

**JANSAMPARK PRINTING PRESS**  
  
 BYE PASS SIDHRA, JAMMU  
 Mob. 9419104223

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**  
 Many people with dengue can be cared for at home with adequate rest and hydration. But, if you experience any warning signs, go immediately to the nearest medical center.  
 Watch out for dengue warning signs!  
 A drop in body temperature accompanied by any of the following symptoms:  
 Increased and continuous fever above 102°C  
 Severe joint and muscle pain  
 Persistent vomiting  
 A drop in body temperature  
 Swollen lymph nodes  
 Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool  
 Rash  
 If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical center IMMEDIATELY

# JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 11 | ISSUE NO: 166 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

## Infiltration taking place from Punjab border too; discussed counter measures in inter-State meet: J&K DGP Swain

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
 JAMMU, JUL 15

Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain Monday said that some infiltration is taking place from Punjab border and the recent joint inter-State meeting between J&K and Punjab police discussed counter-measures to foil the designs of the enemy.

Talking to reporters in Jammu, DGP Swain, as per news agency, said that some infiltration is taking place from Punjab border as well. "This (infiltration) is commonplace knowledge. Their (foreign terrorists') number is less but they are unaccountable. Even one unaccountable entity or a man sent to kill



**"Number of foreign terrorists less, but one single person sent to this land to repeat violence is a challenge; framed our response to deal with the challenge"**

indiscriminately without any connection to this land with no purpose but to repeat the level of violence or to increase it is a challenge," he said.

The J&K police chief while replying to a query about a recent inter-State security review meeting

between J&K Police and Punjab Police in Kathua district. "We put our minds together to deliberate on the modus operandi terrorists are adopting. We also discussed tunnel threats as well. We talked about how to address more effectively their use of tun-

nels to infiltrate. There are certain things of operational confidentiality, but we have a response which will eventually work," he said.

The DGP said that the security forces will jointly deal with the challenge of terrorists. "They (foreign

terrorists) have found a gap for sure. We will deal with it..." he said.

Interestingly, five soldiers were killed and as many injured in the terrorist ambush at Kathua last week. The latest attack marked the second major incident in Kathua district in a month. The Jammu region has seen a spurt in terrorists' attacks since January this year. In the past three years, 43 soldiers were killed in the Jammu region alone.

A series of joint security review meetings have been held in the region to counter the emerging threats. As per J&K Police chief, the spate of attacks by foreign terrorists was an attempt to revive

## Infiltration bid foiled along LoC in Keran, 3 foreign terrorists killed: Army

It was joint effort by Army, BSF, JKP

**Killed terrorists intended to disturb normalcy particularly ongoing SANJY**

**3 AK series rifles, 4 pistols, war-like stores recovered: Brigadier**

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
 KUPWARA, JUL 15

Security forces on Monday said they eliminated three hardcore foreign terrorists who attempted to infil-



trate across the Line of Control (LoC) in the Keran Sector of north Kashmir's frontier Kupwara district. A large quantity of arms, ammunition and other war-like stores were recovered from their possession.

During a joint press conference, Commander 268 Infantry Brigade, Keran Sector, Brigadier

NR Kulkarni, along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of the district, Shobhit Saxena, informed the media about the operation.

According to the news agency, Brigadier Kulkarni said that for the past few weeks, intelligence inputs indicated that terrorists were trying to

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Modi govt transformed Jammu & Kashmir: Jugal Kishore Sharma

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
 RAMGARH (SAMBA), JULY 15

The Modi government has transformed Jammu & Kashmir and benefited every single person in the region. J&K residents witnessed a development spree after 2014, when Narendra Modi-led government came to power, said Jugal Kishore Sharma.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha), accompanied by Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, General Secretary, J&K BJP & former Minister, Chander Prakash Ganga, former Minister, and other senior leaders of BJP addressed a massively attended "Abhinandan Samaroh" at Ramgarh Assembly Constituency in Samba District.

DDC Keshav Dutt, DDC Subhash Bhagat, Amit Dubey, Anita Choudhary, Asha Rani, Mohinder Pal, BDC Radhey Sham, and Ankush Jamwal were amongst the other prominent party leaders present on the occasion.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, while addressing the Samaroh, said that before 2014, the faith of people had almost died in the Indian politicians due



to the embarrassing and nepotism-filled politics of Congress and its allies. He said that people were restless by the corruption and lawlessness under the Congress regime, and then people saw the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, who worked as the 'Pradhan Sewak' of the masses.

Jugal said that in Jammu & Kashmir, every BJP worked by heart and strengthened the hands of PM Modi to serve the people and to boost development. He expressed gratitude to everybody for voting in his support which further strengthened the Modi government and development process in Jammu.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal said that with the development work visible on the ground, the masses have given full support to

the BJP's MP candidate in the Lok Sabha elections. He said that the opposition candidates had no choice, so they resorted to mis-campaign with malafide intentions, which were rejected by the people in the elections. He said that under the guidance of PM Modi, Jugal Kishore Sharma represented the issues of public in the Parliament and brought the development to the homes of the masses. He also credited the party activists for their work and the voters for their support to the Modi government.

Chander Prakash Ganga said that the BJP has done multi-pronged infrastructure building, due to which earlier road-blockers to development were removed. He said that the Modi government is

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## LG interacts with Officer Trainees of ICLS



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
 SRINAGAR, JUL 15

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday interacted with the Officer Trainees of 2022 Batch of Indian Corporate Law Service (ICLS), at Raj Bhawan.

The Officer Trainees, led by Deputy ROC J&K, Haamid Bukhari, shared the experience and learning from their visit to Jammu Kashmir, as a part of Domestic Study Tour. They also briefed the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Amarnath Yatra surpasses 3 lakh mark in 16 days

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
 JAMMU, JUL 15

Over 3 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the Amarnath cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas in the first 16 days of the yatra, surpassing the corresponding period last year, officials said on Monday.

An official informed the news agency that 14,974 pilgrims visited the shrine for a 'darshan' of the naturally formed ice Shivalingam on Sunday. With this, the total number of pilgrims who have visited

the shrine so far this year has climbed to 3,09,977.

Among the 14,974 pilgrims who performed darshan on Sunday were 9,785 males, 3,435 females, 145 children, 230 Sadhus, one Sadhvi, and 1,378 security forces and service providers, he said.

A fresh batch of 4,875 pilgrims left from Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu towards the twin base camps of Nunwan Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal Sonamarg in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district under tight security arrangements in a

cavalcade of 162 light and heavy vehicles. The batch included 3,464 men, 1,333 women, 14 children, 57 Sadhus, and 7 Sadhvis.

"Of these, 1,918 pilgrims left for the Baltal base camp at 3:05 AM and 2,957 for the Pahalgam base camp at 3:50 am, from where they will proceed on their further journey to the holy cave," the official said, adding that all these pilgrims reached their respective base camps by this evening, wherefrom they will proceed towards the holy cave early

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Old, rusted arms, ammo recovered in Reasi: Police



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
 REASI, JUL 15

Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday said to have recovered an old and

rusted arms and ammunition in Reasi.

"Acting on reliable information regarding the presence of a

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Lakhanpur-Doda NH DPR ready; project to cut down distance by over 100 kms

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
 JAMMU, JULY 15

Committed to making Jammu and Kashmir a developed region in years to come, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has taken several steps, and as a part of this vision, the Lakhanpur-Doda highway will be made an all-weather connectivity for the overall progress of the region.

The connectivity as per the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the strategically important

Lakhanpur-Basohli-Bani-Bhaderwah-Doda National Highway is ready, according to which the distance on this route will be cut down by more than 100 kilometers.

The project will prove to be an important link to connect erstwhile Doda district (Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban) with the Jammu-Pathankot National Highway and the Delhi-Katra Expressway.

"As per the proposed DPR, the distance between Jammu-Pathankot national highway and Doda district

will be reduced by over 100 kilometers," an official said.

Notably, the current distance from Lakhanpur to Doda via NH44 is about 260 kilometers and it will be reduced to about 140 kilometers with the completion of the strategic highway.

"Nearly one dozen tunnels are proposed on the highway," said an official, adding that several concerns were also submitted by the locals, which are also being taken into consideration.

"The proposal of the

Balasundari Tunnel has also been included in the highway that starts from Rajbagh and passes through the hills of Mata Balasundari in Billawar," they added, "to reduce the distance between Sheetalnagar in Basohli and Bani, an eight-kilometer-long tunnel is also proposed, which will make the journey easier and lesser time consuming with its opening near Sathal while landslide prone areas of Basohli and Billawar will be cut off."

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Rusted grenade found in parking area of HC

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
 JAMMU, JULY 15

Police on Monday recovered one rusted hand grenade in the parking area of the High Court premises here.

"Acting on specific inputs, the police team rushed to the spot and found one hand grenade lying in the bushes in the parking area of the High Court premises," said police sources.

They added that the grenade was seized and will be destroyed.

The police, however, have registered a case and started the investigation.

## 8th day Muharram procession taken out in Srinagar amid tight security

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
 SRINAGAR, JULY 15

Thousands of Shia Muslims took out the 8th day Muharram process from the traditional Guru Bazar to Dalgate Srinagar route amid foolproof security arrangements in place on Monday.

For the second consecutive year the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Sunday granted permission for the procession from Guru Bazar to Dalgate via Budshah bridge and M.A Road, Srinagar.

Attired in traditional black the mourners including men, women



and children were beating their chest and reciting religious hymns were seen marching on the roads holding flags from Guru Bazar to Dalgate.

The administration has placed in adequate

arrangements including water, health and other facilities at various places on the route.

Security forces are seen guarding the roads from the Guru Bazar to

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Div Com, ADGP Jammu visit Mandi Poonch to review arrangements for Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra 2024

JI NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, JULY 15

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and Additional Director General of Police Jammu Zone, Anand Jain, conducted a comprehensive review of the arrangements for the upcoming annual Baba Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra 2024 in Poonch. The meeting, attended by DDC Chairperson Poonch, Tazeem Akther, Deputy Commissioner Yasin M. Choudhary, DIG Rajouri-Poonch, Tejinder Singh, SSP Yugal Manhas, officers, civil society members, and representatives of religious organisations discussed various aspects to ensure a smooth and secure pilgrimage.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed various arrangements, including security



measures, transportation of pilgrims, provisions for lingers (community kitchens), medical facilities, sanitation, water and power supply, traffic management, and lodging and boarding facilities for the pilgrims.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch apprised the meeting about the identified locations for accommodating the pilgrims in the district.

The Div Com instructed the Deputy Commissioner to ensure all necessary

facilities are put in place to provide a safe and comfortable stay for the Yatris. He stressed the importance of hygienic food, regular water and power supply and improved sanitation at all designated places.

He further asked the medical department to ensure health facilities with adequate deployment of Doctors and paramedics during the yatra. Directions were also issued for illumination of the holy Temple and clean sur-

roundings around the Temple area.

The Chief Engineer of PWD was directed to take immediate steps to carry out maintenance of roads leading to the holy Shrine, with the aim of enhancing transportation for the Yatris. Speaking on the occasion, the ADGP issued directives to SSP Poonch to implement comprehensive security measures. The ADGP stressed the significance of deploying an adequate number of police personnel along the route, fortifying security checkpoints, and maintaining strict vigilance at all times.

Thereafter, Div Com and the ADGP also chaired a meeting with civil society members, religious heads for the smooth conduct of Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra. The Civil society members apprised various points and demands. The Div Com and ADGP

assured redressal of all the genuine issues.

The President of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad informed the schedule of the yatra, including the opening on August 6th, the arrival of the first batch of pilgrims from Jammu to Poonch on August 7th, and the final batch reaching Mandi on August 15th. The yatra is scheduled to end on August 16, with the Chhari Yatra taking place on August 17th.

Representatives from various departments, including Police, Traffic, Health, Public Works Department (PWD), Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDC), and Jal Shakti, Executive Engineers along with members from Baba Budha Amarnath Management committee and Buda Amarnath Yatri Niwas, participated in the meeting.

## DC Jammu reviews Independence Day preparations

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 15

Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya chaired a meeting today to assess the arrangements for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations in the district.

The meeting brought together senior officers including the Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Rahul Yadav, SSP Traffic Faisal Qureshi, ADC Ansuya Jamwal, Sub Divisional Magistrates, Executive Engineers and officers from the Police and other departments to ensure a seamless and memorable event.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised the need for foolproof security arrangements for the national event. Officers from the Police Department provided updates on their preparations and



traffic regulation plans were reviewed to ensure smooth flow during the celebrations.

Infrastructure and facilities were another focal point of the meeting. The Jammu Municipal Corporation was directed to provide adequate seating arrangements and barricading at the venue. The Jal Shakti Department was tasked with ensuring the availability of drinking water. Additionally, the Power Development Department and Jal Shakti Department were instructed

to manage power and water supply, including the provision of water tankers.

Health and medical services were also discussed in detail. The Chief Medical Officer was asked to arrange medical facilities, staff and ambulances at the venue, with an emphasis on ensuring proper medical care facilities.

The Deputy Commissioner urged all departments to work in close coordination to make the Independence Day celebrations a grand success.

## District Development Council Jammu approves all components of Capex Budget 2024-25



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 15

To expedite development, the DDC Chairman Jammu, Bharat Bhushan, led a meeting of the District Development Council, to review and approve the District Capex Budget 2024-25 for Jammu district. During this session, all previously pending components of the budget were finalised after making necessary modifications and incorporating inputs.

The meeting was attended by DDC Vice Chairman Suraj Singh, all other District Development Council members, ADDC Sher Singh, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh, ACD Dr. Vikas

Sharma, BDOs and other concerned sectoral/district officers.

The Council adopted two resolutions. The first resolution focussed on addressing the issue of encroachments along the Ranbir and Pratap Canals, mandating their immediate removal to restore the original flow and capacity of these waterways.

The second resolution called for comprehensive remodelling and other essential measures to ensure that irrigation water effectively reaches the most remote villages in Gajansoo Marh and RS Pura regions, addressing current deficiencies in water distribution to these areas. Furthermore, the Council recognised the

necessity of convening a meeting with the Commissioner Secretary Rural Development Department to conduct a thorough review and assessment of the achievements and performance of various departments within the district. The meeting concluded with the approval of the District Development Council to plan proposals of 2024-25, with slight changes in proposals under BDC and PRI components and underlined the need for enhanced coordination among various departments to ensure the timely and efficient execution of development projects, thus contributing to the overall growth and prosperity of the region.

## AD Employment Ramban urges CSC to ensure efficient delivery of E services of Labour & Employment Dept



JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, JULY 15

On the direction of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary and Labour Commissioner J&K, Charandeep Singh, a meeting with District Manager CSC, Nawaz Shrief and VLEs was held today under the chairmanship of Assistant Director Employment Ramban, Amit Kumar.

Threadbare discussion was held on delivery of Government e-services being provided by the Labour and Employment Department at District

Level.

The CSC District Manager was apprised about the 22 e-services being provided by the Labour Department and 6 online services by JKBOCWWB which includes the Registration and renewal of Construction Workers, Education Assistance, death and funeral assistance, Chronic Disease assistance, disability assistance Marriage assistance to workers and their kids and Maternity assistance to the female workers.

The Manager was requested to provide a

hassle free environment to the worker class who are the most vulnerable less educated class of the society. They were told to check their documents well before uploading on the Portal to avoid unnecessary delay in processing of their applications at office level.

Besides this, the CSC District Manager was also told to direct their VLEs to ensure the Presence of at least 2 VLEs at ongoing Block level Awareness camps to be organized by the DE&CC in collaboration with Labour Department Ramban.

## JMC organises capacity building workshop on used water management



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 15

On the request of Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department, Mandeeep Kaur, the Jammu Municipal Corporation today organises a Capacity Building Workshop focused on Toilet Saturation and Used Water Management.

The workshop, chaired by Rahul Yadav, Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, was held at the Convocation Center, Jammu. It was jointly hosted by the JMC and the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Jammu. Participants included Chief Executive Officers/Executive Officers of Municipal Councils/Committees of Jammu Division, as well as engineers from UEED, PHE, JMC and PIU teams (KPMG). VK Chaurasia and Satish Kumar from CPHEEO (MOHUA) shared their expertise with the attendees.

The workshop covered various techniques for treating used wastewater through Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) and Effluent Treatment Plants (ETP), tailored to the population categories of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). Advisors instructed participants to identify land for wastewater treatment plants in coordination with district administration and to collaborate with consultants and engineers during the

preparation of Detailed Project Reports for these plants.

There was a strong emphasis on upgrading Community and Public Toilets and achieving goals for Aspirational Toilets. Participants were advised to ensure that all community and public toilets in their jurisdictions are functional, clean, and inspected at least once a week.

The workshop also highlighted the Safai Mitra Surakshit Shehar Protocol, focusing on the safety of personnel involved in cleaning septic tanks or sewers, and the use of modern equipment for safe desludging operations.

Additionally, the importance of the Swachhata portal components, such as ODF, ODF+, and ODF++, was discussed. Advisors provided guidance on progressing towards ODF+ and ODF++ status and preparing for the forthcoming assessment of SBM components to achieve higher levels of certification.

The meeting was attended by the Special Secretary to the Government, H&UDD, Director Urban Local Bodies, Jammu, Deputy Director (Administration), Senior Law Officer, Account Officer (ULB), Joint Commissioner (Works), Executive Engineer JMC (Project Division), CEOs/EOs of ULBs, and other officials from the Jal Shakti and UEED departments.

## Zubair chairs public darbar at Pulwama



JI NEWS SERVICE  
PULWAMA, JULY 24

Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Zubair Ahmad, chaired a public darbar at Pulwama, as a part of Public Outreach Programme of the Government, to assess and redress grievances and demands of the public.

During the Darbar, delegations, members of various associations and individuals brought to fore a range of issues, including the need for the macadamization of certain roads, access to clean drinking water supply in some areas, establishment of playgrounds, adequate street lighting, installation of signboards, issues of persons with disabilities, restoration of springs & improvement of health facilities. Responding to the concerns raised, the Commissioner Secretary

directed all concerned to take immediate action on certain issues that could be resolved immediately. For other matters requiring further attention, he flagged some for consideration of District Administration and assured to take the genuine left out issues to the government for appropriate resolution. He emphasized on collaborative effort between government officials and the general public to secure a commitment to transparency, accountability, and responsiveness in addressing the needs of the people.

The event also underscored the administration's dedication in fostering an inclusive and participatory decision-making process, where citizens are encouraged to voice their concerns and contribute to their development. Such initiatives not only serve to

address immediate challenges but also pave the way for sustainable solutions that enhance the overall well-being of the populace. Earlier, the Commissioner Secretary also inspected stalls set up by various departments and assessed the progress made under different schemes, focusing on achieving the predetermined targets. These stalls showcased a wide range of products and government schemes and services aimed at benefiting the public. Later he also distributed sanction letters, golden cards and other certificates among the eligible beneficiaries of various schemes.

Deputy Commissioner, Dr Basharat Qayoom, who was present in the Darbar deliberated on various issues and apprised the participants about efforts and interventions being made by the district administration for public welfare and development in the district. Additional District Development Commissioner, District Officers of various Departments, Civil Society members and general public were present on the occasion.

## I-Day arrangements 2024 discussed at Udhampur



JI NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, JULY 15

To discuss the arrangements for the smooth celebration of Independence Day 2024 at District headquarter Udhampur the Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Joginder Singh Jasrotia convened a meeting of district officers of line departments, here at Conference Hall, DC Complex Udhampur.

PO Poshan, Subash Dogra, Chief Planning Officer, Mohd Iqbal, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Tanveer Ul-Majid Wani District Information Officer, Rajinder Digra, District Social Welfare Officer, Kanika Gupta and other district officers were present in the meeting.

Detailed discussions were held on seating arrangement, barricading, security, traffic regulation, drinking water and power supply, sanitation, first-aid, PAS and fire-tenders,

magisterial duties, refreshment, illumination, transport etc.

It was decided in the meeting that the main function would be held in Government PG Degree College Boys, where the VIP would unfurl the National Flag. The function would start with the Shehna Vadan programme in the morning by the Information Department.

While addressing the meeting, the ADC stressed upon the officers of various departments to participate in the function with great zeal and enthusiasm and work in close coordination with full dedication to make the National function a grand success. The ADC directed the concerned officers to put in place all the necessary arrangements well in time for the smooth and enthusiastic celebration of the National function. He called upon the officers and employees of all

departments to remain present at the venue, on the day of function.

Executive Engineers of PWD, PHE and PDD were directed to ensure seating, barricading and drinking water arrangements, besides uninterrupted power supply at the function site. The Chief Executive Officer, Municipality was asked to maintain cleanliness in the town as well as at the venue.

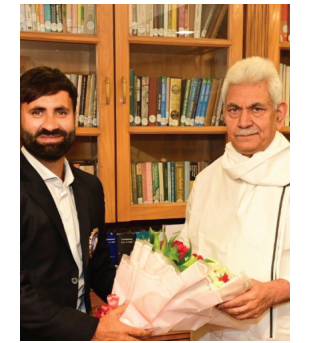
Regarding First aid arrangements, the Chief Medical Officer was directed to ensure the deployment of one ambulance along with a team of Doctors and necessary medicine till the conclusion of function. District and Traffic Police would ensure security and traffic management, the DC added. Different committees like the Reception Committee, Illumination Committee, etc were also constituted for the successful celebration of the National Function.

## International Cricketer Parvez Rasool calls on Lt Governor

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 15

Parvez Rasool, an International Cricketer from J&K, today called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

He briefed the Lt Governor on his endeavours to promote sports in the region.



## DC Samba reviews Independence Day 2024 arrangements



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, JULY 15

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma, today chaired a preparatory meeting to review the arrangements for the 77th Independence Day celebration in the district. The meeting saw the presence of senior officials including SSP Samba, Vinay Sharma; ADDC, Champa Devi; ADC, Suresh Sharma; ACD, Mehmood Riaz; DMO, Mohammad Sayeed; ACP, CMO, Executive Engineer PHE, Executive Engineer

R&B, Executive Engineer I&FC, CEO, and other district officers. DC instructed the concerned officers to ensure maximum participation from schools, NCC cadres, police, band parties, Sainik Welfare, and other teams for the parade on the occasion of Independence Day. He further directed the officials to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness of all government offices, the establishment of a control room at the DC office, the illumination of prominent places, and

traffic management at the venue. He emphasized the importance of proper decoration and seating arrangements at the event spot to ensure a grand celebration of the 77th year of Independence.

In addition, DC directed the officers to invite all civil societies, former Panchayati Raj Institution members, ex-councillors, and religious organizations for the event scheduled to be held at Rani Suchet Singh Stadium, Samba. He also reviewed and gave instructions for making arrangements for the "At Home Celebration" of Independence Day in the evening. The meeting concluded with DC Sharma urging all officials to work diligently and collaboratively to ensure the success of the upcoming Independence Day celebrations.

## DLSA Ramban conducts 2nd meeting of UTRC; discusses 9 cases, recommends 1 for early release



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, JULY 15

As per NALSA's annual calendar of activities for the year 2024, the District Legal Services Authority under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority today conducted the 2nd meeting of the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) at District Court Complex, Ramban.

The meeting was held in order to expedite the identification and review of prisoners belonging to district Ramban, who are lodged in district Jail

Udhampur and are eligible to be considered for release as well as to accelerate the regular functioning of the committee and review the state of all eligible under-trial prisoners (UTPs). The meeting was chaired by Chairman (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Ranbir Singh Jasrotia, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ramban, along with other members of the Under Trial Review Committee.

The committee reviewed the cases of the eligible UTPs shortlisted by the Secretary (Sub-

Judge), District Legal Services Authority, Ramban, Anjana Rajput. The committee took up and discussed 09 cases, however, only one case was recommended for early release.

Along with the Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Ramban, the meeting was attended by Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ramban Anjana Rajput, Additional Deputy Commissioner; Ramban Varunjeet Charak, and Additional Superintendent of Police, Ramban Gourav Mahajan.

## JKTPO's e-Commerce Onboarding Drive empowers local Entrepreneurs at Baramulla

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, JULY 15

In a significant move to promote local entrepreneurship, the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), in collaboration with the District Administration Baramulla organized an e-Commerce onboarding drive at Dakbungalow Baramulla. This initiative aims to bolster economic growth by enhancing the potential of local entrepreneurs. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, accompanied by the General Manager District Industry Center Baramulla, addressed the forum. In his address, the DC underscored the pivotal role of digital commerce in business growth, providing valuable insights into the e-Commerce network and its numerous benefits. The primary objective of the drive was to reach out to the grassroots levels, promoting local products and educating entrepreneurs and artisans on the advantages of selling products on e-Commerce platforms. This effort is part of a series of planned drives across the Union Territory aimed at onboarding local products onto e-Commerce platforms. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 250 attendees, including women entrepreneurs, retailers, artisans, exporters, grow-



ers, and FPOs. It highlighted the advantages of onboarding onto e-Commerce platforms, encouraging participants to join the online marketplace. During the day-long event, 25 participants were registered on the spot, free of charge, while others began the onboarding process. Detailed sessions by experts elaborated on the benefits of e-Commerce platforms, enhancing participants' understanding and readiness. The drive aligns with JKTPO's commitment to supporting local exporters by providing diverse marketing platforms and forward linkages. Representatives from JKTPO emphasized the importance of the ODO (One District One Product) and DEH (District Export Hub) initiatives. Additionally, a representative from GeM (Government

e-Marketplace) provided a detailed presentation on the registration process and facilitated participant onboarding onto the GeM portal. A highlight of the event was the one-on-one onboarding sessions, enabling sellers and partners to integrate directly into the GeM marketplace. This hands-on approach allowed participants to swiftly join the digital marketplace. The event showcased the commitment of JKTPO and the District Administration to empower local entrepreneurs, facilitating their entry into the global e-Commerce landscape. By providing a platform for small businesses to reach a global audience, this initiative aims to boost economic growth and create sustainable opportunities for the vibrant entrepreneurial community in Jammu and Kashmir.

## DC Doda discusses Independence Day 2024 arrangements

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, JULY 15

Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh today convened a meeting to discuss arrangements for the upcoming celebration of Independence Day, 2024 at the Conference Hall DC office.

The meeting was attended by SSP Doda, Javaid Iqbal, ADDC, Pran Singh, ADC, Sudershan Kumar, ACR, Sunil Bhutyal, PO ICDS, Paramjeet Singh, ACD, Manoj Kumar, ACP, Musharaf Ali Haif, AO DC Office Doda, Sameer ul Rehman besides officers from line departments. It was discussed that the main function will be held at the Doda Sports Stadium. The event will commence with the unfurling of the national flag by the chief guest, followed by a March Past featuring contingents from District Police, CRPF, NCC and students from government and private educational institutions. In addition to the parade, school children will present cultural programs showcasing the rich heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. During the meeting, the DC directed all the



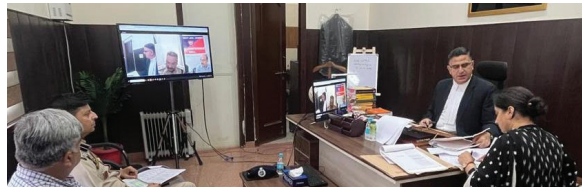
concerned departments to ensure that all arrangements are made well in time. He directed the School Education Department to arrange participants for the cultural programme. Emphasizing the significance of Independence Day 2024, the DC underscored the need for meticulous planning and coordination to ensure a memorable and impactful celebration. He urged all stakeholders to contribute their ideas and efforts to make the event a resounding success. Regarding illumination of offices and public properties, the DC directed the Executive Engineer PDD to illuminate the government offices, markets, road bridges and public places in the district. The arrangements for water and power supply, park-

ing, first aid, sanitation, security, Public Address System, Fire tenders, decoration of stage, seating arrangements besides arrangement of Mementos and refreshments were discussed in detail. The Independence Day celebration will commence with the soulful Shehnaai Vadan performed by the District Information Centre Doda. The DC gave directions to the concerned officers to maintain cleanliness in and around the venue. He also directed for the arrangement of Health facilities and better traffic management. The DC highlighted that the celebration of Independence Day 2024 holds great importance as it symbolizes the unity, diversity, and freedom of the nation.

## Chairman DLSA Samba chairs UTRC Meeting

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, JULY 15

District Legal Services Authority, Samba as per the directions of National Legal Services Authority conducted Second Undertrial Review Committee meeting as per Schedule which was launched by National Legal Services Authority on 15th of July, 2024 for conducting UTRC meeting for the year 2024. The main objective of launch of this Schedule by NALSA is to enhance the efficacy and impact of the UTRC meetings by establishing a fixed quarterly schedule for UTRC meetings for the year 2024. The meeting was chaired by Pr. District & Sessions Judge-cum-



Chairman DLSA, Samba, Adnan Sayeed, with the members of Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) Samba. In the meeting, the Committee reviewed cases of eligible UTPs/Prisoners shortlisted by the Secretary, DLSA Samba for consideration. The Committee considered 34 cases of UTPs/Prisoners out of which 5 Cases were recommended for release. The meeting was attended by Rekha Kapoor Nischal, Secretary District Legal Services Authority, Samba, Umesh

Sharma, SDM Vijaypur on behalf of Deputy Commissioner Samba, Vinay Kumar Senior Superintendent of Police Samba.. Besides Veerinder Bhat Sr. Superintendent, Central Jail Kothhalwal, Koushal Kumar, Superintendent, District Jail Amphala, Jammu and Iqbal Ahmed Kohli, Head Warden on behalf of Superintendent District Jail Poonch also joined the meeting through Virtual mode.

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 15

Chhavi Sharma, a promising athlete of Khelo India State Centre of Excellence, Jammu and Kashmir, has made the nation proud by securing a bronze medal in the Sabre Girls team event held at the 2024 Commonwealth Junior and Cadet Fencing Championship, Christchurch, New Zealand. The other team members representing the country included Zaferlin from Tamil Nadu, S. Tanvi from Karnataka and Tanishya Singh from Delhi. Pertinently, KISCE Fencing has been established at M.A Stadium Jammu, where athletes receive regular training under the expert guidance of High Performance Manager, Coaches, and Scientific Staff.



Former Member of J&K Sports Council & International qualified Referee in Fencing, Rasheed Ahmad Choudhary, Senior Fencing Coach JKSC., Rachna Jamwal, and Fencing Instructor JKSC, Shottu Lal Sharma, applauded the performance of young fencer Chhavi Sharma. Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad

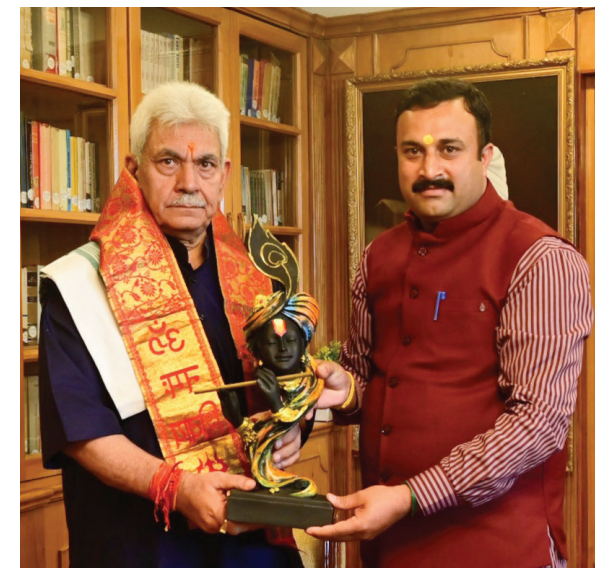
Hafeez, congratulated the JKSC athlete and the Indian team contingent, emphasizing that KISCE's Fencing and Rowing facilities in Jammu and Srinagar respectively are designed to prepare athletes for international competitions. Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull, has also conveyed greetings to the athlete.

## Power shutdown

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JULY 15

Chief Engineer (Distribution), JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Industrial Area SIDCO Ghatti, Channi, Marheen, Paharpur, Rajbagh, Chandwan, Haria-Chack, Nanan Barnoti and adjoining areas will remain affected on July 16

from 7 am to 7.30 am. Similarly, the power supply to Malhori Jaggir and its adjoining areas will remain affected on July 16 from 8 am to 12 noon. Likewise, the power supply to Barui, Nardiwal, Mandrian, Kha, Mair, Thatar, Mundh, Payan and adjoining areas will remain affected on July 16 from 6.30 am to 1 pm.



Mahant Rohit Shastri, President, Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan today.

## Plantation drive held at Govt. Polytechnic for Women, Jammu



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JULY 15

In consonance with "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" drive, the NSS wing of Government Polytechnic for Women, Jammu in collaboration with Social Forestry Department of J&K UT carried out plantation drive. During the drive, around 50 saplings of Medieval plant viz Harad were planted in the campus by the faculty, staff and students.

Principal, Er. Suket Gupta, who was the chief guest on the occasion, impressed upon the need of plantation drives, particularly during this season and asked the students to carry out such plantations in their areas also. Dinesh Joshi Range Officer, Social Forestry Division Jammu alongwith his team, faculty and staff of the institution were present on the occasion.

## DDC B'la reviews beautification works in Baramulla Town

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, JULY 15

In a significant move towards enhancing the aesthetic appeal and infrastructure of Baramulla town, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) chaired a meeting of officers today at the meeting hall of the DC office, here to review beautification works in Baramulla town.

The meeting focused on current works being executed for the beautification of the town which encompass various aspects of urban development and civic amenities, including street lighting, road macadamization, drainage system upgradation, parking facilities, tree plantation and the establishment of vendor zones.

During the meeting, the DDC issued specific directives to the officers present, emphasizing the importance of a holistic approach towards town beautification. The DDC placed a

strong emphasis on road infrastructure, prioritizing the macadamization of main roads, inner links, and instructed the concerned officers to plan effectively to ensure timely completion thereof by meeting the set deadlines. He also called for an extensive drainage system to be implemented to ensure efficient water flow and prevent flooding during the rainy season, significantly improving the town's resilience to adverse weather conditions. Meanwhile, to curb the chaotic practice of random parking in town, Minga Sherpa issued directions for upgradation of parking spaces in the town premises to avoid any traffic congestion. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Baramulla, Arshad Ahmad Khan; ARTO Baramulla, Tehsildar Baramulla, Executive Officer MC Baramulla and officers from the Police Department.

Secretary Health reviews healthcare arrangements for Muharram

J1 NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, JULY 15

Ahead of the 10th Muharram, Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, today visited Zadibal and adjoining areas to assess the healthcare facilities being provided during the auspicious occasion.

Dr. Abid visited the shrine of Mir Shamsudin Iraqi (RA) at Khushal Sar, the main Imam Bara of Zadibal, and took first-hand appraisal of the facilities being provided to the people. He also visited the UPHC Zadibal and had a detailed round of all sections of the hospital. The Secretary directed the Director Health Services Kashmir to ensure that the best possible services are provided to the people during Muharram.

He was accompanied by the Director Health Services Kashmir, Deputy Director Health Services, Chief Medical Officer Srinagar and other officers of the department.

Dr. Abid interacted with the senior citizens and Intizamia Committee members, who expressed their satisfaction with the arrangements being made and the services being provided. He assured them that the department will provide best possible healthcare facilities to the people during Muharram.

"The Health Department is committed towards providing quality healthcare services to the people, especially during important religious occasions like Muharram," maintained the Secretary.

KPDCL to remotely disconnect smart metered consumers for hooking, meter tampering

J1 NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, JULY 15

Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) today advised its smart-metered consumers to shun the practice of unauthorized use of electricity by hooking which attracts punitive clauses under the Electricity Act.

During inspection drives, KPDCL has booked a large number of consumers in urban and semi-urban areas of Kashmir Division for bypassing meters and laying unbridled hooks with the sole intention of stealing power.

In a press statement issued here today, a KPDCL spokesperson stated that reports of hooking have been received from all city Subdivisions and a few district headquarters where smart meters have been installed. "KPDCL is taking swift action against hooking which begins with remote disconnection of the consumer's electricity supply, followed by recovery of energy consumed illegally," he said, while outlining steps taken by KPDCL for combating power theft.

Some of the smart-metered areas badly affected by hooking include Mominabad, Batmaloo, Tengpora & Alocha Bagh in ESD Huzuribagh, Mini Housing Colony and Rose Enclave in ESD Chanapora, Bemina in ESD Watalkadal, KP Bagh in ESD Sheikh Bagh, Buchwara in ESD Dalgate, Nadroo and Old Baghat in ESD Baghat, the spokesman said, adding that illegal hooking by consumers



has also been reported from KK Moulla, Pather Masjid, Habba Kadal, Rainawari, Khanyar, Hawal, Zakura, Nishat, Anantnag, Baramulla I and Sopore I & II Subdivisions. KPDCL, which has mapped all consumers found involved in hooking, shall also present challan in the Designated Courts under the Electricity Act for imposition of hefty fine on consumers habitual of meter tampering and hooking on bare conductor. "FIRs have also been registered against

35 consumers for tampering and bypassing of smart meters," he added. The spokesman further stated that KPDCL has so far installed 2,99,755 smart meters in Kashmir Division under PMDP I & II, out of which 1,21,651 smart meters have been converted into prepaid mode. "Prepaid consumer has the advantage of daily bill generation and checking of energy used. He also has the advantage to recharge his account in advance to enjoy reliable power supply," he added.

Mission Shakti SANKALP-HEW organises Awareness camp for Pregnant & Lactating Mothers under BBBP

J1 NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JULY 15

Mission Shakti SANKALP - Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), under the Social Welfare Department J&K, organised an awareness camp at the Anganwadi Centre in Naseeb Nagar, Jammu.

The camp, held in association with Mission Poshan, focused on educating pregnant and lactating mothers about nutrition and the need for adequate rest before childbirth. The event was organised under the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer Jammu, Mamta Rajput.

Dr. Nisha Dutt, a gynecologist, served as the resource person, highlighting essential elements for maintaining health during and after pregnancy. District Mission Coordinator, Mission Shakti, Shagun Manchanda,



explained the objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) Scheme, which provides direct benefit transfer (DBT) financial support to improve the health and nutrition of mothers and children.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from pregnant women and lactating mothers. Officials emphasized the importance of a balanced diet rich in vitamins, minerals, and proteins. They also discussed the positive impact of PMMVY on the lives of pregnant women. Several beneficiaries

shared their experiences, expressing gratitude for the support received through the scheme.

New beneficiaries were registered under the PMMVY and Sukanya Samridhi Yojana during the camp. Gender Specialist SANKALP HEW, Khushboo Kapte, provided information on several other schemes, including PMJAY, Health Insurance, and the importance of the Ayushman Bharat Card.

The program concluded with the distribution of nutritional kits and baby kits to pregnant and lactating mothers.

Ramakrishna Mission Jammu organizes plantation drive

J1 NEWS SERVICE JAMMU

Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu organized a massive plantation drive on 12 July in its premises, in association with Urban Forestry Division, Jammu as part of its ongoing efforts to promote environmental sustainability and community service.

The drive saw the participation of over 45 volunteers, including DFO urban forestry division Ashwini Mittal, monks of Ramakrishna Mission Jammu, students, medical staff, and local residents, who came together to plant more than 160 saplings in the mission's grounds. The event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of tree plantation, conservation, and environmental protection. The saplings were mainly Amaltas, Panchatara, Neem, Ashoka and Bougainvillea etc.

Swami Yajnadharananda, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu, inaugurated the drive and emphasized the need for collective action to protect the environment. "Planting trees is a small step towards making our planet a better place. We must work together to ensure a sustainable future," he said.

DFO Ashwini Mittal said that under the Urban forestry division, Jammu, Green J&K drive started in the Talab Tillo area to promote environmental sustainability and protection.

Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu has been actively involved in various community service initiatives, including education, healthcare, and relief. This plantation drive is another step towards fulfilling its commitment to serving the society and the environment.

Bandipora Admin condoles demise of Uncle of Deputy Commissioner, Shakeel ul Rehman

J1 NEWS SERVICE BANDIPORA, JULY 15

The District Administration Bandipora, in a condolence meeting held on Monday, expressed deep sorrow on the sad demise of the uncle of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman.

A condolence meeting with Additional District Development Commissioner Bandipora, Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt in chair was held at Mini secretariat here to extend deepest condolences with the bereaved family to bear this irreplaceable



loss. During the condolence meet, all officers and officials prayed for peace

to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved to bear the loss.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Infiltration taking place...

the terrorism on the lines of what it was between 1995 to 2005. He also said the attacks were also aimed to trigger a communal frenzy but Jammu people have understood it wasn't Hindu versus Muslims.

Infiltration bid foiled...

infiltrate the LoC along the Keran Sector, intending to carry out sabotage and subversive activities, particularly aiming to disrupt the ongoing Amarnath Yatra.

"On July 12, specific intelligence inputs were provided by their agencies, which were corroborated by the Jammu & Kashmir Police, regarding a group of foreign terrorists likely to infiltrate by leveraging the dense forest cover and thick undergrowth along the nallahs. In response, multiple ambushes were jointly laid by the army, police, and the BSF from the night of July 13 to 14 along the infiltration routes," he said, adding that the area was monitored and kept under surveillance.

Brigadier Kulkarni said that on July 14, around 15:00 hours, heavily armed and well-trained terrorists, equipped with sophisticated weapons, attempted to infiltrate across the LoC, taking advantage of the dense forest cover and poor visibility due to unfavourable weather conditions. "This triggered intense firefights. In the ensuing battle, three hardcore foreign terrorists were neutralised," he said.

Following the gun battle, a thorough search operation was conducted in the area, leading to the recovery of a large quantity of war-like stores, including three AK series rifles along with magazines, four pistols, grenades, and more," Brigadier Kulkarni said, adding, "This successful intelligence-based operation, named Operation Dhanush II, exemplifies the close synergy between the Indian Army, BSF, and Jammu & Kashmir Police."

CS asks for smooth...

congestion on NH-44. He asked them to ensure that oil tankers and other empty trucks moving towards Jammu should be directed to take towards Mughal road. He said that the fruit trucks should have an option to make use of Jawahar tunnel in case there is an apprehension of delay via Quazigund tunnel.

He asked the concerned officers to make use of lean windows optimally by diverting most of the heavy vehicles during the underutilized period. He also asked the NHAI to further improve the overall road surface besides blacktopping of potholed portion near Magarkote and sort out all other minor issues without any undue delay.

In his presentation, the IG Traffic, Bhim Sen Tuti, highlighted the pattern of traffic on the highway through various studies and algorithms. He presented

the day-wise and seasonal behavior of traffic along with analysis of time taken by each class and size of the vehicle. He also dwelt upon causal analysis of each aspect of this traffic behavior besides highlighting certain remedial measures.

He said that travel time has reduced considerably between Navyug and Chenani-Nashri tunnels over the corresponding years due to efficient traffic management and better road surface.

Amarnath Yatra...

tomorrow morning for darshan.

He further added that the pilgrims who had reached the twin base camps of Baltal and Nunwan also proceeded towards the holy cave early this morning, while those having night haltage at Chandanwari, Sheshnag, and Panchtarni halting stations also started their onward journey early this morning.

Here in Jammu, thousands of pilgrims are arriving daily from different parts of the country to embark on the holy pilgrimage, which started on June 29.

The 52-day annual yatra to the holy shrine will culminate on Shraavan Purnima, coinciding with the Hindu festival of Raksha Bandhan, which falls on August 19.

Old, rusted arms...

terrorist hideout in the general area of Mahore Sub Division, a cordon and search operation was launched by the Reasi Police," a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

Police said that the operation was led by the police party of Police Component Shikari, along with Dy.SP PC Sarh Mahore, at Dalantop area of Mahore.

During the search and cordon operation, the police party recovered old-rusted arms and ammunition from Dalantop area of Shikari, police said, adding that the recovery includes 30 rounds of AK-47, one Magazine of AK-47, one HE-36 Hand Grenade.

While sharing the details, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Mohita Sharma, said that all possible measures should be taken to thwart the nefarious design of anti-National Elements. "Further investigations are ongoing," police said.

Lakhanpur-Doda...

Official sources, as per the proposed DPR, further said the 6.8-km Chattergala tunnel will connect the erstwhile Doda region to Kathua by bypassing Chattergala top.

"Once the project is completed, as proposed, the hilly areas of Kathua district, like Basohli, Bani, and Sarthal, will witness a major development, and the local population will benefit from employment during the construction work," said an official.

The proposal for the Chattergala tunnel, they said, was initiated about six years ago, and the DPR was also prepared by the BRO, but it could not be started due to some administrative issues, said an official, adding that it has been decided that the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) will construct a new national highway from Lakhanpur to Basohli-Bani via Bhaderwah-Pul Doda.

He said not only will the travel time be reduced significantly, but this will also boost trade, create employment, and generate revenue for the locals.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who is a third-time Member Parliament in Kathua-Udhampur Constituency, said, "The idea was conceived in 2015-16, but due to some unavoidable reasons, it could not mature."

"The NHAI is now taking up the project, and the proposed Detailed Project Report (DPR) has already been submitted to them," Dr Singh told UNI.

He said, "the Lakhanpur-Bani-Basohli-Doda is more than Rs 4000 crore project and may take six to seven years to complete with a major tunnel at Chattergala in Bhaderwah to make it an all weather road connectivity."

"The Lakhanpur to Doda distance will cut down by over 100-km with once this all weather highway is commissioned," adding Dr Singh said that from a security viewpoint vis-a-vis tourism and trade, it will reform this region and flourish to a larger extent, particularly in the unexplored Bani area.

8th day Muharram...

Dalgate including on Moulana Azad road on one side. The traffic on various routes either have been suspended are diverted to other routes in Srinagar to allow peaceful culmination of the Muharram procession.

High security and civil administration officials were also marching with the Muharram procession.

Modi govt transformed...

working with a futuristic vision. He lauded the development works done by MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and said that the people have full faith in the Modi government.

LG interacts with...

Lt Governor on the functioning of the offices of Registrar of Companies (ROCs) and the dual mandate of ICLS in maintaining the Regulation, developmental role as well as effective enforcement of multiple corporate laws. The Lt Governor extended his best wishes and asked the probationers to work with honesty and dedication in regulating and enforcing corporate laws.

BJP alone can wipe out terrorism in J&K : Rana

J1 NEWS SERVICE SAMBA, JULY 15

Blaming the Congress, NC and PDP for compromising the national security during their tenures of governance in terror stricken Jammu and Kashmir, Senior BJP leader Mr Devender Singh Rana today said the decisive, assertive and bold NDA government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi alone is capable of combating terrorism with iron fists.

Addressing the media after a party meeting at District party headquarters here this afternoon, Mr Devender Rana reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the BJP to safeguarding the lives of people and upholding the territorial integrity of the nation.

He referred to the multi-pronged strategy adopted during the past over a decade in dismantling terror networks and isolating its ecosystem post Article 370 abrogation, saying this led to a discernible transformation in the security situation with businesses, tourism and other socio-economic activities gaining momentum in the Kashmir Valley. Unnerved by the huge-turnaround in the overall scenario, the terror masters across the neighbouring rogue nation unleashed isolated acts of terrorism in the Jammu region with tacit cover of residual ecosystem. They know that terrorism is taking its last breath in this part of the country due to synergized operations by the security forces and active support of the people, he added.

Devender Rana cautioned the people to remain vigilant from elements inimical to peace, saying their machinations to create confusion and apprehensions are ploy to derail the peace process. Such elements have always played politics on graveyards and therefore they are required to be shown their rightful place if Jammu and Kashmir has to progress and become the country's growth story. He exuded confidence that the people will continue to support the country's strong leadership in the larger interests of peace.

## Secy RDD reviews first quarter progress of departmental schemes in Jammu districts

J NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 15

Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, conducted a first-quarter review of departmental schemes in several Jammu districts on Monday.

The review focused on Rajouri, Reasi, Poonch, and Samba, following earlier assessments in Baramulla, Shopian, Kulgam, and Kupwara.

The meeting was attended by Mission Director JKRLM, Indu Kanwal Chib, Director RDD Jammu, Mumtaz Ali, Director Finance, Umar Khan, Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal, CEO IWMP, Rajnish Kumar, COO, Himayat, Rajneesh Gupta, Joint Director Planning, Kamal Kumar Sharma, Additional Secretary RD&PR, Waseem Raja and ACDs, ACPs of these districts.

Detailed deliberations were held on various issues pertaining to UT Capex Budget, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) and Himayat.

Progress on convergence works, the status of



Panchayat Ghars, co-location of Common Service Centers (CSCs), Development of District Development Council (DDC) and Block Development Council (BDC) buildings were assessed.

The Secretary held detailed deliberations with Assistant Commissioner Development (ACDs) and Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACPs), instructing them to focus on achieving the targets set for various schemes.

Dr Shahid stressed the importance of timely implementation and follow-up on decisions made in previous meetings.

He asked concerned officials to focus on implementing NRLM-compliant infrastructure projects. The Secretary emphasized the need for swift action in finalizing estimates and beginning construction of facilities like goat and sheep sheds under NRLM in convergence with MGNREGA.

ments, leading to more comprehensive and sustainable rural development.

The meeting assessed the status of completion of Panchayat Ghars and the co-location of Common Service Centers (CSCs).

Dr Shahid emphasized the need to expedite any pending works in this regard.

The Secretary also reviewed the progress of ongoing construction of District Development Council (DDC) and Block Development Council (BDC) buildings and urged officials to prioritize their completion.

Dr Shahid also conducted a comprehensive review of the status of ongoing projects funded under the UT Capex budget.

He instructed officials to closely monitor these projects and address any bottlenecks promptly.

The Secretary directed that funds should be released and utilized promptly. He asked district officials to provide detailed requirements to facilitate the timely absorption of funds, emphasizing the need for immediate action to prevent delays.

Earlier, the Secretary reviewed the progress of different RDD&PR schemes in Baramulla, Shopian, Kulgam and Kupwara districts.

Dr Shahid emphasized the need for close monitoring of key performance indicators, particularly under MGNREGA and PMAY-G. He stressed the importance of regular progress assessments to ensure the timely achievement of set targets.

He underscored the importance of interdepartmental convergence to ensure effective resource utilization and accelerated progress at the district level.

Dr Shahid called for enhanced collaboration among different departments and stakeholders to achieve set goals efficiently.

The Secretary directed officials to focus on optimal utilization of available resources to maximize the impact of rural development initiatives in the region.

He said that this approach aims to create synergies between various schemes and depart-

## Omi Devi's Journey from Kutcha to Pucca House: A PMAY-G Success Story

J NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, JULY 15

Omi Devi, a resident of Panchayat Chachawah of Block Sangaldan, had been living in a makeshift kutcha house with her family. The fragile structure was vulnerable to harsh weather conditions, and the fear of collapse was a constant concern.

However, her life took a turn for the better when her application for a PMAY-G house was approved. With the support of the scheme, she was able to construct a sturdy pucca house, providing her family with a safe and secure shelter.

Omi Devi's new house has brought immense joy and relief to her family.

Her children can now study and play in a comfortable and safe environment. She expressed her gratitude, saying, "I was living in constant fear of the roof collapsing, but now I feel secure and proud of my new home."

Omi Devi's success story is a testament to the impact of PMAY-G in empowering rural women

and providing a foundation for a brighter future. The scheme has not only given her a house but also a sense of dignity and independence.

"PMAY-G has given me new beginning in shape of a new home. I am forever grateful for this blessing," said Omi Devi, beaming with pride as she shows off her new home.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER  
MARWAH FOREST DIVISION

e- NIT No. 03 of 2024-25

Dated: 13.07.2024

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (EMD) INR	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of Completion
01	Establishment of closure of 12.90 Ha. with Fencing of 6000 rft. using Barbed wire fencing with wooden Posts with 4 Strand & 2 Criss-Cross BABW in Earthen Pits & Cement Concrete Block for every 10th Post, Plantation of 7000 PB plants of Conifers Species and 3000 Nos NR of Fruit/ Fodder Specie in staggered Pits of size (45 cm x 45 cm x 45 cm), Patch Sowing in 4000 Patches, Dibbling of 4000 Patches, in Co. 104/U of Udil Forest Range, Marwah Forest Division under CAMPAA Addl. CA 2024-25	7.41490	14900	A,B,C & D	Rs. 600/-	60 Days
02	Establishment of closure of 12.50 Ha. with Fencing of 6000 rft. using Barbed wire fencing with wooden Posts with 4 Strand & 2 Criss-Cross BABW in Earthen Pits & Cement Concrete Block for every 10th Post, Plantation of 15000 PB plants of Conifers Species and 5000 Nos NR of Fruit/ Fodder Specie in staggered Pits of size (45 cm x 45 cm x 45 cm), Patch Sowing in 4000 Patches, Dibbling of 4000 Patches in Co. 87/M - of Marwah Forest Range, Marwah Forest Division under CAMPAA Addl. CA 2024-25	10.22550	20500	A,B,C & D	Rs. 600/-	60 Days
03	Establishment of closure of 23.10 Ha. with Fencing of 8830 rft. using Barbed wire fencing with wooden Posts with 4 Strand & 2 Criss-Cross BABW in Earthen Pits & Cement Concrete Block for every 10th Post, Plantation of 15000 PB plants of Conifers Species and 5000 Nos NR of Fruit/ Fodder Specie in staggered Pits of size (45 cm x 45 cm x 45 cm), Patch Sowing in 5000 Patches, Dibbling of 5000 Patches in Co. 29/M - of Marwah Forest Range, Marwah Forest Division under CAMPAA Addl. CA 2024-25	12.30065	24700	A,B,C & D	Rs. 600/-	60 Days
04	Establishment of closure of 2.41 Ha. with Fencing of 2000 rft. using Barbed wire fencing with wooden Posts with 4 Strand & 2 Criss-Cross BABW in Earthen Pits & Cement Concrete Block for every 10th Post, Plantation of 5000 PB plants of Conifers Species and 2000 Nos NR of Fruit/ Fodder Specie in staggered Pits of size (45 cm x 45 cm x 45 cm), Patch Sowing in 2000 Patches, Dibbling of 2000 Patches in Co. 85/M - of Marwah Forest Range, Marwah Forest Division under CAMPAA Addl. CA 2024-25	3.58020	7200	A,B,C & D	Rs. 600/-	60 Days
05	Establishment of closure of 12 Ha with Fencing of 7200 rft. using Barbed wire fencing with wooden Posts with 4 Strand & 2 Criss-Cross BABW in Earthen Pits & Cement Concrete Block for every 10th Post, Plantation of 12000 PB plants of Conifers Species in staggered Pits of size (45cm x 45cm x 45cm), Patch Sowing in 2400 Patches, Raising of PB Saplings 12000 Nos., const. of inspection path 1.0 mtr. Wide and 1 km length, Construction of Permanent Fire Line of length 1.5 Km & width 10 mtr and Pruning, thinning & training of existing root stocks (Tending operation) 3600 Nos in Co. 38b/D of Dacchan Forest Range, Marwah Forest Division under CAMPAA Addl. CA 2024-25	10.60826	21300	A,B,C & D	Rs. 600/-	60 Days
06	Establishment of closure of 15 Ha with Fencing of 9000 rft. using Barbed wire fencing with wooden Posts with 4 Strand & 2 Criss-Cross BABW in Earthen Pits & Cement Concrete Block for every 10th Post, Plantation of 15000 PB plants of Conifers Species in staggered Pits of size (45cm x 45cm x 45cm), Patch Sowing in 3000 Patches, Raising of conifer saplings 15000 Nos, const. of inspection path 1.0 mtr. Wide and 1 km length, Construction of Permanent Fire Line of length 1.00 Km & width 10 mtr and Pruning, thinning & training of existing root stocks (Tending operation) 4500 Nos in Co. 19b/D of Dacchan Forest Range, Marwah Forest Division under CAMPAA Addl. CA 2024-25	12.91196	25900	A,B,C & D	Rs. 600/-	60 Days
07	Establishment of closure of 0.60 Ha. with Fencing of 360 rft. using Barbed wire fencing with wooden Posts with 4 Strand & 2 Criss-Cross BABW in Earthen Pits & Cement Concrete Block for every 10th Post, Plantation of 600 PB plants of Conifers Species in staggered Pits of size (45cm x 45cm x 45cm), Patch Sowing in 120 Patches, Raising of conifer saplings 600 Nos in Poly bag, Pruning, thinning & training of existing root stocks (Tending operation) 180 Nos in Co. 80/U of Udil Forest Range, Marwah Forest Division under CAMPAA Addl. CA 2024-25	0.48999	1000	A,B,C & D	Rs. 600/-	60 Days

Note: The Forestry activities namely fencing, tending operations, Construction of inspection path and permanent Fireline shall be strictly completed before 20th of September 2024.

The position of codal formalities in respect of above work(s) is as under:

Position of Funds	Budgeted
Position of AA/TS	Accorded

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities, (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website:- [www.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.gov.in).

Publishing Date:	13.07.2024
Download Start Date:	13.07.2024
Bid submission Start Date:	14.07.2024 from 10:00 AM
Bid submission End Date:	02.08.2024 upto 03:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	03.08.2024 at 11:30 am in the office of the office of Conservator of Forests Chenab Circle Doda.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	To be opened (Online) after technical evaluation is completed. Date will be notified separately.

No. DFO/MFD/e-tendering/2024-25/

Dated:-13.07.2024

Sd/-  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Marwah Forest Division,

DIP/J-2884/24  
Date: 15-7-24

## Chairman DLSA, Kathua chairs UTRC meeting

J NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, JULY 15

District Legal Services Authority, Kathua as per the directions of National Legal Services Authority conducted second Undertrial Review Committee meeting today as per Schedule launched by National Legal Services Authority for conducting UTRC meeting for the year 2024.

The main objective of launch of this Schedule by NALSA is to enhance the efficiency and impact of the UTRC meetings by establishing a fixed quarterly schedule for UTRC meetings during 2024.

The meeting was chaired by Pr. District & Sessions Judge-cum-Chair-



man DLSA, Kathua Ashok Kumar Shavan, with the members of Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) Kathua.

In the meeting, the Committee reviewed cases of eligible UTPs/Prisoners shortlisted by the Secretary, DLSA Kathua for consideration. The Committee considered 12 cases of UTPs/Prisoners out of

which 02 cases are recommended for release.

The meeting was attended by Secretary District Legal Services Authority, Kathua, Addl. DC Kathua on behalf of Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, CPO DPO Kathua on behalf of Senior Superintendent of Police Kathua. and the Superintendents of District Jail Kathua.

## DC Kulgam reviews progress of SAMAGRA Shiksha projects

J NEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, JULY 15

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan Monday chaired a meeting of Officers to review the progress of various SAMAGRA Shiksha projects in the district.

During the meeting, the DC instructed the Roads & Buildings (R&B) authorities to expedite the pace of ongoing works and ensure the timely completion of all projects. He emphasized the importance of these projects in enhancing the educational landscape of Kulgam and urged all stakeholders to work collaboratively towards this goal and ensure timely completion of these works.

The DC also highlighted the need for quality assurance in all works undertaken and reiterated the administration's commitment to improving the educational facilities for the students of Kulgam.

The meeting concluded with directives for regular monitoring and follow-up to track the progress and resolve any emerging issues promptly.

The meeting was attended by several key officials, including Joint Director Planning (JDP) Zahid Sajjad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, Executive Engineer (Exen) of R&B, Chief Education Officer (CEO), Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs), and other officers.

## DDC inaugurates Startup Hub in Reasi

J NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, JULY 15

The District Development Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan, inaugurated a Start-Up Hub at the District Employment and Counselling Center today.

The newly established Start-Up Hub provides a nurturing environment for aspiring entrepreneurs and startups in the district. Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and resources, the hub will offer mentorship and networking opportunities to help new businesses thrive. During the inauguration ceremony, the DDC emphasized the importance of promoting entrepreneurship to drive economic growth and create job opportunities in the region. He highlighted the government's commitment to supporting startups through various initiatives and schemes. He encouraged the youth



to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Start-Up Hub and contribute to the district's economic progress.

District Employment and Counselling Center Reasi, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, organized a mega Job Fair under the aegis of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative. The Job Fair attracted a large number of job seekers and

employers from various sectors, providing a platform for direct interaction and potential employment opportunities.

ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, PO Poshan Mohd. Anwar Bandy, Chief Agriculture Officer Harbans Singh, Chief Horticulture Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, Superintendent ITI, AD Employment and other officers were present.

## EDITORIAL

## Centre's move to give L-G more teeth

The recent decision by the Centre to grant additional powers to the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of Jammu and Kashmir has sparked a political controversy, with opposing views on its implications for the region's governance and autonomy. Amidst the uproar, it is crucial to dissect the facts and implications of this move for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The Ministry of Home Affairs clarified that the amendments to the Transaction of Business Rules under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, were aimed at clarifying the roles and powers vested in the Legislative Assembly and those vested in the L-G. Specifically, these amendments pertain to decision-making powers on issues concerning the police, public order, All-India Service officers, and the Anti-Corruption Bureau. Critics, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah, have raised concerns over the potential centralization of authority and its impact on the prospects of full statehood for Jammu and Kashmir. They argue that enhancing the L-G's powers could undermine the aspirations for greater local governance and autonomy. However, officials have reassured that the amendments do not alter the balance of power as prescribed by the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which was passed by the Parliament and upheld by the Supreme Court. According to Section 32 of the Act, the Legislative Assembly retains authority over matters listed in the State List except for police and public order, which fall under the L-G's discretion. Similarly, Section 53 outlines the L-G's discretionary powers concerning All-India Services and other specified matters. The concerns expressed by political leaders, particularly Omar Abdullah's appeal to the people of Jammu to resist what he perceives as disempowerment by the BJP-led NDA government, highlight the deeply rooted political sensitivities in the region. The call for a "strong government" with a solid electoral mandate reflects anxieties about the direction of governance under the current dispensation. The contrasting dynamics with Delhi's L-G, where frequent disputes with the elected government are common, underscore the unique challenges and political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. The attempt to streamline decision-making processes and clarify administrative responsibilities in the UT must be seen in the context of maintaining law and order and ensuring effective governance in a sensitive region. As Jammu and Kashmir prepares for upcoming Assembly elections, the debate over governance structures and powers is likely to intensify. It is imperative that all stakeholders engage constructively to safeguard democratic principles and the rights of the people. Transparency, accountability, and inclusivity should guide future legislative and administrative reforms to foster trust and stability. In conclusion, while apprehensions persist regarding the implications of augmenting the L-G's powers, it is essential to ensure that these changes serve the best interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Any governance framework must prioritize local aspirations while upholding constitutional principles and the rule of law. The Centre's clarification is a step towards clarity, but sustained dialogue and consensus-building are necessary to address lingering concerns and chart a path forward that respects the region's unique identity and aspirations.

## India narrowly escapes fiscal catastrophe

UTTAM GUPTA

After the Lok Sabha elections 2024 on June 4, the Centre narrowly escaped plunging into a state of 'fiscal catastrophe'. Even as Modi-led BJP failed to secure an absolute majority on its own, it garnered the support of 293 MPs including 53 from its allies under the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and formed the Government. On the other hand, the I.N.D.I.A bloc led by the grand old party (GOP) namely Congress cobbled up a total of 234 MPs. A swing of just 38 from NDA to I.N.D.I.A bloc could have enabled the latter to catapult itself to the seat of power. In that scenario, the GOP would have to redeem the promises/guarantees made in its manifesto "Nyay Patra" released in April 2024. These entail mammoth fiscal costs. Look at an annual grant of Rs 100,000/- to every poor Indian household (HH) under the 'Mahalakshmi' scheme. The amount - like unconditional income support - will be directly transferred to the bank account of the oldest woman of the HH. If the HH doesn't have a woman, then the amount will be transferred to the account of the oldest member of the HH. Meanwhile, at a poll rally, Gandhi announced "Initially, we will give you Rs 100,000/- annually, and later we may increase it to Rs 200,000/-". There are around 400 million households in India. Even if we take a

conservative estimate of only 10 per cent of the households or 40 million being poor, the Scheme would cost the exchequer Rs 400,000 crore annually. In case, the grant is increased to Rs 200,000/-, the cost would be Rs 800,000 crore per annum. Aware of the huge impact on the budget, the manifesto puts two caveats on the Scheme. First, "the poor will be identified among the HHs in the bottom of the income pyramid". Second, "the Scheme will be rolled out in stages and reviewed every year to assess the number of beneficiary HHs and its impact on alleviating poverty". The way these conditions have been crafted shows that, to begin with, not all 40 million families will be covered. Further, the party could also drop some beneficiaries in due course to rein in the outflow. However, given the massive appeal of the grant amount promised under the Scheme, not a single poor household would like to be left out and a beneficiary HH once included wouldn't like to get excluded. Any attempt to do so could trigger socioeconomic tensions between those who get it and others who don't. So, all 40 million poor HHs will have to be given Rs 200,000/- each. The other guarantee is a Youth Apprenticeship Scheme (YAS) for diploma holders under which an unemployed youth will be given Rs 100,000/- every year. Taking a total of 260



million persons in the 15-29 years age bracket and an unemployment rate of 10 per cent, giving Rs 100,000/- to each of the 26 million unemployed would cost the exchequer Rs 260,000 crore annually. An apprenticeship is an arrangement under which a person works for an agreed period to learn a new skill that enables him to get a suitable job. During this period, he gets a fixed amount as a stipend. Under such an arrangement logically it is expected that at the end of the training period, there won't be any need to give the stipend. But, the GOP hasn't alluded to any blueprint for training and occupations/businesses where the apprentices - on completion of the training - would get absorbed. In such a scenario, persons getting Rs 100,000/- will continue to get it year after year. As a result, the Centre will be saddled with a recurring liability of Rs 260,000 crore. Congress promised a legal guarantee for the

cost of student loan waiver which is one time, the recurring annual burden would be Rs 46,20,000 crore. This is almost close to the total expenditure of Rs 47,66,000 crore estimated in the interim Union Budget for 2024-25 and more than four times the capital expenditure outlay of Rs 11,10,000 crore. During 2024-25, the total receipts other than borrowings of the central government are estimated to be Rs 30,80,000 crore including tax receipts of Rs 26,02,000 crore. The spend of Rs 800,000 crore on the much-touted Mahalakshmi scheme alone will take away a quarter of the total receipts and nearly one-third of the tax receipts. As it is, the fiscal deficit (total receipts minus total expenditure) or FD for 2024-25 is estimated at Rs 16,85,000 crore which is 5.1 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). Add to this Rs 46,20,000 crore being the additional expenditure due to the guarantees, we get a whopping FD of Rs 63,05,000 crore which comes to 19.1 per cent of the GDP. This is more than two times the 9.2 per cent reached in 2020-21 when the economy was crippled by the devastating Corona pandemic. One shudders at the very thought of where this will take the Centre's debt currently estimated at around Rs 187,35,000 crore (as of 31st March 2025). It will double in less than four years, courtesy the guarantees. At present, the Centre's debt is

around 57 per cent of the GDP. As per the amendment to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act (2018-19), this should have been lowered to 40 per cent by 2024-25. Instead, we will be heading towards a level far more than 100 per cent. India's sound economic fundamentals, robust growth momentum, and focus on fiscal consolidation have led global rating agencies such as S&P Global to consider a sovereign rating upgrade by raising its country outlook to positive from stable after a long hiatus of one-and-a-half decades. All this could go for a toss in the event of 'fiscal profligacy' triggered by the guarantees. The fiscal catastrophe would bring with it a deadly cocktail of unsustainable debt, galloping interest payments (exacerbated by rising interest rates), high inflation (courtesy, mountain of cash in people's hands), declining investment, decelerating economic activity/GDP even as crores of persons don't need to earn their living and simply wait for the State largesse to take care of all their needs. In short, India would be heading towards an economic disaster. The BJP not having an absolute majority makes the Modi - government vulnerable. In this case, Congress-led I.N.D.I.A bloc takes charge, and the risk of economic disaster looms large. (The writer is a policy analyst; views expressed are personal)

## The Art of Letting Go

RAVI VALLURI

There once lived a cerebral physicist who taught at an estimable university. The professor was decorated with awards and worldwide recognition followed. As he became a celebratory figure, he soon developed a swollen head. His affectation was to become his hubris. The government and administration stripped him off all the awards bestowed, and his wife deserted him as he became an alcoholic. The esteemed professor was unable to grapple with these misadventures in life. Some well-wishers from his fraternity commiserated with him and were filled with compassion for their once effulgent colleague. The physicist was wheeled into a rehabilitation centre and under a detoxification regimen was slowly weaned

off alcohol and drugs. He underwent the Happiness Programme and learnt the unique rhythmic breathing techniques which provided the ballast for his recovery. The professor though sober now and purged of his hedonistic tendencies was still feeling saturated from within. His soul was yet to feel satiated. He developed a profound interest in the spiritual dimension of life and the universe. Thus, the professor embarked upon a spiritual sojourn. The peregrination took him halfway around the world till he arrived at a remote village, high in the Himalayas, at the feet of an accomplished master. This suzerain of the sacred texts of different religions had gained remarkable adroitness and virtuosity in Zen Buddhism. The holy person dressed in ochre robes welcomed the professor with a warm embrace. His searching and lustrous eyes



scanned the professor. The physicist narrated his story. He concluded by adding that he was now trying to fathom the mysteries hidden in the womb of the universe from the spiritual and scientific points of view. "But this is what you were doing at the university and in your laboratory, is it not professor?" enquired the seer. He felt that the Zen Master could ignite the missing spark from his life and help him expatriate antipathetic thoughts from his mind so that he could upend the pyramid. He had successfully extricated himself from the

whirlpool of gloom once and he could see light at the end of the tunnel. Yet there was something amiss in his life! It was dry like the autumn leaf that drops from the branches of the tree. The time you let loose "So, what new are you attempting to unravel? Ok, let us have a cup of tea," said the venerated soul. The professor appeared at ease as the perspicacious and sagacious soul poured the tea. Soon the cup began to overflow. Seeing this, the professor exclaimed, "Holy Sir, the cup is overflowing!" "Precisely, and I was examining your reaction," remarked the Holy One. "Unless you just let go of your haughtiness and self-conceit the way the tea overflowed from the cup, you will never learn anything afresh. This is the secret," stated the Zen Master in an absolutely matter-of-fact manner. "Drop all your

desires when you approach a Master. Let go of your baggage," he added. The Zen Master was to further add, "Buddha advocated four concepts-Observe the body (Kayana Paschana)Observe the sensations (Vedanana Paschana) Observe the flow of mind (Chittana Paschana)Observe your true nature (Dhammanu Paschana)." The professor realised that he had forayed into uncharted territories but without understanding his mind. His mind was brim-full of demonic and arrogant thoughts and ossified. He was neither simple nor humble or aware. These were the keys for him to let go and be pristine and lucid. (The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views expressed are personal)

## We aspire to a world in which USD isn't almighty. Are we ready for it?

TCA RANGANATHAN

The Biden-Trump election contest and the recent expiry of the petro-dollar deal have combined to give new life to speculation about the possible arrival of a multi-currency international environment. While it is extremely unlikely that the US dollar will get displaced anytime soon, we should be cognisant of the possible repercussions to our economic wellbeing if it happens. It is undoubtedly true that the current dollar dominance is often weaponised by the US for political ends. Iran and North Korea have been prohibited from using US dollars to settle trade commitments since long. Russia joined this club for having started the Ukraine invasion. The US has sequestered their central bank dollar holdings. These countries are settling their trade obligations outside

the dollar mechanism. In all likelihood, other countries could also run afoul of US redlines and be pushed into the club. China has been taking several measures over a long period of time to insulate itself from such a threat. Should we, as the fifth largest economy (soon to be third) follow suit? A review of the Chinese experience will assist thought on this. China is the world's largest exporter, with 14.2 per cent share of global trade, and the second-largest economy, with 19 per cent share of global GDP. It is the largest trading partner of 120 countries, enjoying a trade surplus in excess of \$800 billion. It has continuously sought to reduce its dollar dependence. Cross-border trade settlement in renminbi (RMB, aka yuan) was started in Shanghai and Guangdong in 2009. Later, Hong Kong, Singapore and London were designated as offshore

RMB centres. Offshore RMB deposits were also encouraged. Alongside, it made the effort to create a market for offshore RMB assets. These were the so-called Dimsum/Panda bond markets. They allowed foreign companies/sovereigns to issue RMB-denominated bonds in offshore/onshore markets. Further, bilateral swap lines/arrangements exceeding the equivalent of \$1 trillion are in place with about 40 countries. China also launched the BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) in 2013 and has investment commitments running into trillions of dollars. These hugely expensive efforts have borne fruit. The IMF introduced RMB in the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket in 2015. Currently, 30 per cent of Chinese services imports and 23 per cent of goods exports are denominated in RMB.

However, on a global basis, the RMB's share of trade settlements have stagnated, post-2015, at about 3 per cent. A similarly low share exists for RMB-denominated bonds/investments. The primary constraints are apparently the lack of an open capital account and insufficient play for the 'rule of law'. On the other hand, the US dollar's share of trade settlements has climbed to 46 per cent, at the cost of euro/yen/sterling settlements. It is above 70 per cent outside the Euro Zone. The euro is next with 24 per cent aggregate share but dominates intra-EU trade settlements. So, the US dollar is unlikely to lose sheen any time soon. However, suppose it does, where would we stand? Where do our trade dependencies lie? India currently exports about \$450 billion and imports \$675 billion worth of merchandise, and does

services exports of \$323 billion and imports of \$180 billion, implying a net trade deficit. The US is our largest trading partner. It accounts for over 60 per cent of our services exports and is the fourth-largest importer of our merchandise. The EU is our next largest partner. It is the largest importer of our merchandise and the third-largest importer (after US, UK) of our services exports. We have substantial trade surpluses with both under these categories. But we have a negative trade balance with all other important trade partners. These are the ASEAN (deficit above 30 per cent), China (deficit above 75 per cent), UAE and other Middle East countries (deficits range from 15 per cent to over 50 per cent) and Russia (deficit about 90 per cent). This implies that we could be one of the primary losers if the US dollar loses importance, as we would then be forced to convert

dollars/euros earned in our trade surplus zones into currencies preferred by the exporters in a new regime. A currency exchange always carries a cost incurred by the purchaser. We need to overcome this weakness by becoming a significant exporter. There could be two, but not necessarily alternative, paths. One could be to strengthen our services sector exports. We dominate in the IT and other technical services but have very low presence in financial services and logistics and goods transport services, which account for almost half the global services trade. This low presence can be viewed as a low-hanging fruit. De-regulation/de-control over capital flows and port/airport usage rules could pay dividends. Kutch, for example, could be converted into a SEZ entrepôt similar to Hong Kong, Singapore and Dubai.

# US scientists decode 125-year-old element to boost cancer treatments

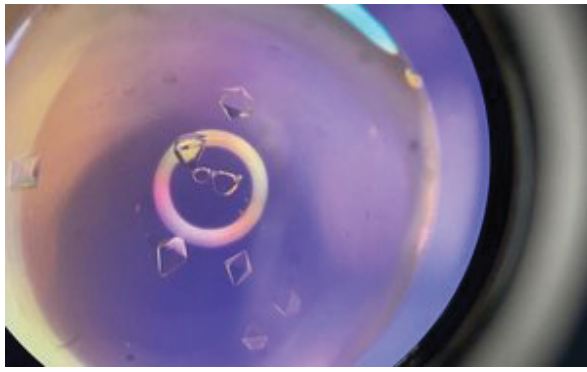
AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

US researchers have decoded an element that could destroy cancerous cells, and advance treatment options for the deadly disease that claims millions of lives globally.

The element, actinium, was first discovered by French scientist Andre-Louis Debierne in 1899 and is number 89 on the Periodic Table.

Now after 125 years of its existence, there is a bright chance it could improve cancer treatments, as found by the Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Even after 125 years, actinium remains an enigmatic element of science because to date it is found in extremely small quantities, and special facilities are needed to work with it, not just any ordinary



radioactive lab.

The team of scientists tried growing it and while elements can behave very similarly to their lightweight counterparts, actinium behaved differently than its counterpart lanthanum.

From nuclear energy to medicine, these elements can serve the purpose admirably, for both are radioactive and earthy minerals, it is not actinium itself that saves the day, it is an isotope -- a distinct nuclear species of any element -- named actinium

225 that has shown promise in a method called targeted alpha therapy (TAT).

The TAT technique transports radioactive elements to the cancer site via biological delivery mechanisms such as peptides or antibodies.

When actinium decays, it emits energetic particles that travel a short distance, killing local cancer cells while sparing healthy tissue further away.

"If we can engineer proteins to bind the actinium with a high affinity, and either be fused with an

antibody or serve as the targeting protein that would really enable new ways to develop radio-pharmaceuticals," said Rebecca Abergel, Associate Professor of nuclear engineering at the University of California-Berkeley.

Researchers employed a revolutionary way to create the crystals with only 5 micrograms of pure actinium, which is about one-tenth the weight of a grain of salt and unnoticeable to the naked eye.

They initially refined the actinium using a complicated filtration method that removed other elements and chemical contaminants.

They next attached the actinium to a metal-trapping molecule known as a ligand and encased the bundle inside a protein identified and purified by Roland Strong's team at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Centre, resulting

in a "macromolecular scaffold."

The crystals, which grew for a week inside the Heavy Element Research Laboratory, were then cryocooled in liquid nitrogen and irradiated with X-rays at Berkeley Lab's Advanced Light Source.

X-rays revealed the compound's three-dimensional structure and demonstrated how this elusive element works with other surrounding atoms.

This study used the longest-living isotope of actinium, Actinium 227 although Actinium 225 is the preferred one for the Targeted Alpha method (as it has been used for prostate cancer as well with positive results).

# Walking after meals safe, may help manage BP and diabetes: Expert

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

Walking after meals is safe and may be key to managing diabetes, hypertension, and sleep issues, said an expert.

Taking to social media X, Dr Sudhir Kumar, from Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad, said walking, whether in the mornings or evenings, before breakfast or dinner, is a healthy habit.

"Walking after meals is safe, and short walks after meals are associated with multiple health-related benefits," he said.

Dr Sudhir stated that walking may particularly help people with diabetes as it improves glycemic control -- the maintenance of blood glucose levels.

"Walking is associated with a mean reduction in HbA1C of 0.5 per cent in people with type 2 diabetes," the top neurologist said. The HbA1c test is used to evaluate a person's level of glucose control.

It can also help lower



the levels of postprandial blood glucose -- the level of sugar in the blood after eating and drinking.

"There is a dose-response noted- faster walking speed results in a greater reduction in postprandial blood glucose levels," the doctor said.

He suggested that "30 minutes of walking, 15 minutes after meals" can help reduce blood glucose peak even in healthy individuals. Further, walking after meals may also aid in weight reduction.

"Walking is associated with a significant reduction in BMI by 0.91 kg/m<sup>2</sup>," Dr Sudhir said.

Walking post meals also

helps regulate blood pressure levels. It is associated with a significant reduction in systolic and diastolic BP, the doctor said.

"Benefits of walking on BP lowering are seen whether the walking is done in 1 long session (of 30-60 minutes) or split into 3 shorter sessions (of 10 minutes each). 10 minutes of walking can be conveniently incorporated after meals," he added.

Walking after meals also improves digestion and helps reduce bloating as it "stimulates the stomach and intestines, making the food move through the digestive system more rapidly."

# Doctors must consider both short, long-term heart risks in high BP patients: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

Doctors must consider the long-term (30-year) as well as the short-term (10-year) risk of an individual developing cardiovascular disease (CVD) before beginning medication therapy for stage 1 hypertension, or high blood pressure, according to new research on Monday by the American Heart Association (AHA).

The research, published in the AHA's journal Hypertension, made a comparison of two tools for calculating cardiovascular disease risks.

It showed that "if only the current 10-year risk thresholds are applied, fewer adults may be recommended for blood pressure-lowering medication."

The team from the University of Alabama compared the predicted risks estimated by the AHA's PREVENT risk calculator, released in 2023, to the



previous tool for risk prediction called the Pooled Cohort Equations (PCE).

PREVENT uses sex-specific equations; incorporates markers of kidney disease in addition to HbA1c measures to help monitor metabolic health; can estimate 10-year and 30-year risk for heart attack or stroke as well as heart failure; and considers additional risk factors with the social deprivation index.

On the other hand, the PCE does not calculate 30-year risk and also does not include heart failure or additional risk factor

predictors such as kidney function or statin use.

"Many people with stage 1 high blood pressure who are not likely to have a heart attack, stroke, or heart failure within the next 10 years may have a high risk over the next 30 years," said lead author Paul Muntner, a visiting professor in the department of epidemiology at the University.

This may also benefit people with no risk or short-term risk and "start anti-hypertensive medication" to prevent a heart attack or stroke event later in life.

# Doctors suffering burnout need compassion, not blaming

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

Hailed as gods on earth, healthcare staff -- particularly doctors and nurses -- are significantly prone to burnout. A new book stresses the need to increase compassion for them.

Professor Dame Clare Gerada, a London-based general practitioner, and former president of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), UK, called for a more comprehensive guidance that focuses on "kindness" and "sensitivity".

Citing the infamous case of the troubled Tanzanian-Indian prodigy and psychiatrist Dr Daksha Emson who took her own life and her daughter Freya in 2000, and a junior doctor Rose Polge who reportedly drowned herself in 2016, she said that employers often treat physicians as "naughty school children" when they go sick or suffer



mental health problems. Emson was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and Polge suffered acute self-esteem issues.

Her book 'The Handbook of Physician Mental Health' also highlights how suicide rates are up four times in doctors, as compared to other professional groups. General Physicians, psychiatrists and doctors trained overseas among healthcare workers are the ones especially at risk.

Importantly, female clinicians face the double whammy of a second shift, first caring for the patients

and their families.

Increased workload, bullying, and racism lead to doctors developing depression, anxiety, etc.

While there is guidance on how doctors should behave when unwell or consulting with a sick colleague, it is in the form of avoidance and blame, which needs to be changed urgently, Gerada said.

Patient complaints, moving around for better prospects, and unsatisfactory treatment further worsen the case as it alienates the doctors and increases the existing loneliness.

# Study shows late detection of cancer is a major concern

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

Late diagnosis of cancer, which means too late for treatment, is the biggest concern for about 70 per cent of people, according to a public poll in the UK.

A survey of 2,000 people, led by a team from the University of Cambridge, showed that two-thirds were worried if they had cancer, the highest for any other medical condition, leaving behind dementia, terrorism, crime, and nuclear war.

About 70 per cent said that late diagnosis of cancer is the biggest worry, followed by the impact on one's family and the ones in surroundings (52 per cent), getting access to the right treatment (41 per cent), and side effects of the treatment (36 per cent).

"People are worried that treatments won't work or that the side-effects will be terrible, but also what their diagnosis will mean to their family,"



said Professor Richard Gilbertson, Director of the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Centre at the University.

The rein that cancer holds is unimaginable, in fact when respondents were asked what technological development they would like to see in the future, ranging from eradicating famine to self-driving cars, 55 per cent said unanimously that they would like to be able to detect and treat cancer early enough so that no-one dies, followed by eradicating poverty (23 per cent).

The public has given overwhelming support for AI and doctors to collaborate in the treatment process, with only 8 per cent disagreeing.

# 14.5 million missed on vital DTP vaccine globally in 2023: UN

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

Global childhood immunisation levels stalled in 2023, with a whopping 14.5 million kids missing out on the essential three doses of the vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTP) vaccine, according to a new report by the UN organisations on Monday.

The report by the WHO and UNICEF provides estimates of national immunisation coverage (WUENIC) for vaccinations against 14 diseases.

It showed that 84 per cent (108 million) children received three doses of the vaccine against DTP in 2023. However, 14.5 million did not receive a single dose of the vaccine -- an increase from 13.9 million in 2022.

In addition, 6.5 million children did not complete their third dose of the DTP vaccine, the key to achieving disease protection in infancy and early childhood.

"The latest trends demonstrate that many coun-



tries continue to miss far too many children," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell, in the report.

Further, the report showed that vaccination rates against the deadly measles disease stalled. About 35 million children did not receive the vaccine or only had partial protection.

Only 83 per cent of children worldwide received their first dose of the measles vaccine through routine health services in 2023. However, the number of children receiving their second dose modestly increased from

2022, reaching 74 per cent of children.

The report also blamed the low vaccination rate against measles for driving outbreaks -- in about 103 countries in the last 5 years. On the other hand, 91 countries with strong measles vaccine coverage did not experience outbreaks, it noted.

"Measles outbreaks are the canary in the coal mine, exposing and exploiting gaps in immunisation and hitting the most vulnerable first," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

He added that it "is a

solvable problem".

The report also highlighted improved immunisation coverage for human papillomavirus (HPV), meningitis, pneumococcal, polio, and rotavirus disease in the 57 countries supported by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

It noted that the share of adolescent girls globally who received at least 1 dose of the HPV vaccine, which protects against cervical cancer, increased from 20 per cent in 2022 to 27 per cent in 2023.

At the same time, the HPV vaccine coverage reached only 56 per cent of adolescent girls in high-income countries and 23 per cent in low-and middle-income countries. The target was 90 per cent to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem.

The report calls for the need to accelerate efforts to meet the Immunisation Agenda 2030 (IA2030) targets of 90 per cent coverage, and no more than 6.5 million 'zero-dose' children globally by 2030.

# S Korean medical professors call on govt to change stance for trainee doctors' strike

AGENCIES  
SEOUL, JULY 15

Medical professors at Seoul National University (SNU) in South Korea on Monday said that striking trainee doctors will not return to work if the government sticks to the current medical reform plans, calling for a "transparent and reasonable" policy push.

The emergency response committee of SNU professors, who serve as senior doctors at SNU hospitals, appealed during a press conference in Seoul, as the government set a deadline Monday for the striking doctors to return to hospitals, Yonhap news agency reported.

"The government has vowed to withdraw its plan of implementing punitive administrative steps and to give a special favour regarding their training.

But such measures will not convince them to return to work," the committee said.

"The strike came in protest of the government's unilateral push for unreasonable policy measures, but such measures have remained unchanged," it added.

More than 90 per cent of around 13,000 junior doctors walked off their jobs in February in the form of resignations against the government's plan to sharply raise medical school admissions.



The government has demanded that hospitals complete accepting their resignations by Monday, while vowing not to suspend the medical licences of the striking doctors, regardless of whether they return to hospitals or not, and offering special measures for returnees on their training and earning of specialist licences.

But a majority of the doctors have not budged an inch, according to officials.

"Instead of pressuring the doctors by setting a resignation deadline, the government should come up with reasonable measures and implement them in a transparent and reasonable way," the committee said.

There is "almost nothing for hos-

pitals and professors to do" after the looming mass resignations, the committee said, stressing that the healthcare system is sinking and will deteriorate further if the current situation continues.

Despite strong opposition from doctors, the government has already finalised an admissions quota hike of some 1,500 students for medical schools for next year to address problems stemming from the shortage of doctors.

Doctors have urged the government to revisit the decision, claiming that medical schools will not be able to handle the increased enrollment, which will compromise the quality of medical education and ultimately the country's medical services, the report said.

## 24X7 coordinated patrolling by Indo-Bangla border forces to curb crimes, infiltration

AGENCIES  
AGARTALA, JULY 15

India's Border Security Force (BSF) and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) will do coordinated patrolling and conduct joint watch 24X7 along the borders to curb infiltration, exfiltration, smuggling and hostile activities, officials said on Monday.

A BSF official said that recently the BSF-BGB Inspector General-Region Commander level meeting was held in Shillong and decided to conduct coordinated patrol day and night along the borders to check all kinds of illegal and hostile activities.

During the Shillong meeting, both border guarding forces exchanged the list of criminals involved in trans-border crimes and reached a consensus to take appropriate action against them.

The official said that the nodal officers of both the border guarding forces



were in regular contact with each other and sharing information of operational values.

He said that to reinforce border security, the BSF would use thermal imagers, night vision devices, install CCTV cameras and utilise drones.

The official said that floodlights illuminate the area at night and the border fence is being strengthened by employing improvised methods and intruder alarms.

BSF Commanders regularly conduct village coordination meetings to get support of the border population to prevent infiltration and trans-border crimes.

Company Commanders also have 'Prahari Mitras' to consult and get help if required, the official added.

Four Indian northeastern states of Tripura (856 km), Meghalaya (443 km), Mizoram (318 km) and Assam (263 km) share a

1,880-km border with Bangladesh.

BSF's Additional Director General (ADG), Eastern Command Ravi Gandhi accompanied by Tripura Frontier Inspector General Patel Piyush Purushottam Das on Saturday visited various bordering areas and interacted with the local Commanders and other officials.

The ADG directed the field commanders to take all necessary steps to curb the menace of trans-border crime, including illegal migration of Bangladeshi nationals.

There are 43 border villages in Tripura having more than 4,600 people. These villages are highly prone to border crimes from trans-border criminals and challenging in terms of border management.

The BSF during the first six months of the current year (upto June) seized drugs, gold, various contraband and cattle worth

of Rs 60.78 crore and apprehend 384 people including 208 Bangladeshi nationals and 16 Rohingyas along the border with Tripura.

Due to rising infiltration from across the border, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha during a recent high-level meeting asked the top BSF and police officials to take appropriate measures to prevent infiltration, smuggling, illegal trade and border crimes.

During the last two months, 108 Bangladeshi nationals and 32 Rohingyas were arrested by Government Railway Police (GRP) and Tripura Police from the Agartala railway station and various bus stations in Tripura after they illegally entered India.

Officials said that all the Bangladeshis and Rohingyas illegally entered Tripura to board trains or buses to go to other states in India "in search of jobs."

## SC agrees to hear plea challenging validity of laws passed as money bills

AGENCIES  
New Delhi, July 15

The Supreme Court on Monday said it will consider the plea requesting the establishment of a constitutional bench to hear petitions challenging the validity of passing laws like the Aadhaar Act as money bills, allegedly to bypass the Rajya Sabha.

On the request of senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who is also the president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), a three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra agreed that this matter needs consideration.

A money bill is legislation that can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha. The Rajya Sabha cannot amend or reject a money bill, it can only make recommendations, which the lower house may choose to accept or ignore.

When Advocate Sibal,



earlier in the day, mentioned before CJ I DY Chandrachud-led bench that the laws are being passed by the government in the garb of money bills, the CJ said. "When I form Constitution Benches I will see."

To this, Sibal replied, it is already on the list.

Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi also said that the pleadings in the case are already done.

Senior Advocate Indira Jai Singh also appeared for the case and said there is an LIC issue as well relating to money bills.

The CJ then agreed and

said, we will list it. "I will take the call when I form the Constitution Benches," the CJ said.

The Chief Justice had earlier announced that a seven-judge bench Constitutional Bench would be constituted to address the issue of the validity of passing laws like the Aadhaar Act as money bills.

This decision aims to resolve the controversy surrounding money bills, following the government's introduction of legislation like the Aadhaar Act and amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) as money bills.

## Everyone should make efforts for corruption-free Rajasthan: Guv

AGENCIES  
JAIPUR, JULY 15

Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra on Monday called upon everyone to make collective efforts to make the state a prosperous, rich and corruption-free state. He stressed making coordinated efforts for a corruption-free society by adopting a strict zero-tolerance policy against corruption in the state.

"If corruption is found at any level, then a complaint should be lodged immediately. The Anti-Corruption Bureau should try to ensure that the criminal does not escape at any level. Solid evidence should be collected in such a way that the criminal does not get the benefit of lack of evidence at any level," the Governor said while addressing the foundation day of the Anti-Corruption Bureau at Birla Auditorium on Monday.

While discussing vari-

ous cases related to corruption, the Governor said that if someone in public service misuses his position, status and the information obtained as an officer, then that also comes under corrupt conduct.

He said that the Anti-Corruption Bureau should constantly make people aware that if anyone demands a bribe or if any kind of corruption is seen anywhere, then it should be reported.

"There should also be quick and effective action on this information. Fighting corruption is the joint responsibility of all of us," the Governor said.

He said that it is the duty of public servants to maintain honesty in all the works related to the public. "This will ensure that people's faith in the government process remains intact and will also effectively ensure the creation of an egalitarian society," the Governor said.

## Enhance power transmission system to achieve goal of 'Har Ghar Bijli-Nirbadh Bijli': Yogi

AGENCIES  
LUCKNOW, JULY 15

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday said that under the leadership of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the state has achieved the goal of 'Sabko Bijli-Nirbadh Bijli' (uninterrupted electricity to all) in the last seven years.

While reviewing the current status of power generation, transmission, and distribution in UP, the CM said, "Electricity now reaches every village and helmet, ensuring equitable distribution without any VIP culture. It is gratifying that currently, electricity is supplied without discrimination. Especially during the intense heat, additional efforts were made to ensure convenience for the public, with round-the-clock electricity provided statewide from March 15 to June 30.

The meeting focused on ongoing efforts and plans, with participation from senior officials and

engineers of the UP Power Corporation Limited and all distribution companies (DISCOMs).

He said, "In addition to various hydropower projects, 22 Thermal projects are successfully operational in the state, located in Anpara, Harduaganj, Obra, Parichha, and Jawaharpur. The construction of units in Ghatampur, Panki, Obra-C, and Jawaharpur should be completed promptly."

Yogi said that apart from Obra D, Anpara E and Meja Thermal Project-II being set up as a joint venture with NTPC, the work of Khurja Thermal Project under construction with THDC is expected to be accelerated. "These initiatives will significantly enhance the state's power generation capacity," he said.

He directed that a study should be conducted to explore the feasibility of establishing pump storage plants at Rihand Dam, Obra Reservoir, and



nearby areas.

The CM said electricity demand is growing rapidly, with peak demand rising from 20,062 MW in 2018-19 to 30,618 MW on June 13 this year. "To meet public needs, uninterrupted power supply was ensured during the summer. It is essential to provide adequate power supply by demand," he said.

He said that to achieve the goal of 'Har Ghar Bijli-Nirbadh Bijli' it is crucial to enhance the power transmission system. "Before setting up a new substation, a thorough assessment of local needs must be conducted. New

substations should be set up based on a five-year requirement target," he said.

Yogi said that whether in rural or urban areas, any damaged transformer should be repaired immediately, with new transformers provided as needed. "Adherence to the stipulated time limits is essential, and the performance of agencies responsible for transformer repairs should be monitored."

All calls to the toll-free number and helpline must be attended to, to ensure that every consumer's issue is addressed promptly," he said.

He said that there is often dissatisfaction among the public regarding fixing the electricity connection charge, highlighting the need for uniformity. "Rules should be improved to ensure consistency, with a focus on reducing unnecessary infrastructure charges and prioritizing the con-

venience of the common citizen," he said.

The CM said that the primary challenge faced by the Power Corporation is to accurately and promptly issue bills and collect payments from all consumers."

It is crucial that no consumer receives an incorrect electricity bill and that all bills are delivered on time. Over billing or delays not only cause inconvenience to the consumers but also diminish their confidence in the system, affecting their willingness to pay. Concrete efforts must be made by all, from Discom to feeder, to ensure timely and accurate billing and effective communication with consumers is essential to achieve this goal."

He said that line losses are steadily decreasing due to strategic efforts. "It is essential to combat electricity theft and monitor the performance of meter readers. We must

ensure that no consumer faces harassment under the guise of meter checks or outstanding bills, maintaining a goodwill approach in all interactions," he said.

Yogi said there is considerable enthusiasm for the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijlee Yojana, with over 18 lakh people registered for the programme. "It is important to promote this scheme widely and encourage more individuals to take part," he said.

He said necessary steps should be taken to develop all Municipal Corporations, including Ayodhya, as 'Solar Cities'.

The CM directed to complete the process of land acquisition for the proposed solar parks in Jhansi, Lalitpur, Kanpur Nagar, Kanpur Dehat, Chitrakoot and Jalaun expeditiously. "Similarly, under the bio-energy policy, the process of setting up CBG, bio-coal, and bio-diesel plants should also be taken forward," he said.

## SC rejects Karnataka DY CM DK Shivakumar's plea to quash Disproportionate Assets Case

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JUL 15

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed the plea of Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar challenging a High Court order, in which it had refused to quash the case filed by the CBI in disproportionate assets (DA) case against him under the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA).

A bench of Justice Bela M Trivedi and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma while hearing the plea of Shivakumar who sought quashing of his case as the prosecution has not obtained any sanction to proceed against him, the bench said that the proceedings cannot be quashed based on a split verdict.

Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing Shivakumar, argued that the investigation has commenced without obtaining the sanction under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Rohatgi further contended that whether Section 17A applies to offences allegedly committed before the 2018 amendment (which inserted

Section 17A) is referred to a larger bench (Reference Chandrababu Naidu case).

However, Justice Trivedi replied that the proceedings cannot be quashed based on a split verdict.

Rohatgi stated that he was merely requesting to issue notice on the petition. Justice Trivedi noted that the allegation against Shivakumar is that Rs. 41 lakhs were recovered from him.

Rohatgi clarified that these allegations were posed in a case connected with another case related to the Income Tax Act and had no connection with this case.

There could not be a CBI FIR on the same issue, Rohatgi contended. Justice Trivedi said that the case against Shivakumar was made out to be under the Prevention of Corruption Act and not under the Income Tax Act, the authorities cannot prosecute under the PC Act, the judge said.

The bench also refused to stay the High Court's order in which it had refused to stay the sanction accorded to CBI and said the counsels for Shivakumar had informed

that the Karnataka government has withdrawn the consent accorded to CBI.

The case pertains to a raid carried out by the income tax department at various premises of Shivakumar in August 2017.

The raid was carried out at New Delhi and other places and a total of Rs 8,59,69,100 was collected including Rs 41 lakhs allegedly recovered from Shivakumar's residence alone. Thereafter a case was registered against Shivakumar under the provisions of the Income Tax Act 1961.

The case was also registered by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Shivakumar was arrested on September 3, 2019.

The ED issued a letter to the Karnataka government on September 9, 2019, to grant them sanction to proceed against Shivakumar which was subsequently granted and the matter was referred to CBI for investigation.

Shivakumar then moved Karnataka High Court challenging the sanction and proceedings against him.

In April, a single judge bench dismissed his petition, but during the hear-

ing, granted him temporary relief by staying the CBI probe on multiple occasions.

The single judge's dismissal led Shivakumar to file an appeal before a division bench. The interim orders were challenged by CBI through a special leave petition, but the Supreme Court in July refused to entertain the agency's plea arising out of 'purely interlocutory' orders.

Subsequently, in October, the top Court issued notice on a plea by CBI challenging the Karnataka High Court's June 2023 order which stayed the investigation against Shivakumar in the disproportionate assets case.

This plea was ultimately dismissed by Karnataka High Court on November 10, 2023. Shivakumar then requested the High Court to consider the application filed by CBI for vacating the stay.

Thereafter, the Karnataka government withdrew consent accorded to CBI and the High Court permitted Shivakumar to withdraw his petition challenging the consent to prosecute him.

## OBC-Maratha row: On Bhujbal's plea, Sharad Pawar to contact Maha CM to defuse tension

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, JULY 15

Perturbed by the deteriorating situation on the caste front in Maharashtra, Nationalist Congress Party's Minister Chhagan Bhujbal held an unscheduled meeting with Nationalist Congress Party (SP) President Sharad Pawar, on Monday, sparking huge political speculation.

Speaking to the media, Bhujbal said that after his detailed discussions of nearly one-and-a-half hours, NCP(SP) supremo Pawar agreed to speak with Mahayuti Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in the next couple of days.

Sharad Pawar also promised to speak with all prominent leaders to hammer out an amicable solution.

"I had not taken an appointment, and reached there (Silver Oaks) at 10.10 A.M., when Sharad Pawar sahib was still sleeping, as he was unwell. I waited and an hour later, he called me... and I requested him to intervene in the entire issue to help work out an amicable solution," Bhujbal said.

He informed the senior Pawar that he had not approached him as a



MLA, Minister, representing any party or with any political agenda, but to express his grave concern at the current volatile scenario fomenting in the state owing to the OBC-Maratha caste row.

"The common man should not suffer... I emphasised to Sharad Pawar Sahib that as a senior leader in the state, it was his responsibility to intervene and cool the tempers... In such an atmosphere, I don't want the homes of the poor people to get torched. Tensions must be defused," Bhujbal said regarding the meeting.

Elaborating, he informed Sharad Pawar how a major caste-schism has developed in the state, some are with Marathas, some with OBCs, Dhangars, etc, and how those supporting the OBCs or Marathas are avoiding each other, even

for family functions, and it leads to occasional skirmishes.

After listening patiently, Sharad Pawar said he was not aware what transpired between CM Shinde and the Shivba Sanghata leader Manoj Jarange Patil, or between Bhujbal and the OBC leaders.

However, the Maratha strongman assured Bhujbal that he would phone the CM in the next couple of days and work to resolve the contentious caste issues that threaten to peak ahead of the October Assembly elections.

Referring to kite-flying and sharp reactions of leaders across party lines, Bhujbal said he had informed senior NCP leader Praful Patel of the meeting and even secured his green signal, reiterating that he had no political agenda behind the sudden encounter with Sharad Pawar.

## BJP instigates people; spreads lies against Congress, Gandhi family: Pawan Khera

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

Pawan Khera, Chairman of Media & Publicity Department of Congress, on Monday, criticised BJP for "instigating" people against his party and said that "cheap politics" should not be played over security of leaders.

"Cheap politics should not be played on the issue of security of leaders," the Congress national spokesperson said in a post on X. Highlighting the attacks on former leaders of the country, Khera said: "The Congress party lost Mahatma ji to Right Wing terrorists. We lost two Prime Ministers at the hands of terrorists. We lost our entire Chat-tisgarh leadership to Left Wing terrorists under the watch of the BJP govt."

Citing a report from a leading news portal, the Congress leader accused BJP of spreading "vitriolic lies" against former Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi and the entire Gandhi family.



## Pakistan government to ban Imran Khan's PTI party

AGENCIES  
ISLAMABAD, JULY 15

Pakistan's Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar announced on Monday that the Shehbaz Sharif government has decided to impose a ban on rival Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, coupled with a plan to file a treason case against its founder and the country's former Prime Minister Imran Khan in the Supreme Court.

Tarar, who addressed a press conference in Islamabad, stated that the government has ample evidence to impose a ban on PTI and initiate legal proceedings against the party and its top leadership.

"There have been recent efforts to create unrest in the country. A film trailer titled 'Saat Khoon Maaf' was also a cruel intention

to label some individuals as being above the law," he said.

"The government will also take action against several prominent figures, including former President Dr. Arif Alvi, PTI founder and former Prime Minister Imran Khan and former National Assembly Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri," he added.

Tarar mentioned that treason cases under Article 6 of the constitution, which would include blockade of their CNIC (Computerized National Identity Card) and passports, will be lodged against the top PTI leaders.

"A parliamentary resolution would also be brought against them," he said.

The minister criticised Imran Khan for being the "worst leader", accusing him of establishing the



precedent of imprisoning women and daughters while pointing at the arrests of Faryal Talpur, sister of current President Asif Ali Zardari, and Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Chief Minister of Punjab and daughter of former premier Nawaz Sharif during the time when he was the country's Prime Minister.

Experts reckon the ban on PTI as the proverbial last nail with the government and the military establishment vowing to put an end to Imran Khan's

political career and PTI's existence.

"Imran Khan and his party has still not been forgiven for what they did on May 9 and 10 last year when military installations were attacked and vandalised by PTI supporters and leaders, which undoubtedly was a pre-planned and strategised attack," said political analyst Adnan Shaukat.

"At the same time, it is also true that Imran Khan and his party are getting relief from the courts in legal cases because of the

ongoing war between the judiciary and the military establishment.

PTI is back in the parliament because of the Supreme Court order and may get more benefits from the ongoing fight between the judiciary and establishment.

It is because of this that the government is being used by the military to diminish Imran Khan," he added.

The ruling government is also planning to file a case on Imran Khan government's decision to dissolve the assemblies during April 2022, through advice given by the PM house to then President Alvi.

The government maintains that the move, later quashed by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, constitutes an attempt to abrogate or subvert the consti-

tution, which comes under high treason.

Article 6 of the Constitution of Pakistan states that any person who abrogates or subverts or suspends or holds in abeyance, or attempts or conspires to abrogate or show or force or by any other unconstitutional means shall be guilty of high treason.

It further adds that any person aiding, or abetting (or collaborating) the acts mentioned shall not be validated by any court including the Supreme Court and High Court.

The procedure to refer to Article 6 would require the government to file a reference against Imran Khan, Dr. Arif Alvi and Qasim Suri in the Supreme Court and file treason cases against them while also initiating the same actions to impose a ban on PTI.

## Indonesia starts exporting electricity to Papua New Guinea

AGENCIES  
JAKARTA, JULY 15

Indonesian President Joko Widodo and Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape met at the Bogor Palace on Monday to discuss cooperation in various fields, including electricity exports to the border region.

"Regarding the development of the electricity network by PT PLN at the border, I would like to announce that starting today, electricity has been turned on in Wutung," Widodo said at a joint press conference, reports Xinhua news agency. The electricity network runs from Jayapura in Indonesia to Wutung in Papua New Guinea, thanks to a collaboration between Indonesia's state-owned

electricity company PT PLN and its Papua New Guinea counterpart PNG Power Ltd.

Widodo emphasised Indonesia's commitment to supporting development in Papua New Guinea, highlighting projects such as the renovation of a hospital in Port Moresby and the construction of public facilities in West Sepik.

During the meeting, the leaders also discussed a memorandum of understanding covering the health, transportation, education, and defence fields with ministers from both countries.

Marape noted that the bilateral leaders' dialogue since 2022 initially focused on border issues but has now expanded to commerce, trade, education, and health.

## Voting starts in Rwanda presidential, parliamentary elections, Global conference on space research kicks off in South Korea

AGENCIES  
KIGALI, JULY 15

Millions of Rwandan citizens cast their ballots Monday morning at more than 2,600 polling stations nationwide to elect their president and members of parliament.

Voting began at 7 a.m. local time and will conclude at 3 p.m. Approximately 9.5 million eligible voters are expected to exercise their civic duty, according to the National Election Commission (NEC), reports Xinhua news agency.

Rwandan voters arrived at their respective polling stations as early as 6 a.m., forming long queues before the official voting time of 7 a.m. Voters lined up calmly and in an orderly manner as polling staff oversaw the process to ensure a peaceful voting



experience.

On Sunday, according to the NEC, Rwandans residing abroad cast their votes in 140 polling sites across 70 countries worldwide.

Three presidential candidates are vying for the presidency, incumbent President Paul Kagame of the ruling Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), Frank Habineza of the opposition Democratic Green Party of Rwanda, and Philippe

Mpayimana, an independent candidate.

There are 589 candidates for the 80 seats in the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of the bicameral national legislature of Rwanda, including representatives from political parties, special groups (youth, women, and people with disabilities), and one independent candidate, according to the NEC.

AGENCIES  
BUSAN, JULY 15

A global conference on space research kicked off in South Korea's Busan city on Monday to foster international scientific research in space, officials said. About 3,000 space scientists and industry officials from 60 nations attended the 45th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), according to the Korea Aero Space Administration (KASA), reported Yonhap news agency. The attendees include Pam Melroy, deputy administrator of the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Hitoshi Kuninaka, director general of Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Institute of Space and Astronautical Science. It marks the first time that South Korea is hosting the biennial



global conference.

In the opening ceremony, Yoon Young-bin, head of KASA, said South Korea will continue to invest in innovative space research projects to expand its capabilities in space exploration and contribute to peaceful space cooperation between different nations.

"Many Korean companies have the potential to compete in the global space market and KASA plans to provide much support to them to help

private industry lead space development," Yoon said.

Pascale Ehrenfreund, president of COSPAR, said South Korea has "ambitious" plans for space and the country has been a "strong partner" in space research. She also welcomed the establishment of KASA, which was launched in May to foster the growth of the country's space industry, saying stronger support for local space ventures and various activities is

expected. On the sidelines of the conference, KASA held bilateral meetings with its counterparts from the United States, Japan, the United Arab Emirates, China and other countries as part of efforts to expand its global network in the space sector and discover new joint research projects.

A special exhibit by Korean space companies also took place, with the Korea Astronomy & Space Science Institute, the Korea Aerospace Research Institute and multiple Korean space companies, such as Korea Aerospace Industries, in attendance.

Boryung Corp., a Korean healthcare and space company, introduced its plan to invest in space healthcare solutions to look after the members of the human race that travel in and explore space.

Boryung created a joint venture with US space station developer Axiom Space last year as part of its push to develop its space infrastructure.

Korea Aerospace Industries unveiled a mock-up of its space vehicle designed to explore L4, one of the five Lagrange points about 380,000 kilometres from Earth, for the first time.

Lagrange points are positions in space where the gravitational forces of a two-body system like the sun and Earth create areas of stability, allowing spacecraft to conduct exploration missions with minimal fuel consumption. L4 exploration is one of the projects KASA plans to focus on as part of its efforts to become a global space power, along with the development of reusable space rockets and exploration of the moon and Mars.

## Need to lower the temperature of American politics: Biden, Oli thanks PM Modi, vows to take India-Nepal ties to new heights

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

US President Joe Biden sent out a video message, addressing American citizens after a failed assassination attempt on his rival and former US President Donald Trump, urging people to "lower the temperature" of US politics and "take a step back."

"We are not enemies, we are friends, neighbours, co-workers and most importantly we are fellow Americans, we must stand together. Yesterday's shooting in Donald Trump's rally in Pennsylvania calls on all of us to take a step back," Biden



said in a rare address on Sunday.

Speaking about the US Republican Presidential candidate's condition, he said: "Thankfully Trump is out of danger and is doing well, I spoke to him last night."

Stressing that the "vio-

lence shouldn't be normalised" in America, the 81-year-old Democrat said: "There's no place in America for this kind of violence or for any violence ever," adding that the political rhetoric in the country has "gotten very heated. It's time to cool down."

"Yes, we have deeply felt strong disagreements... Disagreement is inevitable in American democracy. It's part of human nature," said Biden, adding that politics must "never be a literal battlefield, or God forbid, a killing field."

"We debate and disagree, we compare and contrast the character, candidates, the records, issue, the agenda, the vision for America. But in America, we resolve our differences at the ballot box," he added.

The US President said: "Hate must not have a safe harbour. We cannot allow misinformation to spread or foreign actors to fuel

the flames of our division in order to achieve outcomes that serve their interests, not ours. Let us remember that our unity is the main goal here in America right now."

About the ongoing investigation of the shooting incident, Biden informed that the motive of the shooter is yet to be revealed, and there is no clue about his opinions and affiliations yet whether he had any help or communicated with someone.

Biden also extended his condolences to the families of the people who fell victim to the rally shooting.

AGENCIES  
KATHMANDU, JULY 15

Thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his congratulatory message, Nepal PM K P Sharma Oli on Monday vowed to elevate the "historic ties" between two neighbouring countries to new heights.

"Thank you, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for your warm congratulations. I am committed to working closely with you to strengthen Nepal-India relations for our mutual benefit. Together, we can elevate our historic ties to

new heights," Oli said in a post on X.

Earlier in the day, Nepal President Ram Chandra Poudel administered the oath of office to 72-year-old Chairman of Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist, CPN-UML) as the country's Prime Minister for the fourth time.

Prime Minister Oli today congratulated Oli on his appointment and expressed hope to work closely to further strengthen the deep bonds of friendship and expand the mutually beneficial coop-

eration between India and Nepal.

"Congratulations K P Sharma Oli on your appointment as the Prime Minister of Nepal. Look forward to working closely to further strengthen the deep bonds of friendship between our two countries and to further expand our mutually beneficial cooperation for the progress and prosperity of our peoples," said PM Modi.

Oli, who replaces Pushpa Kamal Dahal, will head the four-party coalition government.

## South Korea discusses ways to bolster bilateral ties with New Zealand, Hezbollah targets Israeli military division in response to attacks in Lebanon

AGENCIES  
SEOUL, JULY 15

South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul met with his New Zealand counterpart Winston Peters on Monday and discussed ways to bolster bilateral cooperation amid burgeoning ties between North Korea and Russia, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

The luncheon meeting between Cho and Peters, who doubles as the Deputy Prime Minister, was held in Seoul to discuss high-level exchanges, practical cooperation in the economic sector, the situation on the Korean Peninsula,



and other major regional issues, the Ministry said in a press release, Yonhap news agency reported.

Both sides agreed that North Korea's continued

provocations and the close ties between Pyongyang and Moscow pose a threat not only to the Korean Peninsula but also to global peace and stability.

The two stressed the importance of a unified response and cooperation from the international community and agreed to continue working closely together, the Ministry said.

They also acknowledged the significance of a joint statement issued by the leaders of South Korea, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand at last week's North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit.

The statement strongly condemned North Korea's weapons exports to Russia, casting them as an "illegal" action and warning of strong "strategic counteraction".

AGENCIES  
BEIRUT, JULY 15

Hezbollah attacked a new Israeli division with assault drones in Illit in response to Israel's attacks on Lebanon's southern villages.

"In response to the Israeli enemy's attacks ... the fighters of the Islamic Resistance launched an air attack with a squadron of assault drones on the headquarters Command of the newly created 91st Division in Illit, targeting the places where its officers and soldiers reside, achieving confirmed casualties," the party said on Sunday in a statement.

Lebanese military



sources told Xinhua that "Lebanese army positions monitored the launching of about 30 surface-to-surface missiles from Lebanon to Israel, and Israeli Iron Dome intercepted some of them".

They added that during the past 24 hours, Israeli drones and warplanes

launched nine air strikes on six towns and villages in the eastern part of southern Lebanon, including a raid carried out by a drone that fired two air-to-surface missiles at a car in south Lebanon, injuring its driver, a Hezbollah member, as reported by Xinhua news agency.

According to the sources, Israeli artillery also bombed with 20 shells the Marjayoun power station in southern Lebanon, which supplies about 60 border towns and villages in the Marjayoun and Hasbaya districts and 11 drinking water pumping stations, all of which have been deprived of electrical current for an indefinite period.

Tensions along the Lebanon-Israel border escalated on October 8, 2023, following a barrage of rockets launched by the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah toward Israel in solidarity with Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7.

# SC dismisses review plea filed against its verdict on Adani-Hindenburg issue

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

The Supreme Court has dismissed a review petition filed against its January 3 verdict refusing to form any SIT or group of experts to conduct an investigation into the Adani-Hindenburg controversy.

After perusing the review petition, a bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud, said that there was no error apparent on the face of the record.

"No case for review under Order XLVII Rule 1 of the Supreme Court Rules 2013. The review petition is, therefore, dismissed. Pending applications, if any, stand



disposed of," added the Bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

In a detailed order passed on January 3, the Supreme Court had said that reports prepared by third-party organisa-

tions such as the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) and Hindenburg Research cannot be regarded as "conclusive proof".

It had said that the reliance placed by PIL litig-

ants on newspaper articles or reports by third-party organisations "does not inspire confidence" to question the comprehensive investigation undertaken by the SEBI.

The SC said that the facts in the case did not warrant a transfer of investigation from the SEBI and asked the market regulator to take its investigation to a logical conclusion in accordance with the law.

The top court cautioned against the use of unverified and unrelated material in the filing of public interest litigations (PILs), adding that pleas lacking adequate research and relying on unverified and unrelated material tend to be "counterpro-

ductive".

However, the Supreme Court had asked the Central government to constructively consider the suggestions made by the expert panel headed by former apex court judge Justice A.M. Sapre.

"The Government of India and SEBI will take any further actions as are necessary to strengthen the regulatory framework to protect investors and ensure the orderly functioning of the securities market," it said.

The apex court had asked SEBI and other investigative agencies of the Union government to probe into allegations of short selling resulting in loss of investors' value.

# Stock markets continue upward trajectory, Nifty touches fresh all-time high

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, JULY 15

The Indian benchmark indices on Monday continued their upward momentum driven by positive expectations from the upcoming Union Budget and robust foreign institutional investor (FII) inflows, along with better-than-expected results from the IT sector.

While the Sensex closed at 80,664, up 146 points, the Nifty reached 24,586, up 84 points, on Monday. Nifty Bank closed at 52,455, up 177 points.

Nifty climbed to a fresh all-time high during the day amid buying across sectors.

ONGC, SBI Life Insurance, Shriram Finance, SBI, and Bajaj Auto were among the top gainers on



Nifty.

Among the top losers were LTMindtree, Asian Paints, Grasim, Tata Steel, and Tata Consumer.

The BSE midcap index gained 1 per cent, while the smallcap index was up 0.2 per cent.

According to market watchers, the initial results from PSU banks have trig-

gered a strong rally in the PSU index.

However, the degree of optimism in the broad market is moderating as we are heading towards the Budget Day next week, they noted.

According to Rupak De from LKP Securities, the index started in the green and remained sideways during the day.

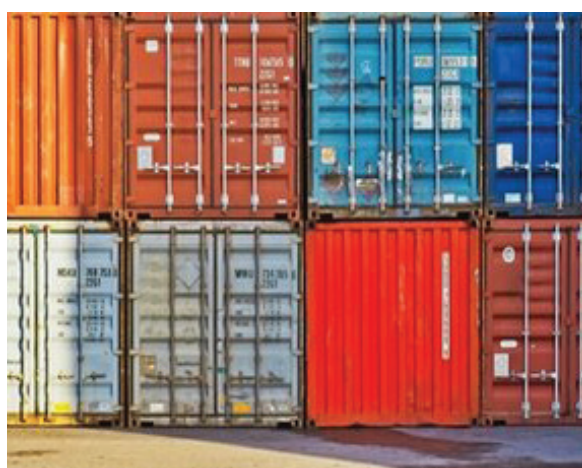
# India's goods & services exports jump 8.6 pc to cross \$200 bn in April-June

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

India's goods and services exports increased by 5.4 per cent in June to \$65.47 billion while the cumulative overall growth of exports during the April-June quarter this year rose 8.6 per cent to \$200.33 billion, according to figures released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Monday.

"India's total exports in the first quarter of 2024-25 have crossed \$200 billion and, if this trend continues, we hope this fiscal year's exports cross \$800 billion," said Trade Secretary Sunil Barthwal, releasing the monthly trade figures.

The figures show merchandise exports registered a positive growth of 2.55 per cent at \$35.20 billion in June as compared to \$34.32 billion in June 2023; The cumulative value of merchandise exports during April-June



2024 stands at \$109.96 billion as compared to \$103.89 billion during April-June 2023, registering a positive growth of 5.84 per cent.

Non-Petroleum & Non-Gems & jewellery exports registered an increase of 8.48 per cent from \$25.29 billion in June 2023 to \$27.43 billion in June 2024.

Major drivers of merchandise export growth in June 2024 include engineering goods, elec-

tronic goods, drugs & pharmaceuticals, coffee and organic & inorganic chemicals.

Engineering goods exports increased by 10.27 per cent from \$8.52 billion in June 2023 to \$9.39 billion in June 2024.

Electronic goods exports increased by 16.91 per cent from \$2.42 billion in June 2023 to \$2.82 billion in June 2024.

Drugs and pharmaceutical exports increased by

9.93 per cent from \$2.25 billion in June 2023 to \$2.47 billion in June 2024.

Coffee exports increased by 70.02 per cent from \$0.12 billion in June 2023 to \$0.20 billion in June 2024.

Organic and inorganic chemicals exports increased by 3.32 per cent from \$2.22 billion in June 2023 to \$2.29 billion in June 2024.

Total imports (merchandise and services combined) for June 2024 are estimated at \$73.47 billion, registering a positive growth of 6.29 per cent vis-a-vis June 2023.

Total imports during April-June 2024 are estimated at \$222.89 billion registering a growth of 8.47 per cent.

The figures show strong growth in the country's services exports with a services trade surplus for April-June 2024 at \$39.70 billion as compared to \$35.12 billion in April-June 2023.

# Apple's India sales hit new high in FY24 amid increased manufacturing, premiumisation trend

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

As China and Vietnam falter amid India's push for domestic manufacturing owing to the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, tech giant Apple saw a robust around \$8 billion sales in the country in the last fiscal (FY24) - a nearly 33 per cent rise (year-on-year).

According to sources, most of the growth was driven by iPhones amid the premiumisation trend that has solidified in the world's second-largest smartphone market.

Not just robust domestic sales, the Cupertino-based company has also broken export records and according to industry estimates, iPhone shipments are projected to increase by over 20 per cent this year on the back of domestic manufacturing support and strong distribution.

"Premiumisation has started and Apple has once again got the timing

right to benefit from this trend through its devices and financing offers. Additionally, the brand continues to enjoy the strong brand pull and lately expanding its channel presence in the country which helped it to grow," Tarun Pathak, Research Director at Counterpoint Research, told IANS.

In a major boost to India's PLI scheme, mobile phone exports from the country gained much ground in FY24 as manufacturing giants like China and Vietnam fell behind.

Mobile phone exports from China went down from \$136.3 billion in FY23 to \$132.5 billion in FY24.

Similarly, Vietnam saw a drop from \$31.9 billion in FY23 to \$26.27 billion in the last fiscal year, according to the latest industry data.

In India, mobile phone exports, led by Apple, from the country touched nearly \$16 billion in FY24 from \$11 billion in FY23.

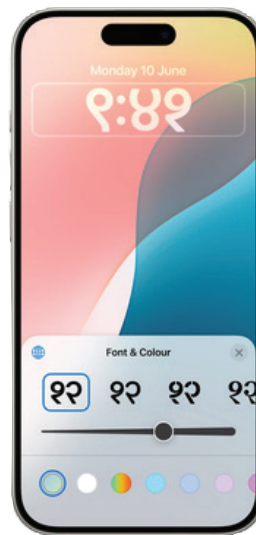
As per industry estimates, mobile phone production surged from Rs 18,900 crore in 2014-15 to an estimated Rs 4.10 lakh crore in FY24, registering an increase of 2,000 per cent.

According to Counterpoint Research, the majority of consumers in India in the premium segment chose a financial scheme to buy a smartphone.

"Subtle design changes and long software support from Apple means older generation devices remain relevant for a longer period and help consumers owning an Apple device at a lower cost and, at the same time, help Apple in capturing share across a wider price segment," said Pathak.

Prabhu Ram, VP-Industry Research Group, CyberMedia Research (CMR) told IANS that in a market dominated majorly by value-for-money phones, there is good healthy growth for premium smartphones driven by rising disposable incomes among a growing middle class.

"Apple's growth momentum is driven by its strong brand salience, increased manufacturing and retail focus in the market. With rising tensions between the US and China, India offers Apple a strategic hedge to diversify its manufacturing and revenue streams," he noted.



# WPI inflation remains benign, food prices to rationalise in next 2-3 months: Experts

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, JULY 15

Inflation in the food articles is expected to rationalise by September/October as many of the Kharif crops will be entering the mandis supplementing the existing supply, industry experts said on Monday.

The annual rate of inflation based on the all-India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) number edged up to 3.36 per cent in June compared to the same month of the previous year, according to data from the Commerce Ministry.

"Supported by negative inflation in the non-food articles (-4.41 per cent) and manufactured products (-0.42 per cent), the WPI inflation remains benign," said Sanjeev Agrawal, President,



PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI).

The WPI increase is primarily due to the prices of food articles going up by as much as 10.87 per cent during the month.

However, there was a decline in the prices of petrol and diesel during the month.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ICRA said the jump in WPI inflation was

broad-based and along expected lines.

"Looking ahead, the headline WPI inflation is expected to dip to 2 per cent in July, driven by a favourable base, as well as some cooling in global commodity prices," Nayar added.

The upmove in the WPI inflation in June 2024 was broad-based, driven by all the major segments except fuel and power.

# India's automobile exports clock 15.5 pc growth in April-June quarter

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

India's automobile exports clocked a robust 15.5 per cent growth in the April-June quarter of the current financial year compared to the same period in the previous year, according to data compiled by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

The overseas shipments of vehicles were estimated at 11,92,577 units, up from 10,32,449 units in the same quarter last year.

Exports of passenger vehicles rose by 19 per cent to 1,80,483 units from 1,52,156 units in the previous year.

Market leader Maruti Suzuki India accounted for the highest exports with 69,962 vehicles during the



quarter, up from 62,857 units in the same period last year. Maruti's arch-rival Hyundai Motor India was ranked second with exports of 42,600 units, up from 35,100 units in the same quarter of the previous year.

Two-wheeler exports also posted a double-digit increase of 17 per cent,

with overseas shipments of 9,23,148 units in the first quarter, compared to 7,91,316 units in the same period last year.

The exports of commercial vehicles rose by 8 per cent during the quarter with shipments estimated at 15,741 units during the quarter up from 14,625 units last year.

# Govt inks production pacts for 3 coal mines to pave way for Rs 4,500 cr investment

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

The Ministry of Coal on Monday signed development and production agreements for three coal mines auctioned under the second attempt of the 7th round which are expected to bring in an investment of Rs 4,500 crore.

The mines for which agreements were executed are the Machhakata coal mine, the Kudanali Lubri coal mine, and the Sakhigopal-B Kakurhi coal mine. While two of these mines are partially explored, one is fully explored, the Coal Ministry said.

The successful bidders are NLC India Limited, Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited,

and Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited, respectively.

The estimated annual revenue generation under commercial auction from these three mines is approximately Rs 2,991.20 crore, based on production at an aggregated peak rate capacity of around 30.00 MTPA. Once operational, these mines are projected to create approximately 40,560 direct and indirect jobs. "This initiative represents a significant step towards achieving Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) in the coal sector, contributing to economic growth, employment generation, and ensuring the energy security of the nation," the Coal Ministry said.

# US-based A.O. Smith to acquire Hindustan Unilever-owned Pureit

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, JULY 15

Global water technology company A.O. Smith Corporation on Monday announced the acquisition of Pureit from Hindustan Unilever for an undisclosed sum.

The acquisition is projected to close by the end of this year and is not expected to have a mate-

rial impact on earnings in the first year, the company said in a statement.

Pureit offers a broad range of residential water purification solutions, primarily in India.

"The acquisition will also support our corporate strategy by enhancing our premium product portfolio and distribution capabilities," said Kevin J Wheeler, Chairman and



CEO, A.O. Smith.

A.O. Smith will announce its financial results for the second quarter on July 23 and additional details on the acquisition will be provided at that time.

"This move is in line with our strategic intent to focus sharply on our core categories. Pureit provides essential water purification solutions to

millions of loyal consumers, and I am confident the brand will thrive further under the ownership of A.O. Smith," said Rohit Jawa, CEO and managing director of Hindustan Unilever.

Based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (US), A.O. Smith is a global leader in applying innovative technology and energy-efficient solutions to products manufac-

tured and marketed worldwide. Hindustan Unilever was earlier exploring a potential sale of its Pureit water purifier business.

"The Pureit team's deep understanding of consumer needs and water treatment expertise adds tremendous strength to A.O. Smith in India," said Parag Kulkarni, President of A.O. Smith India Water Products.

# Rohit Sharma confirms playing ODI, Test formats 'at least for a while'

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

India captain Rohit Sharma has confirmed that he will continue playing for the country in ODI and Test formats "at least for a while" after announcing his retirement from T20s after lifting the T20 World Cup in Barbados.

Under Rohit's leadership, India ended their 11-year-long wait for an ICC trophy and defeated South Africa in the final to clinch their second T20 World Cup title. It was India's first major win after winning the 2013 Champions Trophy.

Just after the T20 World Cup final, Virat Kohli, Rohit and Ravindra Jadeja announced their T20I retirements. However, the trio confirmed to play the



other formats of the game. In 159 T20Is, Rohit concluded his time in the format as the highest-run scorer with 4,231 runs including five hundreds and 32 fifties.

"This was my last (T20I) game as well. No better time to say goodbye to this format. I've loved every moment of this. I started my India career playing

this format. This is what I wanted, I wanted to win the Cup. I wanted this badly. Very hard to put in words. It was a very emotional moment for me. I was very desperate for this title in my life. Happy that we eventually crossed the line," Rohit had said after the final.

The opening batter, who was recently seen

enjoying the Wimbledon semifinal in London, confirmed his future in India colours but did not reveal his plans of announcing retirement from international cricket.

"I just said it. I don't look that far ahead. So clearly, you will be seeing me play at least for a while," Rohit said during a promotional event in the US on Sunday.

Earlier in the month, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah confirmed that India will play the World Test Championship (if qualified) final and 2025 Champions Trophy under Rohit's leadership.

India are scheduled to take on Sri Lanka in a six-match limited-overs series with the first T20I to be played in Pallekele on June 27.

# Paris Olympics: Satwik/Chirag, seeded third, gets favourable draw in Group C

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

Star Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have got a favourable draw in Group C against Indonesia's world No. 6 combination of Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto for the upcoming Paris Olympics, set to begin on July 26. The dynamic duo, who have been seeded third in the tournament, are poised for a promising run as they aim for gold in the men's doubles event.

Satwik, 23, and Chirag, 27, have been on a remarkable trajectory, having claimed the Thomas Cup gold and Commonwealth Games gold in 2022. Their impressive track record has established them as the former world No.1 pair and one of

the top contenders for the Olympic gold medal.

In addition to the Indonesian pair, Satwik and Chirag will face the world No. 31 German team of Mark Lamsfuss and Marvin Seidel, as well as the world No. 43 French pair Lucas Corvee and Ronan Labar.

The Indian duo's preparation has been stellar, with significant victories in the 2023 Asia Championships, French Open Super 750, and Thailand Open Super 500, alongside reaching two more finals in 2024.

Following all the group matches, the top two pairs will progress to the knock-out stage.

The world champions from Korea, Kang Min Hyuk and Seo Seung Jae are in Group B with Christ Popov and Toma Junior Popov from France, Supak

Jomkoh and Kittinupong Kedren from Thailand, and Ondrej Kral and Adam Mendrek from the Czech Republic. Kang and Seo will try to win back the gold for Korea, which was last won by the nation in the 1992 badminton Open. Korea has now lost on three occasions in the finals.

Liang Wei Keng/Wang Chang (China) will play in Group A against the bronze medallists from Tokyo 2020, Aaron Chia/Soh Wooi Yik of Malaysia, Ben Lane/Sean Vandy of Great Britain, and Dong Adam/Nyl Yakura of Canada.

Kim Astrup and Anders Skarup Rasmussen (Denmark), silver medallists at the World Championships, and Lee Yang and Wang Chi-Lin (Chinese Taipei), the current Olympic champions, are two of the five

pairs in Group D. The other three couples are Vinson Chiu/Joshua Yuan of the USA, Takuro Hoki/Yugo Kobayashi of China, and Liu Yu Chen/Ou Xuan Yi of the USA, the 2021 world champions.

The men's doubles draw faced a slight delay due to a Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) hearing concerning the number of pairs in the competition. The draw was postponed on Friday after CAS ordered the Badminton World Federation (BWF) to recommend to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that the French pair of Corvee and Labar be included in the Olympic Games. This inclusion resulted in a revised 17-pair men's doubles draw, up from the originally planned 16 pairs.

## Selector Bailey dashes Warner's Champions Trophy hopes

AGENCIES  
MELBOURNE, JULY 15

Australian selector George Bailey has dismissed David Warner's hint at coming out of retirement for the ICC Champions Trophy in Pakistan next year, saying the former opener is "just stirring the pot".

"I think he's just stirring the pot a bit," Bailey said. "Our understanding is that David's retired and should be commended on what is an incredible career across all three formats."

Warner's Instagram post suggesting he was available for selection sparked speculation about his potential return to the national team. However, Bailey confirmed that Warner is not part of their future plans, and his absence from the upcoming UK tour is permanent.

"Certainly, our planning is he won't be there in Pakistan," Bailey added.

Bailey also addressed the absence of Matthew Wade, who was overlooked

for the UK tour. "Matthew Wade is not there, but that doesn't mean he's been permanently retired. We're excited to give Josh Inglis a run."

Mitchell Starc and Glenn Maxwell, who are both missing the T20 component of the UK tour, will join the squad for the ODI series against England. "For Glenn and Mitch, the one-day Champions Trophy is very much on the horizon, a really important tournament for those guys," Bailey said.

The selectors are looking ahead to the T20 World Cup in 2026, with Bailey stating, "We've got nine T20 games before the end of this year, which is an opportunity to explore some different looks in the way the team's structured... We probably aren't looking that far ahead, but we know that's a important tournament."

Bailey's comments indicate that Warner's suggestion was merely a provocative move, rather than a

serious intention to return to international cricket. The selector's remarks have poured cold water on hopes of a Warner comeback, and the focus has shifted to younger players like Josh Inglis and Cooper Connolly.

"I don't think there's anyone that's not there (in the UK squads) that we've put a line through permanently besides David (Warner) who's retired," Bailey said.

Test skipper Pat Cummins is also focusing on being in prime physical shape as Australia look to defeat India in Tests on home soil for the first time in three attempts, and therefore will miss the entirety of the UK sojourn. He also confirmed Cummins will resume captaincy of the ODI team when he returns, but his plan to prioritise fitness work ahead of the India Test series which is followed by a further two Tests in Sri Lanka had been formulated some time ago.

## Chess Olympiad 2024: India likely to be seeded second in Open section

AGENCIES  
CHENNAI, JULY 15

For the second time in succession, a five-member Indian chess team is likely to be seeded second in the Open section of the upcoming Budapest Olympiad to be held this September. It was in the 44th Chess Olympiad held in Chennai in 2022 that the Indian team was seeded second.

The top-seeded team is likely to be the USA as its top seven players are all above 2700 points with Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura with a rating point of 2802 as the highest-ranked member of the team. "If the best of the United States players are playing, say GMs Fabiano Caruana, Nakamura, Wesley So, Levon Aronian, Leinier Dominguez Perez they could be top seeds," Indian GM Pravin Thipsay told IANS.

The seeding is based on the average ratings of the team members.

On the other hand, the average rating of the five Indian players comes to 2742.6 with four players being super Grandmasters (GM) with a rating over 2700 points while GM P. Harikrishna has a rating of 2695.

The International Chess Federation or FIDE is likely to rank India second after the USA based on the average ratings of its top 10 players.

"The Indian team would comprise of GMs Arjun Erigaisi (World No.4 Rating 2778), Dommaraju Gukesh (Rank 7, Rating 2763), R. Praggnanandhaa (Rank 8, Rating 2757), Vidit Santhosh Gujrathi (Rank 22, Rating 2720) and the reserve P. Harikrishna (Rank 37, Rating 2695)," GM Abhijit Kunte, Chief Coach and Chairman, Selection Committee, All-India Chess Federation (AICF) told IANS.

Interestingly GM V.R. Aravindh Chithambaram has a rating of 2703, higher than that of Harikrishna.

Queried about it Nitin Narang, President AICF told IANS: "As per the selection regulations of AICF, the Indian team for the Olympiad will be selected three months before the scheduled start of the event after publication of June 2024 FRL (FIDE Rating List) based on the average rating of FRLs of April, May, and June 2024 (three months FRLs prior to selection date)."

Continuing further, Narang said, "The players need to play at least nine games in the last six months (Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May & Jun 2024 FRLs) prior to selection date to consider for selection. Further, a bonus of 25 points will be added to the average rating of national champions."

However, he didn't give the details as to how Harikrishna scored over Chithambaram on the above criteria.

Be that as it may, not long ago the Indian team

was seeded way down the line.

"We were generally always between 20-35 till Anand (GM V. Anand) got into the team. In 1992, we were the 19th seed, far away from top seed Russia and England, the second seed. When we beat England in Manila in 1992, it was all in the headlines. Anand drew with Short, Barua with Nunn, and Prasad with Speelman. I beat Michael Adams. Generally, we were rarely in the top 15. My last Olympiad was in 2002. Thereafter, there was a gradual improvement with Sasikiran, Ganguly, and Harikrishna becoming stronger. And 2022 was the highest seeding ever," said Thipsay, who had represented India in seven Olympiads.

Looking back at the Indian Olympiad teams being ranked between 20-35 not very long ago and now orbiting at the top, Thipsay said: "I think a great feeling of being

elevated due to the efforts, sacrifices of the players and parents."

According to Thipsay, India was always stronger than some of the Asian countries, all African, Australian, and most of the South American teams.

As to the benefits enjoyed by the top-seeded teams, players said the teams will get relatively weaker teams during the initial rounds. "Top teams in general get good hotels but that has been the case for decades," GM and coach R.B. Ramesh told IANS.

Further, such hotels will be closer to the venue reducing the travel time. "Actually, it could affect, and lead to performance consciousness for most players. However, the players with lower self-confidence benefit by top seeding," Thipsay added.

As to the medal chances for the Indian team, Ramesh said: "If we play as a team we have good chances."

## Jersey emerge victorious in ICC Men's T20 World Cup Europe Sub Regional Qualifier B

AGENCIES  
KREFELD (GERMANY), JULY 15

Jersey defeated Norway by six wickets at the Krefeld Cricket Ground to claim the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Europe Sub Regional Qualifier B title. The win means Jersey join the Netherlands, Italy, and Scotland at next year's Europe Qualifier, with one remaining spot to be determined next month.

Led by captain Charles "Chuggy" Perchard, Jersey remain undefeated in the competition, winning three of their group games against Serbia, Switzerland, and Belgium, with the game against Croatia ending without a result. In the final, Jersey were up against Norway, who themselves had won their

four previous group games against Sweden, Slovenia, Germany, and Gibraltar.

Winning the toss and bowl first, Jersey took the initiative early on by bowling out Norway for 69 in the 16th over. For Jersey, Ben Ward starred with 3-9, while Dan Birrell, Julius Sumerauer, and Perchard chipped in with two wickets apiece.

In the chase, Jersey fell to 41/4 but got over the line with batters Asa Tribe and Charlie Brennan combining in a 30-run partnership. Ward was named the Player of the Match for his bowling efforts and also walked away with the Player of the Tournament accolade with 13 wickets throughout the competition.

"It's been a huge team



effort. All the guys who have stepped onto the field have contributed at various points. We spoke about making real statements to the world that we're too good to play at this level and we played four games and won convincingly against four opponents, which is what we set out to do."

"We're hugely excited about playing in the event next year. The boys are super motivated to qualify for the World Cup having seen the Associates perform well last month and it gives us the fire in the belly to potentially make it ourselves. Next year is another opportunity; we'll have to play some great cricket

but we're looking forward to it," said Perchard.

The win means Jersey progress to the Europe Qualifier, set to take place in 2025 alongside the Netherlands, Italy, and Scotland. The final spot for the qualifiers will be determined at the Europe Sub Regional Qualifier C which will be held in Guernsey from August 21.

Next on the qualification calendar for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 will be the EAP Sub Regional Qualifier A in Samoa, starting August 17, where four nations will go head-to-head to book their spot in the next round of qualification.

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 will feature 20 teams, with 12 automatic qualifiers and

eight teams that qualify through regional pathway events. Sub Regional Qualifiers will be held across other ICC regions throughout 2024, with their respective regional finals also being held in 2025.

The automatic qualifiers comprise Super 8 qualifying teams at the recently-concluded 2024 edition -- Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, cup holders India, South Africa, West Indies, and the USA.

Sri Lanka also qualify automatically as hosts with Ireland, New Zealand, and Pakistan completing the lineup by virtue of being the three next highest-ranked teams on the ICC Men's T20I rankings table on June 30.

## No better feeling than winning game for India, says Yuvraj after lifting WCL title

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

Former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh reflected on the recent World Championship of Legends title win against Pakistan Champions and said the feeling of winning for the country is unmatched. India Champions defeated Pakistan Champions by five wickets in the summit clash of the inaugural WCL title in Birmingham on Saturday.

"I don't think there's any better feeling than coming and winning the game for India; that's



our passion. I think you always say that it's been so many years, it's hard to get back on the field, but as I said, no better feeling. I think Australia and Pakistan were really good teams in the tournament." Yuvraj said on Star

Sports. "We had to play some really good cricket to beat them, which we did. And especially against the Pakistani bowling, we had to really plan well to beat them. Great experience, great being in Birmingham.

The crowd is outstanding. I think it's a great venue. Many congratulations to WCL for putting this tournament together. I think they worked very hard, and they could not have had a better India-Pakistan final. It's great for the league, and I think everybody enjoyed the tournament, and now we're going back with the trophy," he added. Former India cricketer Ambati Rayudu also shared his thoughts after winning the WCL trophy and gave special credit to Yuvraj for the successful tournament. "It was

fantastic. It's hard not playing cricket and then coming and playing such a good tournament. And especially since there are a lot of guys who are playing active cricket. It's not an easy league. It was fantastic. So we had to up our game. We had quite a few bad games. But still, we had the mindset and the mental strength to really come out in these last two games and do well," he said. "And special mention to Yuvraj Singh. He has really kept the team positive and also instilled that confidence that we needed.

## Du Plessis, Stoinis shine in Texas Super Kings' win over MI New York

AGENCIES  
DALLAS (US), JULY 15

Texas Super Kings (TSK) registered a 15-run win over MI New York (MINY) despite a spirited fight-back from Rashid Khan and Monank Patel during their Major League Cricket fixture at the Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas on Monday.

Chasing 177 for the win, MI New York faced early setbacks courtesy of Marcus Stoinis' bowling onslaught. They lost three

wickets in quick succession, including that of the dangerous Nicholas Pooran (1), inside the powerplay. The situation worsened when skipper Kieron Pollard (5) fell cheaply, leaving MINY at 52/5 in 11.2 overs.

At this stage, the match appeared firmly in Texas Super Kings' grasp. However, Rashid (50) walked out to the middle and injected much-needed energy into the innings. His aggressive approach stabilised the innings and brought out the best in Monank (61).

The pair found boundaries at regular intervals, turning the tide on Texas Super Kings. The duo held on to a 97-run stand for the 6th wicket, giving MI New York a glimmer of hope. However, Dwayne Bravo's experience came to the fore. In the crucial penultimate over, he conceded just 8 runs, which effectively sealed the game for the Texas Super Kings. Despite the late scare, Texas Super Kings managed to hold their nerve and secure a 15-run win.

## Distt Admin Bandipora launches dedicated Cleanliness Campaign in the picturesque Gurez Valley

J I NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, JULY 15

The valley of Gurez, known for its breathtaking landscape, balmy climate, and mesmerizing scenery, is witnessing a huge rush of tourists these days, which include both local as well as non-local tourists.

In view of the large tourist influx, the District Administration, Bandipora launched a dedicated cleanliness campaign and constituted teams to monitor cleanliness campaigns and to enforce cleanliness standards effectively.

As per order issued by Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman, different teams of officials from different departments have been constituted to ensure implementation of prohibition on entry, sale, and carrying of polythene bags



in sub division Gurez.

The teams shall monitor overall cleanliness/violation in their respective jurisdiction under the supervision of Tehsildar concerned, reads an order.

Pertinent to mention that, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora issued an

order on 28th May 2024, prohibiting entry, sale and carrying of Polythene bags in Sub Division Gurez.

An order reads that, In the interest of conservation of ecology and environment of Gurez Valley, and as part of eco-tourism and sustainable tourism

measures, I shakeel ul Rehman, District Magistrate Bandipora do hereby order that there shall be complete prohibition on entry, sale and carrying of polythene bags in sub-division Gurez

The DC said that the move is aimed to ensure a cleaner and healthier environment for all residents and visitors.

He said that the surge in tourist influx to Gurez valley makes it even more critical to maintain our valley's cleanliness.

In his message, the DC urged all residents and visitors to not litter and join this noble endeavor to make Gurez Valley a pristine and sustainable destination and cooperate with the administration in preserving the pristine beauty of Gurez.

In another order issued by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Gurez, the administration has imposed a ban on the installation of temporary tents by tourists and visitors for overnight stays in the area, which was earlier permitted. This measure is part of efforts to manage the environmental impact of increased tourism and to preserve the natural habitat of Gurez Valley.

In addition, the District Administration has taken several measures to ensure that no ecological harm touches Gurez.

Teams from the Rural Development Department are actively engaged in collecting waste from permitted tenting sites, home stays and other localities in the scenic Gurez Valley to ensure environmental sustainability and cleanliness in the region amidst growing tourist activities.

## DDC B'la chairs DLIC meeting, reviews implementation of PM-Vishwakarma scheme

J I NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, JULY 15

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa on Monday chaired a meeting of District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) at the meeting hall of DC office here to review the progress of saturation of PM Vishwakarma scheme in the district. At the outset, the chair was provided a comprehensive overview of progress made with respect to the implementation of Vishwakarma scheme in the district since its inception.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion on various aspects for the successful implementation of the scheme and specifically focused on the applications pertaining to the 'Tailor' and 'Mason' trades which have seen disproportionate enroll-



ment as compared to other trades.

During the meeting, the DC directed for the formation of a dedicated committee which will oversee and ensure exhaustive verification of applications received through the portal pertaining to Tailor and Masonry trades for district Baramulla.

The DC further directed that the committee should ensure that only

those artisans who have acquired necessary skills and are engaged in the trade currently should be verified as per the PM Vishwakarma guidelines.

The meeting was attended by the General Manager, DIC, Nighat Alam; Chief Planning Officer, Baramulla, Javaid Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Development Baramulla, Shabir Ahmad Hakak and other concerned officers.

## DC Kupwara discusses finalization of rates for compensation, other issues of NH-701 RKCTC

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, JULY 15

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting of the concerned Officers at Mini-Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here to discuss finalization of rates for compensation to the rightful owners whose land has been acquired for construction/improvement of Newly NH-701 RKCTC (Rafiabad-Kupwara-Chowkibal-Tangdar-Chamkote National Highway).

During the meeting, a threadbare discussion was held regarding construction of the National Highway, submission of pending 3G awards, finalization



of rates and compensation for residential, commercial and agricultural land to the owners.

The DC directed the concerned Officers to expedite the process so that the project is started well in time. She said that the NH-701 project is a vital initiative which will enhance connectivity, facilitate smooth-

er and faster travel for residents and foster economic growth in the district.

Among others, ACR Kupwara, Pirzada Mumtaz, SDM Lolab, Javed Naseem Masoodi, OC 109 RCC Beacon, Lt. Col. C.N Ghosh, Tehsildars, Executive Officer MC Kupwara, and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

## DDC B'la reviews expansion work on Srinagar-Baramulla NH1



J I NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, JULY 15

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa Monday carried out a comprehensive inspection of the ongoing construction and road widening projects along the Srinagar-Baramulla National Highway NHI, specifically from Narbal to Uri, during his on-site visit.

During the visit, the DDC conducted a thorough on-site inspection of major construction sites, including the Khanpora Bypass, Delina Flyover, Sangrama Flyover, and other significant locations.

The executing officers briefed the DDC with a comprehensive update covering the current status, progress, projected timeline, challenges, and various aspects related to the ongoing construction activities.

During the progress review, the DDC directed the executing agencies to accelerate their efforts and ensure the project is completed on schedule, underscoring that timely completion will provide substantial benefits to commuters by notably decreasing travel time.

Minga Sherpa further directed the officers of

the various departments to collaborate and swiftly address any impediments hindering construction work ensuring a smooth and timely progression of the project.

The DDC was accompanied by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina and a team of officers from various departments during his visit.

## DLC Doda approves 4 cases of Change of Land Use

J I NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, JULY 15

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda convened a meeting of the District Level Committee on Change of Land Use (CLU) today at the Mini Meeting Hall in the DC Office Complex, Doda. The meeting aimed to deliberate and approve various CLU cases pertinent to the district.

Chaired by the Deputy Commissioner Doda, the meeting saw active participation from key officers including the Additional Deputy Commissioner Sudarshan Kumar, GM District Industries Centre Paramjeet Singh, and Assis-

tant Commissioner Revenue, alongside other concerned officers.

During the session, a total of 4 CLU cases were thoroughly discussed and subsequently approved by the committee. Each case was evaluated based on its merits and potential implications, ensuring a balanced approach towards land use changes within the district.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of adhering to regulatory frameworks and ensuring that all CLU decisions align with the developmental goals and environmental considerations of Doda district.

## DC reviews formulation of GIS based Master plan for Kupwara town

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, JULY 15

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting, here to review the formulation of GIS based Master plan for Kupwara town 2023-2043.

At the outset, the DC meticulously reviewed the boundaries of local planning area including MC area and revenue villages of Kupwara Master Plan which have a proposed local planning area of 147 Sq.Kms.

The DC directed the concerned agency to work on the boundaries so that town planning is result-oriented and



inclusive. She asked the CPO Kupwara to coordinate with concerned line departments so that secondary data to the agency is provided at an earliest.

On the occasion, Ayushi said that GIS based Master Plan is a comprehensive planning strategy that utilizes Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology, which improves decision making by providing planners with spatial

insights and holistic view of the town's dynamics, facilitating sustainable and efficient urban development.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Gulzar Ahmed Bhat; ADC Handwara, Aziz Ahmed Rather; ACR, ACD, Assistant Town Planner Kashmir, Consultant, KSS-ISPERS, Executive Engineers, Tehsildars, BDOs, CEO MC Kupwara and other stakeholders.

## Month-long summer coaching camp concludes at Subash Stadium, Udhampur

J I NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, JULY 15

On the directions of Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports Council, and under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, the month-long open summer coaching camp organized by the J&K Sports Council Udhampur, under the guidance



of Manager Subash Stadium Vikas Dogra con-

cluded at the Indoor Hall Sports Complex, Udham-

pur. Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Joginder Singh Jasrotia, was the chief guest, while District Information Officer, Rajinder Digra and District Social Welfare Officer, Kanika Gupta were the guests of honour on the occasion. Around 50 players from across the district of Udhampur participated in the camp.

*Congratulations To*



**Dr. Kamal Singh , Ex Under Secretary, Ministry of Law & Founder of GSS on being elevated as Judge.**



**Ranchhor Singh Gehlot**  
National President  
Ganmanya Samaj Sangathan,  
New Delhi.



**Pritam Singh Saini**  
National Vice President  
Ganmanya Samaj Sangathan,  
New Delhi.



**Kailash Chander Saini**  
President  
Ganmanya Samaj Sangathan,  
J&K.



**Tara Chand Saini Prabhari**  
Ganmanya Samaj Sangathan,  
J&K.