

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, JULY 06, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Starting from beauty pageants to reality shows to web space, Mumbai girl Natasha Bhardwaj is loving every bit of her experience



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LG Saxena's move to stop specialists' engagement will throttle government's work: Delhi CM Kejriwal

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Elon Musk predicts Tesla self-driving cars 'later this year'



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BRIEFLY

Active Covid-19 cases in India Dip to 1,452

NEW DELHI, Jul 6 (Agencies): India has logged 42 new coronavirus infections, while the active cases have declined to 1,452, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday. The death toll stood at 5,31,910, the data updated at 8 am stated. The virus case tally was recorded at 4.49 crore (4,49,94,449) and the national COVID-19 recovery rate has been recorded at 98.81 per cent, the ministry said. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,44,61,087 and the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.18 per cent. According to the ministry's website, 220.66 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive. **MeT forecasts late afternoon, evening showers in J&K**

SRINAGAR, Jul 6 (Agencies): Weather department here has forecast "brief spell" of rain and thunderstorm at some places during late afternoon or evening on Thursday in Jammu and Kashmir. "Light to moderate rain/thunderstorm is expected at scattered places on July 7," a meteorological department official here said. On July 8-9, he said, intermittent light to moderate rain was likely at many places of J&K. "Some places in plains of Jammu region may receive moderate to heavy rain during morning hours." Regarding the minimum temperature today, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 17.8°C against 17.3°C on the previous night and it was 0.7°C above normal for the summer capital. Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 16.0°C against 17.0°C on the previous night and it was 0.5°C above normal for the gateway town of the Kashmir Valley. Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 12.8°C against 11.6°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 2.0°C for the famous tourist resort in **Turn to page 9**

Amid tight security, another batch of over 6500 pilgrims leave Jammu for Amarnath

JAMMU, Jul 6 (Agencies): The seventh batch of over 6,500 Amarnath Yatra pilgrims left Jammu in the early hours of Thursday for the twin base camps in Kashmir amid tight security, officials said. The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on July 1. The officials said the pilgrim footfall at the shrine has crossed the 65,000 mark and the yatra is progressing smoothly, with devo-



tees from across the country thronging the base camps to have a glimpse of the naturally formed ice shivling and offer their prayers. A total of 6,554 pilgrims — 5,053 male, 1,375 women, 101

seers and 25 children — left Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the Valley in a convoy of 272 vehicles amid tight security arrangements in the early hours of Thursday, they said. The officials said

3,864 pilgrims, headed for Pahalgam, left in a convoy of 141 vehicles for the Valley, while another convoy of 131 vehicles carrying 2,690 pilgrims left for the Baltal base camp at 3.30 am. **Turn to page 9**

SC adjourns hearing on plea seeking early assembly elections in J&K

NEW DELHI, Jul 6 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Thursday deferred hearing on a plea seeking directions to the Election Commission and the government for holding early assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir. A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and Manoj Misra noted that petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 were listed for hearing on July 11. "We will adjourn this. The 370 matter is listed for directions on July 11," the bench said.

The counsel appearing for the petitioners submitted that this is a different case as the residents have been disenfranchised and urged the apex court to issue notice in the matter. The bench, however, refused to issue notice and adjourned the matter. The top court was hearing a petition filed by National Panthers Party leaders (JKNPP) leaders, Manju Singh and Harsh Dev Singh seeking directions to the Election Commission of India to conduct elections in the union territory without any further delay.

BSF Jawan shoots himself dead in J&K

JAMMU, Jul 6 (Agencies): A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan on Thursday allegedly shot himself dead at a post along the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said. The incident took place at the border outpost (BoP) at Chilyari, a senior police officer said. The soldier has been identified as Naresh Kumar, he said, adding the body has been sent for postmortem.

Amarnath Yatra 2023 | langars become lifeline for Amarnath Pilgrims



JAMMU, Jul 6: The Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu has become a hub of activity as the 62-day Amarnath Yatra gathers momentum. The camp is bustling with thousands of pilgrims embarking on their journey to the cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas. To ensure that no devotee goes hungry, numerous langars are serving as the lifeline for the pilgrims. With 30 langars (com-

munity kitchens) spread across Jammu, the needs of over 4,000 to 5,000 pilgrims arriving daily from various parts of the country are being met. The langars embody the spirit of generosity, offering free vegetarian meals that showcase culinary diversity from different regions. "Various social and religious organisations have set up a number of langars in Jammu city, the highest number of

them located at Bhagwati Nagar base camp. This is the service of God. We express our gratitude to them all," Corporator Sanjay Baru said. Pilgrims from different parts of the country, including locals, have come forward to establish langars for the yatra. "From morning till late at night, we provide simple yet satisfying dishes like dal, chawal and ambal, and other **Turn to page 9**

Srinagar Police refutes report of arrests of 14 people for disrespecting National Anthem

SRINAGAR, Jul 6 (Agencies): The Srinagar Police on Thursday denied a media report of arrests of 14 people for not standing up when the national anthem was played during a function held in June. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha was also present at the function. The police, however, said that 12 persons have been generally bound down for good behaviour under sections 107/151 of CrPC. "There is an unverified news doing round that 14 policemen/persons have been arrested/suspended for disrespecting the national anthem. It is clarified that the news is completely false, rather 12 persons have been generally bound down **Turn to page 9**

Inter-State Narco-Smuggling racket busted, 2 Punjab residents arrested: SSP ANTF

SRINAGAR, Jul 6 (Agencies): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) J&K, Raj Kumar Thursday claimed to have busted Inter-State narco smuggling racket by arresting two Punjab residents along with 35 poppy straw packets. "Acting on information, we seized an Innova vehicle bearing number PB-08 CP 0517 at Shampora, Qazigund. Two persons Amandeep Singh and Manohar

Singh, both residents of Gurdaspur, Punjab were arrested along with 35 packets of poppy straw. The vehicle has been seized as well," the SSP ANTF said. He said more forward and backward links of the case are being investigated and there are chances of more arrests likely. "He said that once the narco-smuggling links are established, we also seized the properties the accused," the SSP said. He said in the last one month, 5 kg Charas, 200

bottles of codeine, 900 tablets of Alprazolam besides other drugs were seized. "Heroin was also seized as well," the SSP said. He said ANTF is specialized in investigating narco-smuggling cases and people must come forward and provide leads about peddlers and smugglers. As per the statement of ANTF, last month one person from West Bengal and another from Maharashtra were **Turn to page 9**

Police arrests two eve teasers in Baramulla



SRINAGAR, Jul 6 (Agencies): Police arrested two Eve teasers for allegedly harassing a girl in Jammu and

Kashmir's Baramulla district. The accused have been identified as Aqib Salam Bhat alias Ponty **Turn to page 9**

and Yasir Ahmad Bhat, both residents of Fatehpura Baramulla, who allegedly molested a girl at Zanana Park Khawajabagh and fled from the spot after committing the crime, police said on Thursday. Police said police station Baramulla received a written complaint from one person (name **Turn to page 9**

Who are homeless in JK, asks Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Jul 6 (Agencies): Former chief minister and Vice-President of the National Conference, Omar Abdullah, questioned the administration led by the Lieutenant Governor on Thursday regarding the 'Land for Landless' issue in Jammu and Kashmir. He urged them to clarify who exactly is considered homeless in J&K and how they are being categorised. "The government should address the doubts surrounding the definition of homelessness and the criteria



of Abdul Ahad Dar. While speaking to the media, the former CM emphasised that the LG administration should carefully consider the individuals who will be granted accommodation on the Kah Charai land. He expressed his opinion that those who came to J&K after the abrogation of Article 370 should not be included. "The administration should first verify who exactly is homeless in J&K, and only then issue the orders. Are those who arrived in J&K **Turn to page 9**

for categorization. Are those who arrived here just a week ago also being counted among the homeless?" Omar Abdullah stated during his visit to Budgam in Central Kashmir. Earlier in the day, Omar had visited Choon Budgam to inquire about the health **Turn to page 9**

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TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH INDER KRISHAN KOUL S/O LATE SH PREM NATH KOUL R/O RAMNAGRI SHOPIAN, KASHMIR, WHO LEFT FOR HIS HEAVENLY ABODE ON 28-06-2023 (WED).**

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 07-07-2023 (FRIDAY), 8:30 AM AT MUTHI GHAT, NR. DIRECTOR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, MUTHI, JAMMU. PRESENTLY RESIDING AT H/NO. 124/A SECTOR-3 LANE NO. 3 NEAR RATION DEPOT DURGA NAGAR, BANTALAB

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
SMT INDU KOUL (WIFE)
BHABIES & BROTHER
SMT ASHA KIRAN KOUL
SMT BHARTI KOUL

SMT. BIMLA & SH CHAND KRISHAN KOUL
DAUGHTER IN LAWS & SONS
SMT NEERU & VIKAS KOUL
SMT MEENAKSHI & SUNIL KOUL
SMT ISHA & VIJAY KOUL
SMT HIMAKSHI & VENAY KAUL
SMT SHEETAL & SAHIL KOUL
SMT SHALLU & TRISHANT KOUL
ARNAV & SUDANSHU

DAUGHTER:- SMT NEENU LIDHOO
ALSO SAMASTI PARIVAAR:- KOUL'S, PANDITA'S, RAINA'S, BHAT'S, LIDHOO'S, AMBARDAR'S, KHAZANCHI'S
MOBILE:- 7006432020, 7889539671, 9149401421



SH INDER KRISHAN KOUL
(BHAIIYA)

GRAND CHILDREN
PARTH, ANSH, AAKH, ADRIKA, VIDHUSHI, SHIVESH,
NAVIDYA, DAKSHESH, KAIRAV, TISHYA

4TH DAY/10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we would like to inform you all that **Sh. Janak Singh Manhas S/O Late Amir Chand Manhas R/o Panshae (Malhota) Tehsil Bhella Distt Doda present Address House No G58 Shiv Nagar Extension Jammu on 30-06-2023 at 4.00 AM**

4TH DAY will be performed on 3rd of July 2023
10TH DAY will be performed on 09-07-2023 at Panshae Malhota Tehsil Bhella Distt Doda

GRIEF STRICKEN

Shanti Devi - Mother

Shakuntla Manhas- Wife

Son & Daughter in Law

Sunil Singh Manhas & Puja Manhas

Susheel Singh Manhas & Shivali Manhas

Daughter & Son in Law

Sandhya Manhas & Joginder Goswami

Brother & Bhabhi

Hamam Singh Manhas and Shakuntla Devi

Joginder Singh Manhas & Nirjala Devi

Sisters: Anara Devi, Achari Devi, Kaushalya Devi

Raja Devi, Sudesha Devi



SH. JANAK SINGH MANHAS

Grief Stricken By:-
Nidhi, Gourav, Vidhyut, Virat, Shanaya,
Shaurya, Lavit, Vilohit
(Nephew & Niece) Sandeep Singh
Manhas, Pardeep Singh Manhas, Radha
Devi, Pooja Devi, Anil Singh Manhas, Arti
Manhas, Anit Singh Manhas

10th Day/Kriya

Our hearts still ache with sadness, and many tears still flow.

What it meant to lose you, no one will ever know. We hold you close within our hearts, and there you will remain to walk with us throughout our lives until we meet again.

Our beloved, the soul of our family passed away peacefully to merge with eternity on 24 June 2023 at Ramnagar.

10th Day of our beloved **Sh Upinder Kumar** will be held at W.No. 2 Chigli Chowri Ramnagar on Tuesday 4th July 2023 from 11 AM onwards and **Kriya** will be performed on Friday 7 July 2023 at 12.00 Noon.

Grief Stricken

Smt Geeta Devi -Wife

Brothers & Bhabhis

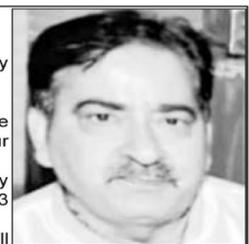
Smt Chanchala Devi wife of Late Pritam Kumar

Smt Neelam Devi & Sh Shiv Kumar

Smt Renuka Devi & Sh Ravinder Kumar

Sons: Mr Sumit, Mr Punit, Mr Sahil, Mr Sachin, Mr Akshat, Mr Ayush.

Mob. No. 9697107726, 9419273801, 9419796685, 9419629210



Sh Upinder Kumar

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Lt Sh Dharuv Singh Jamwal S/O Lt Sh Hardev Singh Jamwal R/o Suchani Teh Vijaypur, Samba** who left for heavenly abode on Monday 26 June 2023.

TENTH DAY will be performed on Wednesday 05 July 2023 at our residence at 10:30 AM.

Kriya will be performed on Saturday 08 July 2023 at our residence at 10:00 AM.

Uthala will be held on Friday 14 July 2023 from 2 to 4 PM at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN.

Lt Smt Vaishano Jamwal (Wife)

Parmvir & Aruna Jamwal (Son & Daughter in law)

Daughters & Son in laws

Renu & Simar Singh Sambyal

Bandana & Yograj Singh Jasrotia

Radhu & Balwinder Singh Salothia

Ranjana & Jatinder Singh Padwal

Babbi & Brothers

Smt Shashi & Sh Keshav Singh

Smt Sunita & Lt Sh Kamal Singh

Smt Sarita & Sh Romesh Singh.

Sister & Brother in laws

Smt Krishna & Dr Jagdeep Singh Sambyal

Lt Smt Bimla & Sub Taranter Singh Jamwal.

Grand Son & Daughter

Arupam Jamwal, Mahi Jamwal, Apama Singh.

7051225179 7889932841 9596667928



Late Sh. Dharuv Singh Jamwal
DOB 12-07-1943 DOE 26-06-2023

TENTH DAY & UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Nirmal Bangotra W/o Sh. M.R Bangotra, R/o Kamdhenu Homz, Top Sherkhania, Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 30th June 2023 (Friday).**

Tenth Day & Uthala will be performed on 9th July 2023 (Sunday) at Gurdwara Chhatti Patshahi Tahli Sahib, Talab Tillo, near Bee Enn Hospital, Jammu.

Kirtan Time: 11:00 AM - 12:00 noon.

Langar Parshad: 12:00 noon - 02:00 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh M.R Bangotra (Retd C.E.O) - Husband

Daughter-in Laws & Sons

Er Kanchan Bangotra (JKAS) Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes and

Er Arun Bangotra, Principal Govt Polytechnic Jammu

Er Vijeta and Er Sachin Bangotra

Dr Shaluu (GMC Jammu) and Sh Sandeep Bangotra (Cluster Head-YES Bank)

Bhabhis & Brother-in Laws

Smt Pushpa Devi W/o Late Sh Tulsi Ram Bangotra (Ex- MLA)

Smt Sudesh Kumari W/o Late Sh Shyam Bangotra

Smt Madhu & Sh Ashok Bangotra

Grand Daughters & Grand Sons

(M) :- 9419112442, 9419137366, 8146578174



Smt. Nirmal Bangotra

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Brother-in-law **Sh. Gianeshwar Sharma H/o Smt. Anuradha Sharma R/o 41/B, Karan Nagar, Jammu.**

Fifth Day will be performed at Hari Mandir, Rehari Chowk from 10.00 am to 11.00 am morning on 7th July 2023 (Friday).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Raman & Pinky Sharma

Sh. Laxman & Rajni Sharma

Sisters & Brothers-in-law

Shyama & Tardeep Tharmat

Satyabhama & Late Sudesh Dubey

Nephew & Niece

Anirudh & Riya, Sugandha & Ankush Kohli

Vasu & Akshi, Pradhyuman & Palak

Shiva Medicos, Sarwal Chowk, Jammu

Mob.:- 9419193388, 9419220778



Sh. Gianeshwar Sharma

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Mohni Bhan W/o Sh.Janki Nath Bhan on 30th June 2023 (Friday), Presently Residing at 346-B sec 1 Durga nagar (Near Krishna Palace) Jammu ,180013**

Tenth Day KRIYA will be performed on 9th July 2023 (Sunday) at 8:30 am at Muthi Ghat (Near Director of School education)

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Janki Nath Bhan (Husband)

Mr. Rakesh Bhan - Son

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Smt. Manju Kachroo & Sh.Sunil Kachroo

Smt. Sudeepa Dhar & Sh. Rakesh Dhar.

Contact number :- +91-9469104221 ,+91-0191-2595180



Smt. Mohni Bhan

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Bhagwan Dass Verma Ji** as per schedule program performed at their residence R/O F-149-A Gurha Bakshi Nagar Jammu.

10TH DAY (TENTH DAY) on 06-07-2023 (Thursday) at 10. AM.

KRIYA will be performed on 08-07-2023 (Saturday) at 10. AM onwards.

UTHALA will be performed on 08-07-2023 (Saturday) at Rajput Sabha Opp Shiv Mandir Gurha Chabbilian, Bakshi Nagar

Jammu at 4 PM to 5 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Sudershan Verma (Wife)

Daughter in Law & Son

Smt Damyanti Devi W/o Late Sh. Rakesh Verma

Daughter & Son in Law

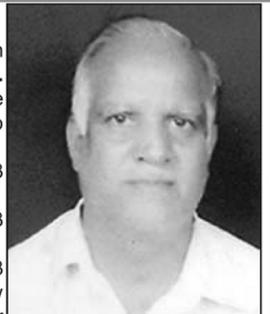
Smt Vijay Verma W/o Sh. Joginder Kumar

Smt Punam Verma W/o Sh. Anil Verma

Smt Bandana Verma W/o Sh. Ramesh Kumar

Grand Children: Vaishali, Tarun, Karun, Kanav, Mannat, Rajit

CONTACT NO 0191-2580323, 9018951284, 9419133164, 9419206876



SH. BHAGWAN DASS
VERMA JI

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, it is to inform that **Bahi Bupinder Singh Ji (Pali)** originally from Village Dalwana Budgand and Currently residing at Arjun Vihar Kunjwani near Ranjeet B.Ed College who passed away on 29-6-23. **Antim Ardas** will be performed on 7-July-23 as per below program.

Arambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib at their residence Arjun Vihar Kunjwani on 5-July-23 (Wednesday) at 9:00am.

Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib on 7- July-23 (Friday) 9:00am at their residence Arjun Vihar Kunjwani

Antim Ardas will be performed at Gurudwara Bandu Rakh on 7-July-23 from 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

S. Balbeer Singh (Son)

S. Ajit Singh (Brother)

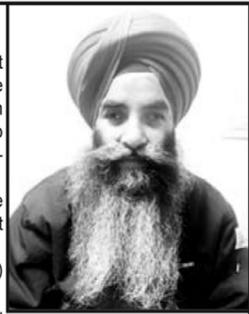
S. Salinder Singh - Brother

S. Avtar Singh - Brother

S. Dheeraj Singh (Brother-in-law)

S. Mohinder Singh (Brother-in-law)

7006357808, 9906690024



BAHI BUPINDER
SINGH JI (PALI)

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

"Today the Earth is poorer by a soul,
the sky richer by a star."

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Pritam Singh Reen (Retd CTO, Jammu Municipality) R/o H No 100 St No 5 Sector 7 Nanak Nagar S/o Late S. Kalyan Singh Reen, who left for his heavenly abode on the 2nd of July 2023.**

Bhog and Antim Ardas shall be performed as per the following program.

Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib: 9:00 AM, 7th July 2023

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib: 10: 00 AM, 9th July 2023

Kirtan and Antim Ardas: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM at Gurudwara Singh Sabha, Nanak Nagar followed by Guru Ka Langar

Grief Stricken:

S. Gurdev Singh Reen & Sdn. Satinder Kour Reen - Brother & Bhabhi

Sdn Harjit Kour Reen W/o Late Dr. Mohinder Singh Reen - Bhabhi

S. Paramjeet Singh Reen & Sdn. Satwant Kour Reen - Brother & Bhabhi

Sdn. Gunwant Kour Reen & S. Harbhajan Singh Reen - Sister & Brother-in Law

Dr. Indrapal Singh Reen & Sdn. Amarpreet Kour Reen - Son and Daughter-in law

Sdn. Aneet Kour & S. Gurdeep Singh - Daughter and Son-in-law

Sdn. Amit Kour & Sh. Bharat Sharma - Daughter & Son-in-law

Nephews & Nieces: Deepa, Babil, Dolly, Jyoti, Pintu, Sherry, Boney, Sonny, Mona, Aisha, Meetu, Ginny, Swapan, Gaurav

Grand Children: Gina, Akash, Ayesha, Rajdeep, Jaspreet, Harshdeep, Unnati, Udita

Great Granddaughter: Adheera



S. Pritam Singh Reen
(Retd CTO, Jammu
Municipality)

BHOG / ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Santokh Singh (Sant) S/o Late S. Jodh Singh R/o House No. 31, Exchange Road, Jammu expired on 28-06-2023.**

Programme:

Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib at their residence 5-07-2023 at 9:00 am

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 7-07-2023 at 9:00 am at residence.

Antim Ardas at Gurudwara Kalgidhar Sahib, Rehari Jammu from 10 am to 11.30 am on 07-07-2023 followed by Guru Ka Langar.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sdn. Amrit Kour - Wife

Sister & Brother-in-law

Sdn. Sham Kour & S. Kirpal Singh (Nepal Wale)

Daughter & Son-in-law

Sdn. Sarabjeet Kour (Manju) & Late S. Gurmeet Singh

Sdn. Harjeet Kour & S. Karamjeet Singh - Daughter & Son-in-law

Sdn. Dalvinder Kour & S. Gurmeet Singh - Daughter & Son-in-law

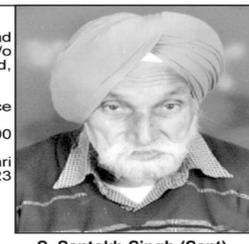
Sdn. Harvinder Kour & S. Swarn Singh (Sub Inspector) - Daughter & Son-in-law

Sdn. Apneet Kour & S. Bhopinder Singh (Michal) - Daughter & Son-in-law

Sdn. Amandeep Kour & S. Bhopinder Singh (Chittu) - Daughter & Son-in-law

Sdn. Gurpreet Kour & S. Amardeep Singh (Micky) - Daughter & Son-in-law

MOB: 7006111239, 9419124427



S. Santokh Singh (Sant)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform all our nears and dears that our beloved father **Sh. Ashok Kumar Tulloo S/o Lt. Sh. Mohan Lal Tulloo** originally resident of Ganapaty Srinagar at present Kashmir Colony Phase 2, Kothey Hoshiyaru, Sarore, Jammu had left for heavenly abode on 28th June 2023 at 02:43 p.m.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 07/07/2023 (Friday) at Muthi Ghat from 08:00 a.m. After performing the Tenth Day Kriya, the mourning assembly will also be held at Muthi Ghat.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Smt. Veena Ji Tulloo - Wife

Daughter and Son-in-Law

Smt. Sheetal Zutshi and Sh. Sumesh Zutshi

Sister and Brother-in-law

Smt. Girja Shalla W/o Late Sh. Avtar Krishen Shalla

Smt. Babil Ji

Smt. Pinki Sharma and Sh. Ashok Sharma

Deeply Missed By Grand Children

Prateek and Hemakshi

Mobile No.:- 9797363493, 6005818430



Sh. Ashok Kumar
Tulloo

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Shrawan Kumar Ambardar**

SC directs supply of copies of writ petition seeking early J&K Assembly Elections to GOI, ECI

People of J&K dis-enfranchised: Harsh tells SC

TOP NEWS REPORT

NEW DELHI, Jul 6: Supreme Court of India today directed supply of copies of writ petition to Union of India and Election Commission seeking restoration of democratic govt in J&K and conduct of Assembly Elections therein without any further delay. The writ petition had been filed in the name of senior NPP leader Mrs. Manju Singh, besides BDC Chairpersons and DDC members of JKNPP by Mr. Harsh Dev Singh Advocate and Former Minister in J&K Govt.

Harsh Dev submitted that the Democracy continues to be abused and outraged in J&K by the present rulers behaving as unquestionable despots and running the affairs of the govt for the last five years in J&K through their proxies. And when the people press for restoration of democratic govt, the helmsmen either issue a statement assuring early elections or silence the protagonists of democracy through the coercive apparatus of the state. With all this happening for the last five years, democracy continues to be delayed and denied in J&K on one pretext or the other in contravention of the spirit of the constitution and the 'obiter dicta' and rulings of the Apex Court of the country.

Singh averred that the Supreme Court on several occasions has held that Assembly Elections must be held within six months in all those States/UTs where Assemblies are pre-maturely dissolved. Even in the recent Judgement of the Supreme Court pertaining to the State of Maharashtra, the top court re-iterated that



there is statutory obligation to fill Assembly seats within six months so as to ensure that the people were not deprived of due representation. "You can't create a constitutional void, a hiatus situation for the constituencies", the Supreme Court has again observed adding further that it is the people who eventually suffer in the absence of an elected representative to espouse their cause. Denying democratic govt is a punishment to the people, as observed by the top court as well.

Harsh Dev argued that the Assembly Elections continue to be denied in J&K on flimsy grounds only to enable the BJP to run the affairs of govt in J&K through its chosen ones. J&K has been deprived of democratic govt for the last five years. Elections are being delayed and denied and continue to be postponed for one reason or the other. Sometimes they are denied on the grounds of the security scenario, sometimes on the pretext of unfinished Delimitation exercise, sometimes on the grounds of Amar Nath Ji pilgrimage, while at other times by taking the plea of intense cold or hot weather conditions or heavy snowfall. And while the constitution continues to be subverted by taking freakish excuses to deny Democracy to the

people of J&K, the rulings of Supreme Court on time bound restoration of democratic govt in States/UTs too continue to be violated with impunity by the present rulers.

Delaying the elections on the pretext of initiation of the Delimitation process was also unjustified. When the State of Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated and the state of Telangana created, no Delimitation was held and Assembly Elections were conducted immediately thereafter. It was then stated that no delimitation can take place in the country before first census after the year 2026 in view of constitutional Amendment effected by the then NDA govt in 2001-2002. In the case of J&K however, the very same NDA was adopting different yardsticks to delay and deny elections with a view to continue its proxy rule. Even the Delimitation Commission worked at snails pace giving rise to speculations that it had so prolonged the exercise at the behest of BJP. With the people having been deprived of popular rule and their right to have an elected govt of their own, the onus also lay on the ECI and Delimitation Commission to explain and justify their role as autonomous bodies.

Advocate Mr. Singh apprised the Court that the Election Commis-

sion had earlier taken a call for simultaneous polls of Assembly and Parliament in 2019 which however did not materialize due to the interference by one political party. ECI later issued a statement on 4th June, 2019 stating therein that the EC after the conduct of Amarnath Yatra will announce the election schedule for the conduct of Assembly Elections in J&K too turned out to be a damp squib. And during the visit of the Full Election Commission headed by CEC to J&K in February, 2019 all political parties except BJP had favoured Assembly Elections in J&K in April-May, 2019. The said Elections were however avoided at the behest of BJP alone to keep the ruling party in good humour. Likewise, statements of early Assembly polls were issued by central govt, Governor and the Lt. Governor of J&K also, which too have created only cynicism amongst the masses in view of the frequency with which they were made and then forgotten.

Singh maintained that the ECI too had gone in hibernation. Is it an indirect support to BJP by allowing its proxy rule to continue in the troubled territory of J&K. At stake therefore is not only the institution but all that the constitution stands for. The ECI was holding elections in other states without uttering a single word about J&K Elections which are being denied for the last around five years since 2018. And only recently the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) J&K made a statement that the PRI's, local bodies and Parliament elections would be held as per schedule in the current financial year

itself. But what about the Assembly elections? Why are ECI and the BJP govt keeping mum over the issue despite all bottlenecks including delimitation and publication of electoral rolls after creation of new assembly constituencies having been finalized besides, normalcy as never before also having been restored.

The pertinent question which arises therefore is whether a democratic govt could be denied to the people for long as five years and that too without any justifiable reason. Elections are said to be the Bed Rock of democracy. They have been held to be the barometer of democracy by the top court of the country. There can be no democracy without free and periodic elections. In Indira Gandhi Vs Raj Narain Case, the Supreme Court held that all the seven judges who constituted the majority in Kesavananda Bharti's case were agreed that "democratic process was part of the basic structure of the constitution and that holding periodic elections was a constitutional obligation. Likewise there are several judgements of the Apex court of the country mandating periodic elections which however continue to be violated by the powers that be.

The case was heard by a three Judge SC Bench headed by the Chief Justice (CJI) who directed the supply of copies of the writ petition to central agencies i.e the Union of India and ECI and directed that the further hearing on the matter would be held on or after 11th July on which date a Special Bench has been constituted to hear other matters related to the UT of J&K.

Administrative Council approves establishment of separate Public Grievances Department



TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jul 6: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha gave approval to the establishment of the Department of Public Grievances as a separate Administrative Department.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Dr. Arun

Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Mandeep Kumar Bandhary, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

Earlier, the subject of "Redressal of Public Grievances" was assigned to the Administrative Reforms, Inspections, Trainings and Grievances Department.

This administrative reform measure is in

line with the commitment of the Government that envisages promotion of citizen-centric governance with emphasis on grievance redressal innovations through e-Governance. This will ensure better administration and quality public grievance with better outcomes for the aggrieved thereby guaranteeing efficient disposal of official business.

DDC Chairperson calls on Lt Governor

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jul 6: Sh Irfan Sultan Pandithpori, Chairperson, District Development Council, Kupwara called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan today.

The DDC Chairperson, accompanied by the members of DDC Kupwara, submitted a memorandum of demands to the Lt Governor pertaining to developmental issues of the district.

Earlier, the members of Sub-Committee of Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association, Brig. Anil Gupta, Sh Sunil Sethi and Sh Mithun Manhas called on the Lt Governor and discussed various matters pertaining to promotion of Cricket in the UT.

Later, a delegation of Principals of Army Goodwill Schools led by Sh Shabir Ahmad also met the Lt Governor and apprised their concerning issues.

Indian Navy to enhance greater participation of youth from Ladakh in Defence Services

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jul 6: The Indian Navy has embarked on a multi-dimensional outreach program to enhance greater participation of the youth from Ladakh in the Defence Services, officials said.

As part of this programme, the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar is hosting various outreach activities on Thursday and Friday in Leh.

The Indian Navy had earlier carried out

extensive engagement in the North East as part of the outreach activities last year.

Officials said the program of Chief of the Naval Staff is aimed to enhance greater participation of the youth from Ladakh in the Defence Services, strengthen nation-building and promote maritime consciousness in the region.

The events that will be undertaken in Ladakh as part of Indian Navy outreach will include a public band perfor-

mance by the Naval Band, a friendly football match between the Indian Navy and the Ladakh UT Team, Flagging Off the Bike and Car Expedition, and visits to various schools.

During his visit in Leh, the Chief of the Naval Staff will call on the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of

Leh and Ladakh, Brig (Dr) BD Mishra, (Retd) and pay respect on behalf of the Indian Navy by laying a wreath at the War Memorial.

AAP demonstrates against installation of prepaid meters

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 6: Aam Aadmi Party workers, led by senior leader Amit Kapoor, today staged a strong protest against the Modi government at the Center for forcibly installing prepaid meters in Jammu and Kashmir. During this, a large number of party workers participated in this demonstration and raised slogans against the Modi government at the Center.

Addressing the protesters on this occasion, Amit Kapoor said that the Modi government at the Center had decided to install prepaid meters across the country in the year 2021, which was opposed by most of the states. He said that even in Delhi, the state government has given the people the option of installing prepaid meters or postpaid meters. He said that what was the need for the LG government of Jammu and Kashmir to forcefully install prepaid meters in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that at present no political party is opposing it. Kapoor said



that her party and the Democratic Progressive Azad Party were working as B teams of the BJP, so she was not opposing it. He said that the Aam Aadmi Party will oppose it strongly and will start a big movement against it by landing on the streets.

Expressing his serious concern over the working of the PDD department, he said that due to this people are facing a lot of problems. He said that during summer people have been given bills worth lakhs of rupees who have no means to pay and their connections have been disconnected making their lives miserable. He

said that many people have made such complaints to him. Common people are wandering from door to door for redressal of their grievances and there is complete absence of grievance redressal mechanism.

He said that apathy among the officers is deeply rooted as there is no accountability system in vogue. Linemen have established their own empire and are supporting kundi culture and this is clearly visible when a comparative assessment of electricity used and money collected is done. Kapoor said the situation in rural areas

remains the same with erratic and inconsistent power supply, prolonged heavy power cuts and poor maintenance of transmission lines, causing a lot of trouble to the farming community as the paddy sowing season is underway. Is.

Amit Kapoor said that like Delhi, people in Jammu and Kashmir should also be given a choice whether they want to install prepaid or postpaid meters. He said that if this is not done, he will start a big movement against it and the government will be fully responsible for the situation arising out of it.

DC launches door to door waste collection, Swachhta Campaign from Dali-Udhyapur Block

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Jul 6: Door to Door Waste Collection initiative was kick-started today by Deputy Commissioner Doda Vishesh Mahajan here from Block Dali-Udhyapur. Assistant Commissioner Development, Phulail Singh; Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Ashfaq Khanji; DPO, Suraj Parkash and local Yasir Wani, besides PRIs and people of the Block also attended the launch function. The people expressed their satisfaction over the initiatives/ efforts taken by the administration towards making the Block Swachh and clean through Door to Door collection of waste and other steps taken in this regard.

It was informed that the Door to Door waste collection will be done twice a week and people pledged to cooperate with the administration to make the whole Block of Dali-Udhyapur Swachh, Clean and ODF plus.



Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan aims at making cleanliness a habit for all while making available the support system and infrastructure for waste collection and its proper disposal.

The DC launched the door to door collection of different kinds of waste and IEC activities as per the approved district Swachhta Plan. A special purpose vehicle, "Swachhta Express" was flagged off from the Punda village of Panchayat Dhar-B, Dali-Udhyapur Block, which shall collect the waste

from every ward of the Block and disseminate among locals about the importance of cleanliness and protection of environment.

Diverse IEC activities have been planned to be carried out in the district to achieve the status of ODF Plus. Dustbins were distributed during the programme, which shall be placed in all the 63 wards of the Dali-Udhyapur Block.

The DC instructed the concerned officers to make persistent efforts to spread the message of the Swachhta

and ensure door to door collection of segregated waste and its proper disposal which is crucial for achieving desired Swachhta plus status for the district. He further urged the locals and PRIs to join hands with the administration to make the Block Swachh and Sunder. Nature has bestowed this district with the best of its beauty, environment, purity, serenity, and sustainability, we owe the responsibility to protect and conserve it for our future existence, he reiterated.

EDITORIAL

SAVE GREEN
GOLD

Trees are also called green gold as it is a very valuable asset. Trees are the main means of providing life-giving oxygen and water on earth. No one else can do the work of providing oxygen and it is not only difficult but impossible to imagine water without trees.

Trees help us to reduce air pollution and keep the environment clean. Not only air pollution, they also purify water by filtering out harmful chemicals. Tree products play a major role in every industry. Trees are very important in the things used in our daily life.

The more trees there are, the more pure the environment will be. Nowadays people are suffering from many types of respiratory and other diseases due to air pollution.

If there are trees, then by absorbing the harmful gases found in the air, they will give us clean air and also get rid of diseases. If we increase the number of trees, they will naturally clean the air and give us many other benefits. With their increase, we avoid the use of air conditioners and also get rid of the harmful gases coming out of it. It is because of trees that we get abundant rain.

The roots of the tree bind the soil, which does not cause soil erosion and the soil absorbs water well. This water saves us from the scarcity of water by becoming underground water. Trees also protect the earth from the effect of heat by providing shade to us.

Due to the lack of this invaluable wealth, problems like global warming, drought, soil erosion are taking their form on the earth. If we want to avoid these natural calamities, then we have to take steps towards the conservation of trees.

If we work in this direction today, only then future generations will also be inspired to work in this direction. On the occasion of happiness, we spend money, have feasts, but instead of all this, if we plant and protect trees, then it will be a sign of happiness not only for our acquaintances but also for humans.

In Indian culture anyway, there has been talk of worshipping trees. Being a responsible citizen, we should ensure that if trees are being cut in the name of development, then where are trees being planted to compensate them?

God has given man the quality of intelligence/discretion. If we continue to use this intelligence to harm nature in the name of development, then it will be a blot on the conscience of man. So let's all together take a pledge that we will work for the protection of trees not only for ourselves but for the whole nature and make this earth green.

Centre extends envoy's tenure ahead of WTO meeting in Feb

By: Dilip Cherian

In a move that has drawn attention and speculation, the Centre recently extended the tenure of Brajendra Navnit, a 1999-batch IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, currently serving as ambassador and permanent representative of India to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva.

This extension comes ahead of the crucial 13th ministerial conference of the WTO in February 2024, where India is set to play a significant role in supporting developing countries facing food security crises and advocating for an extension of the global intellectual property rights (IPR) waiver to Covid therapeutics and diagnostics.

Mr Navnit, who previously served as joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), was assigned the pivotal foreign posting in Geneva in June 2020, alongside Rajeev Topno's posting in Washington, DC. The decision to extend Mr Navnit's tenure shows the government's confidence in his expertise in navigating complex international negotiations. India is pushing for flexibility to aid developing countries in subsidising farmers beyond the minimal amounts allowed at the WTO. Mr Navnit's diplomatic acumen will be invaluable in ensuring India's interests are well represented on the global stage.

Next year's WTO ministerial

conference holds significant importance, especially in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. India's stance towards promoting affordable access to life-saving treatments for developing nations has won a great deal of support, thanks in no small measure to Mr Navnit's efforts.

Comedy of errors: Haryana's babu quandary

It's been 16 long years since the urban development department in Haryana transformed, becoming the urban local bodies department. Yet, astonishingly, the state municipal law still fails to reflect this change in the nomenclature of the director's position. A recent letter from Hemant Kumar, a lawyer, brought this oversight to the attention of the Haryana government. He pointed out that Section 2(9) of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973, continues to define the director as the director of the urban development department, rather than the urban local bodies department (ULB).

Consequently, the director of the urban development department, Haryana, holds the statutory authority to exercise powers and fulfil duties as outlined in the Act. This legal discrepancy raises serious questions about the appropriate allocation of responsibilities within the department.

To add to the confusion, two months ago, Yash Pal, a 2011 batch IAS officer from the state cadre, was appointed as the director and special secre-

tary of the urban local bodies department. At the time, his appointment raised eyebrows, since three senior IAS officers — P.C. Meena, Jitendra Kumar and Anju Choudhary — are serving as commissioners of municipal corporations under the urban local bodies department. Placing a junior officer in a higher position call into question the principles of seniority and expertise.

Interestingly, PC Meena, currently commissioner of the municipal corporation of Gurugram, is ranked as a secretary in the super time scale of IAS. This prompts the question of whether a secretary-ranked IAS officer can be placed under a special secretary-ranked officer. Furthermore, the present administrative secretary of the ULB department Vikas Gupta also holds the rank of secretary, on par with Meena. It's pointed out that the previous director of the ULB department, D.K. Behera, had to be transferred in April because Gupta got appointed as commissioner and secretary of the department. Since both Gupta and Behera are of secretary rank, one cannot be posted as commissioner and secretary while the other as director-general in the same department.

The unresolved dilemma in Haryana is another glaring example of babu inefficiency and shortcomings. Clearly, the Manohar Lal Khattar sarkar needs to prioritise organisational reforms, streamline the decision-making process, and

uphold the lofty principles of transparency, meritocracy and adherence to rules.

Kerala may see major IPS rejig
The recent major reshuffle of IAS officers in Kerala, with the appointment of V. Venu, a 1990-batch IAS officer, as the new chief secretary, has set the stage for an anticipated revamp of the state's police force. Following the retirements of several senior police officers, including those holding director general (DG) rank, the Pinarayi Vijayan government has recently appointed Dr Shaik Darvesh as the new director general of police (DGP). This development signals an imminent reshuffle of senior IPS officers, sources have informed DKB.

In May, Kerala bid farewell to two DG-level officers, B. Sandhya and S. Anandkrishnan, while Darvesh's predecessor also retired. Tomin Thachankary, another DG-level officer, will retire this month. The elevation of Shaik Darvesh marks the third consecutive time the state has appointed a non-Kerala officer as its police chief, hailing from Andhra Pradesh. His predecessors Anil Kant and Loknath Behera also brought valuable experiences from outside the state.

This imminent reshuffle is an opportunity for the state government to inject new energy into the police force. By strategically reassigning IPS officers, it can capitalize on their diverse experiences and foster a more dynamic and effective police system.

US needs Russia rethink to avert a new Cold War

By: Sunanda K Datta Ray

Given the whispers of Russian and Ukrainian involvement in the 2016 US presidential election, suggestions of an American hand in the attempted mutiny by the swashbuckling Yevgeny Prigozhin, the former hot dog seller who is now boss of the Wagner Group of mercenaries, need not be dismissed as far-fetched. The long hand of the Central Intelligence Agency reached into some unlikely places when the Cold War was at its most freezing. It may be doing so again.

George Kennan, the remarkably prescient American diplomatist who is regarded as the father of containment — wrongly because he advocated not military pressure but peaceful competition — would not have been surprised at this fulfilment of his predictions. Foreseeing the Soviet Union's collapse as long ago as 1948, he warned when he was the state department's first director of planning that no Russian government would ever accept Ukrainian independence. Kennan was especially adamant that the American media's need for an enemy and US militarism, especially the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's eastward expansion, would be the trigger that could destroy liberal trends in Russia, plunge the world in a new Cold War and invite the peril of escalation into nuclear conflict.

After months of stalemate in the fighting, the abortive Wagner coup provided a spurt of excitement and the possibility of a winner emerging. While a weakened Russian President Vladimir Putin choreographed some brave public events to broadcast that he is still on top, Ukraine's jubilant President Volodymyr Zelenskyy declared "a happy day" and claimed that his forces had fanned out "in all

directions" to reclaim lost territory. Nevertheless, lingering questions remain about the rebellion, about the future interaction of the countries that constituted the former Soviet Union, European stability, and the future world order, especially the American role in it. Senior Russian officials admit they were surprised by the scale of the rebellion unleashed by Mr Prigozhin, who seized the southern city of Rostov-on-Don, and vowed to march 20,000 fighters to Moscow to topple Mr Putin's government. Why did he not? Was it the US again?

We don't know. What we do know is that anticipating a deadlocked struggle between Moscow and Kyiv, Kennan made detailed suggestions about how the US should respond to such a confrontation. Returning to the subject half a century later, he argued in the 1990s that Nato's expansion would have a destructive impact on Russia's nascent democracy and start another Cold War. Never having believed that the US could or should try to run the planet, Kennan would not have shared the jubilation that inspired Richard Nixon's exultant "we have a historic opportunity to change the world" when the Soviet Union collapsed. On the contrary, Kennan, who had also opposed the Vietnam war, saw it as reason for exercising extra caution, resisting temptation, and extending a helping hand to the potential new recruits to Western-style liberalism.

He condemned Nato's expansion in the New York Times in February 1997 as "the most fateful error of American policy in the entire post-Cold-War era" that could lead to a series of disasters. The White House ignored his warning and its own promises even after the Warsaw Pact was dissolved in 1991, not only over Nato, but also many other international con-

troversies like invading Iraq in 1990.

Kennan was not alone in his criticisms. Several prominent Cold Warriors from his generation followed up his condemnation of Nato's expansion which they called "neither necessary nor desirable" and "a policy error of historic proportions" that would "decrease allied security". These luminaries, including Robert McNamara, former CIA director Stansfield Turner, former secretary of the Army Stanley Reiser, and a clutch of senators concluded with the statement: "This ill-conceived policy can and should be put on hold." Ironically, the signatories included Kennan's successor Paul Nitze, who interpreted containment in military terms under President Harry S. Truman.

The neo-con belief that the United States could effectively "transform" other nations — and enjoyed (as the leaked 1992 Pentagon draft policy proposal underlined) a "pre-eminent responsibility" to "prevent the re-emergence of a New Rival" — was anathema to Kennan. He was appalled to read that the US would continue to "preserve Nato... as the channel for US influence and participation in European security affairs". Interviewed by the New York Times in 1998 after the US Senate ratified the Nato expansion, Kennan said it was "the beginning of a new Cold War". Now the Cold War is turning into a hot one, albeit still on a limited scale.

Although often called America's grand strategist par excellence, Kennan did not see the US as the world's policeman. According to James Peck, a US scholar and adjunct professor of history at New York University, in a Global Times interview: "Being the pivot in every region, 'managing' the rules of the game, expanding Nato to Russia's borders, insisting on US values as universal"

-- all this was a flight from the limits of power which Kennan spoke of throughout his life.

Coherent strategic thinking, he repeatedly said, "had become almost impossible given the US refusal to confront the need to both limit US power and become open to pressing globally threatening problems".

His ideas, whose misinterpretation became the basis of the Truman administration's foreign policy, first came to public attention in 1947 in the famously anonymous article by "X" in Foreign Affairs. "The main element of any United States policy toward the Soviet Union," Kennan wrote, "must be that of a long-term, patient but firm and vigilant containment of Russian expansive tendencies." To that end, he called for countering "Soviet pressure against the free institutions of the Western world" through the "adroit and vigilant application of counterforce at a series of constantly shifting geographical and political points, corresponding to the shifts and manoeuvres of Soviet policy". Considering the Soviet threat to be primarily political, he advocated above all else economic assistance (such as the Marshall Plan) and "psychological warfare" (overt propaganda and covert operations) to counter the spread of Soviet influence. But not military pressure.

That was the doing of Nitze and Truman. Kennan argued for a compassionate response to Russia's problems: "Let us wish them all well, and be helpful where we can. But let us not make ourselves part of the problem", he advised. That could still save both Russia and Ukraine, and spare the world the agony of another Cold War.

Heavy rush of pilgrims witnessed at Mahajan Bhawan Jammu



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 6: On the seventh day of the Langar being organized by the Jammu Central Mahajan Sabha (JCMS) at Mahajan Bhawan Shalamar Road, here, Additional Secretary, Information and Technology, Satish Sharma along with Arun Gupta President CCI Jammu, Yash Pal Gupta (Chief Patron), Atul Sharma, SDM Jammu South served a Langar Parsad and sponsored by Ashok Abrol among the shri Amaranthji pilgrims.

Heavy rush of Yatris is being witnessed every day. The pilgrims coming from all parts of the country who are reached at Mahajan Bhawan for registration,

are served with breakfast in the morning followed by lunch Prashad throughout the day till. Today, about 800 hundreds pilgrims took the Langar Parsad.

For this purpose, the Jammu Central Mahajan Sabha under the Presidentship of Romesh Chander Gupta actively assisted by Shiv Partap Gupta, Senior Vice President and Sanjay Mahajan General Secretary, have constituted a team of dedicated members to serve the yatris in the best possible manner.

C.P Gupta and Mukesh Mahajan have been looking after Press related matters and protocol arrangements in the campus.

Balbir Gupta and Yash Paul Gupta are the Incharge of the Langer.

Surinder Gupta and Subash Gupta (Vice President) have been assigned important duties of supervision, whereas Dr. Mohan Lal Gupta deals with accounts matters of the day.

Harinder Gupta (Sr. Vice President), Murari Lal Balgotra (Ex Counsellor), Vijay Gupta, Sorab Abrol, Sanjay Gupta, Subash Sharma, Raj Kumar, Suresh Gupta, Dr Bimal Gupta, Rajneesh Gupta (Pinky), Satish Gupta, Darshan Gupta, Dinesh Gupta (G/ Nagar), Suresh Gupta, Pawan Gupta, Rakesh Gupta and Ashwani Gupta.

Vi 'Super Hour' pack offers unlimited data for 60 minutes

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 6: Data consumption needs for individuals is growing consistently. Data has become a necessity be it for work or personal usage. Today, users are heavily dependent on data for their day-to-day functioning which occasionally also demands very high or unrestricted data usage for activities such as for college project or online assignment, binge-watching a show, playing a game or watching a sports match. In such scenarios, prepaid customers are limited by their daily data quota and depend on expensive add-on data packs. To cater to this crucial demand, Vi, the leading telecom operator, has introduced two unique sachet data packs – 'Super Hour & Super Day'. These packs enable Vi prepaid users to freely consume data without any disruption, elevating the user experience.

Priced affordably,

Vi 'Super Hour' offers unlimited data for 60 minutes at Rs. 24, and Vi 'Super Day' offers 6GB for 24 hours at just Rs. 49.

These sachet packs are designed especially for the youth and young adults with heavy data requirement. With this, Vi prepaid users can also enjoy binge watching movies, streaming videos, listening to music, playing games, surfing, chatting, working or studying without worrying about data exhaustion. Vi customers can also use these packs to play Vi Games, enjoy latest movies and videos on Vi Movies & TV or listen to their favourite numbers on Vi Music on the Vi app.

Vi aims to help Indians thrive today and tomorrow by designing meaningful solutions that fulfil their needs and unlock endless possibilities.

Vi users can recharge with these data packs on the Vi App/ website or at a store nearby.

Dr Jitendra & Sahara Development & Society start free medical camp



TOP NEWS REPORT

BANI, Jul 6: Union Minister MOS PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh, in partnership with Sahara Development & Society (NGO), successfully launched a free medical camp in the town of Bani. The initiative aims to provide essential healthcare services to the underprivileged and underserved communities in the region.

Under the expert guidance of BMO Bani, Dr Rameshwar Singh, the medical camp witnessed an overwhelming response from the local residents. Dr Rameshwar Singh, along with the dedicated medical team from Sahara Development & Society's Arogya

Doctor on Wheel program, conducted medical examinations for approximately 60 patients. The camp also facilitated blood tests, and free medicines were distributed to those in need.

The event was graciously welcomed by Sh Bindraban, Sarpanch of Panchyat Sitti, who expressed his gratitude towards Dr Jitendra Singh, Sahara Manch, and BMO Bani, Dr Dev Raj for their unwavering commitment to the welfare of the community. The presence and active participation of Dr Rameshwar Singh further exemplified the team's dedication to providing quality healthcare services to those who

require them the most.

The initiative garnered additional support from various organizations, including Bharti Petroleum and Seva Bharti, who collaborated with Sahara Development & Society (NGO) under the visionary leadership of Dr Jatinder Singh Rana and Director, Shankar Singh Matam.

The successful execution of the event was made possible by the relentless efforts of Project Assistant, Sunil Kumar Bhagat, and Data Entry Operator, Manjeet Kumar. Furthermore, Mohan Singh, Ambulance Incharge ensured the smooth functioning of medical services during the camp.

J&K will always be indebted to Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookherjee: Brahmjyot

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 6: Brahm Jyot Satti, Senior leader and incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir along with BJP workers paid floral tribute to Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookherjee on his Birth Anniversary.

Perveen Badyal (Dist Vice President), Sanjay Verma (Mandal President Bakshi Nagar), Rakesh Pandey (Mandal President Amphala), Nath Pal Chowdhary, Ram Kumar, Arya Verma, Sachin Chaudhary and others were present on the occasion.

They paid floral tribute to Shyama Prasad Mookherjee and remembered the ideology and works of Shyama Prasad, sung patriotic



songs and raised slogans in favour of Dr. Shyama Prasad.

Brahm Jyot said that the life of Dr. Shyama Prasad is exemplary for the workers. He was the first to raise his voice

against Article 370. He opposed Nehru's policy of appeasement and Jammu and Kashmir will always be indebted to Dr Shyama Prasad.

He said Mukherjee, after resigning from the

Nehru cabinet, formed the Jana Sangh after discussing with Guru Golwalkar. He agitated in Kashmir against Two marks, Two legislations, Two Flags. As a result, the permit raj came to an

end in Kashmir.

He said BJP always followed the ideology of great leader like Shyama Prasad and his whole life motivate us and he will always remain alive in our hearts.

Advocates pay tributes to Dr S P Mookerjee on his birth Anniversary

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 6: Advocates of High Court of J&K and Ladakh paid tributes to Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder and BJP ideologue Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee on his birth Anniversary in a program organized by Advocates at Court Complex, Jammu. The Advocates remembered Mookerjee and stated that he dedicated his life to make a strong India.

Adv Amit Manhas, Adv Karan Sharma, Adv Mukesh Singh, Adv Sorabh Banotra, Adv Varun Kotwal, Adv Umesh Sharma, Adv Aman Bhagotra, Adv Achyut Dubey, Adv Nikash Sharma, Adv Bunny Singh, Adv Bahatar Singh, Adv



Sukhwinder Singh, Adv Aman Mahajan, Adv Bindusar Abrol, Adv Arjun Pathania, and many other Advocates paid their tributes to Mookerjee.

Speaking on the occasion, Adv Karan said that Dr Mookerjee's ideals and principles will inspire every generation in the country. He said Shyama Prasad Mookerjee sac-

rificed his life to make Jammu and Kashmir an integral part of India by giving this immortal slogan "Ek Nishaan, Ek Vidhaan, Ek Pradhaan" with the resolve to remove Article 370 and today PM Modi fulfilled his dream by Abrogating the Article which ultimately has saved people of UT from the decades old blunders of Congress and its allies.

EKA Mobility bags order of 57 e-buses from Mira-Bhayandar Municipal Corporation (MBMC)

TOP NEWS REPORT

MUMBAI, Jul 6: EKA Mobility, an electric vehicles & technology company, and a subsidiary of Pinnacle Industries Limited, today announced the acquisition of a significant order of 57 electric buses from the Mira-Bhayandar Municipal Corporation (MBMC).

This collaboration marks a major step towards enhancing public transportation infrastructure in the region and promoting clean mobility solutions. These electric buses will benefit approximately 1,33,15,200 passengers every year.

The deployment of these 57 electric buses is expected to save a gross of 33704 tonnes of CO2 emission as compared to diesel buses and is equivalent to planting 102134 trees.

With this order, EKA's order book has grown significantly, with more than 500 electric buses

and 5000 electric light commercial vehicle orders in the pipeline.

Each e-bus by EKA Mobility is indigenously designed to offer a comfortable and sustainable commuting experience, contributing to reduced carbon emissions, and promoting a sustainable future.

This fleet of e-buses is equipped with advanced features, including state-of-the-art battery technology and cutting-edge safety measures, ensuring a reliable and efficient transportation solution for the municipality and its residents.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Sudhir Mehta, Founder & Chairman of EKA by Pinnacle Mobility Solutions, said, "We are proud to collaborate with the Mira-Bhayandar Municipal Corporation as their preferred partner for electrifying their bus fleet. This order signifies a significant milestone for EKA Mobility and reflects our commitment to 'Making

India, for India & the world'. Our demo product was successfully inspected by MBMC's team recently and is a testament to the fact that design and making in India is now a reality. We look forward to commencing the deliveries in the coming months, which will further fortify our partnership with Mira-Bhayandar Municipal Corporation and help in environment-friendly mass mobility for the city of Mumbai."

The 57 e-buses ordered by the MBMC will be manufactured at EKA Mobility's state-of-the-art smart, lean facility, adhering to the highest quality standards. The buses will feature spacious interiors, comfortable seating, air-conditioning, and advanced passenger amenities to ensure a delightful travel experience. Additionally, the e-buses will be equipped with intelligent charging infrastructure to support efficient operations and mini-

mize downtime.

The adoption of electric buses by the MBMC aligns with the government's vision of transforming India into a sustainable and electric mobility hub. It serves as an exemplar for other municipalities across the country to embrace eco-friendly public transportation options and contribute to the nation's ambitious climate goals.

EKA Mobility is an automotive and technology company that will introduce sustainable, profitable & efficient new energy commercial vehicles across the country. The company has also developed a 9-meter city bus on a hydrogen fuel cell platform, that is uniquely designed and optimized to suit Indian road transportation needs. Going forward, the company plans to introduce multiple electric and hydrogen fuel-cell bus variants, along with an e-LCV range.

NCD & TB screening camp held at Guldanda

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Jul 6: Reaching out to the nomadic tribes residing in high altitude meadows with little or no access to the basic medicare facilities, a day-long NCD and Tuberculosis screening and awareness camp was organized at Guldanda Baderwah District Doda on Thursday.

The camp was held as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, organized by Block Medical Officer Baderwah Dr Mohd Ashraf Kuchay under the supervision of CMO Doda.

During the camp, more than 100 persons mostly above 30 years of age were examined for NCD as a part of the National Programme for the Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS). Besides, TB screening was also done by the staff and some samples of sputum were collect-



ed on the occasion for testing.

Speaking on the occasion, BMO Baderwah Dr Mohd Ashraf said that the health department aims to hold screening camps in every nook and corner of the block to detect NCDs such as hypertension, diabetes, cancer etc, besides educating the people about the importance of precautions and pre-emptive healthcare, as screening plays a pivotal role in detecting patients early and treating them effectively.

During the camp, hundreds of Nomadic tribes including women and elderly people besides people from the surrounding villages received the necessary treatment and free medicine at the campsite.

The medical team was headed by BMO Baderwah Dr Mohd Ashraf along with Tariq Hussain (Sup Phst), Davinder Kumar (Sup Lab Tech), Rameshwar Singh (Head Phst), Balvinder Singh (Health Educator) and Nasir Khateeb (Lab Tech NHM), who

rendered their services during the camp, with the help of local PRI Yasir Hussain, who also extended his support in making the camp successful.

The locals of the area including Sarpanch and all nomadic tribes camping at Guldanda area appreciated the efforts of health department particularly BMO Baderwah in conducting this medical camp, to which BMO assured that he will organize more such medical camps in the coming days.

Starting from beauty pageants to reality shows to web space, Mumbai girl Natasha Bhardwaj is loving every bit of her experience

MUMBAI girl Natasha Bhardwaj, who started her career with modelling and then participated in reality shows, is finally finding her feet in the OTT space. Her recent show *Ishq Next Door* is currently streaming on Jio Cinema and winning her much love. She is now eagerly anticipating Season 2 of *Mumbai Diaries*. This dance enthusiast talks about all things beautiful!

While in college, Natasha's brush with beauty pageants gave her the much-needed exposure. She considers being part of 'Fresh Face' and 'Miss Diva' pageants groomed her for an innings in the entertainment industry. "The exposure of being with famous actor-model Lara Dutta was just the right platform at that time," says Natasha.

Reality show *India's Next Superstar*, which was judged by Karan Johar and Rohit Shetty, was a significant milestone of her journey. "I got mentored by Mahesh Bhatt on this show. I feel fortunate to have been guided by a man who is an institution in himself."

Shows like *Pawan & Pooja* and *Mumbai Diaries* furthered her innings. "I am so grateful to Nikhil Advani sir for showing faith in me and entrusting me



with the role of Dr Diya in this show. This won me lots of love from the audience."

Happy girl

In the world today when relationship jargon has taken a leap,

Natasha was happy to come across a script that invoked old-school romance. "While deciding upon a project, I have a two-fold criteria – whether I would like to see it myself and, second,

how the character graph goes. The story of *Ishq Next Door* brought a smile to my face and I had amazing fun shooting for it."

The show's response has made her a happy girl. "Our show is trending on number one on Jio Cinema. I am getting a lot of messages where people share how they find it quite relatable. The content today is mostly about *maar dhaad*, so I am glad a sweet and simple show is being appreciated like this."

Monsoon magic has taken over Mumbai, and Natasha is making the most of it. "I am no more a student and not dependent on trains anymore, so I am enjoying drenching in Mumbai ki barish with my friends, followed by hot tea at home."

When not acting, Natasha fills her days with lots of activity. "Horse riding brings me peace; I love to dance and do yoga, and enjoy my workouts."

A couple of projects in the pipeline, she is at the liberty to speak only about one. "Mumbai Diaries Season 2 is what I am really looking forward to. Season one was appreciated much and I can vouch that this one will do well too," Natasha signs off.

Urvashi Rautela becomes only Indian Showstopper at Paris Fashion Week 2023



Bollywood diva Urvashi Rautela became the only Indian showstopper at the Paris Fashion Week 2023. Urvashi

embraced her fierce side as she slipped into a captivating black net dress that oozed glamour and sensuality. Her stunning black outfit has been created by LA Metamorphose, an ace designer renowned for pushing the boundaries of fashion.

To add an element of drama and sophistication to her ensemble, Urvashi draped a long fur stole on one side, cascading gracefully down her back. The rich black fur added a touch of luxury to the outfit, elevating her style to new heights. The asymmetric drape emphasized her slender frame and created a striking visual impact as she moved.

As for the make-up, she went all bold with black smudged eyes, long lashes, perfect contour and matte nude lip. She tied up her hair in a sleek tight bun. Urvashi accentuated her look with diamond rings and mini flower hoop earrings.

Hemant Kher joins Pushpa Impossible cast

Sony SAB's *Pushpa Impossible* is the story of Pushpa, a determined single mother portrayed by Karuna Pandey. Pushpa's constant pursuit of a life of dignity for herself and her children has been a powerful example of grit and determination.

Despite facing numerous challenges, including navigating her relationship with ex-husband Dilip, played by Jayesh More, Pushpa's optimistic and resourceful approach to life shines through. The plot is set to take an intriguing turn as the story moves to Patan, a place that has immense relevance in Pushpa's life. Hemant Kher is set to portray the role of Viren Setalvad, a manipulative businessman who holds the reins of the Patola weavers in Patan.

Hemant says, "Getting an opportunity to venture into televi-



sion with a show like *Pushpa Impossible* is a blessing. Viren truly lets me explore the depths of a complex and grey character. Playing this character comes with its own challenges, but I'm looking forward to bring-

ing Viren to life with all his sharpness, charm, and cunning. It will be interesting to see how Viren's entry will usher in new havoc for Pushpa and how she will deal with these headwinds in her journey."

Kajol, Kriti Sanon to star in Netflix film 'Do Patti'

Almost eight years after they worked together in "Dilwale", actors Kajol and Kriti Sanon are reuniting for the Netflix film "Do Patti", the streaming service announced Wednesday.

The upcoming movie marks the maiden production for writer Kanika Dhillon and Sanon under their newly-launched banners, Katha Pictures and Blue Butterfly Films, respectively.

Dhillon, whose film credits include "Kedarnath", "Manmarziyaan", and "Haseen Dillruba", said she hopes her production house goes on to become a platform that "empowers stories and storytellers".

"I am thrilled to embark on this new journey as a producer. 'Do Patti' is a compelling story, very close to my heart as a writer.

"And such talented actors like Kriti and Kajol and, of course, Netflix... The writer in me feels empowered today that apart from creating the world on paper, I can curate my vision into reality," Dhillon said in a statement.

According to Netflix, "Do Patti" is a "captivating mystery thriller set in the hills of north India".



Kajol, who previously starred in the streamer's films "Tribhanga" and "Lust Stories 2", said she is thrilled to team up with the streamer once again.

"Do Patti" has a standout script that promises a unique blend of adventure and mystery. It is a story that is not only rooted in India, but also promises the thrill

that can be enjoyed by entertainment enthusiasts across borders," the actor added.

Sanon said "Do Patti" holds a special place in her heart as it marks her debut as a producer. She announced the launch of her banner Blue Butterfly Films.

"I felt in my gut that I was ready to shift the gear and do more. I'm excited to collaborate with the extremely talented Kanika Dhillon as a producer and we couldn't have asked for a better partner than Netflix for this magical journey.

"Adding to our women power is the amazing Kajol ma'am, who I'm thrilled to be working again with after almost eight years (since 'Dilwale'). I just cannot wait for this ride to begin!" the "Adipurush" actor said.

Monika Shergill, vice president of content for Netflix India, said the streaming platform is excited about collaborating with Kajol, Sanon and Dhillon.

"We're looking forward to working together to bring their creative vision to our audiences and continue to tell riveting and exciting local stories," said Shergill.

Shekhar Kapur reveals theme of 'Masoom' sequel

Acclaimed filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, who has helmed renowned films such as *Bandit Queen* and *Elizabeth*, has revealed the theme for the sequel to his 1983 directorial debut *Masoom*. Written by the legendary Gulzar, *Masoom* was an adaptation of Erich Segal's 1980 novel *Man, Woman and Child*. It followed a happily married couple and their two daughters whose lives were disrupted with the arrival of a boy, who is the man's son from an earlier affair.

The cast included Naseeruddin Shah, Shabana Azmi, Jugad Hansraj, Supriya Pathak, Saeed Jaffrey and Urmila Matondkar. The sequel, titled *Masoom...The New Generation*, is about the 'idea of home,' the filmmaker said.

Shekhar was in London for the National Film Awards, where his last film *What's Love Got to Do with It?* scored nine nominations and won four awards, including Best Director, Best British Film, Best Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor. "If you look at *What's Love Got to Do with It?* you realise it was a joint family system, which in that part of the world lasted a



long time. And not just India, but across South Asia," he said.

"One of the big things that has been happening is that kids have been moving away — from small towns to Mumbai, Mumbai to the west. They go out for their education and don't go back, and every time I've talked to them, there is this little thing that bothers them,

a guilt that never goes away, a feeling that 'I left my parents,' he added.

Details of how exactly the film ties in with the 1983 film are under wraps. All Shekhar will reveal at this stage is that it will revolve around a couple in their 80s who are in a crumbling house and will involve 'generation change'.

Karanvir Bohra talks about an action sequence in Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum

Sony Entertainment Television's *Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum* is a narrative that sees Surilii (Tina Datta) entering the Barot mansion as Shivendra's (Jay Bhanushali) wife. Irking Damayanti Devi (Kitu Gidwani), who shuns their union and believes their marriage will ruin the functioning of the royal way of life, both Shivendra and Surilii agree to stay back and protect the family's reputation until the successful completion of Raghavendra's (Aabhaas Mehta) and Swatilekha's (Purna Wanjari) wedding. Meanwhile, Samar, played by Karanvir Bohra, cunningly exploits the discord between Shivendra and Raghavendra by further antagonising Raghavendra.

Reflecting on the



intense shoot for this sequence, Karanvir says, "I believe in pushing boundaries and challenging myself as an actor.

Shooting a 4 to 5-minute gunshot sequence in a single take with Jay and Kitu ma'am was an exhilarating experience. It requires immense focus, co-ordination and trust in each other's abilities. We planned every detail before shooting the sequence, involving extensive preparation and management.

The sequence wouldn't have been possible without the support of the entire crew, who appreciated our efforts and dedicated themselves to creating a visually captivating experience. It was both challenging and enjoyable."

BJP leaders of eastern, northeastern states meet in Assam's Guwahati; 142 Lok Sabha seats in focus

Eight northeastern states have a total of 25 Lok Sabha seats

GUWAHATI, Jul 6 (Agencies): Senior BJP leaders of 12 states in east and northeast India met in Assam's Guwahati on Thursday to strategise on the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The meeting is being attended by BJP's national general secretary BL Santosh, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, Tripura CM Manik Saha, party MPs and MLAs, and state unit presidents, among others.

Strengthening the organisation and election strategy are among the key issues that will be discussed at the day-long meeting, BJP's Assam president Bhabesh Kalita told reporters.

"Our goal is to ensure the return of Narendra Modi as the prime minister for the third consecutive term and we are work-



ing towards that end," he told reporters before the meeting.

BJP's in-charge for the Assam Bajjayant Panda said his party does not prepare only before the elections but stays in touch with the people throughout the year.

"This particular meeting will discuss organisational issues

in all state units in the east and northeast," he added.

Before the meeting, the BJP leaders paid their obeisance to Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee on the occasion of his birth anniversary at the party's state headquarters. There are a total of 142 Lok

Sabha seats in these 12 states and in 2019, BJP won 68 of them.

The eight northeastern states have a total of 25 Lok Sabha seats with Assam having the highest of 14. Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura have two seats each, while Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim have one seat each.

Among the eastern states, West Bengal has 42 seats, Bihar has 40 seats, Odisha has 21 and Jharkhand has 14 seats.

The meeting is also likely to discuss the Assembly elections in Mizoram, which would be due later this year.

BJP leaders of the northern, central and western states will meet in New Delhi on July 7, and those of the southern states in Hyderabad on July 8.

Damage control: Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Chouhan washes feet of tribal labourer involved in urination case

Apologises to the tribal from Sidhi district at his official residence in Bhopal



BHOPAL, Jul 6 (Agencies): Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj

Singh Chouhan on Thursday washed the feet of Dashmat Rawat,

the tribal on whom a person was caught on video urinating.

Chouhan apologised to the tribal from Sidhi district while washing his feet at his official residence in Bhopal.

Chouhan said in the state citizens are gods.

The accused Parvesh Shukla was arrested on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday.

Chouhan faces a tough election in the state later this year.

22-year-old worker dies in Thane construction site; case against contractor for negligence

THANE, Jul 6 (Agencies): A 22-year-old worker died after an iron rod fell on him at a construction site and pierced through his body in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place on July 1 in Badlapur area and the police on Wednesday registered a case against an unnamed contractor under Indian Penal Code Section 304-A (causing death by negligence), an official from Badlapur police station

said.

The victim was working at the construction site where some workers were lifting iron rods from a duct to upper floors, he said.

One of the rods accidentally fell on the victim and pierced through his body.

The other workers present there pulled out the rod and rushed the victim to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him brought dead, the official said.

The police initially registered a case of acci-

dental death but after receiving the autopsy report, converted it into a case against the contractor of causing death by negligence, he said.

The police said the contractor had not provided personal protective equipment (PPEs) to the workers and had not taken any precautions for their safety, leading to the accident and death of the worker.

No one has been arrested so far, the official said, adding a probe was underway into the case.

LG Saxena's move to stop specialists' engagement will throttle government's work: Delhi CM Kejriwal

NEW DELHI, Jul 6 (Agencies): Stopping the engagement of specialists and advisers will "completely stragulate" Delhi government and its services, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Thursday, hoping the move will be quashed by the Supreme Court.

Kejriwal's remarks came days after Lt Governor VK Saxena approved the termination of engagements of 400 specialists working with the Delhi government.

In a follow-up to the mass removal, the Services Department on Wednesday wrote to different departments and agencies of government to stop engagement of persons as fellows and advisers without the



approval of the LG.

"This will completely stragulate Delhi govt and its services. I don't know what does Hon'ble LG achieve by doing all this? I hope Hon'ble SC immediately



quashes it," Kejriwal said in a tweet on Thursday.

Saxena terminated the services of around 400 'specialists' appointed by the Kejriwal government in different depart-

ments, citing alleged irregularities in recruitment.

"... All the departments/organizations/boards, etc. under Govt. of NCT of Delhi are therefore directed... All the departments shall immediately stop engagements of all the Fellows/Associate, Fellows/Advisors/Dy. Advisors/Specialists/Senior Research Officers/Consultants, by whatever name, wherein approval of the Hon'ble Lt Governor, Delhi has not been obtained till date," said the Services department order.

It also asked the Finance Department not to release salaries henceforth for those engaged without the LG's approval.

Woman Shot Dead Outside School In Manipur's Imphal West District

GUWAHATI, Jul 6 (Agencies): A woman was shot dead outside a school in Manipur's Imphal West district by unidentified assailants, the police said on Thursday, amid ongoing ethnic clashes in the state that have been raging for over two months.

The incident has sparked panic in the area, where schools reopened a day ago. The woman has not been identified yet, the

police said.

The incident came a day after security forces disrupted a confrontation in the Kangpokpi district between two armed groups from the Mapao and Awang Sekmai regions, news agency reported.

In a separate incident, the house of an Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) personnel was set ablaze by a mob in the Thoubal district, following his successful efforts in preventing riot-

ers from looting firearms from a police armoury.

The IRB personnel, part of a unit safeguarding the armoury, became a target after he halted a riotous crowd from storming the 3rd IRB camp at Wangbal.

The deadly confrontation led to the death of a 27-year-old man, Ronaldo, who was critically injured and later died en route to a hospital in Imphal.

An additional 10

people suffered injuries during the clash, with six in serious condition receiving treatment at a hospital in Imphal.

In light of these incidents, the Manipur government has announced a further five-day extension of the suspension of internet services across the state until July 10th.

The internet ban, first imposed on May 3, was enforced in an attempt to prevent the proliferation of hate speech,

inflammatory images, and video messages that could potentially incite further unrest.

The ongoing turmoil in Manipur initially erupted after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised to contest the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.

Since then, the conflict has claimed over 100 lives, injured hundreds more, and displaced thousands into relief camps.

Panic at Telangana school after venomous snake bites Class 4 girl



HYDERABAD, Jul 6 (Agencies): A venomous snake bit a Class 4 girl student at a government school in Telangana's Kamareddy, creating panic in the entire

locality.

The incident took place on Thursday morning at Machareddy Mini Gurukulam School, a government school in Telangana's Kamaredd-

dy. According to sources, the Class 4 girl was sitting in a verandah when the snake appeared from nowhere and bit her, causing her to cry in pain.

The principal of the school rushed the girl to the Kamareddy Hospital for treatment.

Soon after the attack, people in the area killed the snake, but four more snakes appeared in the verandah.

Locals later killed two more snakes.

We made the move after consulting legal experts to avoid disqualification: NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal

MUMBAI, Jul 6 (Agencies): Senior Nationalist Congress Party leader Chhagan Bhujbal on Thursday said the recent developments in the party, culminating in Ajit Pawar taking oath as deputy CM, happened after legal experts were consulted to escape disqualification.

Addressing a news conference here, Bhujbal also said that Ajit Pawar and other leaders will decide on whether to use photos of Sharad Pawar on posters.

Even after Sharad Pawar said his photo should be used only with his permission and by people who were of the same ideology, his photo featured on a poster set on stage where Ajit Pawar's faction met on Wednesday. Bhujbal said 42 to 43 NCP MLAs have signed



affidavits in support of Ajit Pawar.

"When it was decided to join the government under the leadership of Ajit Pawar, law experts were consulted and decisions were taken thereafter," he said.

"After consulting two-four experts, steps were taken to escape disqualification," Bhujbal said.

The party's constitution and electoral rules

were followed before joining the government headed by Eknath Shinde, he said.

Bhujbal was among the nine NCP leaders to take oath as minister in Sunday's ceremony.

"We had earlier suggested Sharad Pawar that his daughter be made NCP president and Ajit Pawar be allowed to handle Maharashtra," Bhujbal said.

Tamil Nadu Minister K Ponmudy acquitted in land grabbing case

CHENNAI, Jul 6 (Agencies): A special court here trying cases against MPs and MLAs on Thursday acquitted Tamil Nadu Higher Education Minister K Ponmudy in a land grabbing case.

Holding that the prosecution had failed to prove the case beyond any reasonable doubt, Special Judge G Jayavel acquitted Ponmudy, a senior DMK leader, and six others.

The prosecution case was that during the

period 1996-2001 when Ponmudy was Transport minister in the then DMK regime, he had grabbed 3,630 sq. ft. of government land at Saidapet in the city and registered it in his mother-in-law's name.

Following a complaint, the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption filed the present case against Ponmudy and 9 others.

During the pendency of the case, his mother-in-law and two others died.



BJP worker found dead in Bengal's Birbhum, party says TMC behind murder

BIRBHUM, Jul 6 (Agencies): The body of a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) worker, the husband of an independent candidate supporting BJP, was found in a village in West Bengal's Birbhum on Thursday. The deceased has been identified as Dilip Mahara (48), a resident of Muhammad Bazar block.

The deceased was the Vice-President of Hinglo Gram Panchayat. Though the reason behind his death is yet to be ascertained, the party has alleged that the ruling Trinamool Congress has killed the BJP worker.

Local BJP leaders are planning to gherao Muhammad Bazar Police station. Sources at the police confirmed that they have begun a probe into the matter but no arrests have been made so far.

Earlier in the day, four CPI(M) workers, including a candidate, were



grievously injured after they were attacked by criminals in Murshidabad. The CPM has also blamed the TMC for the attack.

The Opposition claimed that a few TMC workers attacked CPI(M) workers with crude bombs in which a Zila Parishad candidate, Badar Sheikh, was injured.

On Monday, police recovered the body of a BJP leader, Bankim Hansda, from the Bodo area of the state's Purulia district. "Police recovered the body of a BJP leader named Bankim Hansda from the Bodo area of Purulia district. Further investigation into the matter is under-

way," said a police officer.

Right from nomination filing, violence has marred the Bengal panchayat elections, which are scheduled to be held in the state on July 8. The results will be announced on July 11. Several people have been killed and many injured in poll-related clashes and attacks over the last month.

In the backdrop of panchayat poll violence in the state, Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose on Wednesday constituted a committee primarily to look into the matter of maintaining peace and social integration in the state, agency reported, citing sources.

Toxic gas leak in South Africa kills 16 people, including 3 children

Deaths were caused by nitrate gas that leaked from a gas cylinder being kept in a shack, says emergency services spokesman

JOHANNESBURG, Jul 6 (Agencies): At least 16 people, including three children, were killed by a leak of a toxic nitrate gas being used by illegal miners to process gold in a settlement of closely packed metal shacks, South African police and local officials said.

Emergency services initially announced on Wednesday that as many as 24 people might be dead in the Angelo settlement in Boksburg, a city on the eastern outskirts of Johannesburg. But police and Gauteng Province Premier Panyaza Lesufi later said the number of deaths had been confirmed as 16 after a recount of the bodies.

"It's not a nice scene at all ... It's painful, emotionally draining and tragic," Lesufi, who visited the scene, was quoted as saying in news reports.

Teams were searching the area looking for other casualties deep into the night. The bodies of the victims remained lying on the ground hours after the leak was reported around 8 pm as emergency services waited for forensic investigators and pathologists to arrive to process the scene. The bodies were still there at 3 am.

"We can't move anybody. The bodies are still where they are on the ground," said emergency services spokesman William Ntladi.



A forensic investigator was seen covering the body of a small child with a blanket. Another body could be seen covered in a white cloth with a shoe sticking out. It lay under a strip of yellow police tape cordoning off the area.

Police said the three children killed were aged 1, 6 and 15. Two people were taken to the hospital for treatment, police said.

Boksburg is the city where 41 people died after a truck carrying liquefied petroleum gas got stuck under a bridge and exploded on Christmas Eve.

Ntladi said Wednesday's deaths were caused by nitrate gas that leaked from a gas cylinder being kept in a shack. He said the canister had emptied out in the leak and teams were able to begin going over an area

stretching out 100 metres (100 yards) from the cylinder to check for more casualties.

Investigators were searching through narrow alleys between shacks, cast into darkness by the lack of streetlights — a common situation in the deeply impoverished informal settlements found in and around South Africa's cities. Six police cars, an armoured vehicle and one ambulance were parked at the entrance to the Angelo settlement.

Ntladi said the information authorities had indicated the cylinder that caused the leak was being used by illegal miners to separate gold from dirt and rock.

Lesufi, the Gauteng premier, tweeted videos of the dusty inside of a shack where at least four gas cylinders can be seen on metal stands. The video also

shows what Lesufi said was the cylinder responsible for the leak lying on the floor next to the entrance of the shack.

Authorities didn't say if the illegal miners they believed to be responsible for the gas leak were among the casualties.

Illegal mining is rife in the gold-rich areas around Johannesburg, where miners go into closed off and disused mines to search for any deposits left over.

Mining fatalities underground are also common and the South African government department responsible for mining announced recently that at least 31 illegal miners were believed to have died in a gas explosion in a disused mine in the city of Welkom in central South Africa. The cause was methane gas, the mining department said.

Wednesday's tragedy was likely to stoke more anger at illegal miners, who are often migrants from neighbouring countries, operate in organised gangs and are blamed for bringing crime into neighbourhoods.

Violence against illegal miners erupted last year and raged for days in an area west of Johannesburg after a group of 80 men, some of whom were believed to be illegal miners, were charged with gang-raping eight women who were working on a TV shoot at a disused mine.

27 dead, 17 injured as bus plunges off road in Mexico



OAXACA, Jul 6 (Agencies): At least 27 people were killed in Mexico when a passenger bus careened off a mountain road and plummeted into a ravine Wednesday in the southern state of Oaxaca, police said today.

Images from the scene showed the mangled wreckage of the vehicle lying on its side at the bottom of a steep cliff as rescuers worked nearby.

"According to a preliminary toll, 27 people died and 17 injured were transferred to different hospitals in the region for medical attention," Oaxaca state prosecutor Bernardo Rodriguez Alamilla told AFP by telephone.

An investigation has been launched into the cause of the accident, with early indications suggesting mechanical failure, he added.

At least six of the injured were unconscious and in serious condition when they were rushed to hospital, according to the civil protection agency.

The bus, operated by a local transport company, had left the capital Mexico City on Tuesday night and was heading for the town of Santiago de Yosondua, authorities said.

"The driver of the vehicle presumably lost control... and unfortunately it fell into a ravine more than 25 meters (80 feet) deep," a state official, Jesus Romero, said at a press conference.

The company operating the bus provides a daily service from Mexico City, he said.

Injured passengers were transferred to hospitals in the area, while emergency services retrieved the bodies of those killed, Romero added.

The accident happened in Magdalena Penasco, a town located in a mountainous area home to remote communities, winding roads and steep ravines.

"We deeply regret the accident that occurred in Magdalena Penasco," Oaxaca state governor Salomon Jara wrote on social media, offering condolences to the families of the deceased.

"Our government personnel are already working on the rescue operation and to provide all the support to the injured people," he said.

Police images published on social media showed the top half of the bus almost completely destroyed.

Deadly road accidents are common in Mexico, usually due to high speeds, poor vehicle conditions or driver fatigue. Many people rely on buses, sometimes operated by small transportation companies serving remote communities with aging vehicles.

Crashes involving freight trucks have also increased on the country's highways.

On Wednesday, a fiery smash involving cargo vehicles left eight people injured on a highway in the central state of Queretaro, authorities said.

In May, at least 18 Mexican tourists died when their bus plunged into a ravine in the western state of Nayarit.

The same month, 13 people were killed when a passenger van and a semi-truck collided on a highway in the northeastern state of Tamaulipas.

Road safety campaigners have called for stricter regulations, such as a ban on trucks pulling two cargo trailers.

Twitter rival Threads crosses 10 million users within hours of launch

WASHINGTON, Jul 6 (Agencies): More than 10 million people have signed up to Threads, Meta's rival to Twitter, within the first few hours of its launch, the Facebook parent's CEO Mark Zuckerberg said Thursday.

Threads is the biggest challenger yet to Elon Musk-owned Twitter, which has seen a series of potential competitors emerge but not yet replace one of social media's most iconic companies, despite its epic struggles.

The app went live on Apple and Android app stores in 100 countries at 2300 GMT on Wednesday, and will run with no ads for now.

"10 million sign ups in seven hours," Zuckerberg wrote on his official Threads account Thursday.

Accounts were already active for celebrities such as Jennifer Lopez, Shakira and Hugh Jackman, as well as media outlets including The Washington Post and The Economist.

Zuckerberg spent the first few hours of the platform's launch replying to new users.

"One thing that's up is the number of world champion MMA fighters on Threads, especially now that you're here!" he wrote in a reply to American MMA fighter Jon Jones.

"Round one of this thing is getting off to a good start," he said in another.

Zuckerberg also offered a shot across the bow at Musk -- the pair are known to be bitter rivals, and have even offered to meet each other in a fighting cage to wrestle it out.

In his first tweet in over a decade, Zuckerberg posted a Spiderman meme in an apparent reference to the similarity of the two platforms.



Back on Threads, he wrote: "It'll take some time, but I think there should be a public conversations app with 1 billion+ people on it. Twitter has had the opportunity to do this but hasn't nailed it. Hopefully we will."

Twitter has said it has more than 200 million daily users.

"Be kind"

Threads was introduced as a clear spin-off of Instagram, which offers a built-in audience of more than two billion users, thereby sparing the new platform the challenge of starting from scratch.

Zuckerberg is widely understood to be taking advantage of Musk's chaotic ownership of Twitter to push out the new product, which Meta hopes will become the go-to communication channel for celebrities, companies and politicians.

"It's as simple as that: if an Instagram user with a large number of followers such as Kardashian or a Bieber or a Messi begins posting on Threads regularly, a new platform could quickly thrive," strategic financial analyst Brian Wieser said on Substack.

Analyst Jasmine Engberg from Insider Intelligence said Threads only needs one out of four Instagram monthly users "to make it as big as Twitter."

"Twitter users are desperate for an alternative, and Musk has given Zuckerberg an opening," she added.

Instagram chief Adam Mosseri told users that

Threads was intended to build "an open and friendly platform for conversations."

"The best thing you can do if you want that too is be kind," he said.

Under Musk, Twitter has seen content moderation reduced to a minimum with glitches and rash decisions scaring away celebrities and major advertisers.

Musk hired advertising executive Linda Yaccarino to steady the ship, but she has not been spared his whimsy.

The Tesla tycoon said last week that he was limiting access to Twitter to ward off AI companies from "scraping" the site to train their technology.

Musk then angered Twitter's most devoted aficionados by declaring that access to its TweetDeck product -- which allows users to view a fast flow of tweets at once -- would be for paying customers only.

EU 'many months' away

Meta has its legion of critics too, especially in Europe, and despite Instagram's massive user base, they could slow the site's development.

The company is criticized mainly for its handling of personal data -- the essential ingredient for targeted ads that help it rake in billions of dollars in profits every quarter.

Mosseri said he regretted that the EU launch was delayed, but if Meta had waited for regulatory clarity from Brussels, Threads would remain "many, many, many, months away."

"I was worried that our

window would close, because timing is important," he added to Platformer, a tech news site.

According to a source close to the matter, Meta was wary of a new law called the Digital Markets Act (DMA), which sets strict rules for the world's "gatekeeper" internet companies.

One rule restricts platforms from transferring personal data between products, as would potentially be the case between Threads and Instagram.

Meta was caught out for doing just that after it bought the messaging app WhatsApp, and European regulators will be on high alert to ensure that the company doesn't do so illegally with Threads.

Back to Twitter?

Globally, the Threads hashtag on Twitter has garnered over a million tweets, with many users jokingly suggesting users would be returning to Twitter.

"10 mins into threads app. Me coming back to Twitter," one user wrote, sharing a video of a man sprinting.

Another shared an image of Homer Simpson running back and forth between the Twitter and Threads logos.

By midday local time Thursday, Threads was the top trending topic on Japan Twitter, but many users expressed concerns over data privacy.

"Threads is run by Meta, isn't it? It will definitely leak your real name or the game you are playing, or put you in the list of your workplace company friends," wrote one user.

Another said: "Meta loves to collect private information and I don't trust the way it treats private information. I also have the impression that this is a company hated by EU, so I'm reluctant."

Elon Musk predicts Tesla self-driving cars 'later this year'

SHANGHAI, Jul 6 (Agencies): Electric car giant Tesla is set to realise fully autonomous vehicles "later this year", CEO Elon Musk said Thursday, in the billionaire's latest forecast for the long-anticipated milestone.

"In terms of where Tesla is at this stage, I think we are very close to achieving full self-driving without human supervision," Musk said via video link at the opening ceremony of an artificial intelligence conference in Shanghai.

"This is only speculation, but I think we'll achieve full self-driving, maybe what you would call four or five, I think later this year," the billionaire added,



referring to two of the most advanced levels of autonomous driving technology.

The mercurial entrepreneur and Twitter owner admitted that he had been wrong in previous predictions on this timeline, but added: "I feel like we're closer to it than we ever have been."

Musk has missed his

own deadlines for a fully autonomous vehicle -- and Tesla's driver-assistance technology has provoked regulatory probes in the United States.

China is the world's biggest electric vehicle market and Tesla announced in April it would build a second massive factory in Shanghai.

His appearance at the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai marks his latest effort to maintain close links to China, following a visit to the country in May.

Electric vehicles make up a quarter of car sales in China, the world's largest car market, and dozens of new models from domestic and Western brands were unveiled in April at the country's first auto show since Covid restrictions were lifted.

Tesla reported a drop in first-quarter earnings this year, with the company undertaking a series of price cuts in the face of competition from other automakers.

Ukraine, Russia Should Stop Using Cluster Bombs: Human Rights Watch Dog



KHARKIV, Jul 6 (Agencies): Both Russian and Ukrainian forces have used cluster munitions that have killed Ukrainian civilians, Human Rights Watch said in a report on Thursday as the US weighs whether to answer the Ukraine government's call to supply it with the weapons.

Human Rights Watch, an international advocacy group, called on both

Russia and Ukraine to stop using the weapons, and urged the US not to supply them.

More than 120 countries have signed on to an international treaty banning the weapons, which typically scatter a large number of smaller so-called bomblets over a large area that can kill or maim unwary civilians months or years later.

Russia, Ukraine and

the US have all declined to sign the treaty.

A senior Pentagon official said late last month that cluster munitions would be useful for Ukraine in pushing back against Russian forces, but they had not been approved for Kyiv yet because of congressional restrictions and concerns from allies.

Ukraine fired cluster munition rockets into Russian-controlled areas in and around the eastern Ukrainian city of Izium last year after Russia invaded Ukraine, Human Rights Watch said, citing interviews with more than 100 residents, witnesses and local emergency personnel.

The Ukrainian attacks killed at least eight civilians and wounded at least 15 civilians in Izium, Human Rights

Watch said.

The group has previously reported that Russia's use of cluster munitions in Ukraine has killed scores of civilians, and the United Nations' Human Rights Council has also documented the use of such bombs by both sides.

"Cluster munitions used by Russia and Ukraine are killing civilians now and will continue to do so for many years," Mary Wareham, the group's acting arms director, said in a statement. "Both sides should immediately stop using them and not try to get more of these indiscriminate weapons."

The Ukraine government has urged members of the US Congress to press President Joe Biden's administration to approve sending over cluster bombs.

Indian, US Navies Conclude 11-Day Military Exercise In Kerala

The seventh edition of the Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise concludes on Thursday, the Indian Navy said.

KOCHI, Jul 6 (Agencies): The navies of India and the US carried out a 11-day military exercise in Kochi that focused on boosting interoperability and operational coordination.

The seventh edition of the Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise concludes on Thursday, the Indian Navy said.

The two navies have been participating in joint salvage and EOD exercises since 2005.

The exercise saw deployment of front-



line warships from both sides in addition to specialist diving and EOD teams.

"The diving teams of both the countries shared experiences on maritime salvage and

trained together in various facets of EOD operations on land as well as sea," the Indian Navy

said in a statement.

It said the exercise also saw the conduct of joint training exercises towards enhancing interoperability, cohesiveness and gaining from best practices in maritime salvage and EOD operations.

"The constructive engagements on operational terms enhanced the skill-sets of the diving teams in a number of diverse disciplines such as mine detection and neutralisation, wreck location and salvage," the Navy said.

113 Cattle Seized, 6 Arrested After Massive Crackdown In Assam

GUWAHATI, Jul 6 (Agencies): In a massive crackdown on cattle smuggling, Assam Police on Thursday recovered a total of 113 animals from three separate trucks in the state.

The police seized 35 live animals from a truck in Jorabat. The driver and another passenger, both from Nagaon district, were arrested. Similarly, another truck carrying 42 cattle was intercepted at Sonapur, and two people, including the driver, were arrested. A third truck carrying 36 cattle was intercepted in Nagaon district, and two people were arrested. All three trucks were headed to Meghalaya.

"Most of the cattle trucks that were seized were going towards Meghalaya. We have arrested the drivers and started interrogation," said a police official.

"It's a big racket and due to the alertness of our police team, we successfully apprehended the trucks that were illegally transporting cattle to Meghalaya," he added.

The Assam Cattle Preservation Act, 2021, empowers the police to enter

the house of an accused and inspect, search, and seize properties acquired in the last six years with money earned from illegal cattle trade.

The Assam Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021, bans the slaughter and sale of beef in areas where Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs are in the majority, or within a five-kilometre radius of a temple, satra (Vaishnavite monastery), or other institutions as may be prescribed by the authorities.

However, despite the stringent laws, cattle smuggling has been thriving in the state. On Monday, 40 animals were rescued from a tanker truck near Sonapur in Guwahati leading to the arrest of two people. According to sources, the cattle were being smuggled from Dhemaji in Assam to Meghalaya.

"Most of the smuggled cattle that were seized were coming from Dhemaji side. The cattle smugglers lift the stray cattle from Dhemaji and Silapathar areas and transport them to Meghalaya and Bangladesh for consumption," a source said.

Process on, wait for its outcome: BJP on UCC implementation

BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad noted at a press conference that the Uniform Civil Code has been a part of the ruling party's manifesto

NEW DELHI, Jul 6 (Agencies): The BJP on Thursday said a process on the issue of adopting a Uniform Civil Code is underway and people should wait for its outcome, as it side-stepped a query on whether the measure will be implemented soon.

BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad noted at a press conference that the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) has been a part of the ruling party's manifesto.

"A process is on. You should wait for its out-



come," he said in reply to a question.

The UCC has hogged the limelight after the Law Commission sought people's views on the contentious issue through a public notice on June 13. Prime Minister Narendra Modi later made a strong push for

the country having one civil code.

Some groups, including those representing sections of Muslims and tribals, have opposed the UCC while most opposition parties have linked the BJP's push for it to the upcoming polls, including the Lok Sabha

elections in 2024.

The UCC is one of the foundational planks of the BJP.

At the presser, Prasad also made light of RJD leader Lalu Prasad Yadav's claim that the BJP will be defeated in the 2024 polls, saying he had said the same thing in 2014 and 2019.

He should be concerned about all the corruption cases against him, the BJP leader said.

The BJP will win all 40 Lok Sabha seats from Bihar in 2024, he asserted.

Congress leaders in Rajasthan will work together to ensure party's victory: Sachin Pilot

NEW DELHI, Jul 6 (Agencies): Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Thursday said the party's lawmakers and functionaries in Rajasthan will work together to ensure its victory in the upcoming assembly polls.

After a meeting convened by the Congress leadership here to discuss the poll preparedness of the party, he said it discussed ways on how to buck the trend of the state voting out incumbent governments.

Pilot also said that he raised the issues of corruption of the previ-



ous BJP government in the state, paper leaks and Rajasthan Public Service Commission reform.

He expressed satisfaction that the party leadership has taken cognisance of the issues raised by him as well as those relating to the youth, and has given appropriate directions.

The Congress leader said the party will make corruption an election issue in Rajasthan. The Congress government in Rajasthan is serious about acting against corruption that happened during the previous BJP rule, he told reporters after the meeting.

"There was a meaningful discussion on how to

buck trend of voting out incumbent government in Rajasthan. We discussed all issues with an open mind and all expressed confidence that we can repeat the government in Rajasthan," Pilot said.

"The Congress organisation, MLAs, ministers will work together. We want to repeat our government in Rajasthan," he said, adding that the Congress had won in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in 2018 and this will be repeated this time again with a massive mandate.

Centre Condemns Posters Inciting Violence Against Diplomats In Canada

NEW DELHI, Jul 6 (Agencies): Days after posters inciting violence against Indian diplomats surfaced in Canada and a few other countries, India on Thursday said such activities are not at all acceptable.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi also said that space must not be given to extremist and terrorist elements in the name of freedom of expression.

At a media briefing, he also asserted that the safety of Indian diplomats and



the country's missions is of utmost importance for the government.

Whoever becomes PM should not be without a wife, says Lalu on Opposition face for top job

NEW DELHI, Jul 6 (Agencies): Whoever becomes the Prime Minister should not be without a wife and staying at PM's residence without a wife is wrong, said former Chief Minister of Bihar and president of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) Lalu Prasad Yadav on Thursday.

The RJD chief has come to New Delhi for a medical check up. He claimed that 17 Opposition parties would unite in Bengaluru and the Mahagathbandhan would wipe out the BJP.

When asked about the PM face from the Opposition and his earlier advice to Rahul Gandhi to get



married, RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav said, "Staying at PM's residence without a wife is wrong. This should be done away with."

When asked about how many seats the alliance will get in the 2024 elections, he said, "Mahagathbandhan will return to power with at least 300 seats."

On Ajit Pawar's "retirement"

remark for Sharad Pawar, RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav said, "Why should he retire just because his nephew demands? Does an old man ever retire in politics? No one retires in politics."

Earlier, RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav arrived in Delhi for a medical checkup. Speaking on Opposition unity he said, "We had a meeting in Patna now we will have a second meeting at Bengaluru. People from 17 parties are uniting. Let them (BJP) say whatever they want. They will be wiped out. Sharad Pawar is a strong leader, but this is all orchestrated by his nephew (Ajit Pawar)."

NOTICE

I, Mudasir Hussan Zarger, S/o Gh. Hussan Zarger, R/o Mohalla Haveli Bhaaderwah Additional district Bhaaderwah district Doda J&K UT, I am applying for new Registration no of vehicle duster bearing Registration No. DL1CQ6950, Chassis no MEEHSRA 36D7027508, Engine No. D025031. Objections if any may be reported to (ARTO) office Doda within 07 days of the publication of this notice.

FROM PAGE 1

Amid tight security, another batch of over 6500 pilgrims leave Jammu for Amarnath

With this, a total of 36,823 pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for the valley since June 30 when the first batch of pilgrims began the yatra, which was flagged off by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

The administration has registered over 3,000 fresh pilgrims on tatkal yatra counters in Jammu for their onward journey to Amarnath, officials said.

Over 300 pilgrims, who were carrying fake permits, have also been given permits after fresh registration at on-the-spot counters in Jammu.

These pilgrims were duped by the travel agencies by providing them fake registration documents for their yatra. Three persons have been arrested in this connection so far, they said.

Amarnath Yatra 2023 | langars become lifeline for Amarnath Pilgrims

popular delicacies from Jammu to all pilgrims," said Raj Kumar Gupta, the head of one 'Bajrang langar' set up at the base camp.

MP Jugal Kishore Sharma said, "Thou-

sands of people contribute to this greatest act of humanity, providing free langars to pilgrims during the two-month-long yatra." Hundreds of volunteers also work tirelessly round the clock for the community kitchens to ensure that every pilgrim's needs are satisfied.

Rahul Kumar, a volunteer who hails from Madhya Pradesh, expressed his enthusiasm for the work at the langar. "Our dedicated team has eagerly awaited the start of the Amarnath Yatra. Now, we are serving pilgrims day and night, pouring our hearts into this selfless service," he said.

Pilgrims have also expressed their satisfaction with the food management at the langars, appreciating the wide variety of options available at the base camp.

Narinder Kumar from Pune said, "The langars here have exceeded our expectations. The diverse range of dishes from various langars truly represents the unity of our nation and we are grateful for it." Apart from providing nourishing meals, the base camp also offers daily musical shows and cultural performances, providing entertainment and respite for the pilgrims.

"The musical shows and mandalis held here are a wonderful way to unwind after the arduous journey. They bring joy and create a sense of community among the pilgrims," Sushma Rathore from Jaipur said.

The Baba Amarnath Bavalpuri Seva Mandal from Punjab has been setting up langars in Jammu and Kashmir for the past 23 years. They provide morning tea, lunch, evening tea, and dinner to pilgrims at the Chandanwari base camp.

Vinod Kumar, the head of the community kitchen, said he was honoured to serve the devotees of Lord Shiva and that providing meals and beverages is the langar's contribution to the sacred pilgrimage.

The langars also strictly adhere to the government's ban on over 40 food items during the yatra, which was issued following directives of the shrine board.

"We diligently follow the orders of the shrine board, ensuring that no banned items are sold or prepared here," said Rahul Kumar, the langar's food in charge.

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on July 1. Over 65,000 pilgrims have paid obeisance at Amarnath, while over 36,000 pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for the Kashmir Valley in seven batches.

Srinagar Police refutes report of arrests of 14 people for disrespecting National Anthem

for good behaviour under sections 107/151 of CrPC," the Srinagar Police said in a tweet.

Inter-State Narco-Smuggling racket busted, 2 Punjab residents arrested

ed: SSP ANTF

arrested as well along with two kgs of Charas. A resident of Gujrat was also arrested along with 3 kgs, 800 grams of charas last month. "Further investigations are on," he said.

Police arrests two eve teasers in Baramulla

withheld) that the duo molested one girl (name withheld) at Zanana Park. Acting upon the complaint, Police registered a case under relevant sections in Police Station Baramulla, and an investigation was started. After strenuous efforts, both Eve teasers were arrested and taken into custody immediately.

Further investigation of the case is going on, police added.

Who are homeless in JK, asks Omar Abdullah

just a week ago also being counted as homeless? I believe those who arrived in Kashmir after 2019 should not be included in the scheme. We are aware that the government has brought in a large number of outsiders to J&K since August 2019," Omar Abdullah said.

When asked about the Bharatiya Janata Party's plans to impose a Uniform Civil Code, he stated that the National Conference would never support any bills that would harm the minority community in the country.

Regarding the Supreme Court's hearing on Article 370 in the upcoming days, the former CM of J&K mentioned that the proceedings cannot occur overnight. "First, the Supreme Court has to issue notices to the government, and then the proceedings will take place. There are two MPs from the National Conference who are petitioners. We will present our arguments and strive for justice for the people of J&K."

MeT forecasts late afternoon, evening showers in J&K

south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 15.6°C against 15.4°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 0.1°C for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 15.6°C against 16.3°C on the previous night and it was 0.7°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 10.8°C against 9.4°C on previous night and it was 1.0°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 24.5°C against 22.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.2°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 16.1°C (1.0°C below normal), Batote 17.2°C (0.5°C below normal), Katra 22.6°C (above normal by 0.5°C) and Bhaaderwah 17.0°C (0.8°C below normal), the official added.

Market valuation of BSE-listed firms hit lifetime peak of Rs 301.10 lakh crore

M-cap of BSE-listed firms had reached Rs 299.90 lakh crore on Wednesday

NEW DELHI, Jul 6 (Agencies): The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms hit a lifetime peak of Rs 301.10 lakh crore in morning trade on Thursday, driven by a positive trend in domestic equities.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 185.37 points or 0.28 per cent to 65,631.41 in morning deals.

Tracking rally in equities, the market capitalisation (mcap) of BSE-listed firms reached an all-time peak of Rs 3,01,10,526.12 crore.

The BSE benchmark had jumped over 2,500 points in its record rally from June 26 to July 4.

The Sensex hit its all-time high of 65,672.97 on July 4.

The M-cap of BSE-listed firms had reached Rs 299.90 lakh crore on Wednesday.

From the Sensex pack, Reliance Industries quoted over 2 per cent higher. Power Grid, Nestle, Larsen & Toubro, UltraTech Cement, NTPC, Axis Bank, Asian Paints and Tata Motors were among the other major gainers.



IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, Maruti, HDFC and HDFC Bank were among the laggards.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) continued their buying activity as they bought equities worth Rs 1,603.15 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were trading lower.

The US markets ended in the negative territory on Wednesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.21 per cent to USD 76.49 a barrel.

GoM on online gaming, casinos, horse racing broadly agrees on 28 pc GST; Goa differs

Group of Ministers has members from eight states—West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat and Maharashtra

NEW DELHI, Jul 6 (Agencies): The GoM on online gaming, horse racing and casinos had a broad agreement that a 28 per cent GST should be levied on all the three supplies, but a consensus eluded on taxability of online games, as Goa suggested an 18 per cent tax on platform fees, sources said.

A final view on taxation rate as well as whether tax is to be levied on gross gaming revenue (GGR) or fees charged by the platform; or on the full face value of bets put in by players of online gaming, horse racing and casinos would be taken by the GST Council on July 11.

Also, the Council, chaired by the Union Finance Minister and

comprising state counterparts, has to decide on whether these three activities fall under the category of actionable claim of betting and gambling, sources added.

The Group of Ministers, convened by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, has members from eight states—West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Of the eight states, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh were of the view that a 28 per cent GST should be levied on all three supplies on full face value of the bets placed. Gujarat, however, was of the view that 28 per cent tax should be levied on platform fees.

Meghalaya was of the view that 28 per cent tax should be levied on GGR or platform fees or commission charged by casinos, online gaming and horse racing. It also suggested that a special mechanism to carve out an 'Escrow Account' for the purpose of pooling in prize money for payout to winners would make administration of the tax easier.

While Goa suggested a 28 per cent tax on gross gaming revenue of casinos, it said an 18 per cent GST on platform fee/service charge levied by platform operators, Goa said.

Goa also suggested that contributions to the prize pool may be treated as supply not liable for GST levy.

Tamil Nadu and Telan-

gana have suggested that if the GST Council decides that the three activities are not actionable claims of betting and gambling, then 28 per cent tax should be levied on GGR.

Maharashtra, while suggesting a 28 per cent rate for all three supplies, said there should also be no differentiation in taxation on the basis of whether the activities are games of skill or chance and the valuation rules should reflect the same.

It proposed that a suitable abatement be provided for determining the taxable value of supply of the actionable claim. An actionable claim is typically referred to as a claim of debt.

In view of the divergence in views of the

members, the GoM has left it on the GST Council to decide on the final taxation rate as well as valuation.

The GoM in its first report submitted to the GST Council in June 2022, had suggested that 28 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) be levied on full value of the bets placed. However, in its 47th GST Council in June last year, Goa raised certain reservations on the report and some other states too demanded that the report be revisited.

The GST Council then asked the GoM to relook into all the issues in the report. Following that, the GoM met thrice and also conducted field visits and interacted with industry.

Over 4,900 GST registrations cancelled, tax evasion worth Rs 15,000 cr detected

NEW DELHI, Jul 6 (Agencies): GST authorities have so far cancelled over 4,900 GST registrations and detected tax evasion of over Rs 15,000 crore during the ongoing two-month drive to weed out fake GSTINs which will end on July 15, a senior tax official said.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) member Shashank Priya said the large number of fake registrations unearthed during the drive underlines the need for policy changes to tighten Goods and Services tax (GST) registration and return filing process.

Over 69,600 GST Identification Numbers (GSTINs) have been



selected for physical verification, of which 59,178 have been verified by field officers during the ongoing pan-India special drive.

"As many as 16,989 GSTINs are found to be non-existent,

11,015 GSTINs have been suspended and 4,972 have been cancelled," Priya said at Assocham's National Conclave on GST.

He further said tax evasion of Rs 15,035 crore has been

detected and Rs 1,506 crore ITC has been blocked by tax officers since May 16. Around Rs 87 crore have been recovered.

"This shows that we need to plug the loopholes in registration and return filing... More refinement in the risk parameters for registration verification is required," Priya said.

Businesses who register under GST are provided a unique GSTIN which is required for claiming ITC and filing tax returns. Companies operating in multiple states are required to obtain GST identification number in respective states.

Suzuki to invest Rs 2.8 lakh crore by FY31 as it aims to double turnover

NEW DELHI, Jul 6 (Agencies): Maruti Suzuki (MSIL), the country's largest carmaker, said its Japanese parent company Suzuki Motor has plans to invest Rs 2.8 lakh crore by FY31 as it aims to double its global turnover. This fresh investment is aimed at new launches and expansions in which one of Suzuki's biggest markets, India, will play a big role.

Besides that, MSIL is expecting to become the top sports utility vehicle (SUV) player in the country in the next few quarters as the company said its new launches -- Grand Vitara, Jimny and Fronx -- are in high demand. "Suzuki has planned investment of Rs 2.8 lakh crore by FY31 towards enriching products, bringing new technologies and setting up new facilities. India will play a big role in this goal. It

targets to achieve a global turnover of Rs 4.32 lakh crore in FY31, double the turnover of Rs 2.16 lakh crore achieved in FY22," Hisashi Takeuchi, managing director and chief executive officer, of MSIL, said while launching the company's most expensive offering - Invicto. Takeuchi added that MSIL would also double its turnover by from Rs 83,798 crore in FY22 to Rs 1.68 lakh crore by FY31 in line with the parent company's global growth strategy.

Meanwhile, shares of Maruti Suzuki crossed the Rs 10,000 mark for the first since 2017. The stock ended 3.61% higher at Rs 9994.50 and its market capitalisation past the Rs 3 lakh crore mark. Takeuchi said the investment in Suzuki is towards enriching products, bringing new technologies and setting up new facilities.

Precautions for high-risk pregnancy: Managing high blood pressure, diabetes

NEW DELHI, Jul 6 (Agencies): A high-risk pregnancy is one that can threaten the health of the mother and her foetus. During this time, a woman could need specialised attention catering to her condition which could include gestational diabetes, maternal age, medical history and prior miscarriage.

Experts say that since no two pregnancies are the same, as it all depends on how healthy you are, proper prenatal care can help avoid any complications and ensure a healthy birth.

"Most complication-free pregnancies only see intervention by an obstetrician-gynaecologist at various prescribed intervals. However, a person deemed to experience pregnancy with risk will need to undergo additional tests, monitoring, and treatment," Dr Praveena Sheno, Clinical Director Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Rainbow Children's Hospital, Marathahalli told news agency.

Dr Praveena Sheno listed a few red-flag factors that require close monitoring by healthcare experts in case of a high-risk pregnancy.

Maternal Age: The biological clock ticking is a metaphor with scientific evidence backing it.

"Fertility levels do decrease as one gets older. The quality of sperm and eggs ages with a person's biological age impacting suc-

cessful conception and pregnancy. Although every person's ideal reproductive window is different," recommended Dr Sheno.

Studies indicate that for most people, especially those attempting to conceive for the first time, fertility peaks in their late 20s, suggested the expert.

Pre-existing medical conditions: Conditions such as, but not limited to, hypertension, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, heart disease, and so on require special attention and monitoring from their healthcare professionals.

Women with pre-existing medical issues should work closely with their doctors to manage their condition before and during pregnancy.

Prior miscarriages: A woman who has experienced previous miscarriages also needs to pay special attention to her pregnancy journey and seek the help of their doctors even before attempting to conceive.

The doctor then evaluates and narrows down the causes and prescribes relevant treatment and care.

Diabetes: Diabetes is a dangerous factor in pregnancy. Women, even without prior diabetes, are sometimes at risk of developing gestational diabetes with a spike in sugar levels during pregnancy. This can also lead to pre-eclampsia, preterm



labor, and the need for a cesarean section.

High Blood Pressure: If a woman has high blood pressure during pregnancy, it can increase the risk of pre-eclampsia which is a serious condition with life-threatening severity for both the mother and baby.

Women with high blood pressure should receive regular prenatal care and work closely with their healthcare providers to manage their blood pressure throughout their pregnancy. In some cases, medication may be administered to control blood pressure.

STDs: Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) also pose significant risks to pregnant women and their babies. STDs can cause preterm labor, premature rupture of the membranes, and low birth weight. Women who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant should be tested for STDs and receive treatment if necessary.

Unhealthy lifestyle choices: Smoking, alcohol consumption, and drug use can put the mother and child in danger. Smoking during

pregnancy can cause low birth weight, premature birth, and other complications.

Alcohol consumption during pregnancy can lead to Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and other birth defects. Women who use drugs during pregnancy are at a higher risk of complications such as premature birth and low birth weight.

It is important for women to maintain a healthy lifestyle during pregnancy to reduce these risks.

What precautions should pregnant women take for a healthy birth? Dr Gayathri BN, Gynecologist and Obstetrician, Apollo Clinic, Electronic City, told IndiaToday.in that prenatal check-ups with a healthcare provider should be scheduled to highlight or reduce any high-risk factors.

"These visits allow monitoring of the mother's health, fetal development, and early detection of any potential issues," said Dr Gayathri.

Other precautionary measures include maintaining a balanced diet

rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and dairy products.

The expert suggested taking prenatal vitamins or a recommended combination of folic acid, iron, calcium, and other essential nutrients as advised by your doctor.

"Engage in regular physical activity that is safe for pregnancy, such as walking, swimming, prenatal yoga, or low-impact aerobics, as suggested by your doctor, of course," as per the expert.

Besides this, quit smoking and avoid alcohol consumption to reduce the risk. "Manage stress and get adequate rest, especially in later stages when discomfort may arise. Attending childbirth education classes can help alleviate anxiety and prepare for a smooth birth experience," said Dr Gayathri.

Dr Smrithi D Nayak, Consultant, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Aster RV Hospital added that specialised testing to ensure the wellbeing of the foetus should be done.

"Some patients may require bed rest or hospitalisation to take care of the medical conditions. To prevent premature deliveries patients with short cervix may require cervical stitch in the second trimester. This will prevent from having a preterm delivery," said Dr Smrithi D Nayak.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION, JAMMU

TENDERING

Tender Notice: e-NIT No:01/RSAPof 2023-24/CAMPA/Re Dated:28-06-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt./Central Govt.

Organizations for the following works:-

Name of Works

S/N	Name of work	Adv. Cost (₹. In Lacs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of Completion	Receiving /Opening Authority
01	Fencing 13,821 Rft (5 x 2-strands) With Sq PCC Fence post and every 4th and corner pole in cement concrete with G.I Barbed wire fencing, stair/gate, Display Board at Strip ChakPakwari-II, Strip ChakPakwari-III, Strip Kangraii, Strip Raja Gate Main, Strip Raja Gate Band, Strip ChhaniPlattan, Strip Channi, Strip Budwal, Strip Sujwal to Kharah, Strip Kharah, Strip Satrayain to monkhey units under CAMPA RSAPof for the Year 2023-24.	11.06	A,B,C,D	Rs.500/-	10 Days	Tender Opening Committee
02	Plantation:- Pits to be dug (45X45X45 cm)= 8700 No. Planting of play bagged plants of different species (as provided by department)	2.55	A,B,C,D			
Total		13.61		Rs.500/-	10 Days	

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in

Position of funds : Budgeted

Position of AA : Accorded & Position of TS : Accorded

Publishing Date.	28-06-2023
Download Start Date.	28-06-2023 from 03:00PM
Bid Submission Start Date.	28-06-2023 from 03:00PM
Bid Submission End Date.	05-07-2023 upto 11:00 AM
Date of opening of Technical Bid.	05-07-2023 at 11:00 AM (in the Office of Regional Director, Department of Social Forestry, OPP, NITCO Lane, Jammu).
Date of opening of Financial Bid (online)	05-07-2023 at 02:00 PM (in the Office of Regional Director, Department of Social Forestry, Opp. NITCO Lane, Jammu).

The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the Departmental Website:-

<https://jktenders.gov.in>.

- The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened on 05-07-2023 at 02:00 PM in the Office of Regional Director, Department of Social Forestry, Opp. NITCO Lane, Jammu. In case of date of opening of the bid being public holiday, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

DIP/J-4271/23

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forestry Division
Jammu

Novak Djokovic and Iga Swiatek register wins at Wimbledon

Protesters and rain capture the attention

WIMBLEDON, Jul 6 (Agencies): The developments at Wimbledon included Novak Djokovic joining Roger Federer and Serena Williams as the only players in tennis history to win 350 Grand Slam matches; a runner-up two years ago, Karolina Pliskova, exiting in the first round against a qualifier; a player seeded No. 8, Maria Sakkari, taking the opening set 6-0 but managing to lose.

Ho-hum. Those turned out to be among the least unusual happenings around the All England Club on Day 3 of this year's tournament on Wednesday. That's because so much of the buzz around the place concerned protests and, yes, rain.

Three environmental activists were arrested for interrupting matches by making their way onto court to toss orange confetti — hidden in boxes for 1,000-piece Centre Court puzzles sold at the tournament merchandise shops — and attract attention to an anti-oil organisation.

"We've had enough disruptions with the weather," four-time Wimbledon semifinalist Tim Henman, a member of the board at the All England Club, said on the BBC broadcast, "but to get a disruption like that is disappointing."

The showers that were so problematic on Tuesday returned Wednesday, limiting the hours available for competition and making everyone wait and wait and wait.

"Today was a bit weird in the beginning, because there was supposed to be no rain, then it started raining," said No. 6



Holger Rune, who eliminated British wild-card entry George Loffhagen 7-6(4) 6-3 6-2 in a first-rounder that was originally supposed to be held Tuesday. "It was a little bit frustrating at the end."

Consider: While four players who got to play at the two arenas with retractable roofs already are into the third round, including Djokovic and the No. 1 woman, Iga Swiatek, there remain 14 entrants who have yet to contest a single point in the first round. That latter group includes 2019 U.S. Open champion Bianca Andreescu, 2020 US Open runner-up Alexander Zverev and Karolina Muchova, who lost to Swiatek in last month's French Open final.

"For sure, it's really comfortable," Swiatek said after beating Sara Sorribes Tormo 6-2 6-0 at Centre Court. "I'm happy that my matches were scheduled under the roof, so I always was certain that it's going to actually happen. It's a little bit easier to prepare knowing that."

The others moving into the third round were Jannik Sinner and Daria Kasatkina.

Djokovic, owner of a men's-record 23 Grand Slam trophies, was two points from dropping the second set against Jordan Thompson before sealing that tiebreaker with an ace, then jutting his right index finger against his temple while strutting to the sideline along the way to winning 6-3 7-6(4) 7-5.

Seeking a record-tying eighth Wimbledon championship, and record-tying fifth in a row, he was on Centre Court — where he's won 41 times in a row — and so did not need to deal with the sorts of stops and starts endured by players such as Americans Taylor Fritz, the No. 9 seed, and Frances Tiafoe, who is No. 10.

Fritz's first-round match against Yannick Hanfmann of Germany was suspended midway through the fifth set all the way back on Monday and never resumed Tuesday. So Fritz did a lot of stewing until he

finally was able to get back on No. 2 Court to wrap up his 6-4 2-6 6-4 7-5 6-3 triumph.

"It's tough to kind of just be sitting on that, thinking about it for like two days. You're potentially (with) 15 minutes left in a match at the very end of it, and for it to be a Grand Slam, fifth set, it kind of adds to it," Fritz said.

"I spent most of the time sitting on the bench near my locker in the locker room, just like on my phone, like YouTube videos, whatever. Just killing time."

Tiafoe seemed a lot less fussed.

He and Wu Yibing of China were originally due to play Tuesday, but began Wednesday. Tiafoe won 7-6(4) 6-3 6-4. "It's just laughable stuff," Tiafoe said.

"I ate a little bit, listened to music, cracked jokes with other players. There's not really much to do. It's not like I can go catch a movie or something. I mean, there's not much going on. Just chilling, honestly."

One of the highlights of Tuesday's schedule — 2020 US Open champion Dominic Thiem vs two-time major finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas — got through just 1 1/2 sets that afternoon and so turned into one of the highlights of Wednesday's schedule.

Wound up going five sets and nearly four hours on No. 2 Court before Tsitsipas delivered one last forehand winner to close out his 3-6 7-6(1) 6-2 6-7(5) 7-6 (10-8) win.

"It was pretty stressful," said Tsitsipas, who plays Andy Murray on Thursday. "I won't lie."

Kohli & Rohit out, Tilak in T20I squad for WI series



NEW DELHI, Jul 6 (Agencies): Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are unlikely to feature anytime soon in the Indian T20I team as they were once again left out of the 15-member squad, led by Hardik Pandya, that will take on the West Indies in a five-match series starting August 3. This is the third consecutive T20I series in which India will be playing without Rohit and Kohli.

The side has a youthful look to it, with the only player above 30 being vice-captain Suryakumar Yadav, the world No. 1 T20I batter.

The only new face in the team is Hyderabad and Mumbai Indians batter Tilak Varma, who had made a strong case for himself during the past two IPL seasons.

The 20-year-old left-handed batter boasts of a strike-rate of 142-plus in 47 IPL and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy games, playing in the middle-order.

Yashasvi Jaiswal, who is set to make his Test debut next week, is also a part of the T20I squad after a stupendous IPL. Rinku Singh, whose finishing skills for Kolkata Knight Riders impressed everyone, didn't figure in the 15-member squad. It is, however, understood that with only a week's gap between the West Indies series and the Ireland T20Is, there is a high possibility that Rinku, Rituraj Gaikwad and Jitesh Sharma will make that team.

Two players — pacer Avesh Khan and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi —

have made international comebacks. Bishnoi last played for India in the Asia Cup in September.

Avesh, Umran Malik and left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh will lead India's pace department in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj.

Indian players meet WI legend Sobers

Members of the Indian cricket team met the legendary Sir Garfield Sobers here. The India team, led by Rohit Sharma, will play two Tests in Dominica and Port of Spain beginning July 12. The sides will then play three ODIs and five T20Is. Among those to greet Sobers, who was accompanied by his wife, were Rohit, Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill, Ravichandran Ashwin and head coach Rahul Dravid. Kohli was, in fact, awarded the Sir Garfield Sobers Award for 'male cricketer of the decade' in 2020. During the brief interaction, Dravid introduced Gill as "one of our most exciting young batsmen."

T20I squad
Ishan Kishan (wk), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Surya Kumar Yadav (vc), Sanju Samson (wk), Hardik Pandya (c), Axar Patel, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik, Avesh Khan, Mukesh Kumar.

Zaka Ashraf appointed as Chairman of PCB Management Committee

ISLAMABAD, Jul 6 (Agencies): The Pakistan government has appointed a new 10-member PCB Management Committee, headed by Zaka Ashraf, for a period of four months.

The management committee will hold its first meeting in Lahore on Thursday.

Ashraf was favourite to become chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board last month but the PCB had to postpone that election after the formation of its board of governors — which elects the new chairman — was challenged in multiple courts around the country.

The government has removed PCB election commissioner Ahmed Shehzad Farooq Rana and appointed advocate supreme court Mahmood Iqbal Khakwani in his place.

The PCB election of its new chairman was postponed on June 26 after Baluchistan High Court accepted the petition of Gul Mohammad Kakar, a former member of the PCB management committee, and set a hearing for July 17.



Before former chairman Najam Sethi dropped out of the election, he formed a 10-member board of governors that also included two direct nominees from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the PCB patron. Acting chairman Ahmed Shehzad Farooq Rana then changed several of the board of governors, prompting Kakar's court challenge.

Representatives of bigger cities such as Lahore, Karachi, Rawalpindi and Peshawar were replaced by men from smaller cities such as Dera Murad Jamali, Hyderabad, Larkana and Bahawalpur.

Dradi, Falco to return as shotgun coaches

NEW DELHI, Jul 6 (Agencies): The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) is in the process of appointing Marcello Dradi and Ennio Falco as coaches of the trap and skeet teams, respectively.

The NRAI has already sent in a draft of the contracts to both and they are expected to agree on the terms. Further, the NRAI has already planned a training camp, most likely in Massari, Italy, ahead of the World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan, in August. NRAI secretary general K Sultan Singh said that the coaches are favourites to take the vacant



positions.

"Marcello is most likely to take up the role again," Singh told The Tribune. "There were a few other applicants as well for trap but we are considering him as

he knows the shooters and the working environment in India. The same thing is with Falco. Our teams have done well under them so it will be good when they join," he added.

Other than Dradi, Australian legend Michael Diamond, who won gold medals at the 1996 and 2000 Olympics, and Scot George Wood were also in discussion to take over the trap team.

Dradi had left in 2016 — following his third stint in India since 2005 — after a falling out with the Indian coaches. Falco had resigned in 2020 over a disagreement. He had insisted on veto authority to select at least one shooter in the team. Interestingly, he had sent his resignation letter on the same day that he received an email from the Sports Authority of India indicating that his contract

was to be extended.

Skeet coach Piero Genga had left his role after it was made clear to him that his contract, which ran out in March, would not be extended as a lot of shooters were not happy with his performance. Trap coach Russell Mark and high performance manager Lauryn Mark, who took over the coaching duties of the skeet team after Genga resigned in May during the ISSF World Cup, resigned recently after they were put off by the delay in the contract negotiations and their long-standing disagreements with the high performance director Pierre Beauchamp.

India, Ashwin continue to be No1 in Test rankings; Williamson topples Root

Also, Ravindra Jadeja remained static on number one; leading all-rounders' list with 434 points

DUBAI, Jul 6 (Agencies): Team India and off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin remained number one in the latest ICC Test Rankings even as New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson replaced Joe Root as the top-ranked batter.

The Indian team, which lost the World Test Championship final to Australia last month, continues to hold on to its top spot.

Ashwin also held on to his world No 1 spot among bowlers. The senior off-spinner has 860 points and is followed by Australia skipper Pat Cummins, who has moved two spots to second with 826 points.

Another Indian who has remained static on number one is Ravindra Jadeja, who leads the all-rounders' list with

434 points. While Ashwin too remains on the second spot, Akshar Patel has dropped to fifth among all-rounders.

Rishabh Pant, who has been out of action since his car accident in December last year, is the top-ranked Indian batter at number 10.

Skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli occupy the 12th and 14th spots respectively.

Shubman Gill is ranked fifth in the ODI rankings while Kohli (eighth) and Rohit (10th) are the other two Indian batters in the top 10.

Mohammed Siraj is the lone Indian in the top 10 in the bowling chart at number two.

Smith surges ahead but Williamson tops Test rankings
Former England



Test skipper Root has slipped to fifth position, allowing Williamson to regain the top spot.

This is the sixth stint at the top for Williamson, who first attained number one position in November 2015 and was last at the top in August 2021.

Australia batter Steve

Smith has made rapid progress towards the top of the Test rankings after the second England-Australia Test at Lord's.

Smith's 'player of the match' effort of 110 and 34 has lifted him four places to second position. Smith was last at the top in June 2021,

when he had replaced Williamson for a couple of weeks before being overtaken again by the New Zealand batter.

The race for the top positions in the list is bound to remain interesting in the coming days as Smith is just one point behind Williamson's 883 rating points after the latest weekly update, while third-placed Marnus Labuschagne (873) and Travis Head are also separated by just one point.

England batter Ben Duckett has shot up 24 places to reach the top 20 for the first time in his career after scores of 98 and 83 in the second Ashes Test while his captain Ben Stokes is up nine places to 23rd after a valiant 155 in the second innings.

Root appeals for calm as third Test storm looms



LEEDS, Jul 6 (Agencies): England batter Joe Root has appealed for calm in the wake of Jonny Bairstow's controversial dismissal at Lord's but said he expects fireworks from his fellow Yorkshireman in the third Ashes Test against Australia beginning today.

Australia wicketkeeper Alex Carey under-armed the ball at the stumps after Bairstow, whose home ground is Headingley here, had left his crease at the end of an over on the final day of the second Test, which Australia won by 43 runs to go 2-0 up in the five-match series.

The atmosphere at the ground quickly turned hostile towards Australia's players after the dismissal, which is legal but perceived by many as against the

spirit of the game.

Pat Cummins' side were also verbally abused by MCC members at Lord's, and Root said there was a line that should not be crossed.

"Support England," he said. "I think that's the most important thing that you come in to support your nation, doesn't need to go beyond that. It shouldn't ever go beyond that."

Root expected wicketkeeper-batsman Bairstow would be fired up for the third Test.

"Jonny thrives off things like this," Root said. "I'm sure he will want to entertain the local crowd. I think it is set up nicely for him, but you have still got to go and do it. I don't think he took it great. I don't think anyone, would they?"

England have made three changes for the third Test with Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes and Mark Wood named in the side. Fast bowlers James Anderson and Josh Tongue have been rested while vice-captain Ollie Pope has been ruled out of the rest of the series after dislocating his shoulder, which requires surgery. Australia Captain Pat Cummins didn't announce his side but suggested that Scott Boland could replace Josh Hazlewood just to manage the latter's load. Australia have lost off-spinner Nathan Lyon for the series, and replaced him with heir Todd Murphy.

BJP remembers Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on Birth Anniversary



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 6: BJP Talab Tillo Mandal today paid floral tributes to Jan Sangh founder Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on his 122nd birth anniversary.

The programme was organised under the presidentship of Keshav Chopra President BJP Talab Tillo Mandal in which Former State President BJP Sat

Sharma CA, JKUT BJP Secretary Ayodhya Gupta and others paid tributes to Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.

Sat Sharma said that Dr Mukherjee was a true patriot who sacrificed his life while agitating to end the permit system under which any one leaving or entering the state had to obtain permit, a practise which did not exist in any other state of the country, he

opposed Do Vidhaan, Do Pardhaan and Do Nishaan and the life and works of Dr Mukherjee will always be remembered he further added

Speaking on the occasion Keshav Chopra and Ayodhya Gupta reminded the sacrifice of Dr Mukherjee and said that Person Like Mukherjee are very rare and their life serves a source of inspiration for generations to come, Dr

Mukherjee never compromised on principles and questioned the provisions of separate state for which he opposed article 370 Article 35A and laid down his life for the integrity of the country.

BJP Talab Tillo Mandal General Secretary Munish Gupta conducted proceedings of the programme, Mandal General Secretary Paramjeet presented vote of thanks.

BJP Senior Leader Veena Gupta, Varinder Dogra, Parveen Bhai, Kusum Gupta, Deepak Kumar, Vina Rathod, Vikas Gupta, Bhupinder Gupta, Ghansham Sharma, Jaipal Sharma, Ritesh Peer, Sonali Gupta, Omkar Verma, Meena Jamwal, Sanjeev Gupta, Davinder Gupta also paid floral tributes to Dr Mukherjee.

Tri-services veterans pay homage at Kargil War Memorial Drass



TOP NEWS REPORT

LEH, Jul 6: A team comprising of 49 Tri-Services Veterans and families from various parts of the country, led by Major General RPS Bhadauria (Retd), visited the historic Kargil War Memorial, Dras and paid homage to soldiers who have made the supreme sacrifice. The team has been regularly paying homage

at the Memorial for the past several years. The event also witnessed participation of a large number of Veterans, Veer Naris and Next of Kin of Bravehearts, from remote areas of Kargil District.

Standing in the backdrop of Point 13620, the Kargil War Memorial was dedicated to the soldiers, airmen and civilians who have

made supreme sacrifice for the nation since 1947-48 and during the 1999 Kargil War. General Officer Commanding, Forever in Operation Division met the veterans and reassured them of the Indian Army's continued support for Veterans, Veer Naris, Veer Matas & the Next of Kin of Bravehearts. The Veterans and Veer Naris expressed

their sincere gratitude for the efforts being taken by Indian Army to reach out to them.

The team of Tri-services Veterans belongs to the Akhil Bhartiya Poorva Sainik Seva Parishad (ABPSSP), a veterans organisation recognised by Government of India which works for the welfare of Veterans across the country.

BVP organizes Plantation Drive



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 6: Bharat Vikas Parishad Jammu Kashmir Prant organised Plantation Drive event on Thursday on the occasion of International Van Mahotsav at Government College for Woman, Gandhi Nagar Jammu.

Dev Raj Sharma Regional President North 1 was the Chief Guest, Prof Minu Mahajan Principal was the Special Guest of Honour. Saplings planted by the Dev Raj Sharma and Prof. Minu Mahajan.

Other saplings were planted by the other member of Bharat Vikas Par-

ished. Bharat Bhushan Sharma Prant President, Sunita Gupta Finance Secretary Prant, Devender Mahajan, Jagjit Singh Isher Ex DFO Convenor Environment, Gurmeet Singh conducted the event.

Arun Sharma Regional Joint General Secretary, Gopal Sharma Regional Secretary Sanskar, Prof Bharat Bhushan Sharma Sewa Parmukh, Prof. Vijender Kumar HOD Sanskrit, Dr Sonia Libraian, Prof. Anupama Dept of Education, Prof Ravinder Kumar EVS, college students and staff participated in the plantation drive.

Dulhasti Power Station Management warns public not to move near River Chenab

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISTHWAR, Jul 6: The Management of Dulhasti Power Station, NHPC Limited has cautioned General Public of Distt-Doda and Kishtwar and Public of village Dul, Benzwar, Cherhar, Bhandarkot, Hasti, Kandani, Prem Nagar & Pul Doda to not to move near River Chenab on 07.07.2023 (Friday) from 23:00 hrs to 08.07.2023 (Saturday) till 18:00 hrs the gates of Dulhasti Power Station Dam shall be opened for reservoir flushing during this period.

The Dam gates of Dulhasti Power Station will be opened for reservoir flushing on 07.07.2023 (Friday) from 23:00 hrs to 08.07.2023 (Sat-

urday) till 18:00 hrs. During this period the water level of River Chenab may rise to 2 to 3 meters in the downstream areas of the river.

Therefore, the public residing near and in the downstream areas of River Chenab are being cautioned to refrain from moving themselves / their cattle/ Trucks & Tippers near the banks of River Chenab to avoid any mishap and to co-operate for the safety of their lives. Anybody violating the request shall be doing so at his/her own risk and responsibility and NHPC/Management of Dulhasti Power Station shall not be responsible for consequences thereof.

Army organises cricket training camp & championship at Ranbirpura



TOP NEWS REPORT

LEH, Jul 6: As part of Khelo India initiative of the Government of India, Indian Army organised a Cricket Training Camp for children of Ranbirpura village from 01 July - 04 July 2023. The camp was aimed at imparting the basic skills of cricket and also to promote sports and physical fitness amongst the youth of the country. The training camp was followed by a cricket match between the local and the Army team on 05 July to give the young talent a feeling of handling match pressure.

The initiative seeks to identify and groom young sporting talent in Ladakh through a several programs and competitions. The program also encourages the involvement of schools, college and local communities in sports activities. It aims to promote more participation in sports & create a grassroots - level sports ecosystem.

Speaking on the occasion, the Army Authorities encouraged youth to actively participate in various sports competitions for which the Army, civil administration and society have joined hands to create a conducive atmosphere.

Teacher transfer list violated in Bandipora: Usman Majid

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jul 6: Apni Party's Vice President and former legislator, Usman Majid, expressed his deep concern over the recent actions of the education department, which have resulted in the violation of the annual transfer policy. Selected teachers from Bandipora and Sonawari have been transferred to Gurez, and that too in the middle of the academic session, causing immense disruption to both the affected teachers and their students.

According to a press release issued here, Majid said that the annual transfer policy, established to ensure fairness, efficiency, and stability within the education system, outlines a systematic approach for teacher transfers. It is disheartening to witness the Education Department neglecting this crucial policy, thereby disregarding the best interests of our educators and compromising the quality of education received by our students.

Transferring teachers in the midst of an academic session has far-reaching consequences. It disrupts the familiar teacher-student dynamics, hampers continuity in lesson plans, and can adversely impact the academic progress of students who are in the midst of critical learning stages. Furthermore, it places an undue burden on teachers, who are forced to adapt to new school environments and establish relationships with unfamiliar colleagues and students. The abrupt relocation

of teachers to distant areas not only affects their personal lives but also has repercussions for the quality of education provided to students. Such transfers can lead to a loss of continuity in teaching, he added.

The CEO has exercised the authority to transfer teachers along with their respective posts. This situation raises significant concerns and prompts a critical examination of the processes and regulations in place. The authority of a CEO to effectuate teacher transfers, especially along with their posts, raises questions about the checks and balances within our education system. It is crucial to evaluate whether the decision-making process is involving transfers is being influenced by external factors. He said what is surprising here is that many teachers and employees of the education department have not been transferred for the last 10 to 20 years. The minimum tenure of a government employee on a particular post should be two years, which can be extended to a maximum of three years. However, some officials and teachers have not been transferred for 20 years, Majid said. The Education Department must act swiftly to rectify this situation. It is imperative that they immediately halt any ongoing transfers that violate the annual transfer policy. The government must exercise its authority to ensure that our education system operates in accordance with established policies and safeguards the interests of both

People in J&K getting restless, waiting for elected govt: Former Minister

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 6: "The people of Jammu and Kashmir are being deprived of their democratic and constitutional right as the Centre is shying away from holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir".

Former Minister and Zonal President JKNC, Babu Ram Paul was addressing the workers meeting at Khara Madana in Samba district organized by Bharat Bhushan, Secretary and Coordinator (District Samba) Central Zone JKNC. RamPaul was the chief guest on the occasion Whereas Zonal Secretary JKNC Dr Vikas Sharma, Zonal Secretary BD Dalotra and Zonal Secretary Sandesh Shan were the guests of honour.

While addressing the meeting Former minister said that the last election was held in 2014 in Jammu and Kashmir and since then no election has been conducted depriving



people of their constitutional and democratic rights. He said that India was called as mother of democracy but keeping people without elections for long is the murder of democracy and urged upon the Centre to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir without any delay.

He further said that no democracy can survive without elections as popular government is the soul and people are its body. "The elections in Jammu and Kashmir had been conducted in the worst situations in

the past and one cannot digest the excuse of the Centre that the situation is not conducive for elections", Rampual added.

"The people of J&K were promised that they will get jobs, development, peace, prosperity and many other things after the abrogation of J&K's special status, but nothing happened on the ground and people are running from pillars to post to get their things done", he lamented.

Former Minister urged the youth to get ready for playing a vital role

to bring change. He said that the present scenario of Jammu and Kashmir has pushed the youth towards depression and anxiety as they are worried about their future presently looming in darkness.

Zonal Secretary JKNC, Dr Vikas Sharma while speaking on the occasion said that it was under NC's rule that the erstwhile state was among top states of our country. He said that from unemployment to literacy Jammu and Kashmir was and is in a far better position than

other states of India. He lambasted those dividing people in the name of religion and region. He said that the time has come to defeat such forces and strengthen the hands of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Jenab Omar Abdullah for lasting peace in the Union Territory.

Zonal Secretary JKNC, Bharat Bhushan while speaking on the occasion said that the National Conference believes in communal harmony and equality among all religions besides equal development of all regions of Jammu and Kashmir. He reiterated the party's stand with respect to restoration of statehood with full powers to address the aspirations of people.

Others who spoke on the occasion were Shakeel Ahmed, Rashid (Panch), Sham Lal, Bittu, Tarsem, Yasir, Janak Raj, Suresh Kumar, Ragunath Singh and others.