

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, JULY 09, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### India logs 32 new corona virus cases

NEW DELHI, Jul 9 (Agencies): India has logged 32 new corona-virus infections, while the count of active cases stood at 1,454, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Sunday.

The death toll has increased to 5,31,913 with one death being reported from Mizoram, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The Covid case tally stood at 4.49 crore (4,49,94,575).

The national COVID-19 recovery rate has been recorded at 98.81 per cent, according to the health ministry website.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,44,61,208 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.

### Weather improves after rain lashes J&K

SRINAGAR, Jul 9 (Agencies): The weather improved significantly on Sunday after two days of rainfall that caused floods at various places and dropped the temperature all across Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

"The overall improvement in weather is expected from July 10", the Meteorological office said, adding light rain may occur at isolated places. It said the weather will remain mainly dry from July 11-15.

The weather will remain generally cloudy on Sunday in both Jammu and Kashmir. However, a brief spell of rain in some isolated places can't be ruled out.

The day and night temperatures in Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a nose dive, while Srinagar witnessed a 13-year low of maximum 19.2°C on Saturday.

### Unseasonal snowfall, rains lash Ladakh; red alert issued

LEH, Jul 9 (Agencies): Unseasonal snowfall and heavy rains lashed wide parts of Ladakh, prompting the meteorological department to issue a red alert for the region, officials said.

The rains also triggered landslides on the Leh-Kargil-Srinagar National Highway at Lamayuru, forcing the closure of the strategic highway, they said.

Officials said the high-altitude passes in both Leh and Kargil districts experienced

Turn to page 9

## Kashmir heaves sigh of relief as water level recedes in Jhelum



SRINAGAR, Jul 9 (Agencies): People living in the low-lying areas of Kashmir, including

Srinagar city, heaved a sigh of relief on Sunday as a flood threat eased due to a dip in the water

level in the Jhelum river following improvement in weather conditions, officials said here.

"The weather is improving and the water level will drop, but those living in low-lying areas

should take precautionary measures at least for Sunday. Rains are expected in south Kashmir over the next 24 hours but not of the same intensity as on Saturday. The danger of flood is also receding," Farooq Ahmad Bhat, a meteorologist associated with the India Meteorological Department (IMD), said.

The Jhelum was flowing above the danger mark at Sangam in Srinagar since Saturday evening, bringing back the nightmares of 2014. **Turn to page 9**

## Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remains closed

JAMMU, Jul 9 (Agencies): The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway continues to remain closed for the second day for vehicular traffic due to multiple landslides, officials said on Sunday.

"NH-44 is still closed, Mughal road again blocked due to landslide at Ratta Chamb. People are advised not to travel without confirmation from Traffic Control Unit (TCU)...," Jammu and Kashmir traffic police said.

The traffic police further said that the clearance work is in progress.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is the lifeline of the Kashmir valley and the main road link connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country.

Kashmir-bound trucks laden with essential supplies and other vehicles pass through the highway and fruit carrying trucks from Kashmir head for the rest of the country through this road.

## Two Jawans washed away in flash floods in Poonch, bodies recovered

JAMMU, Jul 9 (Agencies): Bodies of two soldiers, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), who were swept away by flash floods triggered by heavy rains, have been recovered in Poonch district of

Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Sunday. The Army personnel were crossing Dogra nallah in Surankote area when they were swept away by a strong current on Saturday, they said. While the body of Naib



Subedar Kuldeep Singh was fished out from the stream Saturday night, the mortal remains of Lance Naik Telu Ram were recovered on Sunday.

Paying rich tributes to **Turn to page 9**

## Amarnath Yatra resumes from Panjtarni, Sheshnag base camps after three days



SRINAGAR, Jul 9 (Agencies): The Amarnath yatra resumed on Sunday from Panjtarni and Sheshnag base camps after remaining suspended for three days due to inclement

weather in Kashmir, officials said here.

As soon as the skies cleared around the cave shrine, the authorities opened the gates and allowed the stranded devotees to offer

prayers at the naturally formed ice-lingam in south Kashmir Himalayas, they said.

"Those devotees who had already performed 'darshan' have been allowed to return to Baltal base camp," a senior official at the Panjtarni base camp said over phone.

Meanwhile, the Army has sheltered more than 700 Amarnath pilgrims at its camp in Qazigund in Anantnag district after they were stranded due to heavy rainfall in the valley.

## PDD employee dies due to 'Electrocution', locals demand probe

RAJOURI, Jul 9 (Agencies): An employee of the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (JKPDD) died allegedly due to 'electrocution' in Rajouri district, officials said on Sunday.

The incident took place at the Manyal Gali area of the Thanamandi subdivision on June 8.

Following the incident, a group of locals including the family members of the deceased held a demonstration on **Turn to page 9**

## Kargil's Rangdum area receives fresh Snowfall

KARGIL, Jul 9 (Agencies): The Rangdum area of Kargil district received fresh snowfall while plain areas of Kashmir witnessed scattered rains.

An official told Rising Kashmir that the Rangdum area in Kargil experienced fresh snowfall since early this morning.

Furthermore he said that, about 4 to 5 inch inches of fresh snowfall was recorded at the said place while in Kashmir's lower reaches including Summer Capital Srinagar received scattered rainfall from



Friday. The change in the climate disturbed the normal life in the lower reaches and upper reaches.

Due to climate change people have started wearing warm clothes

and utilizing the heaters in vehicles.

IMD issued Red color Warning for Ladakh for next 24 hrs. Snowfall in Summer Peak. Widespread Rain/Snow (over higher reaches) likely to continue for next 24 hrs.

## Amit Shah hails NDRF, SDRF team for providing safe Amarnath Yatra to Pilgrims

NEW DELHI, Jul 9 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday hailed the National Defence Response Force for providing a safe Amarnath Yatra to every pilgrim.

Taking to Twitter Amit Shah tweeted, "The NDRF and the SDRF have always stood tall in service to the nation and humanity despite all odds. Their role has been crucial in fulfilling our goal of providing a safer Amarnath Yatra to



every pilgrim." "Sharing a photograph of an SDRF Jawan carrying a lady yatri on his back for 3 km through the unforgiving terrain

of the Himalayas on her way back from the holy shrine. I applaud them for being the beacon of safety for the citizens," Shah tweeted.

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**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 Salathia  
Ranjana & Jatinder Singh Padwal

**Bahis & 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  
Anupam Jamwal, Mahi Jamwal, Aparna Singh.

7051225179 7889932841 959667928



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

**BHOG AND ANTIM ARDASS**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Mohan Singh (Retd Accounts Officer)** S/o Late S. Bisham Singh. **Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib** on 8-07-2023 at 9:30 AM at our residence H No. 19F, Lane No. 1 New Plot, Jammu.

**Kirtan and Antim Ardass** at Gurudwara Kalgidhar Rehari Chungi Jammu on 10-07-2023 from 11 AM to 12.30 PM. followed by Guru Ka Langar.

**Grief Stricken**

Sdr Narinder Kour (Wife)

**Brother and Sister in law**

S. Amrik Singh and Sdr Satveer Kour

**Daughter and Son-in-law**

Sdr. Adv. Vineet Kour and S. Mandeep Singh Sodhi

**Son and Daughter in law**

S. Mandeep Singh and Sdr Jaspreet Kour

**Contact No.**

9906140832, 9541214542, 9469515567



S. Mohan Singh  
(Retd Accounts Officer)

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief we inform sad demise of beloved **Shri Amar Nath Kaul (Dulloo)** original resident of Narsingarh Srinagar/ 75 Bhagwati Nagar Jammu, At present Ashadeep Apartment Sector-2, Dwarka, New Delhi on 4th July 2023.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on Thursday the 13th July 2023 at 8:30am at Chota Haridwar, Murad Nagar.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

RATNA KAUL (Wife)

ANIL KAUL (Son) 8447360006

RENU KAUL (Daughter-In-Law) 9818683303

ANIRUDH KAUL (Grandson)

AAYUSH KAUL (Grandson)

And Samast Dulloo/Kaul Parivaar & Grand Children



Shri Amar Nath Kaul  
(Dulloo)

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Mrs Veena Chakoo W/o Mr Bharat Bhushan Chakoo** on 2nd July (Sunday). Original resident of Pampore Kashmir.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be observed at Murad Nagar Ghat (Ghaziabad) on Tuesday 11th July at 8 am.

**SHANTI PAATH** will be observed at Shree Sanatam Dharm Mandir, F Block, Vikaspuri Delhi on Tuesday 11th July from 5 pm to 6 pm.

Present Address: 167 Samaj Kalyan Appts F Block Vikaspuri New-Delhi-18.

**MOB: 9198919 15014, 916005788076.**

**GRIEF STRICKEN.**

**CHAKOOS, KALOOS, HANDOOS, WANGNOOS PARIVARS.**



MRS VEENA CHAKOO

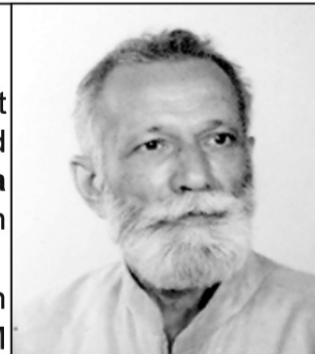
**FIFTH DAY**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Brother in Law **Sh. Pritam Paul Gupta** H/o Smt Kailash Gupta R/o Subash Nagar Jammu on 07-07-2023.

**FIFTH DAY** Shall be performed on 10th July 2023 (Monday) from 11 AM to 12.00 Noon at Brahmin Sabha Ramnagar

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh. Ram Paul Chowdhary & Smt Neelam Gupta



SH. PRITAM PAUL  
GUPTA

**UTHALA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT. MOHINI BHALLA W/O LATE SH. KASTURI LAL BHALLA R/O 553/4, CHANNI HIMMAT, JAMMU ON JULY 8TH, 2023.**

**UTHALA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON THE 10TH JULY, 2023 (MONDAY) FROM 5:30 TO 6:30 PM AT PANCH MANDIR, CHANNI HIMMAT JAMMU.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:****SONS AND DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW**

SANJAY BHALLA AND BINDU BHALLA

SUNIL BHALLA AND DEEPA BHALLA

**DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW**

SIMMI BHATIA AND SUSHIL BHATIA

**GRANDCHILDREN**

NIVEDITA, KRRISH, SAKSHAM, BHAVANI, ISHAN, ANISH AND ISHITA

M/S SIRI RAM GANGA RAM AGENCIES

M/S SANJAY PHARMACEUTICALS

RAGHUNATH BAZAAR JAMMU

CONTACT NUMBER: +919419142710, +919419188637



SMT. MOHINI BHALLA

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we would like to inform you all about the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Rattan Lal Tickoo S/O Lt Sh. Laxmi Nath Tickoo** Resident of Martand, Mattan Anantnag, Kashmir on 05-07-2023.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 14-07-2023 (Friday) at 9.00 AM at Patoli Brahmana, Near Shiv Temple Barnai Jammu

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Tickoo Family

H. No 49 Lane 6 Patoli Brahmana, New Sharda Colony Barnai Jammu  
6005053900, 7006269819



Sh. Rattan Lal Tickoo

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Surinder Kadlabju S/O Late Sh Behari Lal Kadlabju** who left for his heavenly abode on 04 July 2023.

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 13 July 2023 (Thursday) 09:00am at Devika Ghat, Udhampur.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Sunita Kadlabju (Wife)

Abhishek and Tishya (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Sisters and Brother-in-law

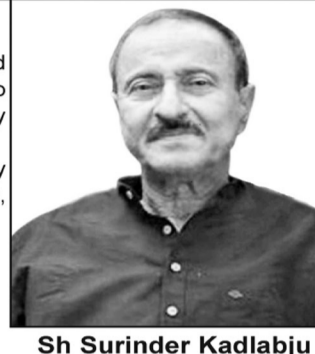
Sushma Raina and Ravinder Raina

Sunita Koul and Surinder Koul

Anita Tickoo and Sanjay Tickoo

Neena Wali and Col. Sushil Wali

Phone numbers- 9622233666, 9622277888



Sh Surinder Kadlabju

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Archana Khanna W/o Sh. Subhash Khanna.**

**TENTH DAY** will be performed at Pracheen Shiv Mandir, Pandoka Colony Paloura Jammu on 10th of July, 2023 (Monday) at 9.30 am.

**KRIYA** will be performed at our residence 1/130 Indira Vihar Old Janipur Jammu on 13th July 2023 (Thursday) from 11.00 am onwards.

**UTHALA** will be performed at Hari Mandir, Rehari on 14th of July (Friday) 2023 from 5.00 pm to 6 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh. Subhash Khanna- Husband

Smt. Kamlesh Khanna- Bhabhi

Daughter-in-Law & Son

Smt. Nidha & Sh. Amit Khanna

Ms. Preeti Khanna- Daughter

Sister-in-Law & Jija Jee

Smt. Chandar Kanta & Des Raj Anand

Smt. Seema & Sh. Kunj Lal- Daughter-in-Law & Son

Smt. Seema Khanna & Sh. Rajesh Khanna- Daughter-in-Law & Nephew

Sh. B.L. Nayyar- Jija Jee

Smt. Neelam & Sh. D.P. Bhatia- Sister & Jija Jee

Smt. Savita & Deepak Betab- Sister-in-Law & Brother

Smt. Meenu & Alok Betab- Sister-in-Law & Brother

Smt. Sandhana Nagpal- Sister

Ph.: 9419136373, 9419137716, 9419104395



Smt. Archana Khanna

**ANTIM ARDAS**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **S.MANMOHAN SINGH S/O LT. S. GURBAKSH SINGH R/O HOUSE NUMBER 133, SECTOR 13, GURU NANAK NAGAR, JAMMU, WHO EXPIRED ON 07/07/2023.**

**ANTIM ARDAS** SHALL BE PERFORMED AS PER THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMME: **ARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB : 10/07/2023 (MONDAY) AT 9 A.M (AT OUR RESIDENCE).**

**BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB: 12/07/2023 (WEDNESDAY) AT 9.30 A.M (AT OUR RESIDENCE).**

**KIRTAN AND ANTIM ARDAS: 10.30 A.M TO 12 NOON AT GURUDWARA SAHIB YADGAAR SANT THAKUR BHAI ROCHA SINGH JI, SECTOR 14, NANAK NAGAR, JAMMU FOLLOWED BY GURU KA LANGAR.**

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

SDN. ROMINDER KOUR (WIFE)

AND ALL FAMILY MEMBERS.



S. MANMOHAN SINGH

**TEHRVI VIDHI**

The heavens welcomed our angel with rainbows in the sky. Gone too soon, she will always be remembered as a daughter, a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a sister, an aunt, a friend, a teacher, a doctor and so many more roles she played with perfection, but above all she will always be remembered as a beautiful human who believed in loving and caring selflessly. Her passing has left a void in many lives, which can never be filled.

We shall be gathering for a Prayer Meet for **Dr. Veena Gupta** at Panch Mandir, Channi Himmat, on Monday 10th July 2023, 4 PM - 5 PM to remember, honour, and cherish her memories and her journey as a part of our lives for which we will eternally remain grateful. We know she will always be watching over us as our guiding star, with that lovely smile on her face she was known for.

**DEEPLY MISSED BY:**

Er. Naresh Kumar Gandotra (Husband)

Mr. Rakesh Gupta & Dr. Hemla Aggrawal (Brother & Sister-in-law)

Pankhuri, Tushar, Salonee, Akshat, Shilpa, Chaitanya & Nitesh (Children)

Vidit & Yug (Grand Children)

M) 9419186810 & 9419204757



Dr Veena Gupta

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Sampat Prakash Kundu** originally resident of Kralyar Rainawari Srinagar at present H.No. 240, Sector-2 Upper Roop Nagar, Jammu.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be held at Muthi Ghat on 10-07-2023 at 9.00 am.

**Grief Stricken**

Smt. Dura Kundu- Wife

Sons & Daughter-in-Laws

Er. Lenin Kundu & Shivarchana Kundu

Er. Ravinder Krundu & Sandhya Krundu

Daughter & Son-in-Law

Smt. Superna & Sh. Sanjay Pandita

Brothers & Bhabhis

Sh. S.P. Kundu & Smt. Asha Ji Kundu

Sh. Kamlesh Krundu

Sh. Vijay Kundu & Smt. Usha Ji Kundu

Smt. Asha Kundu

Sisters & Brother-in-Laws

Smt. Raj Dulari Wali

Smt. Bimla & Sh. Manmohan Koul

Smt. Darly & Sh. Raja Ji Munshi

Grand Children: Bhagirathi, Raviant & Tejashri, Samantha (Samast Krundu Pariwar)

9419191102, 9419149720, 9419287429



Sh. Sampat Prakash  
Kundu

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Shraavan Kumar Ambardar (Pintoo Ji) S/o Late Sh. Sansar Chand Ambardar R/o Village Sallar Distt Anantnag Kashmir, at present House No 10-A Lane No 01 Dream City, Muthi, Jammu.**

**Tenth Day Kriya** shall be performed on 11-07-2023 at 8:00 am at Muthi Ghat near Director Education.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

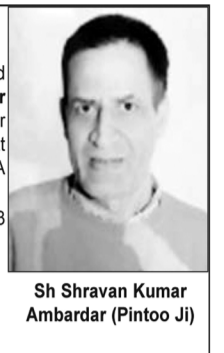
Ambardar Parivar

MOB No:- +9842688050

+91988431989

+917051400342

+919419188244



Sh Shraavan Kumar  
Ambardar (Pintoo Ji)

**10TH DAY/ KRIYA/ RASAM PAGRI**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Satya Devi W/o Late Sh. Beli Ram Sharma R/o Sampuranpur Kullain, Satwari, Jammu**

**10th Day** will be performed on Friday 7th of July 2023 at our Residence at 11:00 AM.

**Kriya** will be performed on Saturday 8th of July 2023.

**Rasam Pagri** will be held on Friday 14th of July, 2023 at 3:00 PM.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:**

(Son & Daughter-in-law)

Sh. Joginder Sharma & Smt. Anju Sharma

(Daughter & Son-in-law)

Mrs. Ashu & Mr. Deshbandhu Sharma

Mrs. Neeru (Daughter)

(Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-law)

Mr. Shubam Sharma & Mrs. Aditi Sharma

Mr. Nitin Sharma (Grand son)

Miss. Amarya Sharma (Great Grand Daughter)

Sharma Family

9419100574, 8492880574, 7051110574, 8493059830, 9682328780.



SMT SATYA DEVI  
OWNER OF M/S SATYA TRADERS  
R.S. PURA

**TENTH DAY**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE ARE SADDENED TO INFORM UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH. ASHOK KUMAR GAGROO (PNB) S/O LATE SH. BRJU NATH GAGROO R/O JAWAHAR NAGAR, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR AT PRESENT H. NO. 394, SECTOR-3, URSAN ESTATE, KARNAL, HARYANA - 132001 (NEAR RAM MANDIR), WHO LEFT FOR HIS HEAVENLY ABODE ON 2ND JULY 2023.**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 11TH JULY 2023 (TUESDAY) AT KHACHWA ROAD GHAT, ACROSS KHACHWA BRIDGE, KARNAL AT 8:30 A.M.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

SMT PRANAJI GAGROO (WIFE)

ARUN GAGROO (SON)

AVINASH GAGROO & SUNIANA GAGROO (SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)

MOB NO. 98077 0274

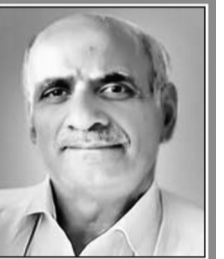
BROTHERS & BHABHIS

SH. RAVINDER KUMAR GAGROO & SMT. GIRJA GAGROO MOB. NO. 98719 17098

SH. JATINDER KUMAR GAGROO & SMT. RAJNI GAGROO MOB. NO. 94091 60371

GRAND-DAUGHTER: CHAHANA

SAMAST PARIVAR OF GAGROO'S, DHAR'S, MATTOO'S, HAKOO'S, KOUL'S, PANDITA'S, WAZA'S.



SH. ASHOK KUMAR  
GAGROO (PNB)

# Be vocal in highlighting Modi govt schemes: Langeh

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 9: Jammu and Kashmir BJP Anusuchit Jaati Morcha (SC Morcha) President & former MLA Neelam Langeh, chaired a meeting of office bearers, district prabharis and district presidents at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The meeting was held to seek details related to the month long programmes organised under "Nau Saal Bemisaal" in different districts and also the feedback on the ongoing door to door campaign being conducted under "Sampark Se Samarthan". Neelam Langeh expressed satisfaction over the report presented by the district presidents and stressed upon them to devote more time for next few days so that every household is touched under door to door campaign. He asked them to provide printed material to the people while going out on door to door campaign and also brief them about



achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government in the past nine years.

Neelam Langeh said that BJP Anusuchit Jaati Morcha is an important organ of the party and has a significant role in strengthening BJP at the grass-root level. He said that a glance at the results of the last assembly elections shows that all the seven SC reserved seats were won by BJP and it was so because the SC Community wanted to contribute in party's victory graph and defeat those parties which had betrayed them on false, mislead-

ing slogans. "The people of our community had very bad experience during the rule of Congress and regional parties and wanted to teach them lesson", he said and added that every activist of the Anusuchit Jaati Morcha is well aware of the pro-SC programmes and schemes of Narendra Modi government and should be vocal in highlighting the same at every level so that people come to know the exact information about the concern of the Modi government for the SCs. Morcha prabhari Jag-

dish Bhagat, in the meeting, informed that, he being member of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation is reaching every area to identify the poor and needy people of the SC community and providing every sort of guidance to them to come forward and take advantage of the schemes of the foundation.

Former Vice Chairperson, J&K SC, ST, BC Development Corporation, Balbir Ram Rattan, on this occasion, spoke on various welfare schemes of the Union government and asked the morcha leaders to work as a bridge

between the party and the members of their community by guiding and helping the deserving families among the SCs in availing the benefits of social security schemes.

The meeting was attended by SC Morcha leaders Seema Devi, B.R. Rao, K.K. Digra, Jeet Raj Kalsi, Ashwani Charak, Er. Narinder Pal, General Secretaries Adarsh Jethiar and Gulshan Bhagat, Hans Raj Loria, Manohar Lal Meenla, G.R. Bhagat, M.L. Rao, Yashpal Shivgotra, Naresh Bhagat, Dev Raj, Umesh Kumar, Chaman Lal Bhagat and others.

# Natrang stages Hindi play 'Sarkari Daftar Ka Ek Din'

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 9: Natrang presented 'Sarkari Daftar Ka Ek Din', a play in Hindi in its weekly theatre series, Sunday Theatre today at its Studio Theatre here in Kachi Chawni, Jammu. The play has been written by Laxmikant Vaishnav and was directed by Neeraj Kant. The play portrayed a real life situation of a 'Sarkari Daftar' (Government Office) and highlighted the vices in a very intelligent manner. The play was assisted by Sushane Dulloo and the publicity of the play was designed by Vanshika Pandoh.

The play opens in a Government Office where all the employees are shown to working in their own styles. As they have job security, no one bothers to exercise punctuality; on the contrary, they have their own reasons to modify the rules and regulations as per their personal convenience. The common vices like red-



tapeism, nepotism, favouritism, corruption, absenteeism and sycophancy which are generally associated with such offices are prominently shown in the play in a very genuine manner. The office has a peon who listens to none as no one can remove him from his permanent job and moreover no one, even the boss has courage to say anything to him as he has lot of secrets of theirs and thus exploits them at

appropriate times. Everyone in the office has his/her weakness and each one is busy exploiting that just to implement personal agenda. The only person who musters respect from this stubborn peon is an official who is relative of a minister who works fearlessly as being a relative of a Minister, as no one could harm him in any manner. On the top of it, the Head of the Department, who was supposed to maintain

integrity and punctuality of the office himself, shirks from his duties and remains absconding from the office to cater to his personal merry making engagements. But to the dismay of all, a vigilance officer conducts a surprise raid and finds no one in the office without any information and thus orders suspension of all the absconders. But by the time this new situation could establish the faith of good governance, the raid by a vigilance officer turns out to be dream and the fate of working of a Government office continues to be the same.

Natrang young artists who performed in the play included Mihir Gujral, Chirag Anand, Aadesh Dhar, Abhimanyu Choudhary, Sumit Singh Bandaral and Sheryaar Salaria. Lights were operated by Neeraj Kant whereas the music of the play was scored by Sheryaar Salaria. The presentations were done by Mahikshit Singh.

# JJM transformed lives of millions of rural Indians: Col Mahan

## TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Jul 9: Water is not just a resource; it is a lifeline that sustains life and nurtures communities. The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) scheme launched by the Modi government holds immense significance in our vision of transforming rural India by ensuring every household has access to safe and adequate drinking water.

This was stated by Col (Retd.) Mahan Singh, DDC Chairman, Kathua while inaugurating JJM project worth Rs 1.92 Crores at Nagali area of district Kathua.

Addressing the gathering, the DDC Chairman emphasized the transformative impact of the Jal Jeevan Mission on the lives of millions of rural Indians. He highlighted that the provision of clean drinking water is not only a basic right but also an essential enabler for overall development, health, and prosperity. The mission empowers individuals and communities by freeing them from the burden of water scarcity and safeguarding them against waterborne diseases, he added.



Col Mahan underscored the significance of community participation, stating, "Our mission's success lies in the active involvement of the people at every step. By engaging villagers in planning, implementation, and maintenance of water supply schemes, we ensure their ownership and long-term sustainability."

He emphasized that it is not just a scheme but a vision to transform the lives of rural Indians. He urged all the stakeholders, including government officials, volunteers and community members, to continue working together to ensure the success of the mission, fulfilling the aspirations of every rural household for safe,

sustainable, and sufficient drinking water.

Earlier, the DDC Chairman has undertaken a comprehensive visit to the extremely remote and underdeveloped Panchayats of Sialag, Nagali, and Godal, situated within the Bhoond and Dharmahanpur blocks of Kathua district. AEE PHE Basohli, Naib Tehsildar Basohli, RO Basohli, Sarpanches of Sialag, Nagali & Godal, scores of employees of various Deptts, BJP Workers and prominent citizens of the area accompanied the DDC Chairman.

Col Mahan Singh has reviewed ongoing JJM works in these remote Panchayats and directed PHE officials & PRI representatives to ensure quality work and

timely completion of respective schemes.

In a public-issue redressal meeting held at Nagali Panchayat Ghar, Col Mahan Singh patiently listened to the concerns raised by participants and promptly instructed the relevant officials to take appropriate actions while ensuring timely feedback.

Col Mahan embarked on foot from Nagali to Godal, accompanied by AEE PWD Sub Division Basohli, AE PMGSY Sub Division Basohli, Naib Tehsildar Basohli, and Range Officer Basohli, to assess the feasibility of constructing a fair-weather road connecting the isolated village of Godal and other habitations along the route.

The DDC Chairman

assured the residents of the area that a concrete road to Godal would be constructed at the earliest possible time frame, thereby improving connectivity and accessibility for the local population.

As part of his visit, Col Mahan Singh also participated in the "Sampark se Samarthan" Abhiyan organized by Gian Batadia BJP Mandal Pardhan Dhar Mahanpur and other party workers. Going door to door, he enthusiastically explained the remarkable achievements of the Modi Government over the past 9 years to the residents.

The DDC Chairman received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from the rural communities in this hilly belt.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION KATHUA NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 45of 2023-24/3309-16/G

Dtd-06-07-2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible Contractors on %age Baseregistered with J&K UT Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Governments for the below mentioned work.

| S. No | Name of Work  | Name of Division         | Estimated Cost of work (Rs in Lacs) | Cost of tender document (in Rs) | Earnest Money (in Rs) | Time Allowed for completion | Last date & time for submission of tender | Time and date of opening of tender | Class of Contractor |
|-------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1     | General Maintenance /Up-keeping of below mentioned roads during the year 2023-24 upto ending March 2024.<br>1. Chak Desa Singh to Bowlian link road (L = 3.00 kms) 2. Jarai link road upto Maqsoospur road (L=6.50 kms) 3. Chambe-dabagh and Sample Sapla link road (L = 4.10 kms) 4. VIP Distributory road (L = 2.00 kms) 5. Gandyal to Rannagar upto Punjab and allied link road (L = 5.00 km) ( under MH-3054 Non Plan)  | PWD(R&B) Division Kathua | 3.75                                | 600.00                          | 7500/-                | Stage Contract 2023-24      | 13.07.2023 1600 hrs                       | 14.07.2023 1300 hrs                | ABCD                |
| 2     | General Maintenance /Up-keeping of below mentioned roads during the year 2023-24 upto ending March 2024.<br>1. Ambedkar Bridge to Dream Land Park (L = 2.00 kms) 2. Maggar Khad to Kuke Chak (L=7.00 kms) 3. Kathua to Barian -Pattan road. (L = 3.50 kms) 4. Kathua- Kalibari-Hatimore link road (L = 7.00 kms) 5. PWD Colony road (L = 1.00 km) 6. Approach road to Guest House (L = 0.50km) ( under MH-3054 Non Plan)  | PWD(R&B) Division Kathua | 4.90                                | 600.00                          | 9800/-                | Stage Contract 2023-24      | 13.07.2023 1600 hrs                       | 14.07.2023 1300 hrs                | ABCD                |
| 3     | General Maintenance /Up-keeping of below mentioned roads during the year 2023-24 upto ending March 2024.<br>1. Palli Morh to Taryara Link Road. (L = 2.00 kms) 2. Nihalpur to Chatyal link road (L = 0.80 kms) 3. National Highway to Bole da Band Prithi Chack along with Kashmir Canal Road upto Palli Morh (L=11.00 kms) 4. Barnoti - Phalote Maichak. (L = 3.50 kms) ( under MH-3054 Non Plan)  | PWD(R&B) Division Kathua | 4.86                                | 600.00                          | 9720/-                | Stage Contract 2023-24      | 13.07.2023 1600 hrs                       | 14.07.2023 1300 hrs                | ABCD                |
| 4     | General Maintenance /Up-keeping of below mentioned roads during the year 2023-24 upto ending March 2024:-<br>1. Lakhampur to Karroh link road (L = 4.50 Kms) 2. Lakhampur to hatli link road via Jandore, Brow and Hote (L=7.00 Kms) 3. Lower Mah to Upper Mah road (L = 4.50 Kms) 4. Upper Mah to Mehtabgarh (L = 3.50 Kms) 5. Hote to Mangota road (L = 1.00 Kms) 6. Railway line lakhampur to Basohli more (L = 5.00 Kms) 7. Golden gate to Trikote via Jagatpur (L = 5.50 Kms) ( under MH-3054 Non Plan)  | PWD(R&B) Division Kathua | 3.65                                | 600.00                          | 7900/-                | Stage Contract 2023-24      | 13.07.2023 1600 hrs                       | 14.07.2023 1300 hrs                | ABCD                |
| 5     | General Maintenance /Up-keeping of below mentioned roads during the year 2023-24 upto ending March 2024:-<br>1. Haripur-Paddal-Pansar road Length = 8.00 kms 2. Khanak Spalma road Length= 2.00 kms 3. Khanak to Bobiya via Ladwal Length = 1.50 kms 4. Pansar to Ranthua road Length - 2.00 kms 5. Pansar to Tangli via Mehrajpur Length - 1.50 km 6. Tarnah to Bathal Chack Length -1.00 km 7. Gujjara Chack Road Length -1.50 kms 8. Bathal Chack to Gujjar Basti Length -2.00 Kms 9. Thangar to Gail Bund link road Length -3.700 kms 10. OSK to Gopala Chak link road and allied links Length -1.50 km ( under MH-3054 Non Plan)   | PWD(R&B) Division Kathua | 3.75                                | 600.00                          | 7500/-                | Stage Contract 2023-24      | 13.07.2023 1600 hrs                       | 14.07.2023 1300 hrs                | ABCD                |
| 6     | General Maintenance /Up-keeping of below mentioned roads during the year 2023-24 upto ending March 2024:-<br>1. Palapur link road Length = 3.00 kms 2. Dunga link road. Length = 1.00 km 3. Dayalachak Jandi link road upto Kattal Gujran Length=12.00 kms 4. Link road to Village Sube Chak Length = 1.50 kms 5. Link road to Bassi Panthal Length =2.00 kms 6. Link road to Village Sherpur Length 2.50 kms 7. Link road to Village Thakurpura Garore Length 1.50 kms 8. Link road to Village Sanyal Length-3.00 kms 9. Link road to Village Barmal Length =1.00 kms 10. Mandi link road Length = 1.50 kms 11. Link road from Hiranagar to Tarnah Length - 3.00 kms ( under MH-3054 Non Plan) | PWD(R&B) Division Kathua | 3.70                                | 600.00                          | 7400/-                | Stage Contract 2023-24      | 13.07.2023 1600 hrs                       | 14.07.2023 1300 hrs                | ABCD                |
| 7     | General Maintenance /Up-keeping of below mentioned roads during the year 2023-24 upto ending March 2024:-<br>1. Lakhampur-Thein road Length = 10.00 kms 2. Berni link road. Length = 3.00 kms 3. Karola -Gharti -Kassori link road Length = 2.50 kms 4. Thein Link road Length = 1.00 Kms ( under MH-3054 Non Plan)   | PWD(R&B) Division Kathua | 3.00                                | 600.00                          | 6000/-                | Stage Contract 2023-24      | 13.07.2023 1600 hrs                       | 14.07.2023 1300 hrs                | ABCD                |

Note:- The tender documents can be seen and downloaded from website [www.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.gov.in).  
1. Date of Publishing :-06.07.2023.  
2. The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website [www.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.gov.in) from 1000 Hrs on 07.07.2023 to 13.07.2023 (1600 Hrs)  
3. a. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website [www.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.gov.in) from 07.07.2023 to 13.07.2023 upto 1600 Hrs. The bids received will be opened at 1300 Hrs on 14.07.2023 on line.  
b. The complete bidding process will be on line.  
No:-e-NIT No. 45 of 2023-24/3309-16/G Sd/  
Executive Engineer  
PWD(R&B) Division, Kathua  
Dtd:-06-07-2023 DIPJ-4611/23

## EDITORIAL

SUPPORT  
ECO-TOURISM

All forms of tourism that are exploratory, stress experience and have as their object appreciation and preservation nature, without destroying the natural resource are considered to be Eco Tourism. This term was coined by the tourism industry of Belize, a Central American country, very rich in natural resources. The forms of Eco Tourism can include scientific, sport if, adventurous and passive use of nature.

The Eco Tourism movement in India was an offshoot of new trends in tourism that were to help to make India a more holiday oriented destination to attract larger numbers of international tourists. It was to transform the Indian tourist product from passive forms (like monuments etc.) to more active forms like adventure, wildlife and heritage tourism.

Global warming means sudden changes in earth's temperature which is directly affecting nature's atmosphere. With the increase iWorld is facing serious problems of global warming that is rising per day. Do you know what global warming is? Global warming, diversion has taken towards Eco-tourism. It has gained popularity amongst the tourism sector.

Eco-tourism word is associated with two words: ecosystem and tourism. Eco-tourism in India is the best idea for the people who love natural beauty. India is rich in natural treasures and nature lovers from all over the globe come to see India. Being popular for its amazing culture, beauty and heritage, it is full with numerous botanical and zoological gardens that are meant to preserve nature and the environment.

Eco tourism is an Idea that has been promoted for securing the natural environment around us and preserving its wealth. Beside this offering a happy visit to travelers who want to take a breath from the rushed town's life and enjoy the middle of nature, it also protects nature from getting ruined.

There are many tour organizations offering Incredible India tour packages for nature lovers. Actually India has lots of ecotourism destinations.

The word Rishikesh is a Sanskrit word and it means controlling the power of the enemy. Rishikesh is situated on the bank of holy river Ganga. It is a perfect place for river rafting as the river Ganga is surrounded by the Himalayas. Rishikesh is famous for Yoga centers and Ayurvedic pharmacies.

Kerala is one such destination in India which has been created to cater to the ecotourists and nature lovers. Here Ayurveda is used to treat the various diseases to a luxurious indulgence. Kerala has the most natural beauty.

The Botanical park of Pondicherry is extremely popular for lot of extraordinary species of plants. Every year the section of Tourism of Pondicherry puts in order the annual French Food Festival called Gourmet. Gourmet is another most famous charm of Tourist in Pondicherry.

Atmosphere has served us the delight of soothing and enjoying the natural treasures. Eco tourism is one of the good ideas to saving the nature from global warming. Every tourism sector and tourists should support eco tourism for the welfare of our nature.

India is generally known as the Wonderful Tourist Destination in the world and from adventure to historical heritages you will find everything here to make your holiday perfect and unforgettable. Seek information from the internet to your ecotourism tour and visit India with your family and loved ones.

## Muslim lives matter, too, in Paris as well as Delhi

By: Pavan K Varma

With so much political drama happening within the country, we sometimes forget to keep our eye on what is happening outside. On June 27, 17-year-old French citizen Nahel Merzouk, of Algerian and Moroccan descent, was shot dead by a white French police officer in Nanterre, a suburb of Paris, for driving without a licence and not stopping when asked to. He was an only child. The country was engulfed in riots immediately thereafter. Protesters torched some 5600 cars, looted stores, and attacked thousands of private and state properties. President Emmanuel Macron cancelled a long-awaited official trip to Germany.

This was a racial riot. In the 19th century, France colonised most of north and west Africa, including the Maghreb — Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. In fact, between France and England, 95 per cent of Africa was enslaved: 22 countries by England, and 20 by France. Today, large numbers of the once ruled — whom France set out to 'civilise' by spreading the French language and Catholicism — are in France as legitimate citizens. Their number increased especially after 1976, when the French government allowed family members of the original immigrants to join them. Today they constitute almost five per cent of the French population. The bulk of them live in shabby high-rise suburban ghettos outside the bigger cities, called banlieues: 10 per cent in Paris, 26 per cent in Montpellier, 16 per cent in Toulouse, and 14 per cent in Lyon.

There are some success stories, and these can be seen in the

French football team, which is more coloured than white. But the overwhelming majority constitutes a simmering underbelly of the poor and discriminated. A total of 15 per cent have no academic qualifications, and 25 per cent less than secondary education. According to the French Institute of Public Research, 40 per cent feel they are discriminated against, and a much larger number have suffered — as a result of their colour or their Muslim religion — verbal or defamatory insults, racial profiling by the police, and unprovoked violence. Officially, the French claim to follow a policy of strict secularism called laicite, where the state and the church are completely separated. But official surveys show that Muslims have a 2.5 times less chance than Christians with similar credentials to get a job.

Across Europe, colonising countries are facing a return of their former empires — which they looted and exploited — in a manner they did not expect or want. Initially, the gates for the former colonies were opened due to the demand of cheap labour. This demand still persists, because the new immigrants are prepared to do work which their hitherto white masters are not. The difference is that while economically poorer, they are now equal citizens. Muslims in Europe are an estimated 44 million, accounting for almost five per cent of the population of the European Union. In some capitals — such as Brussels — this figure is almost as high as 25 per cent. The UK has been relatively more successful in dealing with its multi-ethnic population, through a conscious policy of multi-culturalism. The United States, too, has responded better

to movements like Black Lives Matter, but glass ceilings still abound in both countries.

France has fared much worse. Its so-called policy of 'colour-blind universalism' has enabled decades of systemic racism. The consequences are now in full display. It is a vicious circle. The more the intolerance, the greater the Islamic radicalism. And the more the Islamic radicalism, the greater the crackdown. This vicious cycle is worsened by economic hardship. Jobs are scarce, the economy is still recovering, from the Covid pandemic, and the Russia-Ukraine war has taken its toll on the global economy. Even prosperous countries are looking for solutions, but often face stiff opposition from their own people. Till only some months ago all of France was in turmoil to protest the pension reforms initiated by President Macron.

While Islamic violence cannot be condoned, the hypocrisy of the dominant white French is also condemnable. The wearing of turbans by Sikh children and headscarves by Muslim girls is banned in France because the state does not allow any symbol of religious affiliation. However, there is no ban on the wearing of the Christian cross. In October 2008, when PM Manmohan Singh was on an official visit to France, then French President Nicolas Sarkozy actually took up with him the "massacre of Christians in India". Over 40 Indians of the Christian faith had been killed by suspected Hindu extremists who resorted to violence in the states of Odisha and Karnataka ostensibly to protest against perceived missionary activism in converting Hindus to Christianity. The

reprehensible killings were condemned by every political party, and the Centre sent police reinforcements to quickly quell the violence. But neither Sarkozy nor any other Western leader has ever expressed regret at the death of 600,000 Muslims due to the completely unjustified invasion by America of Iraq, or the destruction without any international sanctions of Libya, or the unmandated intervention in Afghanistan.

Countries which once believed in uninhibited oppression and exploitation are being forced to learn, in their own self-interest, the importance of coexistence and tolerance. This applies to countries like France, but there is a lesson for us as well. The historical background in our case is different, but the imperatives are the same. If much smaller minorities can bring a country as powerful as France to a standstill, a country like India, where the Muslim minority is around 200 million, and even the Christians at two per cent of the population are greater in number than the combined population of Hungary and Greece, the consequences of communal strife can be catastrophic. This is especially so since the minorities are not geographically segregated but spread across the country and live cheek by jowl with the Hindu majority. That is why, in a letter to all chief ministers in 1948, Jawaharlal Nehru had made clear that coexistence is not an option but a compulsion for us. Coexistence, by definition, can only be based on inclusion, tolerance and respect, not exclusion, hate and discrimination. France is learning that, and so must we.

## Wait of Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir, How long?

By: Mohit Singh Mankotia

State of Jammu and Kashmir turned into Union Territory in the year 2019 after abrogation of article 370. The Removal of article 370 in state of Jammu and Kashmir divided into two Union Territories. State of Jammu and Kashmir which is now UT is bestowed with natural beauty and Natural resources. UT which is having great Potential of tourism not only recreational but also spiritual places. People of Jammu and Kashmir are being ruled by LG rule and advisors where rest of the country is having assemblies. Why assembly Elections are not happening in Jammu and Kashmir and it's great violation of Supreme Court verdict defines if there is no Government and Governor rule can only be implemented for six months and elections should be held. Governor rule can be an alternative but can not be permanent in a Democratic Country. Almost every state or UT in the country assembly Elections are happening or scheduling as per the tenure except J&K. Administrative Council is a small set up of five to six top level bureaucrats including lieutenant Governor. Chief Secretary is a top level official in any state but he can't replace a Cabinet Minister because Public at large elects their own representatives who knows better people's Participation in assemblies. Autocratic type of Government is not a permanent, it should be of optimum

level.

Jammu and Kashmir has been dragged down from State to Union Territory on August 5 2019 by Parliament ruling alliance at National level.

In June 2018 BJP withdrew its support to PDP and popular Government broken down and immediately President of India imposed Governor rule which is an interim relief up to certain extent but same rule has been carried forward for more than five years and reaching in Sixth year shortly which is really a curial yoke with the voters of Jammu and Kashmir which debarred us for exercising our franchise in electing popular Government of their own choice. This has become a great headache for every citizen of JK UT that how much we can wait for assembly Elections. If Elections for Local Bodies, BDCs, DDCs, Panchayats and even Lok Sabha can be conducted then why not Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir which smells something fishy on the part of Election Commission of India which dominates it self as an Independent organization with out any Political interference. Why ECI is not taking call for assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir? This has been noticed and advertised that there's not a conducive environment for assembly Elections in Jammu and for one and other reasons. Opposition political parties like JkNPP, NC, Congress, PDP, DAP, APP, Apni Party etc loudly advocates for assembly Elections in Jammu

and Kashmir as soon as possible.

UT of Jammu and Kashmir is deprived of its own assembly where Elected representatives can bring pains and problems of People at their disposal before MLAs and then to Chief Minister. Cabinet tries to solve them at the earliest. A beaurecrete can not understand the genuine issues and demands because most of the IAS officers belongs to other states/ UTs hardly understands the topography, language of local areas which makes a distance between public and officers. Officers are ment to implement the Policies and Programs being settled by Parlimentarians and MLAs etc. See the conditions of Roads, Electricity, Drinking water and many other demands are looking unaddressed due to lack of Popular Government in Jammu and Kashmir.

This has been observed that LG Government in Jammu and Kashmir is tired due to long services and now unable to serve any more. Problems Of Jammu and Kashmir are different because of hilly regions and needs rule of democracy so that genuine issues can be addressed. We are forgetting much popular Proverb by the People for the people of the People.

If Every thing has been settled down like report of Delimitation commission, Special Summary Revision, Publication of Electoral roll, demarcation of new Assembly Segments etc and still there is long delay in Elections is out of Brain. It's requested before the Election Commission

of India to come with decision of assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir on the analogy of Madya Pradesh, Rajasthan etc so that people of Jammu and Kashmir can take sie of relief. Article 356 of the constitution of India is based on section 93 of Government of India act, 1935 says Governor rule can be imposed but carrying to such a long extent in Jammu and Kashmir is totally unfair. Democracy is the beauty of our country but unfortunately Jammu and Kashmir is having no Assembly and no popular Government which is making the public living in such a state of mind where one cannot speak much. It's very easy to put forward the Demands before an Elected representatives rather to an IAS officers. Elections are our fundamental right and bearring people of Jammu and Kashmir is totally unconstitutional. LG rule in Jammu and Kashmir is not a good solution to any Problem. Election in Jammu and Kashmir is the need of the hour because People are facing difficulties in reaching out before LG Government and it's maintaining a big gap of understanding much needed grievances of GN. Public. Elected Government is our right and Elections must be conducted in Jammu and Kashmir.

(Mohit Singh Mankotia  
An Aspirant)

## Vinay says all promises made in 2014, 2019 enforced under Modi led government



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 9: BJP Senior leader and Seh Prabhari Jammu North Vinay Gupta said Modi Sarkaar is committed to providing all the basic facilities to people at their doorstep in the shortest period. Vinay conducted an extensive tour as a mark of "Sampark Abhiyaan aur Sampark se Samarthan" in Muthi Palora and Janipur Mandal of BJP District Jammu North and other adjoining areas in Jammu North Constituency and during the tour, he confronted crowds of all domains of society.

On completion of nine years of Modi government, Vinay addresses the public gathering and speaking on taxation, "Tax has become faceless in its assessment because we trust people and in return, people trust the PM". Vinay said the list of welfare schemes under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana runs long. All the promises made in the 2014 and 2019 poll manifesto have been enforced. He also mentioned achievements in healthcare, infrastructure, and agriculture. "Vinay educates in the last seven decades, there were 74 airports. In nine years, 74 new airports were built. There were 111 inland waterways projects. The metros have come up in 15 cities. The world's largest tunnel named after Atal Bihari Vajpayee has been built in Lahaul Spiti, which is a record. The five-decade-old incom-

plete Koliyam bypass in Kerala was completed. To bridge the gap between backward districts, the Centre gave a boost to 116 aspirational districts. Now, it is being taken to aspirational blocks," Vinay stated. He met several inhabitants and highlighted the achievements of the successful 9 years of the Modi-led government.

Vinay called attention to many projects such as Modi government-sponsored schemes regarding Gas Cylinders, distribution of ration, PMAY, health scheme, free vaccine drive, Ayushman Bharat scheme, Pradhanmantri Gareeb Kalyan Yojana. The outreach program will focus on reaching out to the public of various beneficiary schemes of the Modi government, including the Ujjwala Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission, PMGAY, and Jan Dhan Yojana he added.

While interacting with the public Vinay Gupta asserted that Jammu is my "Janam Bhoomi and Karam Bhoomi" and being the son of the soil it's my moral duty to stay in the midst of the general populace. He assured that in case people face any problem regarding the development and other public-friendly issues they can directly contact me personally. During the door-to-door Sampark Abhiyaan, Councillor Yashpal, Mandal Presidents Raveesh Mengi and Suresh Khajuria, and others karyekartas were present on the occasion.

## Army assists in conduct of Jeni Peer Baba Urs

### TOP NEWS REPORT

BARAMULLA, Jul 9: Yearly Urs at Jeni Peer, was organised by the Peer Baba committee at Jeni in Mike Battalion area on Sunday. The Urs is a pious event conducted every year at Dargah of the revered Jeni Peer Baba.

The yearly event is conducted to remember the saint in July every year. A Dargah was constructed at the place more than a century ago and is now maintained and by the Army.

Mike Battalion of the Pir Panjal Brigade provided the necessary assistance in terms of tentages, electricity and food provisions for niyaz and security cover during the conduct of event. The Uri Police station also provided

male and female constables for the crowd control and management at the event location.

A medical camp on the day was organised by the Indian Army for all the devotees. The Medical assistance and free medicines were provided by an Army Field Hospital.

The Civil Hospital, Uri also assisted in providing medical care to over 2000 men, women and children from villages in the Uri sector who had arrived there to pay their obeisance at the Dargah. The active assistance provided by the Army for the smooth conduct of the event was highly appreciated by the local population & goes a long way in strengthening the bond with the locals.



## Radha Govind Goushala Hosts Grand Nagar Kirtan in Jammu



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 9: Radha Govind Goushala, located in Shakti Nagar, Jammu, organized a magnificent and joyful Nagar Kirtan procession in the lanes of Shakti Nagar and Bakshi Nagar.

The event witnessed the presence of esteemed guests including Braham Jyot Satti (Senior Leader BJP and Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu and Kashmir), Ajay Gupta (State Official Org.), and Surinder Choudhary (Councillor), who led the procession.

The Nagar Kirtan was organized by Goushala Sewaks Nitai Das and Madalsa Devi.

Among the attendees were Ashok Salgotra (District President OBC Morcha), Parveen Badyal (Vice President OBC), Sanjay Verma (Mandal President), Onkar Verma (Mandal President), Jagdish Choudhary, Vijay Kumar Prabhu, Rahul Kumar, Rajkumar Naai, Rajiv Sambyal, Asha Devi, Shamma Devi, Rajinder Kumar, and Nirmala Devi.

During the procession, participants walked through various lanes while chanting religious slogans and singing bhajans. The Nagar Kirtan received an overwhelming response, with hundreds of people joining in with great religious enthusiasm.

Addressing the gathering, Braham Jyot extended his greetings to the devotees on this auspicious occasion and emphasized that such programs

strengthen the public's religious beliefs in Sanatan Dharma.

He expressed the eternal feeling one experiences while carrying the idol of Shree Krishna on their head, citing the legend of Lord Krishna lifting the entire Goverdhan mountain to protect the public. Braham Jyot mentioned that during the Nagar Kirtan, despite the rain, it miraculously stopped, symbolizing divine intervention. He further stated that throughout the day, devotees performed various dances accompanied by drum beats and chanted bhajans in honor of Mata and Shree Ram with great zeal and gaiety.

Highlighting the significance of Kirtan and Bhandara in temples and religious places, Braham Jyot emphasized that such practices have been integral to Sanatan Dharma since time immemorial. These rituals symbolize devotion, sacrifice, offerings, and worship, often conducted in front of a sacred fire accompanied by mantras.

He expressed his appreciation to the organizers and acknowledged their commendable social work through initiatives like the Bhandara. Braham Jyot conveyed his belief that Mata Rani would bless all devotees with health, wealth, and prosperity.

Furthermore, he emphasized that the BJP is always available to support those in need and extends a helping hand during challenging times, as their commitment is to leave no one behind.

## Free medical camp organized at Panchyat Chandal

### TOP NEWS REPORT

BANI, Jul 9: Under the guidance of CMO Kathua and BMO Bani, a free medical camp was organized at Panchyat Chandal.

This initiative was taken by Dr. Jatinder Singh and Sahara Manch with the aim to provide free healthcare services to remote areas. Dr. Rameshwar Singh, a renowned medical professional, examined the patients and ensured the provision of the best healthcare facilities.

The medical camp witnessed an overwhelming response from the local community.

Roshan Manhas, Sarpanch of Panchyat Chandal, warmly welcomed the medical team and extend-



ed gratitude to Dr. Jatinder Singh, CMO Kathua, BMO Bani, Dr. Rameshwar Singh, and Sahara Manch for their dedicated efforts in organizing this noble initiative.

Patients attending the medical camp had the opportunity to avail themselves of various healthcare services free of charge, including consultations, examinations, and blood tests. Dr. Rameshwar

Singh, with his expertise and compassionate approach, ensured that each patient received the necessary medical attention and care.

The medical camp served as a platform for improving the overall health and well-being of the residents in the remote areas of Panchyat Chandal. By providing accessible healthcare services, the initiative aimed to bridge the gap between

medical facilities and underserved communities.

Dr. Jatinder Singh expressed his gratitude to the local authorities and community members for their active participation and support in making the medical camp a resounding success. He emphasized the importance of such collaborative efforts in addressing healthcare challenges faced by remote areas.

## TNWS celebrates Van Mahotsav with Plantation Drive

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 9: Team Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society (TNWS), a registered organization, proudly celebrated Van Mahotsav by organizing a plantation drive of twenty guava plants in Panchvati Park, Sector 5, Ward 54, Trikuta Nagar colony, Jammu. Under the esteemed Presidency of Mr. Rajinder Parshad Kakkar, the event aimed to promote environmental conservation and a greener future.

Er. Ashok Kumar Arora, a prominent member of TNWS Jammu, highlighted the significance of plants as lifelines for humanity. He emphasized the importance of each family member planting at least one tree to contribute towards saving our planet.



Rajinder Parshad Kakkar, President of TNWS Jammu, expressed the society's commitment to the motto of "Swasth sey Samruddhi" (Health and Prosperity) and maintaining a clean and green colony. The TNWS team is celebrating Van Mahotsav week by conducting plantation drives in all three wards of Trikuta Nagar colony, Jammu. To date, a total of forty plants have been plant-

ed, with a target of one hundred and fifty plants to be planted during this Van Mahotsav week. Mr. Kakkar extended special thanks to Madam Rubal Mahajan and her team for their assistance as green yodhas (social activists) of Trikuta Nagar colony, Jammu.

The plantation drive witnessed the participation of a large gathering of Trikuta Nagar residents, including Madam Anju Wazir

Puri, Madam Monica Khosla, O.P. Sharma, Er. Varinder Kumar Suri, O.N. Bindroo, and Er. Sandeep Sharma. Their active involvement showcases the collective effort towards creating a greener environment.

The Secretary of TNWS Jammu expressed gratitude to all participants, despite the rainy weather, and presented a special vote of thanks for their dedicated support.

## Workshop on U-WIN & IMI 5.0 held

### TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Jul 9: A one day district level workshop cum training on scale up of U-WIN and Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 5.0, organized by Family Welfare Department Doda was held at District Training Centre Khellani Doda on 08-07-2023.

The workshop cum training was held under the supervision of Dy Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Om Kumar Bhagat and was attended by DIO Doda Dr Versha Sharma, Block Medical Officers (All), Medical Officers, DAC, DMEIO Doda Sh Shiv Pal Singh, VCCM Miss Priyanka Manhas, BMEO's NHM, BACs, LHVs, JHIs, Ext. Educators, Incharge BVSS, DEOs and Vaccinators



of the District. Dy CMO Doda Dr Om Kumar Bhagat in his keynote said that the Govt of India was committed to ensure health and safety for all citizens by promoting universal & equitable access to basic and essential services.

He said MOHFW's plan was to build a third pillar based on existing eVIN and CoWIN platform for digitalizing the

routine immunization services in the country through the U-WIN portal, a digital solution to facilitate tracking of every pregnant woman, new born child and adolescent for vaccination.

DIO Doda Dr Versha Sharma while addressing the gathering said that though this new platform U-WIN, citizens will be able to check nearby ongoing routine immunization sessions

and book appointment, where beneficiaries would be able to plan & book slots for vaccination in advance as well as avail on spot registration and vaccination services.

Meanwhile training on Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 5.0 was given to the participants about IMI which will commence in J&K in three rounds starting from 7th August 2023.

The participants were educated about IMI 5.0, which is a vaccination programme aimed to cover the left out childrens and pregnant womens.

State Trainer UNDP Sh Shiv Kumar was the Master Trainer who imparted the training to the participants about U-WIN and IMI 5.0 and presented a detailed presentation on different modules of U-WIN.

## Modi's premiership turns India into an increasingly illiberal democracy: Rajesh

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 9: The National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) J&K UT Rajesh Gupta during an interview with a local channel on the topic how Modi's government has evolved in a more authoritarian direction, the central role that anti-Muslim politics has played in his success, and where opposition to the B.J.P. is likely to emerge.

NDPI leader said, "Modi's premiership, which began in 2014, he has turned India into an increasingly illiberal democracy. Vigilante attacks on religious minorities have increased markedly, the ruling party has taken steps to strip citizenship from Indian Muslims, and the historically repressed Muslim-majority state of Kashmir has faced even harsher crackdowns." Still, Modi remains remarkably popular, with approval ratings above seventy per cent. The moves against Gandhi—the scion of India's Congress Party, which ruled the country for most of the post-independence era—were surprising in part because Gandhi doesn't seem to pose a real threat to Modi politically said, Gupta.

He replied to other question said, "It is a restriction of a new kind. We have seen minor politicians affected by these kinds of moves at the state level, or at the provincial level. For instance, Manish Sisodia, the right-hand man of the chief minister of New Delhi, was arrested last month. That was clearly a big issue. But to attack Rahul Gandhi is a bigger issue, and you can say the difference is in kind, not in degree, because he is the leader of the opposition, and he is therefore the main contender for dislodging Modi from power." So if Modi attacks someone like him, it means that to replace Modi will be very difficult. It means that we are in an authoritarian regime where the man in charge is supposed to rule forever he added

NDPI Chief said, "India has changed during Modi's nine years in power here are two sequences, or phases. "Ethnic democracy" is a formulation that comes from Israel. It was coined for understanding that kind of democracy. In India, we have a democracy in the sense that, after 2014, you still had elections, you still had a somewhat independent judiciary, at least till 2017 or 2018, and you still had a rather independent press.

## Neena Gupta reunites with Kanwaljeet Singh after decades in 'Ishq-E-Nadaan', 'there is a beautiful thing between us that ...'

The movie also stars Lara Dutta, Mohit Raina, Shriya Pilgaonkar and Suhail Nayyar

The teaser for the Lara Dutta and Neena Gupta-starrer 'Ishq-E-Nadaan' was released recently and its bustling with life. Taking the reins as one of the leads, veteran actress Neena Gupta will be sharing the screen with Kanwaljeet Singh after a long time since their highly popular drama series 'Saans'.

Talking about her excitement of working with her fellow 'Saans' actor once again, Neena Gupta said: "I am working with Kanwaljeet Singh after a very, very long time and we don't even meet socially so I have not even met him for a long time. But we have such a good rapport that it didn't feel like we have not seen each other for so many years or not worked together."

She continued: "We were at ease with each other. This is a very beautiful thing between me and him that we are very



much at ease. We both have good command of Hindi so we just see the scene and improvise. This is what we would do in 'Saans' also."

"The director was very open and very good and we had a lovely time, we joked around. It was a wonderful experience and I wish I could do more work with him. Things might have changed, it might have become digital but as actors it's still the same. It was a wonderful experience just like it was in 'Saans', she added.

Directed by Avishek Ghosh, the movie follows three distinct love stories revolving around very distinct individuals hailing from different walks of life. Cutting across the barriers of age, race, status, and societal norms, these individuals come to discover the meaning of true love and companionship as they navigate the whirlwinds of time, presenting intertwined stories of love, luck, and loneliness, showing that even in the throes of solitude, one can still find love.

Written by Sudeep Nigam, the film stars Neena Gupta, Lara Dutta, and Shriya Pilgaonkar, Mohit Raina, Kanwaljit Singh, and Suhail Nayyar in pivotal roles. Presented by Jio Studios, the film is produced by Jyoti Deshpande, and Manisha W. 'Ishq-E-Nadaan' will premiere on July 14, 2023 on JioCinema.

## Salman Khan reveals 'it takes a lot to get him riled but', lists what he cannot tolerate



Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, who currently hosts the reality show 'Bigg Boss OTT 2', has shared that he has a high patience level, and contrary to the popular belief of him being a hot-headed star, it takes a lot for him to get angry. He shared that disrespect, violence and abuse by contestants on the show

irks him.

The actor, who is awaiting his next release 'Tiger 3', is often seen exhibiting his fiery side on 'Weekend Ka Vaar' special episodes of the show over aforementioned reasons.

As the host of Bigg Boss OTT Season 2, Salman Khan brings his no-nonsense approach to the show, not shying

away from addressing issues and conflicts head-on. During the Weekend Ka Vaar episodes, he fearlessly calls out contestants for their actions, holding them accountable for their behaviour inside the house.

Talking about this, Salman shared: "Contrary to popular belief it takes a lot to get me riled up! I cannot handle disrespect, whether it is disrespect for the show, the organisers, or even other contestants. Lado jhagdo (you may fight), but stay in your limit. Disrespect, violence, abuse – that I will NOT tolerate and make sure the contestant is schooled."

'Bigg Boss OTT 2' is available to stream on JioCinema.

## Kajol faces netizens' ire over her 'uneducated Indian leaders' comment, issues clarification

Bollywood actress Kajol found herself in the middle of row after an interview of her got intensely viral where she said politicians ruling us 'do not have viewpoint' due to 'lack of education'.

She faced massive backlash with people, including politicians coming down heavily on her comment.

The actress made this comment during a promotional interview for her upcoming show—The Trial.

However, the DDLJ actress issued a clarification on Twitter and said her intention was not to demean any political leaders.

"I was merely making a point about education and its importance. My intention was not to



demean any political leaders, we have some great leaders who are

guiding the country on the right path," she wrote.

## Jennifer Garner to be back as Elektra after 20 years in 'Deadpool 3'

There's good news for actor Jennifer Garner's fans.

As per The Hollywood Reporter, Jennifer is all set to reprise her iconic role as the antiheroine Elektra in Marvel Studios' upcoming 'Deadpool 3'.

Garner first essayed the role of the Marvel assassin in 20th Century Fox's Daredevil, the 2003 feature that starred Ben Affleck as the Man Without Fear. While the film was not a hit, it did spawn a spinoff, with Garner toplining solo act Elektra two years later. That too, was not a box office success, but it was noteworthy as Garner was one of the few women to lead a studio comic book movie at the time.

The shooting for the third installment is cur-



rently underway. The audience will also see Ryan Reynolds returning as the wise-cracking antihero Deadpool.

Hugh Jackman is also back as the adamantium-infused hero Wolverine, reprising his role for the first time since 2017's Logan.

The film will be the first Deadpool feature to be helmed by Marvel Studios since its parent company Disney purchased 20th Century back in 2019, allowing them to bring Deadpool into the MCU auspices. Her involvement in Deadpool 3 hints at some sort of multiverse angle to the film that has long been rumored, and it is possible that other characters from Marvel films made by Fox could pop up. But this being Deadpool, one can't

rule out some meta, self-awareness either.

Prior to 'Deadpool 3', Garner has worked with Reynolds in 'The Adam Project'.

The film stars Reynolds as Adam Reed, a fighter jet pilot from the future. After an accident sends him traveling through time, he winds up in the year 2022, when he was a 12-year old boy (played by Walker Scobell) struggling in school after the apparent disappearance of his father (played by Mark Ruffalo). Jennifer Garner portrays Adam's mom, and the cast is rounded out by Catherine Keener, Zoe Saldana and Alex Mallari Jr, as per Variety.

The film came out on Netflix in 2022. Shawn Levy directed the sci-fi action drama.

## Brad Pitt to star in 'Top Gun: Maverick' director Joseph Kosinski's untitled F1 film



In a meet-up of Formula One with Hollywood, Brad Pitt will star in a currently untitled F1 film which will be directed by 'Top Gun: Maverick' director Joseph Kosinski.

The F1 picture will also star Damson Idris and Kerry Condon, with the actors not only just filming scenes during the actual race, but they will also have their own pit stop at the track, as reported by Deadline.

Sticking to practical

effects, Joseph Kosinski much like he did in Maverick will be using real cars on set for greater authenticity in order to create powerful and exhilarating car sequences which will recapture the thrills of the incredible flight sequences featured in 'Top Gun: Maverick'.

Brad Pitt will star as a former driver making his comeback to the race track with a fictional team called APXGP, with Damson Idris play-

ing his teammate.

Kosinski will produce the film alongside Jerry Bruckheimer and Chad Oman of Jerry Bruckheimer Films who previously worked with him in 'Top Gun: Maverick'. Furthermore, seven time F1 champion Lewis Hamilton will also be involved in production through his own company Dawn Apollo Films.

According to Deadline, much like Kosinski had his actors in 'Top Gun: Maverick' sit in actual cockpits, he wanted to do something similar. In order to get the role of Pitt's teammate, Idris had to show off his driving skills on a race track, and since landing the role, he has been prepping on the track leading up to filming.

"It's massively exciting to see it all coming together," Hamilton said at a press conference. "To know that we're (filming) this weekend ... there's nerves, naturally, because it's something we've been working on for so long."

The movie will be shot by Apple Studios who will shoot the scenes during Sunday's British Grand Prix at Silverstone race track.

## Raghav Kansal's directorial debut, A Day In Our Lives, gets much love on Instagram



Raghav Kansal had a cameo in Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai. The actor-director shares how it all started and how it has been so far.

He released his directorial debut, A Day In Our Lives, on Instagram.

About film on Instagram, he says, "After hearing a lot of conversations regarding entertainment in minutes, reels did fascinate me."

And, I always used to wonder what all I could bring to the table, which is still not provided to the audiences. So, the idea came up, and I worked on it with my team. The response has been amazing."

## When Leonardo Di Caprio almost got sacked from 'Titanic'

It's hard to imagine anyone else other than Leonardo DiCaprio in the role of Jack in James Cameron's epic movie 'Titanic', one of the most successful movies of all times.

However, the then 23-year-old was nearly sacked from the job after he refused to read from the script during the audition process and later refusing to do a screen test with his future co-star Kate Winslet, reports Mirror.co.uk.

Director James recalled the moment, saying he was initially "charmed" by Leo during the first meeting and a few days later arranged for him to do a screen test with Kate, who he had already cast in the role of Rose Dewitt-Bukater.

However, he was soon met by arrogance from the young actor, which nearly forced him to look elsewhere for the role of Jack.

"He didn't know he was going to take the test. He came in, he thought it was another meeting to meet Kate," James said, quoted by Mirror.co.uk.

"And I said, Okay, we'll just go in the next room, we'll run some lines, and



I'll video it," the director said.

And Leonardo said: "You mean I'm reading?" and James said "Yeah." Leo replied, "I don't read."

Speaking to GQ, James said he simply just shook his hand and thanked him for coming by. A shocked Leo allegedly replied: "You mean if I don't read, I don't get the part, just like that?"

James said he explained to him where he was coming from,

stating that Titanic was a "giant movie" and would take up a great deal of his future years.

In comparison, Leo would be "gone doing five other things", adding that he told him "I'm not going to f\*\*\* it up by making a wrong decision in casting."

Leo then reluctantly agreed with James, recalling that he was "so negative" right until he said "action" and then when he "turned into Jack."

## Key BJP Meet In Hyderabad Today Amid Talks Of Cabinet Reshuffle

The party plans to identify gaps ahead of upcoming elections and prepare an action plan, particularly after the BJP's recent defeat in Karnataka.

HYDERABAD, Jul 9 (Agencies): A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Telangana, the Bharatiya Janata Party will today hold a strategy meet in Hyderabad as the party preps for important state polls and the 2024 national election just nine months away.

BJP President JP Nadda will chair the meeting which will be attended by 11 party state chiefs.

The party plans to identify gaps ahead of upcoming elections and prepare an action plan, particularly after the BJP's recent defeat in Karnataka.

With Telangana assembly elections just six months away, the BJP is already tackling a



rare affliction of internal conflict in the state leadership. Union Minister G Kishan Reddy was recently appointed the Telangana BJP president.

This change in leadership saw Mr Reddy replace Bandi Sanjay, reflecting the party's broader strategic recalibration in the state.

Mr Reddy has been tasked with winning the upcoming state polls as Telangana could end up being a gateway to the south for BJP.

PM Modi is also expected to rejig his cabinet, another move aimed at strengthening the party ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Though a cabinet shuffle has been in the works for months, speculation has intensified in the past few days following meetings between BJP president JP Nadda and various ministers and party leaders. The changes may be announced any day now, at least before the monsoon session of parliament starting July 20, sources say.

## 'No DC or disaster relief official should switch off their phones': CM Dhami as Uttarakhand on high alert over rains



NEW DELHI, Jul 9 (Agencies): As rains wreaked havoc across north India, Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Sunday issued orders across the state asking administrative and disaster relief officials from top to bottom to make sure

their phones are not switched off at any time of day or night.

Dhami said relief and rescue operations could be needed anywhere and at any time so all officials need to keep their modes of communication alive.

Dhami said the state

had been put on alert following heavy rain and pilgrims thronging Uttarakhand had been urged to follow weather department advisories before making any plans.

"Areas of parking and lodging are all inundated in rains. We urge pilgrims to get the accurate weather picture before travelling," said Dhami.

He said all disaster relief teams were on standby.

The state government added that extra precautions were being taken to ensure the ongoing Kavar yatra draws to a safe close on July 15.

## Golwalkar tweet: Digvijay Singh booked in Indore for 'inciting communal disharmony'

NEW DELHI, Jul 9 (Agencies): Congress veteran and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijay Singh was booked in Indore urban on Sunday for allegedly "inciting communal disharmony" following his tweet yesterday attributing "anti-tribal, anti-backward and anti-Muslim remarks" to former RSS chief MS Golwalkar.

Singh was booked under Sections 153 A, 469, 500 and 505 of the IPC.

The Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh had on Saturday faced off with Singh for his attributions of certain anti Dalit, anti backward and anti Muslim remarks to the second RSS chief MS Golwalkar.

In a tweet on Saturday, former Madhya Pradesh CM Digvijay Singh posted offensive remarks in respect of the above communities which he attributed to Golwalkar.

Rejecting the attribution as baseless, RSS national media chief Sunil Ambekar had said "In the context of Golwalkar Guruji, this tweet is baseless and has potential to cause social disharmony. This false photoshopped picture has been put up with the aim of tarnishing



the image of the Sangh. Guruji never said such a thing. His whole life was devoted to ending social discrimination," Ambekar said retorting to Singh.

Singh's post followed a viral video of a tribal being urinated upon in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi by a man who was later arrested.

Two days ago, CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan washed the tribal's feet at his official residence in Bhopal.

Madhya Pradesh elections are due later this year, with Chouhan facing long years of anti-incumbency.

He has been the CM of Madhya Pradesh since 2005 for four separate terms.

Singh was booked on the complaint of lawyer Rajesh Joshi.

## Protests over West Bengal panchayat polls turn violent

As the situation escalated, police baton-charged protesters to bring situation under control

TAMLUK/ CHAKULIA/ MALDA (WB), Jul 9 (Agencies): Protests were held in different parts of West Bengal on Sunday against the violence that rocked the panchayat elections and over allegations of irregularities.

In Purba Medinipur district, BJP workers blocked the Haldia-Mecheda state highway at Nandakumar alleging that ballot boxes were being tampered with at the counting centre at Srikrishnapur High School.

"We received information around 3 am that the ballot boxes were being changed. We are demanding repolling at all the booths in the area under the protection of central forces, besides counting of votes at the booths itself," said Tamas Dinda, a leader of the BJP's youth wing in Tamluk.

As the situation escalated, police baton-charged the protesters to bring the situation under control, officer-in-charge



of Nandakumar police station Manoj Kumar Jha told agency.

Congress workers blocked the National Highway 12 in Rathbari area in Malda, protesting against the violence during polling on Saturday.

"We have hit the streets in protest against Saturday's violence. We will also go to the court against it," Congress MP Abu

Hasem Khan Choudhury said.

In the district's Harishchandrapur area, state minister Tajmul Hossain's car was vandalised in Basta village by some miscreants around 10 pm on Saturday.

A police vehicle was also vandalised as stones were hurled. A policeman was injured in the attack.

It is suspected that miscreants from Bihar, just across the interstate border, are behind the inci-

dent, police said, adding that an investigation was underway.

In Uttar Dinajpur, two cars were set on fire, and several vehicles, including a state-run bus, were vandalised as the protests turned violent in the Chakulia police station area.

The incident happened on the Rampur-Chakulia Road and National Highway 31 in the morning.

The demonstrators said they were unable to vote during the polls due to intimidation, and repeated calls to the administration went in vain.

Congress workers held similar protests in Murshidabad district's Beldanga, alleging that supporters of the ruling TMC indulged in intimidation of voters and false voting with impunity during the polls.

At Amdanga in North 24 Parganas, clashes were reported between ISF and TMC supporters.

## Tribal man, his minor brother held captive for hours, thrashed in Indore

INDORE, Jul 9 (Agencies): Police in Indore have arrested three men for holding two tribal people, including a minor boy, captive for at least eight hours and thrashing them after an altercation on the road. According to police, an 18-year-old tribal man, Antar Singh and his 15-year-old brother Shankar Singh fell on the road after their motorcycle skidded.

This led to an altercation between the victims and the accused. The accused then took them to a security guard's room and beat them up for eight hours, police said.

The victims were released in the morning and were later admitted to a hospital. Their condition is stable, police said.

Police arrested the three accused, Sumit Chowdhary, Jaipal Singh Baghel and Prem Singh Parmar, after a video of the incident went viral.

The accused were booked under relevant provisions of the IPC, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act. The video also showed some others involved in the incident and they would

be nabbed soon, cops said.

This is the third such incident that has been reported in Madhya Pradesh showing atrocities inflicted upon tribals and dalits in the state.

The incident comes amid uproar over the urination row in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district. A few days back, an old video surfaced where he is seen urinating on a tribal man went viral and the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh faced flak over the issue.

The BJP was quick to jump into damage control mode and pictures of Chief Minister

Shivraj Singh Chouhan washing the feet of the labourer were shared on CM's Twitter handle. The Chief Minister apologised to victim Dashmat Rawat for the incident.

On Thursday, a video surfaced where a man was seen licking the soles of another person's feet after being forced to do so in a moving vehicle in Gwalior district. In the video, the man was repeatedly thrashed on his face and verbally abused by the accused. In another video, the victim was seen hit continuously with the accused's footwear.

## Woman, minor daughter killed as roof collapses due to rain in UP



MUZAFFARNAGAR (UP), Jul 9 (Agencies): A woman and her six-

year-old daughter were killed here on Sunday after the roof of their

house collapsed due to heavy rain, an official said.

Sub-divisional magistrate Parmanand Jha told PTI the incident took place at around 3.30 am in Niyazura village of the district.

Kavita (26) and her daughter Mansi were killed. Kavita's husband Akshay Kumar sustained injuries in the incident, he said.

## Madhya Pradesh's First Woman Chief Secretary Nirmala Buch Dies At 90



BHOPAL, Jul 9 (Agencies): Retired Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer and Madhya Pradesh's first woman chief secretary Nirmala Buch died of a prolonged age-related illness here on Sunday, family sources said. The retired 1960-batch officer was 90, they said.

Her husband late M N Buch was also a renowned IAS officer. She is survived by her only son, they said.

Condoling her death, MP IAS Association's secretary Vivek Porwal said the fraternity has lost a leading light of administration with her demise.

Remembering Buch's contribution, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said her conscientiousness and administrative efficiency were amazing.

State Congress chief Kamal Nath in his condolence message said besides her contribution as an administrative official, Buch's role as a social worker will always be unforgettable.

## Five killed as heavy rains lash Himachal

SHIMLA, Jul 9 (Agencies): Heavy rains pounded Himachal Pradesh, triggering landslides, damaging houses and leaving five people dead, officials said on Sunday.

Three members of a family were killed in a house collapse following landslide due to rains in Kotgarh area of Shimla district.

The deceased were identified as Anil, his wife Kiran and son Swapnil, officials said. A landslide also damaged a makeshift house near Kullu town, leaving a woman dead.

In another incident, a person was buried alive following a landslide in Katiyan tehsil of Chamba on Saturday night.

Thirteen landslides and nine flash floods have been reported in the state in the past 36 hours, according to the state emergency operation centre.



As many as 736 roads have been closed for traffic while 1,743 transformers and 138 water supply schemes were affected on Sunday morning.

National Highway 21 is blocked at 6 mile (name of the place).

This is the same place where the commuters were struck for almost 24 hours on June 27 last due to a landslide.

Mandi-Kullu road via Kamand was also blocked near Ghoda farm. The Manali-Chandigarh also caved

in near Manali.

Reports of shops being swept away in Manali, vehicles being washed away in flash floods at Nullah in Kullu, Kinnaur and Chamba and loss to agricultural land have also poured in.

Several roads have also been closed in Shimla districts.

All the major rivers, including Ravi, Beas, Satluj, Chenab, are in spate and tourists and commuters have been asked to avoid travelling during heavy rains and not to venture out near

river bodies.

Deputy Commissioner Kullu, Ashutosh Garg said the Kullu-Manali road is blocked at several places due to landslides and rock falling and Beas River is in spate near Ramshela and traffic has been halted from Kullu to Manali and Manali to Atal Tunnel.

He said landslides have also occurred on Mandi-Kullu road and only emergency vehicles are allowed on this stretch. The administration has

asked the tourists and residents to avoid venturing out in heavy rains.

All the trains between UNESCO heritage Shimla and Kalka track have been cancelled as landslides and falling of trees blocked the railway track at many places.

Four tourists had a narrow escape on Saturday night as a stone fell on their vehicle near Chadol on Chandigarh-Manali highway.

The tourists were on their way to Manali when the incident occurred and were rescued by the locals.

Thirty college students stranded between Gramphu and Chota Dharra on Sundo-kaza-Gramphu (National Highway 505) following road block due to landslide and flash floods at several places were rescued by the Lahaul and Spiti authorities on Saturday night. Heavy to extremely

heavy rains lashed several parts of the state in the past 24 hours.

Nangal Dam at Bilaspur received 282.5mm rains followed by Bilaspur 224 mm, Dehra Gopipur 175.4 mm, Una 166.2 mm, Chamba 146.5 mm, Dalhousie 143 mm, Nahan and Manali 131.2 mm, Bilaspur 130 mm, Dharamsala 126.4 mm, Gondla 112 mm, Kangra 108 mm, Solan 107 mm, Jubbarhatti 103 mm, Bhuntra 101 mm, Palampur 94 mm, Narkanda 88 mm, Sundernagar 83 mm, Mandi 80 mm, Shimla 79.4 mm and Mashobra 70 mm.

The local met office had issued a red alert of extremely heavy rains (above 204 mm) in seven districts of the state on July 8 and 9.

It has also cautioned of high flash flood risk over a few watersheds in Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, Shimla, Sirmour and Mandi districts.

## US Treasury Secretary Says Ties With China On "Surer Footing"

*I expect that this trip will help build a resilient and productive channel of communication with China's new economic team, said Janet Yellen.*

BEIJING, Jul 9 (Agencies): US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Sunday that her talks with top Chinese officials have put ties on "surer footing", as she wrapped up a trip aimed at stabilising fraught relations between the world's two biggest economies.

During her four-day trip -- which came on the heels of US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit -- Yellen stressed the need for greater exchanges and collaboration, even as deep divides persist between the countries.

"We believe that the world is big enough for both of our countries to thrive," she told journalists at the US embassy in Beijing on Sunday.

"Both nations have an obligation to responsibly manage this relationship: to find a way to live together and share in global prosperity," she added.

Her trip furthers a push by President Joe Biden's administration to steady ties with China while still asserting US policies.

While the trip did not produce specific breakthroughs, China's official Xinhua news agency said late Saturday that Yellen's meeting with Vice Premier He Lifeng yielded an agreement to "strengthen communication and cooperation on addressing global challenges".

Both sides also agreed to continue exchanges, the readout added.

And Yellen said Sunday that while there are "significant disagreements" between the two countries, she and Chinese officials



had held talks that were "direct, substantive, and productive".

"My bilateral meetings -- which totaled about 10 hours over two days -- served as a step forward in our effort to put the US-China relationship on surer footing," she said.

- Sources of tension -

Topping the laundry list of disagreements are Washington's trade curbs, which it says are intended to reduce the second-largest economy's access to advanced technology deemed crucial to national security.

On Sunday, Yellen said she had stressed that Washington's measures "are not used by us to gain economic advantage".

"These actions are motivated by straightforward national security considerations," she said.

She also said she had raised her "serious concerns" over what she called "unfair trade practices" by Beijing.

She cited barriers to foreign firms entering the Chinese

market as well as issues around the protection of intellectual property.

"I also expressed my worries about a recent uptick in coercive actions against American firms," she said, referring to a recent national security crackdown against US consulting firms in China.

- 'Messaging' a key goal -

Looking ahead, "any concrete key breakthroughs and major deliverables presumably will be reserved for the two top leaders to announce," said Yun Sun, director of the China program at the Washington-based Stimson Center.

"The two sides have not had this level of communications and consultations for a number of years," she told agency, adding that success will lie in the starting or restarting of this process.

Last month, Biden voiced confidence in meeting Chinese leader Xi Jinping soon.

Lindsay Gorman, senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund

of the United States, added: "I think one underappreciated audience is really US allies and partners, both in the region and globally."

"The main goal for this trip is really a messaging goal," she told news agency.

Among the aims are communicating how Washington considers its economic relationship with China, and dispelling the notion that it might embrace "pure zero-sum competition" -- while signaling it targets a fairer playing field.

Overall, China's attitude towards Yellen's visit appears "more enthusiastic" than Blinken's trip, as he is considered more hawkish, said Wu Xinbo, director of the Center for American Studies at Fudan University.

"Yellen is seen as a professional in the eyes of the Chinese, and her attitude towards China-US economic and trade relations is relatively rational," said Wu, noting that she opposes decoupling the two economies.

Taylor Fravel, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, told agency: "I don't think a single visit or interaction alone can achieve the goal of stabilising relations."

But Yellen's visit and remarks convey support for continued US-China economic cooperation, "despite the political frictions in the relationship and competitive actions around limiting China's access to certain technologies such as semiconductors."

## UN Sec-Gen condemns air strike that killed at least 22 people in Sudan



CAIRO, Jul 9 (Agencies): United Nations' Secretary-General António Guterres condemned the air strike that reportedly killed at least 22 people in Sudan on Saturday, according to a statement released by a spokesperson early on Sunday.

At least 22 people were killed and scores injured in an air strike by Sudan's army on western Omdurman

city, the Khartoum state health ministry said on Saturday, as the war between the country's military factions entered its 12th week.

The secretary general is also appalled by reports of large-scale violence and casualties across Sudan's Darfur region, according to the statement released by Farhan Haq, his deputy spokesperson. "He is also concerned about reports of renewed fighting in North Kordofan, South Kordofan and Blue Nile States. There is an utter disregard for humanitarian and human rights law that is dangerous and disturbing," it added. Guterres reiterated his call for the Sudanese Armed Forces and its rival Rapid Support Forces to cease fighting and commit to a durable cessation of hostilities.

## 100 Skeletal Remains Found During Excavation For New UK Hotel

DUBLIN, Jul 9 (Agencies): In a shocking incident, a 1000-year-old burial site was found during excavations for a new hotel in Dublin, UK and around 100 skeletal remains from the Middle Ages were unearthed where a 12th-century St Mary's Abbey once stood, according to BBC. The outlet said that at least two of these skeletal remains are from the first half of the 11th century.

Bannchor, the company which is constructing its Bullitt Dublin hotel there, had ordered the excavations, as per the outlet. One of the recently discovered graves has carbon dating that is 100 years older, proving that there existed a Christian population in the area even before St Mary's Abbey was constructed. Building foundations from the 1600s were also discovered during the archaeological work at the location, which originally housed Boland's Bakery, the largest bakery in Dublin in the late 19th century.

Additionally, pieces of the "Dutch Bilies" a household structure, have been discovered. It was built by immigrants in 1700 who arrived in Dublin when William of Orange assumed the throne of England, Scotland and Ireland in 1689. The structures discovered during the

assessment of the site are planned to be included in the design of the new hotel complex, while the skeletal remains will be "removed, cleaned and submitted" for more analysis before finally being transferred to the National Monuments Services of the UK.

Archaeologists also discovered the 1667-era Presbyterian Meeting House's foundations, which will serve as the base for a brand-new bar and restaurant of the hotel, which is expected to be inaugurated in 2025. Meanwhile, the Boland's Bakery will be "renovated and repurposed", as per the BBC.

Edmond O'Donovan, Director of Excavations for Courtney Derry Heritage Consultancy, described the importance of the discovery and said in a statement, "One of the things that was intriguing and exciting about the excavation is that we found an early burial or at least a number of burials that we suspect to be quite early. We have one that's carbon dated to the 11th Century and we have a second burial that was found with a diagnostic stick pin from the 11th Century." He added that St Mary's Abbey was Ireland's largest and most wealthy medieval abbey of its time.

## One dead, 7 missing in central China highway landslide

BEIJING, Jul 9 (Agencies): One person has died and seven were missing after a landslide overtook a highway construction site on an expressway in central China, local government officials said on Sunday.

Six people were found alive and injuries were reported from Saturday's landslide, officials in Hubei province said in a post on the province's WeChat account, adding they were trying to prevent other disasters in the area as operations continued.

China's ministry of emergency management activated a level-four emergency response and sent a working group to the site to guide emergency handling, according to a WeChat post.



The minister of emergency management urged authorities to find out what caused the landslide.

Torrential rains in parts of China over several weeks have led to a number of deadly landslides.

Last month in Sichuan province, 19 people

were killed in a landslide at a mine, and four died when heavy rainfall in a short period caused landslides.

China's government has issued advisories about rain and other natural disasters for local governments to stay alert and respond quickly.

## Uzbekistan's leader poised for landslide victory in presidential election

MOSCOW, Jul 9 (Agencies): Uzbekistan is holding a snap presidential election Sunday, a vote that follows a constitutional referendum that extended the incumbent's term from five to seven years.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev was elected in 2021 to a second five-year term, the limit allowed by the constitution. But the amendments approved in April's plebiscite allowed him to begin the count of terms anew and run for two more, raising the possibility that he could stay in office until 2037.

The 65-year-old Mirziyoyev is set to win the vote by landslide against three token rivals.

"The political landscape has remained unchanged, and none of the parliamentary political parties stand in



open opposition to the president's policies and agenda," the elections observer arm of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe said in a pre-voting report.

Since coming to power in 2016 after the death of longtime dictatorial leader Islam Karimov, Mirziyoyev has introduced a slew of political and economic reforms that eased some of the

draconian policies of his predecessor, who made Uzbekistan into one of the region's most repressive countries.

Under Mirziyoyev, freedom of speech has been expanded compared with the total suppression of dissent during the Karimov era, and some independent news media and bloggers have appeared.

He also relaxed the tight controls on Islam

in the predominantly Muslim country that Karimov imposed to counter dissident views.

At the same time, Uzbekistan has remained strongly authoritarian with no significant opposition. All registered political parties are loyal to Mirziyoyev.

In April's referendum, more than 90 per cent of those who cast ballots voted to approve the amendments extending the presidential term.

As part of his reforms, Mirziyoyev has abolished state regulation of cotton production and sales, ending decades of forced labour in the country's cotton industries, a major source of export revenues.

Under Karimov, more than 2 million Uzbeks were forced to work in the annual cotton har-

vest. Mirziyoyev has also lifted controls on hard currency, encouraging investment from abroad, and he moved to improve relations with the West that soured under Karimov.

He has maintained close ties with Russia and signed a number of key agreements with China, which became Uzbekistan's largest trading partner as part of its Belt and Road Initiative.

Like the leaders of other ex-Soviet Central Asian nations that have close economic ties with Moscow, Mirziyoyev has engaged in a delicate balancing act after Moscow sent troops into Ukraine, steering clear of backing the Russian action but not condemning it either.

## Indian community waves Tricolour outside consulate countering pro-Khalistani protesters in Canada

*The Indian diasporas were seen raising slogans like "Bharat Mata ki jai", "Vande Mataram", "Long Live India" and "Khalistan Murdabad", and carried placards, written, "Khalistani are not Sikh."*

TORONTO, Jul 9 (Agencies): Members of the Indian community holding the Tricolour, on Saturday (local time), gathered outside the consulate to protect their diplomats and the consulate office and unitedly countered a pro-Khalistan protest in Canada's Toronto.

The Indian diasporas were seen raising slogans like "Bharat Mata ki jai", "Vande Mataram", "Long Live India" and "Khalistan Murdabad", and carried placards, written, "Khalistani are not Sikh", and "Canada stop supporting Khalistani Canadian terrorists".

The pro-Khalistani protesters, in the purported video, could be seen disrespecting the Tricolour.

Sunil Arora, one of the Indian diaspora in Canada, said, "We are

standing here in front of the Consulate to face the Khalistanis. We are trying to stop Khalistanis nonsense here and we are here for the solidarity of India and Canada, altogether. They are giving wrong information saying that they will kill our diplomats which is... and we are totally against that."

Another member of the Indian diaspora, Anil Shirangi said that they are there to support the Indian Consulate and stood up against Khalistan's threat, which was given to Indian diplomats.

Vidya Bhushan Dhar, another member of the Indian community, who stood in the counter-protest outside the consulate, said, "Canada is a peaceful country and we wanted to remain peaceful and



we should. Basically, we are trying to tell the government of Canada to take cognizance of this that this is not freedom of expression. This is for sure not a freedom of expression."

"When you tell somebody that you are killing somebody or you are displaying a killing act like the one which happened in Branton last week you are not basically showing the freedom of expression

but you are promoting reason and separatism. So the government of Canada is requesting by the peace calling Canadians like me and Sunil ji that they take cognizance of this and take appropriate measures and cut the perpetrators to the site," he added.

Pro-Khalistani elements had announced to hold rallies outside Indian Missions in the UK, US, Canada and Australia on Saturday after the alleged killing of Khalistan Tiger Force chief, Hardeep Singh Nijar in Canada last month.

This was followed by posters threatening the Indian ambassadors to Canada and the US, as well as the consulate general in Toronto.

In the past couple of months,

three major anti-India incidents involving Khalistani separatists have been reported in Canada.

According to sources, India on Monday raised concerns over threats to its diplomats in posters being circulated in Canada with information on a pro-Khalistan rally to be held on July 8. The posters contained threats to the Indian Ambassador to Canada and the consulate general in Toronto.

The posters purportedly circulated by Sikh extremists have named Indian High Commissioner to Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma and the Consulate General of India, Toronto, Apoorva Srivastava accusing them of playing a role in the alleged killing of Khalistan Tiger Force chief Nijar.



## Lt Governor interacts with Civilian victims of Terrorist violence, PRIs & Civil Society Members



### TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jul 9: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha interacted with a delegation of civilian victims of terrorist violence, PRI and civil society members, traders, Advocates, Teachers, members of Gujjar and various other communities at Raj Bhawan, today.

Members of the delegation expressed gratitude to the Government of India and Lt Governor for establishing peace, harmony in the society and ensuring

inclusive growth.

They also thanked the UT Administration for providing them with a platform to share their views and project their issues and demands.

The representatives from Awami Welfare Forum Kashmir, Traders federation Handwara, J&K Panchayat Raj Movement, ReT association, members from Gujjar community and others submitted memorandum of demands to the Lt Governor and sought his intervention for the early redressal of the

same.

In his address on the occasion, the Lt Governor lauded the significant contribution of civilian victims of terrorism, social and peace activists, PRI members and tribal community in the growth of Jammu Kashmir.

"The dreams and ambitions of a progressive society can be fulfilled only in conditions of peace. Society should be vigilant against few elements trying to disrupt peace and harmony. It is our collective responsibility

to foil their efforts," the Lt Governor said.

Responding to the demands, the Lt Governor shared the efforts of the UT government for the socio-economic empowerment of all the sections of the society.

The Lt Governor called upon the members of the delegation to identify the youth and budding entrepreneurs to avail the benefits under UT and Central Schemes. He assured all support and hand-holding of the young entrepreneurs by the UT Administration.

## Gaurav serves Parshad at Shri Amarnath Yatra Welfare Society's Langar

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 9: Gaurav Gupta, Secretary of Jammu Club, extended his services by serving Parshad to the devotees of Shri Amarnath Ji at a Langar organized by the Shri Amarnath Yatra Welfare Society.

Raj Kumar Goyal, National Executive President of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society, expressed in Jammu that only Sanatan Dharma can establish peace in the world, just as Baba Shri Barfani Amarnath has done in Jammu and Kashmir today.

Devotees of Lord Shiva from across the country and abroad are participating in the yatra, and it feels as if a grand Maha Kumbh Mela of Shiva devotees is taking place in Jammu. The warm welcome extended by our volunteers to all Shiva devotees coming to Jammu and Kashmir enhances the spirit of pilgrimage. The increase in pilgrim footfall not only boosts tourism in our region but also supports local businesses and provides employment opportunities.



"We would like to express our gratitude to the Jammu and Kashmir administration for extending the yatra duration from one and a half months to 62 days. This extension has resulted in increased business and employment opportunities for shopkeepers and laborers in the area," he said.

The Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society has organized a large Langar Bhandara at the Bhagwati Nagar Baba Purnath Temple for the ninth consecutive day, catering to the needs of Shiva devotees who have embarked on the Amarnath Yatra.

Arrangements have been made to provide food and other necessities to the devotees who have come to seek blessings of Lord Shiva.

During this occasion, Gaurav Gupta, Secretary of Jammu Club, inaugurated the Langar by cutting the ribbon. Sardar Sucha Singh, corporator of Jammu Bhagwati Nagar Ward, also participated in the event.

Matrushakti Meena Kak, TK Kank Ji, Vikram Sridhar Chhota Yogi, and Majeed Bhai, in line with Sanatan culture, warmly welcomed Gaurav Gupta, Secretary of Jammu Club, and other dignitaries by applying Tilak and presenting them with Chunri.

Gaurav Gupta, Secretary of Jammu Club, spoke to journalists present at the event, expressing his observation of the massive gathering of Shiva devotees in Jammu and Kashmir.

He compared it to the grandeur of the Maha Kumbh Mela.

He mentioned that during the Langar organized by the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society, led by Shri Rajkumar Goyal, he witnessed how the devotees of Lord Shiva were provided with utmost cleanliness and abundant food and drinks. This exemplified the spirit of humanity. He personally distributed food and langar to the Shiva devotees, bringing a sense of peace to his own mind.

Raju Chandel, National General Secretary of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society, highlighted that the wishes of the devotees visiting Baba Barfani are fulfilled. Special arrangements have been made for accommodation, bathing facilities, and meals. In the morning, devotees are offered tea, biscuits, and bread for breakfast, followed by Chole Bhature and desi ghee pudding. Lunch and dinner are provided, ensuring the availability of food throughout the day and night.

## Aam Aadmi Party protests against forcing people to pay prepaid bills

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, 9 Jul: Aam Aadmi Party senior leader Amit Kapoor today led a large number of party workers and residents of Janipur to hold a protest rally of people in Jammu and Kashmir especially Janipur area against forcing them to pay prepaid electricity bills. Strongly protested against the Modi government at the Center.

Addressing the protesters on the occasion, Amit Kapoor said that the PDD department is forcing people to pay electricity bills through prepaid. He said that it has also been started from Janipur area, which he strongly opposes. He alleged that the department was doing all this with the consent of carporters and BJP leaders.

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 option to the people in some areas to pay bills through prepaid or postpaid. He said that what is the need of the LG government of Jammu and Kashmir to compel people to pay prepaid bills forcibly in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that at present no political party is opposing it. Apni Party and Democratic Progressive Azad Party are working as B teams of BJP whereas with the consent of BJP leaders and carporters, people are being brutalized by forcing them to pay prepaid electricity bills, so they are not opposing it. He said that the Aam Aadmi Party will oppose

it strongly and will start a big movement against it on the streets.

Amit Kapoor said that like Delhi, people in Jammu and Kashmir should also be given the option 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.

He said that in rising temperatures, the PDD was expected to provide round the clock power supply and accordingly, he installed smart meters promising that power would be provided without cuts. However, the situation is worse with hours-long power cuts in

the city as well as rural areas, which has also adversely affected the water supply system.

He said, people are not only troubled due to unscheduled power cuts, but huge electricity bills after installation of pre-paid meters by PDD have given people sleepless nights. He said that the LG should intervene in the issue and question the PDD officials for their non-serious attitude. He alleged, electricity is not provided round the clock, yet customers are being sent huge bills for the usage of electricity. He sought the personal intervention of LG J&K and sought re-activation of the blunder in sending huge electricity bills to power consumers.

## Manjit expresses displeasure over discriminatory approach towards OBC, SC

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 9: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today has expressed displeasure over the discriminatory approach towards the SC and OBCs who have been deprived of benefits under Govt schemes.

The Former Minister was addressing a meeting here at Panchayat Kot in Kotbhalwal in Jammu district's peripheral area. The meeting was organised by SC Wing State President, Bodh Raj Bhagat.

In his address, he said that the discrimination towards the dalits in Jammu and Kashmir should not be tolerated and the officials responsible for not providing benefits of Govt schemes to the Scheduled Castes and OBC should be held accountable.

"The Govt has launched many schemes for the welfare and protection of rights of dalits in J&K as well, but the present administration is unable to do justice with the poor section of society," he said.

He further stated that even as five years have passed, the BJP could not fulfill promises it made with the people for the upliftment of social, economic, and educational status of SC and OBC people in J&K.

Further criticising the BJP, he said that it was not only the SC, but the OBC community also faced similar fate as their demand for implementation of 27% reservation in J & K still remains uncertain.

Meanwhile, he referred to the underdevelopment in the SC/OBC residential colonies and demanded that these localities should provide needed amenities.

He said that the Apni Party believes in equitable development, an end to discrimination approach towards the SC/OBC and other sections of society.

"Apni Party believes that everyone will be treated equally and accordingly, their localities will be developed," he said while demanding the holding of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir to end the discrimination and ensure equitable development. He also

demanding restoration of statehood to J&K.

Among those who attended the meeting include Provincial Senior Vice President, Jammu, Ex-MLA Faqir Nath, Provincial Vice President, Jammu, Sheikh Mohammad Shafi, District President Rural-A, Pushap Dev Uppal, State President OBC Wing, Bhagat Ram, State President Apni Trade Union, Ajaz Kazmi, Provincial Presi-

dent Youth Wing, Vipul Bali, Provincial President Jammu Women Wing, Pavneet Kour, Provincial President Legal Cell, Jammu, Vikram Rathore, District President OBC Satpal Verma, Media Coordinator, Sandeep Vaid, District Vice President Youth Wing, Abhinav Gupta, Kanwar Jeet Singh, Shivani Koul, Shikha Bhardwaj and others.

### NOTICE

I, HAV Kamal Jeet (No. 13764601Y) of 6 JAKRIF R/o VPO Dhanaka, Tehsil Nowshera, District Rajouri, J&K UT, have applied for correction of my mother name. My mother was wrongly written in my Service Record as Madesh Devi instead of Sudesh Kumari (Corrected Name). Now I have applied for correction of the same. Objection if any may be intimated to the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notification.

### NOTICE

I Kulbushan Kumar Aggarwal (correct name), son of Shri Krishana Chander Aggarwal, R/o House No. 34, Lane No. 2, Sector No. 1, Nanak Nagar, Jammu have applied for correction in my name as Kulbushan Kumar Aggarwal instead of Kulbushan Kumar (incorrect name) in shares certificate of Bank of Maharashtra Registered Folio No. 00177689, & Bank of Baroda Registered Folio No. BBE1192240. Any person having any objection may intimate the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notification falling which it will be presumed that nobody have any objection.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Kashmir heaves sigh of relief as water level recedes in Jhelum

when massive floods inundated vast areas of the Kashmir valley.

"Like our prediction, heavy rainfall and snowfall in the upper reaches have taken place. The level of water in the Jhelum has increased due to moderate rains in south Kashmir. The good thing is that the rainfall has been less in north Kashmir, allowing a good flow of water. The water is flowing at the danger mark in south Kashmir but there is no need to worry. We expect the water level to come back to normal by the evening," Bhat said.

As the skies cleared up to give way to sunshine, the locals are hopeful that they have already seen the worst for now.

"It has been raining for the last two days and the water level is rising. We saw a similar phenomenon during the 2014 floods. Thankfully, the rains have stopped since Saturday but if there are more rains,

then there is danger. We are cautious and apprehensive about the rising level as the water is above normal," Mohammad Athar, a city resident, said.

Omar, who lives on the banks of the Jhelum here, said, "The water level has increased due to rainfall over the last two days. If the water level rises further, entire Kashmir is in danger of floods."

Idris Khan said he has moved his belongings to the first floor of his house due to the rising water level in the river.

"We have moved our belongings from the ground floor as the Jhelum is flowing close to the danger mark and the water can overflow," Khan said.

Flash floods have been reported from many areas in south Kashmir, including Kulgam district, but there are no reports of any major damage.

### Two Jawans washed away in flash floods in Poonch, bodies recovered

the deceased soldiers hailing from Punjab, the Army said the troops were on an area domination patrol duty when the incident occurred.

"During an area domination patrol in difficult terrain of Poonch, L/Nk Telu Ram while crossing a mountainous stream got swept away due to flash floods. Nb Sub Kuldeep Singh, the Patrol leader while attempting to save L/Nk Telu Ram also laid down his life," White Knight Corps wrote on its official Twitter account.

The army said the General Officer Commanding of White Knight Corps, also known as 16 corps, and all ranks salute the valiant soldiers and stand in solidarity with their families.

A defence spokesman said Naib Subedar Singh was a resident of Chabhal Kalan in Taran Taran while Lance Naik Ram was a resident of Khurali village of Hoshiarpur.

The mortal remains of the deceased would be sent to their native places in Punjab after a wreath laying ceremony, he said.

### PDD employee dies due

### to 'Electrocution', locals demand probe

Sunday and demanded a probe into the same along with compensation for the victim's family.

Officials have not confirmed the deceased's identity.

They said that JKPDD will provide immediate financial assistance to the deceased employee's family. "We will provide immediate financial assistance and give Rs 11 lakh to the kin of the deceased," Tasadiq Hussain Shaikh, executive engineer of J-K PDD said while speaking to reporters.

### Unseasonal snowfall, rains lash Ladakh; red alert issued

unseasonal snowfall overnight after two days of rainfall.

Rangdum village in Kargil witnessed nearly three inches of snowfall, while other areas, including Pensi la, Zanskar and the

hills surrounding Kargil, were also covered by a snow blanket, they said.

The traffic on the Kargil-Zanskar road was suspended as a precautionary measure, they said.

After the landslide at Lamayuru, the main Leh-Kargil highway was closed for traffic and an operation is underway to clear the debris to make the road traffic worthy, officials said.

The weatherman has predicted the continuation of rain and snowfall till Sunday afternoon or evening besides issuing a "red colour warning" for the region for the next 24 hours.

"There has been widespread moderate to heavy rain and snowfall over the higher reaches of Ladakh. People are advised to remain vigilant and avoid slide-prone areas," a spokesperson of the meteorological department said.

He did not rule out the possibility of flash floods in view of the significant rise in the water level in rivers and streams.

However, the weatherman predicted mainly dry weather with isolated rainfall at scattered places from July 10 to 14.

## After inflation draws first blood against central banks, will global rate hikes undo damage?

Whether emerging markets will follow the lead of advanced economies on rate hikes will be keenly watched.

NEW DELHI, Jul 9 (Agencies): It's a game of chess. That's how RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das recently described his next move on interest rates in the ongoing battle against inflation. Like Das, all global central bankers are deeply engaged in a tough and seemingly endless round of chess. In the art of setting interest rates, monetary policymakers are expected to be well ahead of the game, which is to raise and/or cut rates before inflation hurts us.

But it was inflation -- central banks' nightmarish opponent -- that came well-prepared to the fight with persistent price rise in tow. Regrettably, monetary authorities dismissed the incoming price onslaught as 'transitory' and instead of charging ahead with the most aggressive chess move called the king's gambit, they faltered and landed us with the twin evils of high inflation and high interest rates.

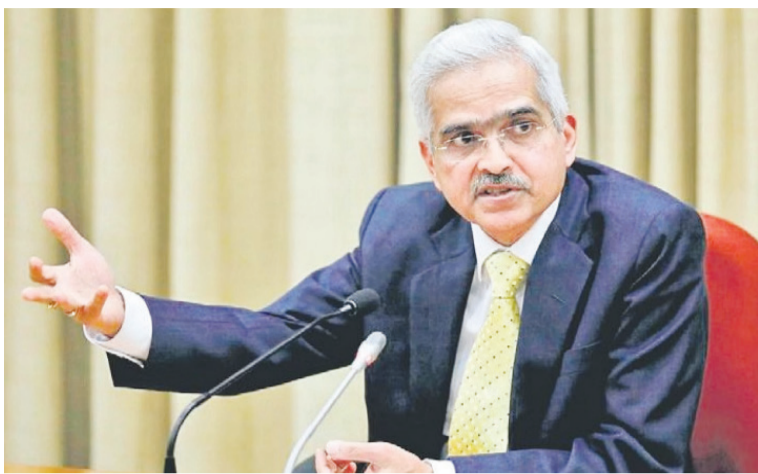
In hindsight, it's an era-defining error and as central banks ram through rate hikes to undo the damage, growth is just a hair's breadth away from recession. Any more rate hikes will be as good as forward gears taking an automobile backwards.

According to the Bank of International Settlements, global central banks, as it is, heaved more rate hikes since 2021 than even during the 1970s inflationary oil price shock. In all, the G10 central banks raised rates by 3,765 bps between 2022 and now, while the total hike tally across emerging markets stood over 8,800 bps.

If 2022 was one of the most consequential years in central banking history, thanks to the unprecedented rate hikes, 2023 offered hopes of rate cuts as global inflation showed signs of easing and growth drag became visible in some countries.

As we course through July, that juicy middle month of the year apt for stock taking, the anticipated return of rate cuts, cementing a turn in monetary tightening, a pivot as they call, appears doubtful. Major central banks were on track to hit peak interest rates within the next few months, Morgan Stanley noted earlier this year, adding that they will likely pause for an extended period before easing.

The endgame for all is similar -- touch a peak, take an extended pause and then begin rate cuts. But economies that saw inflationary peaks, and paused



rate hikes, saw prices rising again, which forced them to raise rates instead of easing. In central banking jargon, it's called a premature liftoff. For instance, the Bank of Canada raised rates to a 22-year high of 4.75% citing inflationary pressures last month, ending its five-month pause period. Likewise, Australia's central bank, which too paused in April, raised rates both in May and June, with additional warnings about further tightening.

Now, the direction of global interest rates and inflation doesn't seem uniform with various central banks at different points in their cycles. As for emerging markets say from Brazil to Indonesia, a pivot toward rate cuts could start as early as this year, while advanced economies may keep high rates for longer.

But even within emerging markets, there are some stark outliers.

Take Turkey. Its central bank under new governor Hafize Gaye Erkan, in her very first review, delivered a gravity-defying 650 bps rate hike, taking the policy rate to 15% last month. Turkey's annual inflation was just below 40% in May after touching a 24-year high at 85% in October 2022. Prior to Gaye, the country stuck to monetary easing with the one-week repo rate dropping to 8.5% from 19% in 2021, notwithstanding soaring inflation. For a world that's used to the traditional 25 bps hikes, a 50-75 bps hike seemed like an overkill. So a 650 bps hike only indicates that a determined central bank lacks all limits if the objective is to tame the inflation beast.

Turkey's 650 bps was the second biggest rate hike after Russia, which delivered an emergency 1,050 bps, or 10.5 percentage point rate hike, taking the key policy rate from

9.5% to 20% following its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Mercifully, it began correcting rates within two months and it now stands at 7.5%.

Likewise, another country delivering jumbo rate hikes to curb soaring inflation is the crisis-hit Pakistan. Last month, it announced yet another 100 bps increase taking its benchmark policy rate to 22%. Its central bank has now raised key rates by 12.25 percentage points since April 2022. As recently as March, the State Bank of Pakistan raised its key policy rate by 300 bps to a 27-year high of 20% -- the highest in Asia. But both Turkey and Pakistan's inflationary pressures have much to do with internal factors rather than external pressures.

Then there are countries that are at the other extreme, cutting rates to support growth. The biggest outlier is Japan, which retained its ultra-loose monetary policy this week. The Bank of Japan's short-term interest rate target has been held at -0.1% since it first adopted negative rates in 2016 to fight chronic deflation. The current ultra-loose policy is expected to help cope with the country's fragile growth. As Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda observed, "We haven't had any serious monetary tightening in 30 years. So in terms of that, the lag in monetary policy could be at least 25 years."

Similarly, China too eased rates by 10 bps last month, though many argue the reduction will barely move the needle. The People's Bank of China reduced its one-year loan prime rate (LPR) by 10 bps from 3.65% to 3.55% and reduced the 5-year rate by 10 bps to 4.2%, for the first time in 10 months to boost sagging growth as the world's second largest economy falters.

A report by IMA Asia believes

that quite a few Asian countries are expected to cut rates ahead of the US Fed and towards the end of 2023. In contrast, advanced economies seem to be somewhat at odds with their Asian peers.

In June, the G10 central banks delivered the biggest number of monthly interest rate hikes year-to-date and flagged more tightening. As per agency, seven out of the nine central banks hiked rates. Both Norway and the Bank of England surprised markets last month with a larger-than-expected 50 bps move, while Canada and Australia resumed rate hikes. Sweden, Switzerland and the European Central Bank (ECB) also tightened policy, taking the total monthly tally of hikes to 225 bps in June. It even confirmed further rate hikes in H2, 2023 before switching to a string of rate cuts in 2024.

In fact, at a panel discussion last month involving the US Federal Reserve chairman Jerome Powell, ECB's Christine Lagarde, Bank of England's Andrew Bailey, and others broadly agreed that interest rates may stay high until inflation bottoms out. Separately, at another ECB Forum held in June, IMF Deputy Managing Director Gita Gopinath too confirmed the bad news about inflation. "The first uncomfortable truth is that inflation is taking too long to get back to target. This means that central banks, including the ECB, must remain committed to fighting inflation (read more rate hikes) despite risks of weaker economic growth."

But it was only a year ago or so that many believed inflation will remain obedient and formed a consensus, like a thick layer on boiled milk. They were proved wrong and whether emerging markets will follow the lead of advanced economies on rate hikes will be keenly watched.

As economist Shaun Richards rightly observed, "The one thing that's persistent is the failures of central banks. Monetary policy now seems to be set more to cover up their past failures than to achieve anything...What central banks demonstrated over the past couple of years was that they have no grip on inflation trends. So moving to a derivative of it is even worse. Indeed it sets the ground for another policy error."

## Chinese fintech giant Ant announces share buyback after crackdown



BEIJING, Jul 9 (Agencies): Chinese fintech giant Ant Group announced a share buyback plan to allow some investors to offload or reduce their stakes after the government slapped the firm with a \$1 billion fine for alleged "illegal acts".

Ant operates Alipay, the world's largest digital payments platform, which boasts hundreds of millions of monthly users in China and beyond.

It was one of the most prominent targets of a sweeping crackdown on the country's tech sector that is now drawing to a close.

Ant said it aims to repurchase up to 7.6 per cent of its equity.

The share buyback plan values Ant Group at 567.1 billion yuan (\$78.5 billion), less than a quarter of the company's whopping \$315 billion valuation when it tried to list in Hong Kong in 2020.

"The repurchased shares will be transferred into Ant Group's employee incentive plans to attract talents," the company said.

"The repurchase proposal will also provide a liquidity option for the company's investors."

The China Securities Regulatory Commission

(CSRC) slapped a \$984 million fine on Ant and its subsidiaries "in view of... illegal and irregular acts".

The penalty "included the confiscation of illegal income", the regulator said.

"At present, most of the outstanding problems in the financial business of platform enterprises have been rectified," it added.

In recent years, Ant has expanded into offering loans, credit, investments and insurance to hundreds of millions of consumers and small businesses.

The government has sought to rein in runaway personal debt and chaotic lending in the private sector, and upstart Ant's growing profile was widely viewed as a challenge to vested interests in the country's state-dominated financial sphere.

## De Beers, Botswana sign diamond sales, new lease agreements

MUMBAI, Jul 9 (Agencies): Diamond mining giant De Beers has signed a 10-year sales pact and a 25-year new lease agreement with Botswana that will have natural rough supply coming through the pipeline for the next 30 years.

In the sales agreement, De Beers increased the shares of Botswana to 50 per cent. It was 30 per cent at the beginning which later increased to 40 per cent.

"Last week, at the end of June, we agreed in principle a 10-year sales agreement and a 25-year new lease agreement for the assets commencing 2029, with the Botswana government," De Beers Executive Vice President Paul Rowley told agency.



The new mining licence and new lease agreement with Debswana for 25 years secures natural rough supply coming through the pipeline for the next 30 years, he added.

Debswana is a mining company, which is an equal partnership between the Republic of Botswana (GRB) and the De Beers Group of companies.

On the sale agreement, Rowley said, "From 25-30 per cent in the first year of signing, we went for about 40 per cent and then we

moved to 50 per cent for 10 years with Debswana production.

"The company is also exploring other sites in Botswana and in countries like Angola, Canada and South Africa for mining opportunities, he said.

"We are looking both in Botswana, South Africa and Angola, Canada. Most recently we have reentered into Angola, which I think is pretty much recognised as one of the diamond-producing countries and for diamond exploration at this moment," he added.

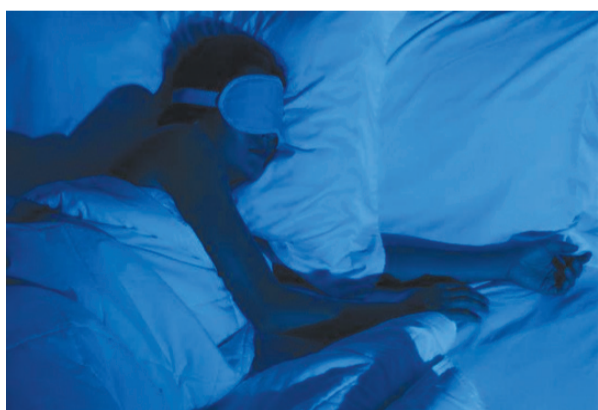
## Deep sleep found to be key to regulating blood sugar

NEW DELHI, Jul 9 (Agencies): An increased responsiveness of the human body to insulin during deep sleep, in turn, improving blood sugar control the next day, may be why lack of quality sleep is considered to increase risk of diabetes, researchers say.

A stronger and a more frequent linking of the deep sleep brain waves, particularly the sleep spindles and the slow waves, triggered the body's parasympathetic nervous system into action, the researchers from the University of California (UC) Berkeley, US, found after examining sleep data of 600 individuals.

The parasympathetic branch of the nervous system is associated with soothing and calming the body by producing physiological effects such as slowing down the heart and dilating blood vessels.

The researchers detected this shift in the



participants by measuring changes in their heart rate.

Further, they found that switching to this tranquil and calm mode enhanced the body's responsiveness to insulin, the blood sugar-regulating hormone, which instructs cells to absorb glucose from the bloodstream and thus, preventing a deleterious blood sugar spike.

Their findings are published in the journal Cell Reports Medicine.

"These synchronized brain waves act like a finger that flicks the first domino to start an associated chain reaction

from the brain, down to the heart, and then out to alter the body's regulation of blood sugar," said Matthew Walker, professor of neuroscience and psychology, UC Berkeley, and senior author of the study.

The coupling of sleep spindles and slow waves of deep sleep have been known to enhance learning and memory.

However, this study in humans, building on a 2021 rodent study, revealed a novel and previously unrecognized function of these waves with regards to the critical bodily function of managing blood sugar.

"This particular coupling of deep-sleep brain waves was more predictive of glucose than an individual's sleep duration or sleep efficiency," said Raphael Vallat, a UC Berkeley postdoctoral fellow and co-author of the study.

"That indicates there is something uniquely special about the electrophysiological quality and coordinated ballet of these brain oscillations during deep sleep," said Vallat.

The researchers subsequently replicated the same effects by examining a separate group of 1,900 participants.

They said that being a modifiable lifestyle factor, sleep could be used in high blood sugar and Type 2 diabetes treatment.

Further, their study uncovers the prospect of new technologies capable of safely altering deep sleep brain waves to help people better manage their blood sugar, they said.

## First 'tooth regrowth' drug to enter human clinical trials in 2024

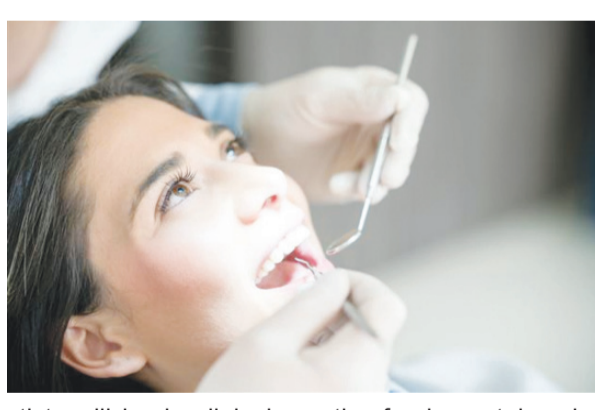
TOKYO, Jul 9 (Agencies): In a breakthrough, a team of Japanese scientists has developed a drug that can regenerate lost teeth in adults, an advance that is now moving towards human clinical trials.

Scientists at Kyoto University and the University of Fukui focused on a protein called USAG-1, which, synthesised by a gene, was found to limit the growth of teeth. The antibody targeting USAG-1 could stimulate tooth growth in mice suffering from tooth agenesis, a congenital condition.

Describing in a paper, published in the journal Science Advances, they said the 'tooth regrowth' drug, if successful, can aid people to grow a new set of teeth who lack them due to a congenital condition called Anodontia.

It causes the growth of fewer than a full set of teeth, present in around 1 per cent of the population.

According to Japan's national daily news site, the Mainichi, the scien-



tists will begin clinical trials in July 2024 and expect to roll out for general use in 2030.

The study is the first to show the benefits of monoclonal antibodies on tooth regeneration and provides a new therapeutic framework for a clinical problem that can currently only be resolved with implants and other artificial measures.

"We knew that suppressing USAG-1 benefits tooth growth. What we did not know was whether it would be enough," said Katsu Takahashi, one of the lead authors of the study and a senior lecturer at the Kyoto.

Takahashi explained

arthritis, and vaccine development.

USAG-1 interacts with both BMP and Wnt. As a result, several of the antibodies led to poor birth and survival rates of the mice, affirming the importance of both BMP and Wnt on whole body growth. One promising antibody, however, disrupted the interaction of USAG-1 with BMP only.

Experiments with this antibody revealed that BMP signalling is essential for determining the number of teeth in mice. Moreover, a single administration was enough to generate a whole tooth. Subsequent experiments showed the same benefits in ferrets, animals with similar dental patterns to humans.

"Conventional tissue engineering is not suitable for tooth regeneration. Our study shows that cell-free molecular therapy is effective for a wide range of congenital tooth agenesis," said Manabu Sugai, of the University of Fukui, a co-author of the study.

## Olympic Council of Asia grants IOA time till July 22 for sending wrestlers' names for Asian Games

**OCA has earlier set July 15 as deadline for all nations to send athletes' entries by names for the Games, set to begin in the Chinese city of Hangzhou on September 23**

NEW DELHI, Jul 9 (Agencies): Extending the deadline by one week, the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) granted the IOA time till July 22 for sending Indian wrestlers' entries to the Asian Games organisers even as the apex sports body of the country had sought time till August 5.

The OCA has, otherwise, set July 15 as deadline for all nations to send athletes' entries by names for the Games, set to begin in the Chinese city of Hangzhou on September 23.

The one-week extension was granted by the OCA under "exceptional circumstances" after the Indian Olympic Association top brass, including President PT Usha, Senior Vice President Ajay Patel and Joint Secretary Kalyan Chaubey attended the General Assembly of the OCA in Bangkok.

"The IOA officials tried their best but the OCA gave a week's extension and that too they (OCA) said was being granted under exceptional circumstances. So, this is the final and we have to send names of our wrestlers by July 22," a source



close to IOA ad-hoc committee told news agency.

"They (OCA) do not want to do something exceptional for India only. So, further extension is not possible, this (July 22) is the final," the source added.

Usha had written to the OCA on Thursday to extend the deadline so that it could provide the six protesting wrestlers, including Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik, enough time to prepare for the Asian Games and World Championship trials.

Before, Usha's fresh request, the IOA had asked OCA to allow it to hold trials by August 10.

A huge controversy had erupted when IOA ad-hoc panel exempted the six protesting wrestlers from initial Asian Games trials.

The six wrestlers were conveyed that they will have to compete against the winners of the trials in a one-bout competition to qualify for the Games, a decision which was denounced by other wrestlers, their coaches and parents.

It remains to be seen if IOA sticks to the two-stage trial and doles out the favour to six protesting wrestlers, including Sangeeta Phogat, the wife

of Bajrang Punia, Satyawart Kadian, the husband of Sakshi Malik, and Jitender Kinha, or asks all contenders to compete in a single trial.

"The two coaches in the ad-hoc panel, Gian Singh and Ashok Garg, are acting like agents of the six protesting wrestlers. They have advised the panel that it must hold two-stage trials and if winners of the initial trials refuse to compete against the six wrestlers, then their names should be removed from the list," said a referee, who attended the Thursday's meeting of the panel.

"Everyone protested this suggestion. Why should these wrestlers be given any favour. It has to be a fair trial. If IOA will discriminate, then the parents, the coaches of the wrestlers will hit the roads and protest against the discrimination.

"You must find out, whose instructions, these two coaches follow. Sometimes they say, it's someone from higher-up who is dictating messages to ad-hoc panel," said the referee, who did not wish to be named.

## Shot putter Karanveer Singh fails dope test, out of Asian Championships

**The 25-year-old had won a bronze in the Federation Cup in May with a throw of 19.05m**



NEW DELHI, Jul 9 (Agencies): Shot putter Karanveer Singh has failed an out-of-competition dope test conducted recently and he will be pulled out of the Indian team for the Asian Athletics Championships in Bangkok next week.

Karanveer, who trains at the National Institute of Sports (NIS) in Patiala, was earlier named

in a 54-member Indian team for the July 12-16 continental championships.

"Yes, that is correct," Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president Adille Sumariwalla told news agency when asked if Karanveer had failed a dope test.

The exact date of the dope test and name of the banned substance

are not known.

Earlier in the day, an Indian team source had said that Karanveer could be left out of the side leaving for Thailand from New Delhi and Bengaluru.

The 25-year-old Karanveer had won a bronze in the Federation Cup in May with a throw of 19.05m while he was second behind Asian record holder Tajinderpal Singh Toor in the National Inter-State Championships in June with an effort of 19.78m.

He is currently sixth among Asians in the season's top list. He has a personal best of 20.10m, achieved during the National Open Championships last year.

Toor will now be the lone Indian in the men's shot put event in the Asian Championships.

## Pakistan PM sets up committee to decide on national team's participation in ODI World Cup in India

ISLAMABAD, Jul 9 (Agencies): Pakistan prime minister Shehbaz Sharif has set up a high-level committee, headed by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto, to decide on the national cricket team's participation in the 2023 ODI World Cup, set to be held in India in October-November, later this year.

According to agency report, the committee's main task will be to make recommendations about Pakistan's travel plans to India and based on that, the Pakistan prime minister will sign off on the country's participation in the mega event.

The development comes after Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had last week written a letter to the govern-

ment seeking advice on whether the team is allowed to travel to India, and, if so, if there are any reservations about any of the five venues. The PCB in its letter had also asked the government if it wanted to send a security delegation to India.

The report further mentioned that the committee will decide whether Pakistan will travel to Ahmedabad for their third league-stage game against India on October 15. Apart from that, it will also make recommendations for Pakistan's tour of the other four Indian cities they are scheduled to play in.

As of now, Pakistan are scheduled to play the Netherlands and Sri Lanka in Hyderabad,

India in Ahmedabad, Australia and New Zealand in Bengaluru, Bangladesh and England in Kolkata, and Afghanistan and South Africa in Chennai.

Apart from foreign minister Zardari, interior minister Rana Sanaullah and law and justice minister Azam Nazeer Tarar are some other names on the committee. It will also consist of Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari, Maryam Aurangzeb, Asad Mehmood, Aminul Haque, Qamar Zaman Kaira, and Tariq Fatemi, the special assistant on foreign affairs to the PM.

The committee, which also includes heads of the intelligence agencies and the foreign secretary, has representation from across different political parties.

## At rainy Wimbledon, Alcaraz among those playing day after day -- and winning

WIMBLEDON, Jul 9 (Agencies): Carlos Alcaraz played for the second straight day at Wimbledon and won again.

So did Christopher Eubanks, Aryna Sabalenka and Petra Kvitova.

Stefanos Tsitsipas also won a match for the second day in a row, but on his fifth consecutive day on court.

The rain early in the week at the All England Club has caused some chaos with the schedule, forcing many players to get on court day after day. Even more rain came on Saturday, delaying the proceedings briefly.

The backlog hasn't seemed to slow down Alcaraz, a 20-year-old Spaniard who is seeded No. 1 and is considered to be the next big star in men's tennis. Playing under the roof on Centre Court, Alcaraz advanced to the fourth round at Wimbledon for the second straight year by beating No. 25 Nicolas Jarry 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-3, 7-5.

"Stay focused all the time," Alcaraz said on court. "I knew I was going to have my chances."

Alcaraz, last year's U.S. Open champion, reached the semi-finals at the French Open —



losing to eventual champion Novak Djokovic — but came into the Wimbledon tournament after winning a grass-court title at Queen's Club. He will next face either 19th-seeded Alexander Zverev or Matteo Berrettini, the Wimbledon runner-up in 2021.

Eubanks, out in the open on Court 18, is a 27-year-old American playing at Wimbledon for the first time. He beat Christopher O'Connell 7-6 (5), 7-6 (3), 7-6 (2) to stay undefeated at the All England Club at 3-0.

Tsitsipas already has eliminated two Grand Slam cham-

has also been disrupted by the weather. The second-seeded Sabalenka, who missed last year's Wimbledon when players from Belarus and Russia were banned because of the war in Ukraine, defeated Anna Blinkova 6-2, 6-3. Kvitova, a two-time Wimbledon champion, beat Natalija Stevanovic 6-3, 7-5 in a match that was suspended late in the second set by more than two hours because of the early showers.

"It was a tough one, for sure, especially with the rain delay," said Kvitova, who won her Wimbledon titles in 2011 and 2014.

"It's nothing easy to deal with." Later, sixth-seeded Ons Jabeur, who reached the Wimbledon and U.S. Open finals last year, was playing Bianca Andreescu. Defending champion Elena Rybakina will face Katie Boulter in the late match.

Wimbledon is the traditional day when sports greats are honored with seats in the Royal Box. They included former tennis stars Billie Jean King, Rosie Casals and Stefan Edberg, as well as Olympic great Steve Redgrave and former England soccer player Gary Lineker.

## England attacking in stiff run-chase after Travis Head show at Headingley

**Ashes 2023: England need 224 more runs to win the Leeds Test and make it 1-2 in the five-match Test series against Pat Cummins's Australia.**

LEEDS, Jul 9 (Agencies): England are in with a great chance of staying alive in the Ashes 2023 going into Day 4 of the Leeds Test. Chasing 251 to win the third Test at Headingley, the hosts got off to an attacking start, scoring 27 runs off five overs. Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett collected four boundaries to bring the target down to 224 at Stumps on Day 3.

Only 25.1 overs were possible on the third day, but there was no shortage of entertainment. The first two sessions were washed off due to rain, after which play resumed in the third. The Aussies lost their last six wickets in the second innings for 108 runs and it was only Travis Head who looked in excellent form.



unbeaten on 16 at the close of play on Day 2, came out firing on all cylinders. He smashed Mark Wood for back-to-back sixes and made his intentions pretty clear. Head racked up 77 runs off 112 balls with the help of seven fours and three sixes.

Head also added 41 runs along with Pat Cummins and 13 runs

with Todd Murphy. He made sure that the Aussies set a challenging target for England to chase down.

Stuart Broad and Chris Woakes picked up three wickets apiece. Moeen Ali couldn't add to the wickets' column after he picked up the important wickets of Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne on Day 2.

The Aussies used three bowlers, Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Scott Boland, but failed to make inroads into the English top order. Duckett looked in good form as he hit three fours to stay not out on 18 off 19. Australia will be looking to pick up early wickets on Day 4 to put the England batters under pressure.

## "There Is A Big Question...": On Rishabh Pant's Possible Return, Top Official Says This

**Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant, currently recovering from his injuries sustained in a horrific car accident last year, is at the National Cricket Academy (NCA)**

NEW DELHI, Jul 9 (Agencies): Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) committee led by Directors Shyam Sharma and Harish Singla met India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant, currently recovering from his injuries sustained in a horrific car accident last year, at the National Cricket Academy (NCA). Pant is currently undergoing rehabilitation at NCA Bangalore. He has been keeping his fans updated about his recovery through his social media posts, in which he is seen hitting the gym, walking without any external support and interacting with his teammates in his usual jovial manner.

Pant has demonstrated tremendous tenac-



ity and determination in his recuperation. His admirers and followers have been following his progress, hoping that he returns soon to entertain them.

Shyam Sharma said that Pant is recover-

ing well and expressed hope that he would be back on the field as soon as possible.

During the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023, Pant also accompanied his team Delhi Capitals in some of their matches and enjoyed the game from the stands. DC delivered an underwhelming performance without their skipper and finished last in the competition.

The wicket-keeper batter met with a car accident on the Delhi-Dehradun highway and had multiple injuries.

Following the accident, and after receiving initial treatment in Dehradun, he was airlifted to Mumbai for better and more specialised medical care.

## Shiv Sena seeks free adequate facilities for stranded Amarnath Yatris amidst bad weather

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 9: Shiv Sena (UBT), Jammu and Kashmir unit, sought free facilities for the pilgrims of the Amarnath Yatra who are presently stranded at various locations due to adverse weather conditions.

The Shiv Sena unit has demanded that the pilgrims, who are stuck at Pahalgam, Baltal, Sheshnag, Panjtarni, and other places, should be provided with adequate facilities including accommodation and transportation in the base camps and local hotels, free of cost.

Manish Sahni, State President of Shiv Sena, J&K, raised this issue during a press conference held today at the



Party's Central Office in Jammu. He expressed concern over the present situation of the Amarnath Yatra.

He urged the Chairman of Shri Amarnath Shrine Board and the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir to ensure that the stranded pilgrims are not burdened with additional

financial expenses. He emphasized the need for arrangements to be made for transportation and accommodation facilities for the stranded pilgrims at the base camps and urged for free arrangements to be made in local hotels as well.

Sahni highlighted the importance of support-

ing private hotels and transportation businesses associated with the pilgrimage by providing them with financial assistance. This would enable them to offer free facilities to the stranded pilgrims and alleviate their financial burden, he added. Raj Singh, President, Kamghar Wing was also present.

## Dental Implant course held at Jammu

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 9: Pulse Hospital Jammu in association with Dio Digital Implant India conducted the prosthetic phase of the dental implant master class for the patients on which the three days surgical master class was organised earlier this year from 24th to 26th February at Jammu. The prosthetic phase is the second phase in the Dental implant treatment. Complete theory and practical hands-on work was done on the patients by the participants.

Dr Bhupinder Singh, Executive Director, Pulse Hospital And Research Centre, Channi, Jammu, said that this hospital will be conducting a similar dental implant master class in future too.



Dr Gautam Sharma, Ex- President, Indian Dental Association (IDA), said that every dentist should know the basics of dental implant procedure. In the coming times it will be the only treatment to replace the missing teeth.

Dr Vineet Gupta from Dio was the resource person during this master class. Senior doctors including Dr Nipun Gupta, Dr

Waheed, Dr Javid, Dr Pawan Salgotra, Dr Nazrul, were present during the course. Saumya Bose, Kumar Jayendra, Sushain Mahajan from Dio Implants were present during the course.

Qasim, MD Pulse Hospital congratulated the team of doctors for conducting the implant masterclass at Jammu and informed the media that Pulse Hospital & Research Center is

leading the way in providing advanced medical services to patients. With 24/7 dialysis services, and state-of-the-art NICU and ICU facilities, the hospital is committed to delivering high-quality care. It is pertinent to mention that more than 400 successful joint replacement surgeries performed last year, helping patients regain mobility and improve their quality of life.

## Prarna clinches 1st position in Women's category at 6th round of Sunday Series Sport Climbing Competition

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 9: As expected Prarna Charak of Govt College for Women, Parade, Jammu bagged the 1st position in the Women's category in the 6th round of the Sunday Series of Sport Climbing Competitions being organised by Tawi Trekkers J&K at Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Bantalab, Jammu. With her 6th win in as many rounds of the Sunday Series of Competitions she has almost consolidated her claim for inclusion in the J&K UT team for the forthcoming North Zone Sport Climbing Championship to be held at Delhi in the last week of September, 2023.

Likewise, in the Sub Junior Boys category, Aryan Rauthan of Army Public School, Damana, Jammu who secured 1st position in the first four rounds and today's 6th round and second position in the 5th round of the competition has



emerged as a strong contender in the UT team for the North Zone competition.

However, there is a fierce competition for the first three positions in the Junior Boys category among Harman Samotra, Aaradhya Manhas, Vageesh and Saksham Slathia. Presently Harman Samotra with 490 points is leading over Saksham Slathia (430points) and Aaradhya Manhas (415points) in the Mini Boys cat-

egory Harshveer Singh (460points) who bagged the first position today in absence of Vidhur Shoor is leading over Vidhur (445 points) Devansh is at the third place.

The other winners of the sixth round of the competition were Meetal Khajuria in the Junior Girls category, Jeevika Verma in the Sub Junior Girls category and Ayaana Bhagat in the Mini Girls category.

6th round of Sunday Series of Sport Climbing

Competition in which only 30 climbers participated because of inclement weather was conducted under the overall supervision of Shivani Charak and Arun Deep Singh, both international climbers.

Prominent among others who remained present during the competition included President of Tawi Trekkers Ram Khajuria, Vice President and an executive member of Mountaineering Association of

J&K Sumit Khajuria and Sonam Sidharth respectively.

It may be mentioned here that the purpose of the Sunday Series is to provide the budding climbers regular practice and exposure to serious competition and rank them accordingly on the basis of points gained at every round of the Sunday Series. Champion of the month is also declared after every four rounds of the competition. It would obviously prepare them adequately for the forthcoming zonal championship and thus facilitate their selection for the Inter Zonal Championship.

7th round of the Sunday Series of Competitions shall be held on 16th July, 2023. For registration and further information interested climbers may contact General Secretary of Tawi Trekkers J&K Shawetica Khajuria on Mob. No. 7006099855.

## Ensure full ration quota supply to J&K, Kesri tells Centre



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 9: Shiv Sena Hindustan, J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today demanded the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the Central Government to increase the per member ration in Jammu and Kashmir.

Kesri addressing media persons, demanded from the government that the per member ration which is at least 5 kg of flour and 1 kg of rice, which is currently being given 3 kg of 500 grams of flour and 1 kg of rice, which is very less because even if 200 grams of ration is taken per person, then 6 kg of ration is needed for

the month, but the government only making false claims over availability of ration in ration depot.

Kesri further said that first they stopped sugar quota, then reduced the ration from 7 kg to 3 kg 500 grams which is gross injustice in view of skyrocketing inflation of basic commodities. He requested the government not to joke with the people, at least give them complete ration for the month. If the government cannot even fulfill the basic needs of the people, then such a government has no right to remain in power, such LG has also no right to live in Jammu and Kashmir. He should go back

to UP and should see how much flour people are getting there per person. "Every now and then, people in rural areas have been protesting against the reduction of the monthly ration supply to half for the past one year now. The main reason was the stopping of ration supply under the Jammu Kashmir Food Entitlement Program or Food Entitlement Scheme (JKFES)," he added.

Among those present on the occasion include Vijay Luthra, Raj Kumar, Balwant Fauji, Brijesh Kumar, Suresh Kumar, Amit Kumar, Darshana Devi, Rajni Devi, Poli Devi and other Shiv Sainiks.

## Dogra Front & Shiv Sena slams mischievous elements for spreading false rumours about LG Sinha

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 9: Dogra Front and Shiv Sena strongly criticized the mischievous elements who are spreading baseless rumours that Lt Governor Manoj Sinha is being replaced by Captain Amarinder Singh.

Ashok Gupta, Party President led by his supporters come on road and assured the public that Manoj Sinha continues to serve as the Lt Governor of the region.

"We are deeply concerned about the chaos and confusion that these rumours have caused among the administrative authorities. It is imperative to identify and take necessary action against those responsible for spreading such false information. We urge the authorities to investigate this matter thoroughly and restore a sense of clarity and stability," he said.

"Manoj Sinha is a man of great integrity and dedication. His relentless efforts have led to significant achievements in combatting corruption, stone pelting, and militancy in Jammu & Kashmir. We commend his commitment to the welfare of



the region and its people," he added.

Gupta raised concerns about the discontinuation of the Yatra from Panjtarni after 01:30 pm and the early evacuation of yatris waiting near the cave before 5:00 pm, resulting in a lack of Darshan opportunities. We understand the sentiments of the Yatris and believe that every effort should be made to ensure a smooth and continuous Yatra, as it has been in the

past, he added. "We have also received complaints from Yatris regarding overcharging by hotels due to the sudden halt of the Yatra, which has caused an influx of people. We urge the authorities to investigate these claims promptly and take appropriate action against those involved in exploiting the situation. The welfare and fair treatment of the yatris should be prioritized," he added.

Ashok Gupta appealed to the general public to extend their support and assistance to the stranded Yatris. Furthermore, he emphasized the need for increased Langar services to ensure that the Yatris are provided with necessary sustenance during this challenging time.

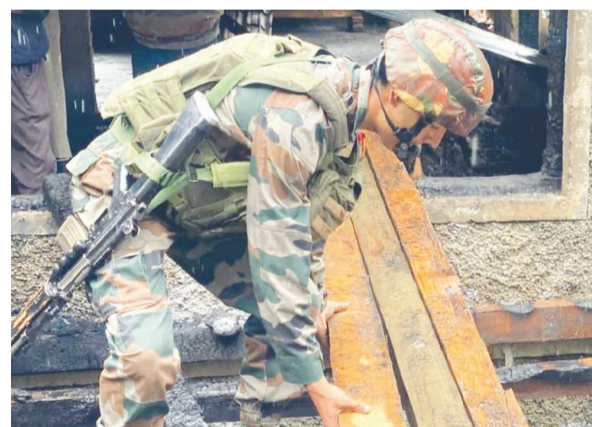
Among those who were present include Bantu, Rahul, Rahul Dinesh, Naresh, Vikky, Kalu, Sham and Prem.

## Army provides relief to fire affected family

### TOP NEWS REPORT

BARAMULLA, Jul 9: A house in Mohura village caught fire due to short-circuit on 3rd July at around 4 PM. The Indian Army swiftly responded to an emergency call & doused the fire preventing further damage & ensured the safety of local community. The devastating fire left the family in distress & their home severely damaged.

Indian Army again stepped in to provide timely succor to the family to recover from the immediate crisis. The efforts included the provision of immediate necessities such as building material & food items to the affected residents. Mr Mohammed Latif, owner of the affected house, told the reporter that "When my house caught fire on 3rd July, the Army units of Pir Panjal Brigade responded immediately & reached the spot with Fire Fighting equipments and Water Bowser & doused the fire preventing further spread. I am very thankful to the Army for extending support & providing me with relief material in times of crisis". Mohura Village Sarpanch, Mr Nawaz Ahmad Malik quoted that "Since the fire-incident on 3rd July, Indian Army has been extending support & providing relief to the affected family. Pir Panjal Bri-



gade has always stood by the people in the crisis situations". Another resident of the Village, Mr Suna Ullah Tantry stated that "Pir Panjal Brigade units have provided much needed help and relief material to the affected family. We are very grateful to the Indian Army for their forever support for the people". This assistance by Army will help expedite the restoration of the home & contribute to the recovery of affected family.