrom, joined the BJP at the state BJP office in Ranchi on Saturday.

Notably, the Speaker tribunal of the Jharkhand Assembly had cancelled his membership in a defection case.

During the occasion, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, Kolhan Tiger and BJP leader Champai Soren, BJP leader Sita Soren, State President Babulal Marandi and Leader of Opposition Amar



Kumar Bauri were also present. Hembrom contested Lok Sabha elections from Rajmahal Lok Sabha seat as an independent

candidate breaking the party line, due to which, the JMM also expelled him from the party for six years.

Lobin is counted as a strong tribal leader in the Santhal Pargana region of the state.

Notably, Lobin had been vocal against his party while being in the JMM for quite some time. He had raised the issues related to illegal mining and transportation in the district, after which ED started investigating the matter.

Earlier on Friday, JMM's senior leader Champai Soren joined the BJP.

INTERNATIONAL

7 US troops hurt in raid with Iraqi forces targeting **Islamic State group militants that killed 15**

US military's Central Command alleged the militants were armed with 'numerous weapons, grenades, and explosive suicide belts' during the attack

DUBAI, Aug 31 (Agencies): The United States military and Iraq launched a joint raid targeting suspected Islamic State group militants in the country's western desert that killed at least 15 people and saw seven American troops hurt in the operation, officials said Saturday.

For years after dislodging the militants from their selfdeclared caliphate across Iraq and Syria, US forces have continued fighting the Islamic State group, though the casualties from Friday's raid were higher than others in the time since. The US military's Central

Command alleged the militants were armed with "numerous weapons, grenades, and explosive suicide' belts" during the attack on Thursday, which Iraqi forces said happened in the country's Anbar Desert.

"This operation targeted ISIS leaders to disrupt and degrade ISIS' ability to plan, organize, and conduct attacks against Iraqi civilians, as well as US citizens, allies, and partners throughout the region and



beyond," Central Command said, using an acronym for the militant group.

"Iraqi Security Forces continue to further exploit the locations raided." It added: "There is no indication of civilian casualties." An Iraqi military statement said "airstrikes targeted the hideouts, followed by an airborne operation."

"Among the dead were key ISIS leaders," Iraq's military said, without identifying them. "All hideouts, weapons, and logistical support were destroyed, explosive belts were safely detonated and important documents, identification papers and communication devices were seized." A US defence official, speaking on condition of anonymity to

discuss details of the operation yet to be made public, told The Associated Press that five American troops were wounded in the raid, while two others suffered injuries from falls in the operation. One who suffered a fall was transported out of the Mideast, while one of the wounded was evacuated for further treatment, the official said.

"All personnel are in stable condition," the official said.

It wasn't immediately clear why it took two days for the US to acknowledge it took part in the raid. Iraq did not say the US took part in the operation when initially announcing it as politicians debate the future of having American troops in the country.

At its peak, the Islamic State group ruled an area half the size of the United Kingdom where it attempted to enforce its extreme interpretation of Islam, which included attacks on religious minority groups and harsh punishment of Muslims deemed to be apostates.

A coalition of more than 80 countries, led by the United States, was formed to fight the group, which lost its hold on the territory it controlled in Iraq and 2017 and in Syria in 2019.

However, the militants have continued to operate in the Anbar Desert in Iraq and Syria, while claiming attacks carried out by others elsewhere in the world. The IS branch in Afghanistan is known to carry out intensely bloody assaults.

Pakistan deploys 'web monitoring system', blocks thousands of websites and apps

KARACHI, Aug 31 (Agencies): The Pakistan National Assembly was informed that the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has implemented a Web Monitoring System (WMS) designed to manage internet content by blocking applications and websites that do not comply with legal requirements, agency reported.

This development was revealed in a written response to Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPP) MNA Shahida Rehman's inquiry about the state of internet services in Pakistan. Over the past few weeks, users across the country have reported significant declines in internet speed, with many experiencing difficulties in sending or downloading media files and voice notes through WhatsApp, particularly when using mobile data. Even broadband connections have been affected by slow browsing speeds.

The business community and internet service providers (ISPs) have raised concerns, alleging that the government's efforts to monitor internet traffic, including the deployment of a "firewall," are responsible for the digital slowdown. They claim that these measures have resulted in economic losses due to decreased efficiency in digital services. Despite these allegations, the country's Minister for Information Technology, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, has dismissed claims that the government is deliberately "throttling" the internet, agency reported.

ment is upgrading its "web management system" to address cybersecurity threats but denied any intentional reduction in internet speeds.

The PTA also addressed these concerns, attributing the recent internet slowdown to a faulty submarine cable rather than the implementation of a firewall. However, in the latest revelation to the National Assembly, it was confirmed that the WMS has been deployed for content management purposes.

According to the written response, the PTA has so far blocked 2,369 URLs and 183 mobile applications that were found to be exposing personal data or identity information. The statement also acknowledged that despite geoblocking measures at the gateway level, unlawful content remains accessible through the use of virtual private networks (VPNs). The PTA highlighted the challenges of enforcing the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, particularly in controlling VPN misuse.

In response to complaints, the PTA has blocked a total of 469 mobile applications, reinforcing its commitment to internet content management within Pakistan, agency reported.

As the government continues to expand its digital oversight, the impact on internet speed and accessibility remains a contentious issue. While the authorities emphasize the need for cybersecurity, the business community and users are concerned about the broader implications for digital freedom and economic activity.

She confirmed that the govern-

Pakistan's ISI complicit with terrorists, says former US NSA McMaster

WASHINGTON, Aug 31 (Agencies): There is an "undeniable complicity" of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) with terrorist groups, former US National Security Advisor Lt Gen (retd) H R McMaster has said, revealing that during his tenure under then President Donald Trump, the White House faced resistance from the state department and Pentagon over providing security aid to Islamabad.

Despite directions from Trump to stop all aid to Pakistan till it stops giving safe havens to terrorists, McMaster in his latest book 'At War with Ourselves: My Tour of Duty in the Trump White House' says that the then Defence Secretary Jim Mattis was planning to deliver a military aid package to Islamabad that included over USD 150 million worth of armoured vehicles.

However, the aid was stopped after his intervention, McMaster writes in the book that hit the bookstores this week. It was difficult to get State and Defence even to comply with Trump's



the possibility that Pakistan might retaliate in certain ways, but others, including Ambassador David Hale, who had joined by video from Islamabad, did not share those concerns.

Mattis reluctantly halted that shipment of assistance, but other aid would continue, prompting Trump to tweet on New Year's Day, "The United States has foolishly given Pakistan more than 33 billion dollars in aid over the last 15 years and they have given us nothing but lies & deceit thinking of our leaders as fools. They give safe haven to the terrorists we hunt in Afghanistan with little help. No more!" he writes

Brazil blocks Musk's X after company refuses to name local representative amid feud with judge

SAO PAULO, Aug 31 (Agencies): Brazil started blocking Elon Musk's social media platform X early Saturday, making it largely inaccessible on both the web and through mobile apps after the billionaire refused to name a legal representative to the country.

The move escalates a monthslong feud between Musk and a Brazilian Supreme Court justice over free speech, far-right accounts and misinformation. Justice Alexandre de Moraes ordered the suspension.

To block X, Brazil's telecommunications

which has struggled with the loss of advertisers since Musk purchased the former Twitter in 2022. Market research group Emarketer says some 40 million Brazilians, roughly one-fifth of the population, access X at least once per month. "This is a sad day for X users around the world, especially those in Brazil, who are being denied access to our platform. I wish it did not have to come to this it breaks my heart," X's CEO Linda Yaccarino said Friday night, adding

that Brazil is failing to uphold its constitution's pledge to forbid censorship. X had posted on its official Global Government Affairs page late Thursday that it expected X to be shut down by de Moraes, "simply because we would not comply with his illegal orders to censor his political opponents." "When we attempted to defend ourselves in court, Judge de Moraes threatened our Brazilian legal representative with imprisonment. Even after she resigned, he froze all of her bank accounts," the company wrote. X has clashed with de Moraes over its reluctance to comply with orders to block users. Accounts that the platform previously has shut down on Brazilian orders include lawmakers affiliated with former President Jair Bolsonaro's right-wing party and activists accused of undermining Brazilian democracy. X's lawyers in April sent a document to the Supreme Court in April, saying that since 2019 it had suspended or blocked 226 users. In his decision Friday, de Moraes' cited Musk's statements as evidence that X's conduct "clearly intends to continue to encourage posts with extremism, hate speech and anti-democratic discourse, and to try to withdraw them from jurisdictional control." In April, de Moraes included Musk as a target in an ongoing investigation over the

dissemination of fake



news and opened a separate investigation into the executive for alleged obstruction.

Musk, a self-proclaimed "free speech absolutist," has repeatlite internet service provider, said on X that de Moraes this week froze its finances, preventing it from doing any transactions in the country where it has more than 250,000 customers.

"This order is based on an unfounded determination that Starlink should be responsible for the fines leviedunconstitutionallyagainst X. It was issued in secret and without affording Starlink any of the due process of law guaranteed by the Constitution of Brazil. We intend to address the matter legally," Starlink said in its statement. The law firm represent-

ing Starlink told the

AP that the company

appealed, but wouldn't

make further comment.

Musk replied to people

sharing the reports of the

freeze, adding insults

directed at de Moraes.

"This guy @Alexandre

is an outright criminal

of the worst kind, mas-

querading as a judge,"

Musk later posted on

X that SpaceX, which

runs Starlink, will pro-

vide free internet ser-

vice in Brazil "until the

matter is resolved" since

he wrote.

directives to stop certain activities.

"I discovered that contrary to the South Asia strategy, which called for the suspension of all aid to Pakistan with a few exceptions, when Mattis visited Islamabad in the coming weeks, the Pentagon was going to deliver a military aid package that included more than USD 150 million worth of armoured vehicles", he writes.

McMaster says soon after he came to know about it, he called for a meeting with Mattis, the deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Gina Haspel, and other senior officials.

I started by noting that the president (Trump) had been very clear on multiple occasions to suspend aid to the Pakistanis until they halted support for terrorist organisations that were killing Afghans, Americans, and coalition members in Afghanistan...

We had all heard Trump say, 'I do not want any money going to Pakistan',he says

Mattis, the former NSA writes, noted

Pakistan was not changing its behaviour, and almost as an insult, the government released Hafiz Saeed, the mastermind behind the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks, on the eve of Mattis's visit.

Moreover, a recent event in Pakistan involving hostages had exposed the undeniable complicity of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence with the terrorists, McMaster writes.

He notes that news reports that time criticised the president's tweet as capricious and devoid of a coherent policy. But halting assistance was a critical part of the South Asia strategy that Trump had approved at Camp David in

August, he says. "A lunch that the president hosted with the vice president, Tillerson, Mattis, Kelly, and me on December 14 helped me understand why it was difficult to implement Trump's guidance on Pakistan or to foster cooperation on contingency plans for North Korea," says McMaster.

regulator, Anatel, told internet service providers to suspend users' access to the social media platform. As of Saturday after midnight local time, major operators had begun doing SO.

De Moraes had warned Musk on Wednesday night that X could be blocked in Brazil if he failed to comply with his order to name a representative, and established a 24-hour deadline. The company hasn't had a representative in the country since earlier this month.

"Elon Musk showed his total disrespect for Brazilian sovereignty and, in particular, for the judiciary, setting himself up as a true supranational entity and immune to the laws of each country," de Moraes wrote in his decision on Friday. The justice said the platform will stay suspended until it complies with his orders, and also set a daily fine of 50,000 reais (\$8,900) for people or companies using VPNs to access it.

In a later ruling, he backtracked on his initial decision to establish a 5-day deadline for internet service providers themselves - and not just the telecommunications regulator - to block access to X, as well as his directive for app stores to remove virtual private networks, or VPNs.

Brazil is one of the biggest markets for X,

edly claimed the justice's actions amount to censorship, and his argument has been echoed by Brazil's political right. He has often insulted de Moraes on his platform, characterizing him as a dictator and tyrant.

De Moraes' defenders have said his actions aimed at X have been lawful, supported by most of the court's full bench and have served to protect democracy at a time it is imperiled. He wrote Friday that his ruling is based on Brazilian law requiring internet services companies to have representation in the country so they can be notified when there are relevant court decisions and take requisite action - specifying the takedown of illicit content posted by users, and an anticipated churn of misinformation during October municipal elections

The looming shutdown is not unprecedented in Brazil.

Lone Brazilian judges shut down Meta's WhatsApp, the nation's most widely used messaging app, several times in 2015 and 2016 due to the company's refusal to comply with police requests for user data. In 2022, de Moraes threatened the messaging app Telegram with a nationwide shutdown. arguing it had repeatedly ignored Brazilian authorities' requests to block profiles and provide information. He ordered Telegram to

eral countries - mostly authoritarian regimes such as Russia, China, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Venezuela and Turkmenistan. Other countries, such as Pakistan, Turkey and Egypt, have also temporarily suspended X before, usually to quell dissent and unrest. Twitter was banned in Egypt after the Arab Spring uprisings, which some dubbed the "Twitter revolution," but it has since been restored. A search Friday on X showed hundreds of Brazilian users inquiring about VPNs that could potentially enable them to continue using the platform by making it appear they were logging on from outside the country. It was not immediately clear how Brazilian authorities would police this practice and impose fines

cited by de Moraes.

school of Getulio Vargas

Foundation, a university

in Rio de Janeiro, told

Mariana de Souza

Alves Lima, known by

her handle MariMoon,

showed her 1.4 million

followers on X where

she intends to go, post-

ing a screenshot of rival

social network BlueSky.

On Thursday evening,

Starlink, Musk's satel-

agency.

appoint a local repre-

sentative; the company

ultimately complied and

X and its former incar-

nation, Twitter, have

been banned in sev-

stayed online.

"we cannot receive payment, but don't want to cut anyone off." In his decision, de Moraes said he ordered the freezing of Starlink's assets, as X didn't have enough money in its accounts to cover mounting fines, and reasoning that the two companies are part of the "This is an unusual same economic group. measure, but its main While ordering X's susobjective is to ensure pension followed warnthat the court order to ings and fines and so suspend the platform's was appropriate, taking operation is, in fact, action against Starlink effective," Filipe Medon, seems "highly guestiona specialist in digital law and professor at the law

able," said Luca Belli, coordinator of the Getulio Vargas Foundation's Technology and Society Center.

"Yes, of course, they have the same owner, Elon Musk, but it is discretionary to consider Starlink as part of the same economic group as Twitter (X). They have no connection, they have no integration," Belli said.

6 people hurt in a knife attack on a bus in Germany, No political or religious motive seen

BERLIN, Aug 31 (Agencies): Police arrested a 32-year-old woman after six people were hurt in a knife attack on a bus headed to a festival in western Germany. Authorities said Saturday that there was no evidence of a political or religious motive.

Three of those attacked are in lifethreatening condition, police said on Friday evening.

The knife attack took place in Siegen, east of Cologne. The bus was on its way to a local festival in the town and at least another 40 people were on board when the attack took place at about 7:40 p.m.

Police and prosecutors said the six people wounded were aged between 16 and 30 and all were from the region. By Saturday morning, three of them had left the hospital after outpatient treatment.

Local authorities planned to go ahead with the festival.

The stabbing in Siegen happened a week after a knife attack in Solingen, a city in the same state of North Rhine-Westphalia, in which a suspected Islamic extremist from Syria who had avoided being deported is accused of killing three people and wounding another eight.

The Solingen attack prompted the governing coalition to draw up plans to tighten knife laws and make deportations easier.

Police said the woman arrested in Siegen was a German citizen with no immigrant roots.

LOCAL/CONTD....

Ajeet Bhagat seeks support for Sajjad Kichloo in assembly election

Top News Report

KISHTWAR Aug 31: National Conference Senior Leader and Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Zone, Ajeet Bhagat, emphasized the significant role of Sajjad Kichloo, Former Home Minister, in Kishtwar District. Recognized as a prominent political leader with a broad appeal, Kichloo's influence extends across Kishtwar, Doda, and Ramban Districts. His dedication to addressing issues such as development, infrastructure, and communal harmony has earned him wide-

spread respect. Kichloo is lauded as a symbol of secularism and communal harmony in Kishtwar, having worked tirelessly to promote peace and understanding among different communities, ensuring peaceful coexistence in the region. Ajeet Bhagat highlight-

ed Kichloo's leadership during times of communal tension, noting his pivotal role in preventing conflicts and fostering mutual respect. Kichloo's political career is marked by advocacy for inclusive development, ensuring that progress benefits all sections of society, regardless of religious



or ethnic backgrounds His commitment to these values has solidified his status as a respected figure in both Kishtwar and the broader context of Jammu and Kashmir. Kichloo's contributions to Kishtwar's development are significant, particularly in improving road connectivity, which has facilitated better

Top News Report

KULGAM, Aug 31: CPI(M) leader Moham-

med Yousuf Tarigami

on Saturday said that

the elections are being

held under extraordi-

nary circumstances. He

urged the people to be

extremely careful and

wise in choosing their

representatives, given

the challenging situation.

Tarigami was address-

ing a rally at Checkpora

in Kulgam and said that

every political party has

its own agenda, but

CPIM's relationship with

the public is of utmost

He said that the cur-

rent situation has made

this election a significant

"It is not just a respon-

sibility for the people of

Jammu and Kashmir, but

also an opportunity to

address critical issues,"

He said that it's crucial

that we eliminate corrup-

tion, reduce electricity

responsibility for all.

importance.

he said.

access to remote areas boosting local trade and tourism. Bhagat emphasized Kichloo's role in advocating for hydroelectric projects like the Rattle and Pakal Dul Power Plants, which are expected to generate employment and contribute to the region's energy security.

Additionally, Kichloo has worked on upgrading healthcare facilities, establishing new schools, and enhancing educational infrastructure, thereby improving the quality of life in Kishtwar. His efforts in promoting Kishtwar as a tourist destination

and supporting farmers through improved irrigation and agricultural practices are also noteworthy

Ajeet Bhagat concluded by stating that Kichloo is not just a leader but a symbol of Kishtwar's identity and progress. His deep connection with the region and unwavering dedication to its development have made him synonymous with Kishtwar. Bhagat urged voters to support Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo, who is poised to win with a significant margin, reflecting the profound

trust and respect he has

earned from the people

Poonch District clinches overall AAG Girls Inter-District Divisional Level Taekwondo Trophy



held in September.

Uttam.

Poonch, the victorious

girls were warmly wel-

comed by the District

Youth Services and

Sports Officer, Mool Raj

He extended his heart-

felt congratulations to all

the medal winners and

commended Rajinder

Singh, the Physical

Education Teacher and

Taekwondo Coach from

the Department of Youth

Services and Sports,

for his excellent training

that led to Poonch's out-

standing performance

at the divisional level.

Sh. Mool Raj Uttam also

praised Sarwan Kumar

(PET) and Prabhjot Kour

(REK), who escorted the

team, and wished all the

girls the best of luck for

Top News Report

POONCH, Aug 31: The Inter-District Divisional Level Taekwondo competition for AAG Girls concluded successfully at Youth Hostel Nagrota, organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, District Jammu. The event saw the participation of 175 girls from seven districts

of Jammu division. District Poonch emerged as the overall champion of the competition, securing an impressive haul of 11 Gold Medals, 5 Silver Medals, and 4 Bronze Medals

These victories have qualified the Gold medalists to represent Jammu division in the upcoming Inter-Division UT Level Taekwondo Championships, scheduled to be the upcoming UT-level championship. Upon returning to

Gold Medalists: Tahzeem Akhter, Ruksana Akhter, Sana Chouhan, Navya Thakur, Afsana Akther, Noreen Akhter, Farzana Kouser, Sukriti Sharma, Simran Sideeq, Aekta Kapoor, Tajesveen Kour.

Silver Medalists: Himanshi Raina, Aalisha Sarfraz, Asma Tabassum, Iqra Javid, Maleeha Fatima.

Bronze Medalists: Ruksana Kouser, Asma Rafiq, Ritika Sharma, Igra Taraf.

The commendable performance of these young athletes has not only brought pride to District Poonch but has also set a strong foundation for their future success in the sport of Taekwondo.

Farooq Abdullah's Unity & Diversity remark falls flat when he talks about Pakistan & ISI: Tarun Chugh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: In a notable political development, Tarun Chugh, National General Secretary and Incharge for J&K and Ladakh, has criticized Farooq Abdullah's recent comments on unity and diversity, especially in light of discussions involving Pakistan. Chugh condemned the sudden shift in the National Conference's rhetoric as mere political

theatre Chugh stated, "We call on the JKNC's Abdullahled government to go beyond empty rhetoric and take tangible steps toward building a unified and integrated nation. Mere grandstanding and empty promises will not achieve this; we need real results and sincere efforts.

He further commented on the irony of the situa-



tion, pointing out that the National Conference, which dazzled the public with promises to restore Article 370 in their election manifesto, now claims that this could take over 100 years. Chugh remarked that it was "ironic" for them to seek to be seen as champions of unity. He added that before they lecture others on coming together, they should stop misleading the people of Jammu and Kashmir with false promises and focus on providing genuine solutions

Voters must exercise caution and wisdom in choosing their representatives: Tarigami

fees, tackle unemployment, and address the rising prices that are burdening our citizens. We are all affected by these issues, and we see fear and sadness across the board-whether it's among journalists, writers, activists, or even those unjustly incarcerated.

'The reason for this widespread anxiety is that people feel deprived of the rights promised to them. Fear is being created, and our fundamental rights are being eroded. This is why the upcoming assembly elections are being held under extraordinary circumstances. Our people must be extremely careful and wise in choosing their representatives,' Tarigami said.

He said that the people of Jammu, Kashmir. and Ladakh are suffering in multiple ways-be it through employment issues, livelihood challenges, rising prices, or the erosion of political and civil rights. Everywhere you look, there is a lack of effective governance, and this has led to widespread discontent.

unity of secular parties. We must come together, narrow our differences, and confront the policies implemented since 2014, which have adversely affected the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he

added.

42nd Jammu District Kho Kho Championship 2024 begins

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: The 42nd Jammu District Kho Kho Championship 2024 for boys and girls, organized by the Jammu Kashmir Kho Kho Association and sponsored by the J&K Sports Council, was inaugurated by Chief Guest SSP Kartik Shro-Field, Gandhi Nagar,

lighting it as a guintessential Indian game.

of Honour Ranjit Chib, Former SSP; Neeti Kour, General Secretary of the Master Games Association; and Special Guest Mahesh Abrol, all of



Singh, Pankaj Malhotra, in boys' semifinals, One-Tarmeet Shenu, Vikram ness Club shall meet Sharma, and others NIS Club and SAI Club ensured smooth conduct to face Parivartan Club. of the matches The event was sup-

The refereeing was handled by Ravinder Singh Bali (Convenor), along with Madhur Choudhary, Yogesh Kumar. Sahil Dev Singh, Sahil Angral, Sidharth Singh, Meenakshi Thakur. Deepak Kumar. David Sandhu, and Ajeet Pal Singh.

triya, at the Green Play here on Saturday. SSP Shrotriya praised the association and DGP J&K sanctions retirement gift of Rs. 78 encouraged players to embrace Kho Kho, high-

> He mentioned that sports like KhoKho, Kabaddi, and Chess are being considered for

lakh in favour of 78 police personnel attaining superannuation or voluntary retirement.

department. The amount has been sanctioned out Retirement gift of rupees of the Contributory Police

has sanctioned Rs 11.97 crore as retirement gift in favour of 1197 police per-

"The solution lies in the

a token of appreciation for their services to the Department, the Director General of Police, J&K, R.R. Swain has sanctioned retirement aift of rupees seventy-eight lakh in favour of 78 Police personnel of J&K Police who are retiring from services after

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 31: As

one lakh each has been sanctioned vide PHQ J&K order No. 2304 of 2024 in favour of one gazetted officer, fifty-nine non-gazetted officers, fifteen lower subordinates & three followers. These personnel belong to different units and wings of the

Welfare Fund.

The gift is sanctioned to police personnel at the time of his/her retirement and serves as a token of appreciation for his/her services rendered to the department.

During the current year till date police headquarter

sonnel who have retired from the services on superannuation.

As a welfare measure Police Headquarters has taken many initiatives to ensure increased help and assistance for the welfare of its personnel and their families

inclusion in the Olympics by 2036 as part of the IOC's efforts. More than 200 players from Jammu District

participated in the tournament, which has garnered significant attention and support from the local sports community.

whom applauded the efforts of the players and association members in advancing the game of Kho Kho.

The semifinals and finals are scheduled for September 1, 2024. Jammu Sanskriti School to face APS - B and

ported by prominent figures such as SBS Tirthi (Founder JKKKA), President Dr. Baljinder Kour. Manmeet Singh (Chairman RCE), Ajay Gupta (Coach JK Sports Council), and Anil Sharma (Manager JK Sports Council). Coaches and

Two more leaders quit **BJP over selection of** candidates for J&K **Assembly Polls**

leaders, including Union ministers, to reach out to disgruntled leaders to defuse the situation. Two of its rebel leaders have already filed their nominations as independent candidates from Ramban and Padder-Nagseni Assembly constituencies, which are among 24 constituencies going to polls in the first phase of the three-phased elections on September 18.

"With a heavy heart, I am submitting my resignation from the primary membership of the party for which I have worked for 42 long years. I was compelled by the circumstances after the party gave ticket to a person who had come from the National Conference (NC) and vociferously opposed our ideology for decades," party's Samba district president Kashmir Singh said.

The BJP has fielded former minister Surjit Singh Slathia, who joined the party in October 2021 after quitting the NC, from the Samba constituency which was opened in the general category after being reserved for the Scheduled Castes for 28 years.

"We strengthened the BJP in Samba and made numerous sacrifices to carry forward the ideology of Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mukherjee and the BJP. We held demonstrations and organised strikes for the revocation of Article 370 and the ticket was given to the one who was always against our ideology and the revocation of Article 370. This is not justice with ordinary

workers," Singh alleged.

However, Singh said he will take back his resignation if the party leadership decides to change the candidate and give ticket to any senior member of the party, otherwise he said. "I am going to take forward this struggle and file my nomination papers as an independent candidate against him."

He said it was a difficult decision for him to leave the party which he had nourished with "my blood and sweat".

In his resignation letter to Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina, he said he asked for "one reason for denying me the ticket, but no one was able to give a reply."

"The party valued me as a leader only when work was needed, but when it came to distributing tickets, they brought in someone from outside. If the ticket had been given to any party worker, I would not have taken this step, but bringing an outsider has left me with no other option," he said, alleging that the BJP has become a place where favouritism overshadows dedication.

Another BJP youth leader Kanav Sharma also resigned from the party to protest against ticket to a "corrupt leader".

Kanav Sharma, Jammu district president of the Bharativa Janata Yuva Morcha, said he is a third generation member of his family associated with the organisation and its ideology but the decision of the party to give ticket to Yudhvir Sethi from Jammu East is not acceptable to his conscience.

"Sethi is well known for his corrupt practices when his wife Priya Sethi was education minister... I hereby tender my resignation along with my team members and my team is dissolved with immediate effect,

FROM PAGE 1

Sharma said in his resignation letter posted on social media.

The BJP faced strong resentment from party workers from Jammu North, Jammu East, Paddar, Ramban, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Chhamb and Akhnoor constituencies over ticket distribution.

Rahul Gandhi will address 2 poll rallies in J&K on Sep 4: Cong **Leader Ghulam Ahmad** Mir

He said Gandhi would address another rally likely in the Sangaldan area of Jammu. "We are happy that he (Gandhi) accepted our invitation. This programme is for the first phase only. He might visit J&K again for the other phases," Mir said.

The AICC general secretary said the Congress has lined up over 40 star campaigners, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Faroog Abdullah congratulates Jama'at for fielding candidates in J&K elections

her her (Mehbooba) in good health. Nothing can be achieved by raising fingers, rather she should focus on safeguarding the country," Dr Farooq said.

He said India is an abode of multiple religions and languages. "From Tamil Nadu to Kashmir, and this diversity must be protected." he said

He added that good relations between Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians are essential for the country. "If we keep this principle intact in Kashmir, it will enlighten the entire country," he said.

Omar Abdullah's Divorce Plea: Supreme Court Instructs Mediation, Hearing on November 4

on her husband's plea seeking divorce. The Delhi High Court had on December 12, 2023 dismissed Omar Abdullah's plea seeking divorce, saying there was no merit in his appeal.

The high court had upheld the 2016 family court order refusing to grant a decree of divorce to Abdullah, a former chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Give strong fight to rivals in J&K elections: **Ashok Koul to party** candidates

Rafiq Wani, Sofi Yousuf, Javid Qadri, Veer Saraf, Arshad Bhat, Showkat Gayoor, Adv Wajahat, Choudhary Roshan and Ashok Bhat in south Kashmir's Anantnag.

During the meeting, Koul addressed the candidates and senior leaders, and District

Presidents including Dr. Darakshan Andrabi, Altaf Thakur, Charanjeet Singh Khalsa, Mudasir Wani and others; and emphasized the importance of unity among candidates and party leaders to ensure a strong fight in the upcoming 2024 assembly elections. He urged the party leaders and workers to focus on strengthening the party at the grassroots level.

Expressing confidence during the review meeting, Koul stated that the BJP is poised to form the government in Jammu and Kashmir. In the meeting, the party appointed Altaf Thakur as Convenor of the Assembly Election Management Committee 2024 for south Kashmir. Dr Darakshan Andrabi has been assigned the responsibility of overseeing the election campaign and planning, while as Charanjeet Singh Khalsa will monitor the election campaign and other management tasks.

Delhi Trekker Dies Amid Extreme Weather in Kashmir's Gangbal Region

A police official told Greater Kashmir that they have recovered the body of the trekker, whom he identified as Rohit Syal, a resident of Delhi.

He said that the trekker had complained of discomfort earlier and due to the adverse weather his health deteriorated and died. The official said that the trekker was brought to trauma hospital Kangan for medical- legal formalities.

The police official said that further investigations have been initiated.

LOCAL

Alliance candidate Surinder Choudhary files nomination from Nowshera

Nowshera people will give befitting reply to BJP's anti-people & divisive policies: Rattan Lal Gupta

Top News Report

10

NOWSHERA, Aug 31: Surinder Choudhary, while addressing massive rally accompanied him for filing nomination paper said that his struggle for getting district for Nowshera shall continue and until and unless the goal of getting district for Nowshera is achieved. He said passionately about the neglecting Nowshera under the BJP regime. "The people of Nowshera, particularly in the border areas, have faced total neglect. The BJP has failed to deliver on infrastructure, with roads in a deplorable state, and the overall development of the region stagnating. Moreover, the rise in terror activities has kept people in a constant state



of fear, further highlighting the failures of the BJP in maintaining peace and security," he said. The Alliance candidate urged the people of Nowshera to seize this opportunity to vote for a party committed to equitable development and the welfare of the region. Provincial President

of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta today launched

a scatting attack on the BJP, accusing the party of neglecting the development needs of the people of Nowshera. He emphasized that the upcoming Assembly elections would provide an opportunity for the people to give a resounding reply to the BJP's anti-people and divisive policies. He said, emphasizing that the time sioners from Rs 300 to Rs has come for the people 1000, daily wagers will be permanent, Provide free of Nowshera to unite and to give a befitting reply to education for boys and

the BJP for his anti people policies and misgoverance in the upcoming elections. Rattan Lal Gupta stressed that the BJP's failure to address the genuine concerns of the people has eroded trust in the party. Highlighting the NC's progressive manifesto, he emphasized key promises aimed at uplifting the common man. "Our manifesto focuses on free 200 units of electricity to all households, a monthly allowance of Rs 5,000 for elderly female of each households of EWS, Provide One Lac Jobs to J&K Youths, Provide free drinking water to every household, enhance medical allowance of Pen-

girls upto gradation, free education in University to girls students, MSP shall be given to farmers, One Cooking gas cylinder per month shall be given to each household of EWS free of cost and massive facilities and incenitives shall be given to the industries . The senior NC leader

urged the people of Nowshera to come forward. vote and support INDIA Alliance candidate Surinder Choudhary in upcoming polls with an aim to bring change in the governance. He further praised Surinder Choudhary as a leader who is deeply connected to the people and their aspirations, expressing confidence in his ability to bring the much-needed change to the constituencv.

NC trying to obliterate 'Aastha Kendra' of Hindus by renaming iconic landmarks: BJP

"Whose masters are you pleasing," BJP asks Farooq

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: The Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) BJP on Saturday launched a scathing attack on the National Congress (NC) for orchestrating an illconceived design to rename the Hindu iconic landmarks- 'Shankaracharya Hill' as 'Takht-e-Suleman' and the 'Hari Parbat' as 'Koh-e-Miran'in a mischievous attempt to Islamize the region. General National

Secretary of the BJP Mahila Morcha, Deepti Rawat Bhardwaj while addressing news persons in Jammu today said the attempt by the NC is a brazen move to Islamize the province by obliterating the long standing Hindu traditions of Kashmir. She accused the Congress of colluding with the NC to temper with what she referred to when cold-blooded

ident of Mahila Morcha BJP J&K, asked NC chief and former CM Farooq Abdullah if the move to rename the revered Hindu faith sites was to 'please his masters elsewhere'.

cal complicity in wiping "This is a dangerous strategy to divide people. out the Hindu heritage BJP will not let this of Kashmir. Over three Islamikaran take place," decades ago, Kashmiri Pandits were driven out Priya Sethi said, adding that the timing of move of Kashmir. It led to an by the NC also raises exodus of the commuconcerns given that Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the valley a few months ago had paid obeisance at the Shankaracharya Hill Hari Parbat is a historic fort with Hindu significance, while Adi Shankaracharya, one of the most revered Hindu sages, visited this site centuries ago, leaving an indelible mark on Kashmir's cultural landscape Inferring that the NC was hitting at the roots of 'Kashmiriyat' and the Indian traditions, Deepti Rawat Bhardwaj said this isn't the first instance



sisting of Gurdeep Singh Sangral (President), Manbir Kour (Vice President), and Supinder Deep Singh Bakshi (General Secretary), embarked on a significant journey to Lucknow to participate in the prestigious 14th Hockey India Congress 2024.

This important event will focus on key discussions related to the development of hockey in India, including the Hockey India League, grassroots hockey initiatives, coaching advancements, and technical official development programs. The congress serves as a vital platform for exchanging ideas, fostering collaboration, and planning strategic steps to promote and enhance hockey across the nation



A noteworthy highlight of this delegation is Manbir Kour's participation, as she becomes the first female representative from Baramulla district, Kashmir, to attend This marks a historic mile India Congress. stone in the advancement of women's empowerment and leadership in sports administration within the region The presence of the Hockey J&K delegation at this event underscores their commitment to contributing to the growth of hockey in India and staying updated with the latest trends and initiatives in the sport. Their involvement reflects the organization's dedication to advancing

GDC Kishtwar hosts symposium on 'Importance of Adult Franchise for Strengthening Democracy'

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Aug 31: The Electoral Literary Club /SVEEP and Women Development Cell/NCC Women Wing GDC Kishtwar in collaboration with the Nodal Officer SVEEP AC-49 Kishtwar, organized a one-day symposium on the importance of adult franchise for strengthening democracy. The programme was held under the abled guidance of Prof. Basharat Iqbal, Principal GDC Kishtwar, and under the supervision of Dr. Yasar Ahmed, Nodal Officer SVEEP, and Dr. Tabassum Saleem, Convenor WDC/ NCC Women Wing, aimed to raise awareness about the crucial role of voting in a democratic society.

The event began with a warm welcome by Dr. Tabassum Saleem, who extended greetings to all the dignitaries present.

The event saw active participation of 150 students and faculty members, who gathered to deliberate on the significance of adult franchise in a democracy.

The panel of judges for the event included Dr. Tabassum Saleem, Professor Sheikh Mohd Usman, and Professor Ashfaq Ahmed Wani. Masood Hussain Qazi,

Nodal Officer SVEEP AC 49 Kishtwar graced the occasion as the chief guest, alongside other esteemed dignitaries, including Prof. Umar Din Rather, Prof. Ajeet Kumar, Prof. Waseem Ahmed, Prof. Om Raj, Shahnawaz Hussain, Dalieet Singh, and Amarjeet Parihar.

In his keynote address, Qazi emphasized that voting is the cornerstone of a healthy democracy, highlighting the need for informed and responsible voting, particularly among young adults, who are the future leaders of the nation.

The symposium featured ten participants who presented their views and ideas on how the adult franchise can enhance democratic processes and institutions. The competition segment of the symposium showcased the depth of understanding and enthusiasm among the participants.

Sonika Devi won first

Dr. Vipul (Optometrist),

Diksha (Assistant to

Optometrist), Minali

(Assistant Center Man-

ager), Deepak (Assistant

Manager Marketing), and

Rahul (Executive Market-

All the executive mem-

bers of WWAO including

National Vice President

Sneh Bali, President

Jammu Chapter Dr. Renu

Gupta, Vice President

Veenu Khanna and other

august members were

present. Suman Devi

Incharge Extension Unit,

MIER College of Educa-

tion (Autonomous) along

ing).

prize for her insightful presentation, followed by Salma Liquat, who secured the second prize, and Mehak Sharma, who was awarded the third prize. The winners were felicitated with trophies, and their contributions were highly praised by both the judges and the audience.

A pledge ceremony on voting was also held at end of the event, reinforcing the commitment to active participation in the democratic process.

The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Professor Sheikh Mohd Usman, who acknowledged the collaborative efforts of the organising committee and the members of office of the Nodal Officer SVEEP AC-49 Kishtwar. The event successfully sparked a dialogue on the essential role of every citizen in shaping the democratic fabric of the nation through active electoral participation.

Free Eye camp organized

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: The World Women Awakening Organisation (WWAO) and MIER College of Education (Autonomous) in collaboration with Sharp Sight Eye Hospital, Jammu, organized a free eye awareness camp and sensitization lecture for the villagers. The eve awareness camp was held on Saturday at Purkhoo (Kote), an adopted village of the College.

The event aimed to raise awareness about eve health and provide Sharp Sight team, Sarpanch, Panches, Students, and Villagers.

Minali, Assistant Center Manager, Sharp Sight Eye Hospital educated the villagers about the importance of eye health, preventive measures, the significance of regular eye check-ups, importance of a healthy diet for maintaining good vision, and the need for timely medical consultation in case of eye problems.

Rajani Devi the Surpanch of the village was cooperative, accommodating and instrumental in

as the 'Aastha Kendra (Centers of faith) of the Hindus.

"The manifesto of the NC talks about renaming our symbols of faith. The Abdullah family and Rahul Gandhi need to explain their intentions behind the move to the people of the state. What the NC is doing is betraval of Kashmir's rich cultural diversity and an attempt to impose a monolithic identity on the region," Bhatnagar said, while maintaining that the BJP vows to oppose this move tooth and nail. Former J&K minister Priya Sethi, flanked by Sanjita Dogra, the Pres-

nity. They remain refugees in their homeland," she said while adding that the people of J&K can see through the illdesigns of both the NC and the Congress and

stan-sponsored terrorism forced nearly five lakh Kashmiri Hindus to flee their homes, the NC was a mute spectator, effectively partnering in the ethnic cleansing of Hindus from Kashmir," she said.

would strengthen the hockey at both the regional and national levels. BJP which banks its credentials on development, employment and peace in the region. "In the 1990s, when Paki-

attempts were made to

Islamize the region by

targeting Hindus and

"This is not an isolated

incident but a continu-

ation of their histori-

their belief system.

GDC Ramban holds awareness program under SVEEP campaign

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Aug 31: The SVEEP Committee of Government Degree College Ramban, in collaboration with the SVEEP Cell of District Ramban, held an awareness program under the overall guidance of Prof. Archana Kaul, Principal of the colleae.

In her address Prof. Kaul stressed upon the students about the understanding of electoral processes and the importance of active participation in strengthening democracy. The whole program was coordinated by Prof. Ram Parkash, Convener SVEEP Committee of the college.

Several notable speakers, including Prof. Mukhtar Ahmed Mir (Nodal Officer Electoral Literacy Club, district Ramban), Kewal Krishan (Nodal Officer SVEEP, district Ramban), Manjeet Singh (Assistant Nodal Officer SVEEP, district Ramban), Abdul Hamid (Master Trainer) and Surya Prakash (Master Trainer), addressed the students on the critical role of voter education in a democracy.

They highlighted the

importance of being

informed and active

participants in the elec-

toral process, particularly

among the youth, who

represent the future of the

nation's democracy.

The speakers introduced the students to a range of mobile applications developed by the Election Commission of India (ECI). These apps are designed to streamline voter registration,

> ensuring that all eligible voters can easily enroll in the electoral roll. The applications also provide comprehensive information about the candidates contesting the elections, allowing voters to make informed decisions. Additionally, the apps are intended to enhance the overall voting experience by offering guidance on polling station locations, voting procedures. and other essential details.

essential eye care services to the local community

The eye camp was facilitated by a team of professionals from Sharp Sight Eye Hospital, Jammu including

with students of the unit actively facilitated the camp.

Dr. Renu Gupta, President of the World Women Awakening Organisation (WWAO), extended a warm welcome to the

gathering the village folks for the said event and inaugurated the camp. A vote of thanks was presented by Suman Devi, In-charge Extension Unit, MIER College of Education.

NC-Congress alliance is a gimmick to regain power: Abhijeet Jasrotia

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 31: Jammu and Kashmir BJP Spokesperson Abhijeet Jasrotia today launched a scathing attack on National Conference (NC) Vice President and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his remarks questioning the credentials of BJP leader Tarun Chug.

Jasrotia reminded Omar that it was the BJP-the same party he now criticizes-that had once trained him as a Union Minister, emphasizing the seniority and credibility of the BJP in national politics. Jasrotia challenged

Omar Abdullah to explain to the people of Jammu and Kashmir who truly looted the state and pushed it toward chaos and anarchy. "You owe the people an explanation, Omar," he said.

"Tell them how the NC looted the state and drove it into darkness where 1.5 lakh people were killed in violence and Omar Abdullah was holidaying in London". He criticised Omar Abdullah for betraying people of Jammu and Kashmir when they needed them the most and now trying to be a holv cow.

The BJP spokesperson



highlighted the series of dvnastic alliances that have defined the history of NC and Congress, dating back to the Sheikh Abdullah-Jawahar Lal Nehru alliance, the Indira-Sheikh Accord, the Farooq Abdullah-Rajiv Gandhi Accord, and the current Rahul Gandhi-Omar Abdullah alliance. Jasrotia accused these political accords of spoiling Jammu and Kashmir, pushing the region into instability and conflict. Referring to Omar Abdullah's recent comments about being in alliance with Congress "under compulsion," Jasrotia stated that these alliances are nothing new. "These accords are merely dynastic pacts that have done irreparable damage to J&K," he said. He said BJP won't allow NC and Congress to exploit sentiments of

people, BJP he added has

broken the back bone of

militancy and promises

to safe return of Kashmiri pandits to Valley

In a direct challenge to the NC leadership, Jasrotia asked Omar Abdullah to explain the deaths of over 1.5 lakh people during the tumultuous years under NC's rule. He further questioned the NC's push for "greater autonomy" and "pre-1953 status," demanding clarification on these issues and their consequences for the state. These demand he said already stands rejected by all previous governments at the Centre and even by the people of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Jasrotia also slammed the NC for denying rights to marginalized communities like the Gujjars and Bakerwals while reversing progress made under the BJP's leadership. "The rights of women. West Pakistani refugees, and the Valmiki community have been restored by the BJP. Yet, Congress and

NC are determined to take these rights away once again," Jasrotia charged. Jasrotia accused Omar Abdullah and Rahul Gandhi of actively opposing the peace and progress currently unfolding in J&K. He pointed to the increasing influx of tourists as a positive indicator of stability in the region, which he claimed the NC and Congress are unwilling to accept. "Rahul Gandhi and Omar Abdullah seem to prefer seeing more graves over the benefits of peace and development in J&K," Jasrotia remarked. He alleged that healing tough that these parties including PDP had been raising slogans of healing touch which was more for militants than people.

He further alleged that the latest NC-Congress accord, like the previous ones, is a mere gimmick aimed at regaining power rather than serving the people of J&K. "Both

Congress and NC have lost ground," he said, "and their so-called 'fresh accord' is nothing but an attempt to block the progress and peace brought by the BJP.

Jasrotia warned that the Congress-NC alliance intends to roll back the peace initiatives implemented under BJP leadership, including plans to reinstate visa requirements for travel to J&K, something BJP will vehemently oppose. "They want to make it so that people need visas to visit Jammu and Kashmir. We will never allow that to happen," he stated firmly. The press briefing was attended by several key figures in the BJP including, BJP Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Lt. Gen. Rakesh Sharma (Retd.), Y.V. Sharma, and Ritika Trehan, who supported Jasrotia's assertions and underscored the BJP's commitment to ensuring peace, development, and stability in the region. The BJP continues to push for a credible government in Jammu and Kashmir that strengthens democracy and protects the rights of its people, while challenging the dynastic politics of the

past

SPORTS

Rahul Dravid's son Samit earns India U19 call-up for Australia series

NEW DELHI, Aug 31 (Agencies): The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced squad for the upcoming multi-format series between India Under 19 and Australia Under 19 on Saturday, August 31. Samit Dravid, son of the legendary India cricketer and former India head coach Rahul Dravid, also found a place in both red-ball and white-ball teams.

Notably, 18-year-old Samit was recently seen playing in the Maharaja T20 Trophy for Mysuru Warriors. However, the right-handed batter didn't have a memorable time in the league scoring just 82 runs from seven innings at an average of 11.71 and a strike rate of 113.88.

His highest score of the tournament came against Gulbarga Mystics where he scored 33 (24) with the help of four fours and



a six. Meanwhile, apart from him, Uttar Pradesh's Mohamed Amaan will be seen leading the One-Day squad in the upcoming series while Soham Patwardhan will be seen leading the team in the four-day matches.

Notably, India U-19 will take on Australia U-19 in three 50-over

games on September 21, 23 and 26 in Puducherry followed by two four-day matches in Chennai beginning from September 30.

India U-19 Squad for one-day series: Rudra Patel (VC) (GCA), Sahil Parakh (MAHCA), Kartikeya KP (KSCA), Mohd Amaan (C) (UPCA), Kiran Chormale (MAHCA), Abhigyan Kundu (WK) (MCA), Harvansh Singh Pangalia (WK) (SCA), Samit Dravid (KSCA), Yudhajit Guha (CAB), Samarth N (KSCA), Nikhil Kumar (UTCA), Chetan Sharma (RCA), Hardik Raj (KSCA), Rohit Rajawat (MPCA), Mohd Enaan (KCA)

India U-19 Squad for fourday series: Vaibhav Suryavanshi (Bihar CA), Nitya Pandya (BCA), Vihan Malhotra (VC) (PCA), Soham Patwardhan (C) (MPCA), Kartikeya K P (KSCA), Samit Dravid (KSCA), Abhigyan Kundu (WK) (MCA), Harvansh Singh Pangalia (WK) (SCA), Chetan Sharma (RCA), Samarth N (KSCA), Aditya Rawat (CAU), Nikhil Kumar (UTCA), Anmoljeet Singh (PCA), Aditya Singh (UPCA), Mohd Enaan (KCA).

US Open: Bopanna into men's and mixed doubles pre-quarters, **Bhambri advances**

excellent exhibition of

tennis fighting tooth

and nail for the victory

forcing both games into

a tie-breaker. However,

it was Bopanna and

Sutjiadi who prevailed

over the German-Dutch

duo to progress to the

pre-quarters where

they will face the pair

of John Peers and

Bopanna also had a

field day even in the

Kateřina Siniaková.



NEW YORK, Aug 31 (Agencies): India's Rohan Bopanna made progress in both men's and mixed doubles event of the US Open on Saturday, August 31. The 44-year-old competing alongside Indonesia's Aldila Sutjiadi beat Demi Schuurs and Tim P¹/₄tz in a tight first round match by 7-6 (7), 7-6 (5).

Both pairs put on an

men's doubles event as he, along with Matthew Ebden, edged past the pair of Roberto Carballés Baena and Federico Coria comfortably in the second-round match. The second-seeded duo beat the Spanish-Argentinean duo by 6-2, 6-4 to seal their spot in the prequarters. They will be up against the Argentinean pair of Maximo Gonzalez and Andrés Molteni in the next game.

Meanwhile, another Indian, Yuki Bhambri, also progressed ahead at Flushing Meadows with a second round victory along with Albano Olivetti. The duo beat Austin Krajicek and Jean-Julien Rojer by 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 to progress to the third round.

Big blow to India as senior batter suffers hand injury ahead of Bangladesh test

NEW DELHI, Aug 31 (Agencies): Team India is all set to face Bangladesh in the upcoming two-match Test series, kick-starting from September 19 in Chennai. The T20 World Cup 2024 champions will be back in action after a hiatus of more than a month as their last appearance came against Sri Lanka in a white-ball series. Earlier this year, India faced England in five Tests, so this will also mark their return to the longest format after a gap of six months. However, ahead of the highlyanticipated Test series, India faced a big blow as batter Suryakumar Yadav suffered a hand injury.

The explosive T20I batter, who has played just one Test in his career so far, was eyeing a possible return to the longest format for



Trophy, which will begin from September 5. However, things did

not go as planned for Surya as he ended up injuring his hand during a Buchi Babu tournament match against Tamil Nadu . According to a report by ESPN Cricinfo, Surya suffered the injury while fielding against Tamil Nadu in Coimbatore. It was further stated

Djokovic was shocked at the US Open one night after Carlos Alcaraz was, bowing out in the third round with a 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 loss to 28th-seeded Alexei Popyrin of Australia on Friday night. The No. 2-seeded

NEW YORK, Aug 31

Djokovic was trying to become the first player in tennis history with 25 Grand Slam singles titles. Instead, after knee surgery in June, he finishes a year without claiming at least one major championship for the first time since 2017. Before that, it hadn't happened since 2010. Also of note: 2024 now becomes the first season since 2002 in which none of the Big Three of men's tennis —



Meadows; the only other occasions he was beaten that early at the US Open came in 2005 and 2006.

Djokovic, who is 37, has reached the final in Ashe 10 times, leaving with the title in 2011, 2015, 2018 and 2023.

On Friday, though, he double-faulted 14 times and looked physically sluggish and emotionally flat, perhaps residual fatigue after collecting

The No. 3-seeded Alcaraz entered the US Open as the tournament ing against Djokovic, favorite having won the French Open and Wimbledon, and acknowledged his energy was

lower than he realized after getting eliminated in New York by 74thranked Botic van de Zandschulp 6-1, 7-5, 6-4 on Thursday night.

Djokovic then replaced Alcaraz as the moneyline pick to take the Popyrin, this represented a real breakthrough: He had been 0-3 against Djokovic and 0-6 in third-round matches at

majors. But the strong-serving Popyrin is playing as well as ever, coming off the biggest title of his career less than three weeks ago at a hard-court tournament in Montreal, where he picked up five wins against opponents ranked in the top 20. Everything was work-

who was not up to his usual high standards. Popyrin was terrific at the net, going 10 for 10 on serve-and-volley approaches and 25 for 36 overall on points when he pushed forward. Djokovic, in contrast, only won the point on 19 of his 40 trips to the net, in part because Popyrin kept flipping

with that shot. And he broke Djokovic five times, including for a lead of 3-2 in the fourth. That game felt titanic, lasting more than 10 minutes and including four break chances for Popyrin, who converted the last with an insideout forehand to close a 22-stroke exchange, then rocked back on his heels, clenched both fists and let out a roar. He took Djokovic's next service game, too, to

make it 5-2. The first time Popyrin served for the match, he faltered, allowing Djokovic to break. The second time, Popyrin finished the deal, holding at love when Djokovic sent a forehand long. Now Popyrin will try to reach his first Grand Slam quarterfinal by getting past No. 20 Frances Tiafoe, who advanced

11

Defending champion Novak Djokovic shocked at US Open

Popyrin, who beat Djokovic, will try to reach his first Grand Slam quarterfinal by getting past No. 20 Frances Tiafoe

(Agencies): Defending champion Novak

India. He was playing in the ongoing Buchi Babu tournament for Mumbai and was also named in the upcoming Duleep

ticipation in the Duleep Trophy. Moreover, it also unclear whether he will be featuring in the Tests against Bangladesh.

that currently there is no

clarity about Surya's par-

opportunity and have done well too. They deserve that opportunity right now," Suryakumar said as quoted by ICC.

Australia.

expressed his desire of

cementing his place in

the Indian Test team. He

made his Test debut in

February 2023 against

"There are a lot of

people who have

worked really hard to

earn their place and

even I want to earn that

spot again. I made my

debut for India in Tests.

After that, I got injured

as well. There were a

lot of people who got an

and Roger Federer --earned a Slam trophy. The third-round exit equals Djokovic's worst showing at Flushing

Djokovic, Rafael Nadal

his first Olympic gold medal for Serbia by beating Alcaraz in the final at the Paris Games earlier in August.

men's title, according to BetMGM Sportsbook, but that status didn't last long at all. For the 25-year-old passing shots by him. Popyrin took big cuts with his powerful forehand, accumulating 22 of his 50 total winners

"I don't know what I

did, I was just trying to

stay low, put as many

balls as I can back on

that side. She played

incredible tennis in the

first set. It was really

tough to change it,"

In the 2nd set,

Sabalenka made a

comeback to break

Alexandrova's serve

for the first time. With

her powerful ground

strokes, she rallied to

win the second set in

dominant fashion 6-1.

The 26-year-old won 80

percent of her first-serve

points and only recorded

Sabalenka said.

Friday with a 4-6, 7-5, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-3 win over No. 13 Ben Shelton in a matchup between two Americans.

"Like maids working at homes": Pakistan star's tirade against cricket board over 'favoritism, false promises'

ISLAMABAD, Aug 31 (Agencies): Ahmed Shahzad, Pakistan cricket team, has been very critical of the country's board of late. His tirades started with Pakistan's falling form in international cricket. Pakistan cricket hit a new low recently as it suffered the first ever loss to Bangladesh in Tests. Since then, former Pakistan cricketers have been quite critical. Shahzad is also among them. After the first Test loss, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) brought some changes in its domestic structure.

The PCB has named Waqar Younis, Shoaib Malik, Misbah-ul-Haq, Sarfaraz Ahmed, and Saqlain Mushtaq as mentors for the teams during the Champions One-Day Cup. It appointed the five former stalwarts of Pakistan in preparation for the 2025 Champions Trophy. Shahzad, who has pulled out of the Champions Cup, blasted the PCB. "The condition of Paki-

stan cricket team is such that PCB needs some names that can stand in front to protect them so that they come in the line of fire. We have had such discussions before also. The lower the level of Pakistan cricket teams falls, the higher the money paid to these people. Even though they have coaching staff, but no disrespect, just like there are maids working at homes and the women of the house point out the dirty areas after a while, the work of the PCB looks the

same." he said. "Your work is the same." Damage Control Strat-

egy of PCB! Earlier, in another X post, Shahzad had written that he is pulling out of the domestic competition due to 'favoritism, false promises, and injustice. "With a heavy heart,



I've decided not to play in the Domestic Cricket Champions Cup.

The PCB's favoritism, false promises, and injustice towards domestic players are unacceptable. In a time when Pakistan is struggling with inflation, poverty, and massive electricity bills, the PCB is wasting 5 million Rs on mentors for doing nothing and rewarding failed players in the current team who brought Pakistan cricket to an All-time Low," he posted on X.

"It's even more disrespectful that the PCB claims they don't have 'instruments for surgery' which is a huge disrespect for domestic players. As a Pakistani and true cricket lover, I cannot support a system that has no value for merit. I refuse to be a part of this failed setup."

After historic midnight win, Aryna Sabalenka thanks crowd for staying late

NEW YORK, Aug 31 (Agencies): World No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka reached the round of 16 at the US Open 2024 as she beat No. 31 Ekaterina Alexandrova. The match started at 12:08 am (US time) and will go down in history as one of the latest matches to have ever begun at the US Open. It finished close to 2:00 am (US time) and saw Sabalenka getting the better of Alexandrova 2-6, 6-1, 6-2. Sabalenka thanked the crowd at the Arthur Ashe Stadium for staying till late and was actually left stunned when she got to know her round 3 match would begin at midnight. "That was an interesting decision in between matches to have this 1 hour and 20 minute gap.

I was like 'no way.. I'm gonna start at midnight.' And that's actually what happened. That was tricky. We stayed with the team and tried to relax. Right before the match we did our warm up and we hoped for the best," Sabalenka told the broadcasters after



the match.

The previous latest recorded start at the US Open came in 1987, when Gabriela Sabatini and Beverly Bowes took to the court at midnight and wrapped up in 90 minutes.

However, an early finish was not on the cards this time as Sabalenka lost the first set to the Russian in 33 minutes. Alexandrova won 76 percent of her first serve points and tallied 10 winners to just seven unforced errors. Sabalenka reaches round 4

three unforced errors. In a great display of power, Sabalenka was leading 5-0 in the third set. However, her set was broken afterwards but a backhand winner by Sabalenka ensured her victory.

"I'm really happy I was able to turn around this match and get this really difficult win."

Why a late start to the US Open clash?

The clash between Alexandrova and Sabalenka was scheduled as the second night match on Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The day session match between Frances Tiafoe and Ben Shelton lasted over four hours, and had pushed into the evening. This delayed the start of the night session by more than an hour.

The first match of the night between Alexei Popyrin and Novak Djokovic lasted over three hours, with Popyrin pulling off a major upset in a 4-set win. The delays meant Alexandrova and Sabalenka did not take the court until near midnight.

LOCAL/ADVT

Ladakh all set to hold 11th Edition of Ladakh Marathon

Top News Report

LEH, Aug 31: The Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, UT Ladakh, Dr Pawan Kotwal, convened a preparatory meeting regarding the conduct of the 11th edition of the Ladakh Marathon at the Civil Secretariat. Leh. At the outset, Secre-

tary to Youth Services & Sports, UT Ladakh, Vikram Singh Malik provided detailed insights about the Marathon, challenges and bottlenecks which impede the event.

The event will feature

six different categories with the participation of 6281 runners representing 28 countries, marking it the largest international event organised in Ladakh. The categories include the Silk Route Ultra, (122 km), Khardongla Challenge (72km), Full Marathon (42km), Half Marathon (21 km), 11.2km Run, and Run for Fun (5km). During the meeting, a

comprehensive powerpoint presentation was given by the organiser of the event, Chewang Motup, highlighting the importance of collaborative endeavours.

He informed the Advisor about the need of basic amenities, like availability of water, medical assistance, and a smooth traffic movement plan to be streamlined for the success of this event. The 11th edition of Ladakh Marathon, will take place from 5th to 8th September.

Advisor Dr Kotwal directed all the concerned departments and stakeholders to work hand in hand to make the event a successful one. He stressed that to deal with any kind of emergency during the event, Physiotherapists,

helpline numbers of police, health officials, and other concerned officials must be readily available to handle any unforeseen situation.

Chewang Motup also stressed that the event should be promoted well on social media, and directed to ensure awareness among the public about routes and traffic movements to avoid inconvenience to the public. He stated that advisories should be issued well in time in these regards. Adding that traffic closures along Marathon route, to Coordinate with IAF for helicopters in case emergency to rescue and evacuate

The meeting was attended by the Administrative Secretary, Youth Services and Sports. UT Ladakh: Administrative Secretary, General Administration Department. UT Ladakh; Administrative Secretary, IT Transport, UT Ladakh; SS Leh; Principal Secretary, UT Ladakh; SSP traffic UT Leh; ITBP Security officials DIG, and other concerned officials, Director Rural Development Department joined the meeting virtually.

for a change in the current political landscape. He stated that a significant shift is only

achievable if patri-

Sainik Samaj Party announces assembly candidates

Top News Report

JAMMU Aug 31: The Sainik Samaj Party, JKUT, organized a media interaction to introduce their candidates for the upcoming assembly elections from Jammu East, Jammu West, and Jammu North.

Col SS Pathania introduced Sanjiv Luthra as the candidate for Jammu East, Sumit individuals-who are Sharma for Jammu educated, competent, West, and Er. Dalbir visionary, and have Chib for Jammu North. zero tolerance for cor-During the interacruption-step forward tion, Pathania emphawith a commitment to sized the urgent need serving the nation and humanity.

Pathania also mentioned that the party's manifesto has already been released and that a door-to-door didates will commence shortly.

He urged politically inclined citizens to participate in the assembly elections under the mandate of the Sainik Samaj Party.

The candidates, in turn, shared their vision and strategies for contesting the elections in their respective constituencies.

GCPFI opposes reservation policy

Prof. Sanson called

Top News Report

JAMMU Aug 31: A meeting of the core group of the General Category People's Front of India (GCPFI) was held on Saturday under the leadership of Raj Kumar Banathia, the Chairman of the Front.

During the meeting, Prof. Yash Paul Sanson, the President of the Front, strongly criticized the government's continued support for castebased reservations, accusing them of promoting caste divisions rather than working to eliminate them.

He expressed the growing frustration among the general category population, which includes Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, and others, over the ongoing reservation system. Prof. Sanson empha-

sized that the mood of the masses is turning against both the Congress and BJP, as these parties have failed to protect the rights of the general category.

He stated that voters from the general category are increasingly unwilling to support parties that back reservations, quotas, special privileges, and concessions, which they believe have led to their marginalization.

for the complete abolition of reservations and urged the government to implement the Supreme Court's rulings on the matter He criticized the caste-based reservation system, arguing that

it has become a special qualification used for political gain at the expense of the general category.

Som Nath Sharma, General Secretary of GCPFI, passionately appealed to the government to end the reservation system and address the discrimination faced by the general category. He accused the gov-

items such as mixed

vegetables, poori, boondi

raita and halwa in the

Afterwards, volunteers served the food to the school students and

School students were

very happy after having the special meal of the day. NSS volunteers

school premises.

teachers

ernment of denying the basic rights of the general category through biased policies and called for the removal of these injustices.

The meeting also saw the unanimous passing of a resolution protesting the government's refusal to recognize the general category's political rights, particularly the "Right to be elected.

The Front urged voters in reserved constituencies to press the NOTA button or boycott the elections altogether.

V.K. Sharma, Vice President of the Front, highlighted recent Supreme Court verdicts on reservations, including the exclusion of the creamy layer and quotas within the SCs/STs reservation.

He supported the views of Jitan Ram Manihi and Kirori Lal Meena, who have endorsed these court rulings. Other prominent

members of the Front, including V.K. Sharma, Bhushan Pargal, Deepak Kumar Khajuria, Ravi Sawhney, Jagdish Dogra, Dr. Bansi Lal, Kewal Krishan Sharma, Surinder

Kumar, and Gopal Dass Verma, echoed similar sentiments, calling for an end to what they described as the cancerous effect of reservations on Indian society.

People of Patnazi, Mori embrace **BJP under leadership of Haji Tariq Hussain Keen**



otic and nationalist campaign by the can-Special train service announced for devotees

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 31: In a heartening development for devotees from the Udhampur, Jammu, and Kathua sectors, a special train service has been announced to facilitate their journey to Haridwar on the occasion of "Somavati Amavas."

made by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, who has been instrumental in securing this special service for the devotees. The special train will significantly ease the pilgrimage for thousands of people who traditionally undertake this holv journey during "Somavati Amavas.'

widely appreciated by the local communities, especially those who were facing difficulties in traveling due to the limited availability of regular train services.

The special train is expected to ensure a more comfortable and convenient pilgrimage experience for all devotees

This move has been

GODOWN FOR RENT Corner Plot Size 100 ft x150 ft Kanals) at Kirthali, Bari (3 Brahamana Private **Commercial Registered Land** with 40 ft both side lane having 6000 Sq. ft Covered Shed Height 15 ft Opp. ITC Godown.

NSS SMVDU organizes food preparation event at Govt School

and to have bonding with

NSS volunteers

reached school with all

school students.

Top News Report

KATRA, Aug 31: NSS unit of SMVDU Katra



The announcement was



12



organized a food preparation event at Govt Primary School Sirah village.

The event was organized to engage volunteers to work in a team

the raw materials and other equipment required for food preparation. Volunteers worked in different groups to prepare various food items. Volunteers prepared food

regularly organize different events in all nearby Govt. Schools.

NSS volunteer Sadhvi Sharma coordinated the whole event with other volunteers. NSS coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar and staff member Avdhesh Gupta were also present during the event. School incharge Monika thanked the NSS SMVDU team for organizing the event in the school.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers and emphasized on organizing more such events in other schools also

PSAJK expresses condolences to JKCSF Vice President

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 31: The Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK) deeply mourns the sad demise of Mohammad Masood Bhat, the younger brother of Mohammad Sulieman Bhat, former Trade Union Leader and Vice President of the Jammu & Kashmir Civil Society Forum (JKCSF). Masood Bhat passed away after a brief illness, leaving behind a legacy of kindness and integrity. A delegation from PSAJK, led by President G.N Var. accompanied by other esteemed members, visited the bereaved family at their residence in North Kashmir's Rajpora-Rajwar, Handwara,. The delegation conveyed their profound sympathies and offered support to Mohammad Sulieman Bhat and his family during this difficult time. The association offered heartfelt prayers (Dua-e-Maghfirat) for the departed soul, beseeching Almighty Allah to grant Mohammad Masood Bhat the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and envelop him in His infinite mercy and forgiveness. "May Allah forgive his sins, expand his grave,

and grant him eternal peace in the gardens beneath which rivers flow. May Allah also provide strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear this immense loss," prayed PSAJK President G.N Var

PSAJK stands in complete solidarity with the Bhat family during this difficult time of grief and pledges its unwavering support. The association recognizes the significant contributions of Mohammad Sulieman Bhat to society and extends its full sympathy and condolences to him and his loved ones

Top News Report

BONJWAH, Aug 31: In a significant development ahead of the upcoming assembly elections, the people of Patnazi and Mori Panchayats have shown overwhelming support for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) under the leadership of Haji Tariq Hussain Keen, the BJP candidate for the Inderwal Constituency.

Haji Tariq Hussain Keen, who has been actively campaigning in the region, received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from the residents during his recent door-to-door campaign. The residents expressed their confidence in his leadership and vision for the constituency, marking a pivotal moment for the BJP as it continues to strengthen its presence in the region.

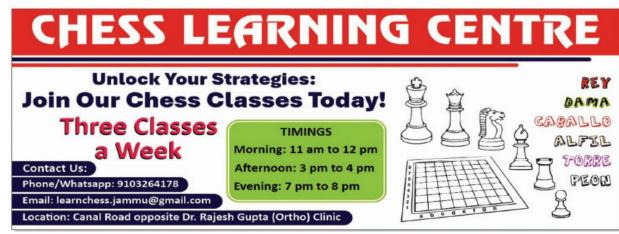
The embrace of the BJP by the people of Patnazi and Mori Panchayats is seen as a major boost for the party, signaling a shift in political dynamics within the Inderwal Constituency. Local leaders and party workers were present during the campaign, reinforcing the message of development, inclusivity, and good governance that Haji Tariq Keen has

been advocating. Speaking on the occasion, Haji Tariq Hussain Keen thanked the people for their support and assured them of his commitment to addressing their concerns and working tirelessly for the betterment of the region. He highlighted the party's development agenda and the positive changes it aims to bring

to the constituency. This development is expected to have a substantial impact on the electoral landscape of Inderwal, as the BJP gears up for a strong performance in the forthcoming elections.

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e-mail: topnewsjk@gmail.com, editortopnewsjk@gmail.com

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