

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Nepal Prime Minister Prachanda's wife Sita passes away



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BRIEFLY

India records 46 New Covid infections, count of Active cases now 1,413

NEW DELHI, Jul 12 (Agencies): India has recorded a single-day rise of 46 new COVID-19 infections and the count of active cases now stands at 1,413, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The death toll due to the disease has increased to 5,31,913 and the tally of the infections is at 4.49 crore (4,49,94,665), the data updated at 8 am showed.

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

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has surged to 4,44,61,339, while the case fatality rate is at 1.18 per cent, according to the data. According to the ministry's website, 220.66 crore vaccine doses have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

MeT forecasts mainly dry weather with possibility of 'isolated' light rain in J&K

SRINAGAR, Jul 12 (Agencies): Weather department here on Wednesday forecast mainly dry weather with possibility of isolated light rain and thunderstorm till July 14 even the minimum temperature recorded increase and decrease at other places in Jammu and Kashmir.

A meteorological department official here said that "intermittent light to moderate rain" was expected at many places of J&K from July 15-17.

Regarding the minimum temperature, the official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 16.8°C against 16.4°C on the previous night and it was 1.3°C below normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 14.5°C against 16.0°C on the previous night and it was 2.0°C below

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Amid tight security, 10th batch of over 7,800 pilgrims leave Jammu for Amarnath



JAMMU, Jul 12 (Agencies): The 10th batch of over 7,800 Amarnath Yatra pilgrims left the

Jammu base camp in the early hours of July 12 for the twin base camps in Kashmir amid

tight security arrangements, officials said. The yatra resumed from the Jammu base

camp on July 11 afternoon after remaining suspended for three days in view of the closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway for repairs in the Ramban section.

A total of 1,37,353 pilgrims have visited the Amarnath shrine since July 1, the officials said.

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in

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DG BSF lauds high level professionalism of forces during Amarnath Yatra



SRINAGAR, Jul 12 (Agencies): Director General of the Border Security Force Nitin Agrawal on Wednesday

lauded the high level of professionalism of the BSF and exhorted them to remain alert for any eventuality during the

ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY).

DG BSF Agrawal said this during his interaction with BSF men at Panjtarni in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

The DG was on a three-day visit to Kashmir, where he reviewed the security arrangements for the Yatra.

At least 1,40,000 pilgrims have visited the Cave shrine since the Yatra began on July 1.

A BSF spokesperson said DG Agrawal arrived in Srinagar on July 10 and was welcomed by

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Army felicitates youth for helping retrieve bodies of two soldiers in Poonch



JAMMU, Jul 12 (Agencies): A group of six civilians who voluntarily joined the Army rescue operation after two soldiers were swept away by flash floods in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district have been felicitated by the force.

Acknowledging their contribution, the Army on Tuesday organised

a special function in Poonch and felicitated them for their valour and help.

Karamat Hussain, Shakeel Ahmad, Imran Ahmad, Mushtaq Ahmad and Raja Khan of Dogria village and Aftar Ahmad of Behramgalla showed utter disregard for their personal safety during the rescue operation,

Jammu-based Army PRO Lt Col Suneel Bartwal said.

During an area domination patrol duty in the difficult terrain of Poonch on Saturday, Lance Naik Telu Ram, while crossing a mountainous stream, got swept away due to flash floods. Naib Subedar Kuldeep Singh, the patrol leader while attempting to save his subordinate also laid down his life.

While the body of JCO Singh was retrieved within hours of the incident on Saturday night, the mortal remains of Ram were fished out the next day. A video shared on social media showed

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Spirituality knows no boundaries | 2 US nationals undertake Amarnath Yatra in J&K



SRINAGAR, Jul 12 (Agencies): The ongoing annual Amarnath yatra has become the perfect example of the no boundaries for spirituality as two foreigners have joined the pilgrims to perform the darshan at the holy cave this

year, who according to them are inspired by Swami Vivekananda.

Two foreign nationals from California, United States (US) have fulfilled a 40-year-old dream by undertaking the holy pilgrimage of Amarnath Yatra. The duo recount

Swami Vivekananda's visit to Amarnath.

The foreign pilgrims, who undertook the yatra, said it is not possible to express their joy and happiness after visiting here and performing the darshan of Lord Shiva's Ice Lingam.

"It seemed impossible and was a dream to come here. But by Bholenath's grace, everything came together and here we are... We can't explain how we feel," says a pilgrim from California, US, adding that it was a dream come true for them.

"With the blessings of

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Five injured as car carrying pilgrims hits road divider in Udhampur

JAMMU, Jul 12 (Agencies): A car carrying Amarnath pilgrims hit a road divider in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, leaving five people injured, a police official said.

The pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh were on their way to the Baltal base camp in Ganderbal district when the driver of their vehicle lost control and hit the road divider at Samroli along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway around 6.15 am, the official said.

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Govt working to solve long pending issues of daily wagers: Darakhshan Andrabi

PULWAMA, Jul 12 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board chairperson Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Wednesday said that the government is working to solve the long pending issues of daily wagers and that every inch of waqf land grabbed by anyone will be retrieved soon.

While quoting Andrabi, Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reported that the



government was working to solve issues of daily wagers and hopefully their issues will be solved soon.

She also said that every inch of Waqf land that has been occupied

or grabbed illegally by anyone will soon be retrieved.

To a query about the Opposition Unity, she said that there is no fun without a challenge and they know that BJP has worked for the welfare of the people, which is why they are coming together.

She also said that preparations regarding Parliament and Urban Local Body elections

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SC drops Shah Faesal, Shehla Rashid as petitioners challenging scrapping of Article 370

SRINAGAR, Jul 12 (Agencies): As the Supreme Court of India is all set to hear a batch of pleas challenging the abrogation of Article 370, two main petitioners have dropped out of the case. IAS officer Shah Faesal and activist Shehla Rashid Shora filed an application for deleting their names

from the list of petitioners, while the omission was allowed by the Supreme Court on Tuesday evening.

Rashid and Faesal were among the 23 petitioners who had moved to the Supreme Court in 2022, challenging the center government's special status of the erst-

while state of Jammu and Kashmir.

A few days earlier clearing his stance on Article 370, Faesal in a tweet said, "370, for many Kashmiris like me, is a thing of the past."

"370, for many Kashmiris like me, is a thing of the past. Jhelum and Ganga have merged in the great Indian Ocean

for good. There is no going back. There is only marching forward," he tweeted recently.

Meanwhile, a Constitution Bench of apex court headed by CJI DY Chandrachud will take up the matter regarding the contentious abrogation of the law which took away Jammu and

Turn to page 9

Police arrest five LeT associates in Budgam

SRINAGAR, Jul 12 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday said that security forces arrested five terrorist associates linked with proscribed outfit LeT in Budgam, officials said.

They said that the forces recovered incriminating materials from their possession.

A spokesperson said that police along with Army (62 RR) arrested



05 terrorist associates in Khag area of district Budgam. They have been identified as Rouf Ahmad Wani son of Abdul Majeed Wani

resident of Bhatangan Khag, Hilal Ahmad Malik son of Ghulam Hassan Malik resident of Bathipora Khag, Tawfeeq Ahmad Dar son of Nazir Ahmad Dar resident of Nowrooz Baba Khag, Danish Ahmad Dar son of Manzoor Ahmad Dar resident of Dar Mohalla Nawrooz Baba Khag and Showkat Ali Dar son of Ali Mohammad Dar resident of Bathipora

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Deodorants! Body Washes! Body Mists!

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SCAN ME!

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
Babhi & Brothers

Smt Shashi & Sh Keshav Singh
Smt Sunita & Lt Sh Kamal Singh

Smt Sarita & Sh Romesh Singh.

Sister & Brother in laws

Smt Krishna & Dr Jagdeep Singh Sambyal

Lt Smt Bimla & Sub Taranter Singh Jamwal.

Grand Son & Daughter

Arupam Jamwal. Mahi Jamwal, Apama Singh.
7051225179 7889932841 959667928



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

TENTH DAY KRIYA

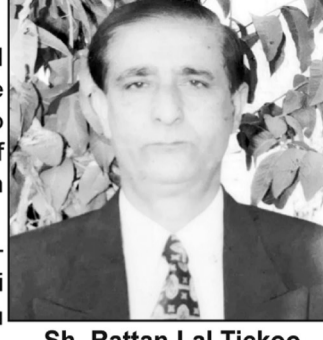
With profound grief and sorrow, we would like to inform you all about the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Rattan Lal Tickoo S/O Lt Sh. Laxmi Nath Tickoo** Resident of Martand, Mattan Anantnag, Kashmir on **05-07-2023**.

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

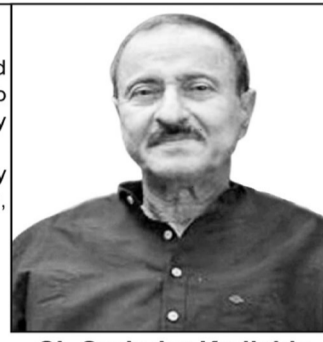
Sushma Raina and Ravinder Raina

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

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Er. Gianeshwer Sharma S/o Late (Prof) Jai Dev Baru (Purmandal Wale)** on **3rd July 2023.**

Tenth Day will be performed on **12th July 2023 (Wednesday), 10.00am** at **Trikuta Yatri Nivas, Near Ved Mandir Amphalla, Jammu.**

Kriya will be performed at our residence **41-B, Karan Nagar Extn** on **13th July 2023(Thursday)** from **10 am onwards.**

Grief Stricken: -

Anuradha Sharma(Wife)

Sister & Brother in Law

Padmashree Lt. Padma Sachdev & Padma Shree Surinder Singh

Brother & Bhabhi

Vijay Lakshmi & Prof (Dr.) Ashutosh Sharma

Daughter in law & Son

Dr. Roshy & Anshuman

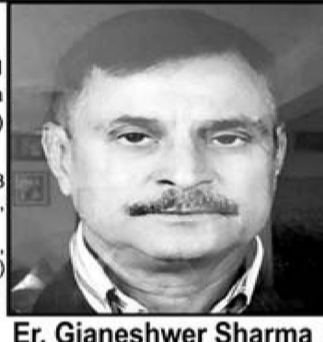
(Nephew) Jyotsna & Dr. Manik

Daughter & Son in law

Kusha & Dr. Vivek

Dr. Chinmei & Er. Vikas

Ph. **9070002777, 9419144550**



Er. Gianeshwer Sharma

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Rajinder Kumar Pandita S/o Late Sh. Mohan Lal R/o Levendora (Qazigund) Distt Anantnag** Kashmir at present **H.No. 16, Vasuki Vihar, Behind Army Quarters, Rajpuri Lines Lower Muthi Jammu** on **04-07-2023.**

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed on **13-07-2023 (Thursday)** at **8.00 AM** at **Muthi Ghat** near **Director School Education, Jammu.**

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sunita Pandita - Wife

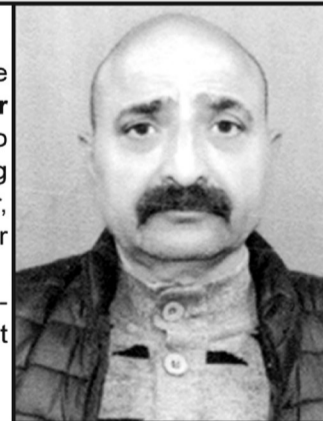
Soni Pandita - Sister

Bhabi & Brother

Smt. & Sh. Vinod Pandita

Children: Lavish & Janvi

And Samast Pariwar Panditas, Veshins, Tickoos, Bakshis & Kouls



SH. RAJINDER KUMAR PANDITA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With Profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Pardeep Singh Jamwal (Retd. Engineer) S/o Late Sh. Tralok Singh R/o 221 F Rehari Colony, Hari Singh Nagar, Near Shiv Temple, Jammu.**

Tenth Day will be performed at our residence on **18th July, Tuesday.**

May his soul rest in peace.

GRIEF STRICKEN

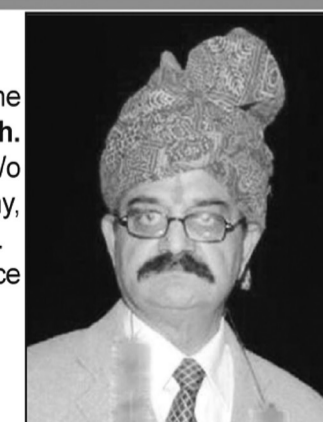
Smt. Veena Jamwal - Wife

Sons & Daughter-in-law

Vikrant Jamwal & Dolly Jamwal

Vikas Jamwal

Grand Daughters: Juhi & Pihu



Sh. Pardeep Singh Jamwal
(Retd. Engineer)

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)

10TH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the untimely demise of our beloved mother **Reeta Bhat W/o Late Makhan Lal Bhat** of **Khanpura Bandipura Kashmir** at present **Block 83 Flat 4 Lane 17 Jagti Colony.**

10th Day will be performed at **Muthi Gath** on **14-7-2023 (7 AM)** and **Assembly** at **Lane No. 23 Jagti (Community Hall).**

Grief Stricken

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Late Sh Anil Koul & Veena Koul

Sh Arun Bhat & Urmila Bhat

Sh Amit Bhat & Anita Bhat

Daughter & Son-in-law

Late Smt Archana Bhat & Dleep Bhat

Grand Sons & Daughters

Sidhart Koul, Deeksha Koul, Nilesh Bhat, Yatin Bhat

Grand Daughters

Senhal Koul & Stuti Koul

8492842931



Reeta Bhat

BHOG & ANTIM ARDASS

With profound grief & deep sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Lt. Sdr. Balwant Kaur**, who passed away peacefully at home on **4.7.2023**. To pay homage to the departed soul following programme has been decided.

Aramb Sri Akhand Path Sahib 9.30 AM at residence **11-7-2023 (Tuesday)** M.H.Road, Udhampur

Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib 13.07.2023(Thursday) at **10 AM.**

Antim Ardass at **Gurudwara Singh Sabha Sahib, Udhampur** from **10.30 AM 12 Noon** followed by **Guru Ka Langar.**

IN GRIEF:

S. Darshan Singh SASSAN (Husband)

(Son and Daughter-in-law)

Janamjit Singh (J&K Bank) And Sdr. Parkash Kaur

Sdr. Kanwaljit Kaur And S. Surinder Singh. (Daughter And Son-in-law)

Sdr. Karamjeet Kaur And S. Virinder Singh (Daughter And Son -in-law).

Mobile **9419796577, 9149432482**



Lt. Sdr. Balwant Kaur

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Ram Singh Jamwal S/o Sh S S Jamwal R/o H No. 205, Lane No. 01, Naseeb Nagar Janipur, Jammu.**

10th Day will be performed on **11th of July** at **10.30 AM.**

Kriya will be performed on **14th of July** at **12.00 Noon.**

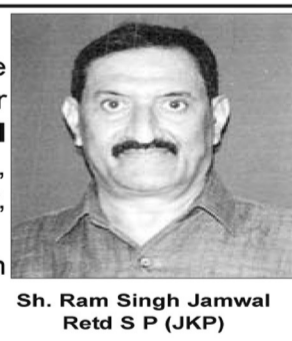
Uthala will be performed on **14th of July** from **4-5 PM** at residence.

Grief Stricken:

JAMWAL AND PATHANIA FAMILY

Mobile:

9469762626, 9797620301



Sh. Ram Singh Jamwal
Retd S P (JKP)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

Our hearts still ache with sadness and many tears still flow
What it meant to lose you, No one will ever know
We hold you close within our hearts
And there you will remain to walk with us throughout our lives until
We meet Again

Our Guardian, the soul of our family passed away peacefully to merge with eternity on **05-07-2023** at **Kathua.**

10th Day is scheduled on **14-07-2023 (Friday)** at **Mahakaleshwar Temple, Krishna Colony Kathua** at **10.00 am** and **Kriya** shall be performed at our residence at **W.No.4, Krishna Colony, near Sat Sarovar Mandir, Kathua** on **15-07-2023 (Saturday)** at **10.00 am.**

IN GRIEF

Veena Padha -Wife

Sumit and Preeti -Son & Daughter-in-law

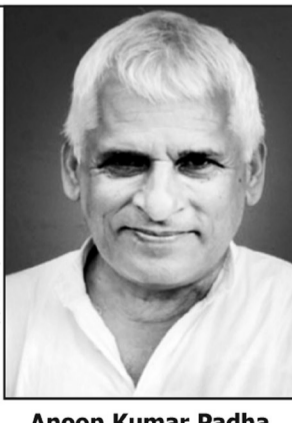
Pallavi & Raman -Daughter & Son-in-law

Anil and Neelam Padha -Brother & Sister-in-law

Anita and Rajesh Sharma -Sister & Brother-in-law

Sapna and Vijay Upadhaya -Sister & Brother-in-law

M: 9906500511 and 9419151194



Anoop Kumar Padha
(Retd. Accounts Officer)



SMT SATYA DEVI
OWNER OF MIS SATYA TRADERS
R.S. PURA

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. Amaya Sharma (Great Grand Daughter)

Sharma Family

9419100574, 8492880574, 7051110574, 8493059830, 9682328780.

TENTH DAY POOJA

With profound grief we inform sad demise of **Shri Ashok Raina S/o Late Janki Prasad Raina** original resident of **Narsingh Garh (Bal Garden) Srinagar**, at present **H.No. 301-A, Prime Heights, Opp Abhinav College, Pashan Sus Road, Pune** on **6th July 2023.**

TENTH DAY POOJA will be performed on **Saturday, 15th July 2023** at **11.00 am** at present address.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sister-in-law

Mrs. Nalini Raina W/o Lt. Sh. H.L. Raina (USA)

Sister & Brother-in-law

Mrs. Shakuntala & Mr. Surinder Peer (USA)

Mrs. Rima Raina- Daughter

Mr. Rohit Raina- Son

Master Areen Kale- Grandson

MOB: **+917276877612**



Shri Ashok Raina

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAAS

With Profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Harinder Pal Singh (H.P. Singh) S/o Late Dalip Singh (Granthi)** originally from village **Singhpora Kalan** who left for heavenly abode on **06/07/2023.**

PROGRAMME

Arambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib Ji on **(12/07/2023) Wednesday** at **9 am** at our residence **Singhpora Kalan Baramulla.**

Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib Ji on **(14/07/2023) Friday** at **9 am** at our residence.

Bhog and Antim Ardaas From **10.00 am** to

BJP Talab Tillo Mandal organises monthly meet



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 12: BJP Talab Tillo Mandal Led by its President Keshav Chopra today organised Monthly meet at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan Kachi Chawani The meeting was attended by District President Jammu Parmod Kapahi, Prabhari Jammu District Rajeev Charak, Vistarak Jammu Ashok Kumar, District General Secretary Kuldeep

Kandhari along with Office Bearers of Talab Tillo Mandal.

The Motive of the Meeting was to discuss the Works done during last one Month and also to Make Strategy for Upcoming Programmes of the Party.

Speaking on the Occasion Parmod Kapahi Appreciated the Work of Talab Tillo Mandal team and said that Mandal team is doing Commendable

work for the common man and also for the Party, Whatever Programme has Been Given to Mandal Team they did it with great Team Work. He also reviewed the Status of the Mahajansampark Abhiyaan (9yrs of Narendra Modi government) in which Party cadre is going door to door to meet the people and inform about the achievements of Modi government.

Speaking on the Occasion Rajeev Charak applauded the work of Talab Tillo Mandal in strengthening the Party at Grass Root Level, He also Discussed Several Upcoming Programme of the Party.

Speaking on the Occasion Keshav Chopra thanked the Mandal Team For Working Continuously to Strengthen the party, Keshav said that organising these meeting gives us a

Platform to make Composite Plan for Upcoming Programmes of the Party and Reviewing about Previous Programmes, Keshav also Assured the leaders that he along with his Team will continue Work for the Upliftment of Downtrodden of the Society.

Munish Gupta Mandal General Secretary Conducted the Proceedings of the Programme and Paramjeet Presented vote of thanks.

Rajinder Tiku, Deepak Kumar, Ramesh Kumar, Parveen Ghai, Deepak Sharma, Gurcharan Singh, Rahul Nargotra, Bhubesh Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Bablu Chand, Bhupinder Gupta, Jatinder Khajuria, Manohar Lal, Geeta Sodhi, Omkar Verma, Kusum Gupta, Vikas Gupta, Sanchit Sharma, Sachin Nargotra, Davinder Singh, Harvinder Singh, Vikas Kumar, Meena Jamwal and others were also present.

Uninterrupted Langar Sewa running at Mahajan Sabha

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 12: Romesh Chander Gupta, president, Jammu Central Mahajan Sabha, while sharing the activities going on in the premises of the Sabha at Shalamar, Jammu, informed that the registration of Shri Amaranth Yatrins is in process with the active participation of government agencies along with the management of the Sabha and added that Langar Sewa is being run with active participation of the donors.

Romesh Chander Gupta, along with the office bearers and working committee members, thanked the donors and appealed the community mem-

bers to donate hole heartedly for the noble cause so that the Langar Sewa runs smoothly for the Yatra period. He said that on an average, around one thousand Yatrins are being served with Parsad daily. The District Development Commissioner, Jammu, Avani Lavasa is taking personal interest by visiting the Sabha premises from time to time along with with senior functionaries of other concerned agencies, he told.

Gupta further shared that the members of the Sabha are actively taking care of requirements of Yatrins, and that Langar Sewa was sponsored by Dr. Rajesh Gupta, Physician.

38th Jammu District Badminton Championships-2023 begins

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 12: The 38th Jammu District Badminton Championships-2023 got under way on Wednesday, here in which about 180 players (Boys & Girls) from different parts of the District are participating.

The Championship was inaugurated by Baldev Singh Billaoria, Dy. Mayor, Jammu Municipal Corporation.

Present on the occasion were Dr. O.D Sharma, Chairman, Badminton Association of J&K and Vice President, Badminton Association of India, Balbir Jamwal, General Secretary, Badminton Association of J&K,



D. V. Sharma, General Secretary, Jammu City & District Badminton Association, Anil Gaiind, Pawanjit Singh, Basanti Bhat

Vice Presidents of Jammu City & District Badminton Association. The matches are being played under the supervision of

Rahul Sharma, Chief Referee & Jt. Secretary of JCDBA with the help of Divum Gupta, Badminton Coach, Sukhdev Singh.

HSS seeks suspension of Dr Shashi Sudan for tampering records

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 12: Hindu Shiv Sena organized a meeting under the presidency of Krishan Manhas. The primary focus of the meeting was to address the issue of Date of Birth tampering by Principal GMC Jammu.

During the meeting, President Krishan

Manhas commended the efforts of the Crime Branch (Economic Offences Wing Jammu) team for their ongoing investigation into the Date of Birth case involving Dr. Shashi Sudan Sharma, Principal of GMC. The investigation revealed that Dr. Sharma had manipulated her Date of Birth when she enrolled

in the MBBS course, altering it from 1965 to 1964. Consequently, deserving candidates were unjustly deprived of their rightful admissions in the MBBS course during that year. Dr. Sharma is the main accused in this case, and her service book has been recovered by the investigating agency from her resi-

dence, he alleged.

Krishan Manhas expressed concern over the missing Date of Birth record of Dr. Sharma and labeled her as manipulative, emphasizing her control over the department. He demanded that she be suspended from her current position and a suitable replacement be

appointed to prevent any further tampering of official records and potential interference with prosecution witnesses.

The meeting was attended by Navdeep Rajwal, Jagtar Singh, K.S Salaria, Kewal Singh, Ashok Jandyal, Manmohan Kumar, Jandyal, Abinandan and others.

PDD fails to provide round-the-clock power despite installation of smart meters: Amit Kapoor

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 12: Senior Aam Aadmi Party leader Amit Kapoor has expressed serious concern over heavy power cuts despite installation of smart meters. Along with this, he also strongly criticized the government for forcing people in Jammu and Kashmir, especially Janipur area, to pay prepaid electricity bills.

Addressing a press conference in Jammu, Amit Kapoor said that despite the installation of smart meters by the PDD department, the department has completely failed to provide round-the-clock electricity to the people. He said that along with this, people are being forced to pay electricity bills through prepaid. He said that it has also been started from Janipur area, which he strongly opposes. He also said that huge power cuts



are also being done in Janipur area itself. He said that there is a continuous cut of four to five hours in the evening due to which people are worried. Like other areas of Janipur, the situation in Indira Vihar area also remains worrying. He alleged that the department was doing all this with the consent of carporters and BJP leaders.

He said that the Aam Aadmi Party will oppose it strongly and will start a big movement against it

on the streets. He said that in this connection, he had also protested in Janipur area last day in which a large number of local people had participated. Amit Kapoor said that his party would intensify the series of protests against it in the coming days. Along with this, he also opposed paying huge electricity bills to the people and said that people are facing a lot of trouble due to this. He said that the employees of the

Electricity Department have gone on rampage and on the one hand they are giving huge bills to the people here and on the other hand they are cutting their connections which has created a grave problem in front of the people.

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 people were expecting that PDD would supply electricity round the clock after installation of smart meters as they were promised that after installation of smart meters, electricity would be provided without any 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 this issue and solve this problem of the people.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating Division, Government Medical College & Hospital, Jammu

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Short Term)

MHDJ/e-NIT 83 of 2023-24 **Dated: 08.07.2023 due: 15.07.2023**

On behalf of the President of India, e-tenders in two cover system on turnkey basis are invited from registered/reputed firms having sufficient relevant experience for the work mentioned below:

S. No	Description of work	Project Authority	Estt	AAA/TS	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Eligibility Criterion of Bidder
1	Complete servicing of "Dalkin make" VRV System installed at Ground, 1st & 2nd Floors of Govt. MCH, Jammu.	Principal GMC & Associated Hospital Jammu	2.465 LACS	ACCORDED	Rs.5000.00 in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR valid for 12 months pledged to the Executive Engineer MHCH Divn GMC Jammu.	Rs 200.00 in the shape of Challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to 0059-PWD (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan / receipt on e-tendering portal.	15 days	OEM /Registered & Reputed firms having sufficient experience as per Annexure Similar/ Electromechanical nature of work

OR
The bidder may deposit tender fee in the shape of e-Challan through Account no. 0097010100002163 in the name of Executive Engineer MHCH GMC&H Jammu Name of Bank: J&K Bank Town Hall Jammu Branch Code:0097 IFSC code: JAKA0TNNHALL MICR CODE: 180051025

THE NIT CONSISTING OF Qualifying INFORMATION, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, BILL OF QUANTITIES (BOQ) SETS OF TERMS & CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT & OTHER DETAILS CAN BE VIEWED / DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE www.jktenders.gov.in.

DIPJ-4713/23 **SD/- (Er. Vishal Mahajan) Executive Engineer Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating Division GMCH, Jammu**

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIVN. NO. I, JAMMU

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Short e-NIT No. CD-1/47 of 2023-24 Dated 07-07-2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, M&S and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost ('in Lacs)	Cost of document ('in)	Earnest Money ('in)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Boundary Wall of Girls Hostel of MAM College Jammu (Under Capex Budget)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I Jammu	11.45	600	22900 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 15-07-2023	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class
2	Construction of drain at Langer Village Kunjwani (Under Non Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I Jammu	4.20	600	8400 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 15-07-2023	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class
3	Construction of Lane by way of providing and laying of 80mm thick interlocking tiles and retaining wall at Langer Village Kunjwani (Under Non Plan)	PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I Jammu	3.17	600	6340 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 15-07-2023	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class

Position of AAA :- **Accorded**
Major Head of Account :- **S.No. 1 Under Capex Budget for the year 2023-24 and S.No. 2 & 3 Under Non Plan 2023-24**

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	07-07-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 07-07-2023 to 14-07-2023, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	10-07-2023 at 1400 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	07-07-2023
5	Bid Submission End Date	14-07-2023 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	15-07-2023 on or after 1400 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I Jammu and upload the same i.e treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I Jammu. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of LI to be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I Jammu at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I Jammu**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

..Sd..
(Er. K.K Atri)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. I
Jammu

DIPJ-4747/23

EDITORIAL

PRIVATIZATION
IN EDUCATION

After the independence of the country, there has been remarkable progress in the field of higher education in the country in the last five decades. Before independence there were only 3 universities in the country. At the same time, now the number of universities has reached more than 250. Today we will write essay on private college or education in India in this article. Along with this we will know what the condition of education in the country.

Whatever work gives a person new experience and new knowledge is education. Not only in school, you can get education anywhere. Cultural, economic, political and social development of students is done through education.

Due to the establishment of new educational institutions, new employment opportunities are available to the youth, and the businesses related to education are also gaining momentum. Let us tell you, in the last few years, the number of people getting higher education has increased rapidly.

Due to the privatization of education, education is being promoted rapidly. Those students who fail in competitive examinations, then do not get admission in any professional or other course, then they can get desired education from private college by spending more money, in this way, due to privatization of education, the country's money is spent in positive work. Looks like

Everything has both advantages and disadvantages. If we talk about the benefits of privatization in education, then deemed universities are opening at various places. You can easily take admission in any universities easily. Along with this, coaching and tuition are being promoted.

In informal education, students do not get this type of education from school, but from society, family. You can put this type of education inside the student. Students receive this education of their own free will. That's why it is called informal education. Tell me, this type of education can be obtained anywhere, anytime.

Disadvantages of privatization in education Commercialization of education has resulted in flood of private educational institutions in India. But poor people are not getting the benefit of privatization of education. The main reason for this is the lack of education. On the other hand, talking about private schools in the cities, monthly fees ranging from Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 are charged from the children of primary level classes. The common man finds it very difficult to bear such fees to provide good education to his children.

Education is very important for our life. Education shows the way of life of a man. Education makes a person idealistic and develops moral values in him. By getting education, a person becomes aware of his innate powers and abilities. Tell me, it is only through education that a society develops itself and creates a separate identity for itself.

What will happen in N-E if Manipur civil war spreads?

By: Patricia Mukhim

The civil war in Manipur has lasted nearly 70 days. US ambassador to India Eric Garcetti has offered to help defuse the crisis as Prime Minister Narendra Modi maintains a studied silence. The levels of cruelty inflicted by the warring Meiteis and Kuki-Zos on one another beggars description. David Theik, 31, a Kuki youth guarding his village, was not just beheaded but his head was stuck on a pole and his body severed to pieces. Such cruelty also suggests that the hatred between the two communities runs deep and is beyond repair. Each group has taken a hardened stance and believes its people are victims. This victimhood mentality has pushed the warring factions to retaliate and vow revenge against one another in what seems a fight to the finish.

The Meiteis believe they are wronged by a system which deprives them of their rights as Manipur's indigenous people. They are defined as non-tribals as they adopted Vaishnavism, a form of Hinduism that came from Bengal. The British had already executed their carefully crafted "divide and rule" policy after they entered the Northeast after the 1826 Treaty of Yandaboo. They demarcated the hills as the ancestral homes of the Kuki-Zo tribes and the Imphal Valley, just a tenth of Manipur's land area, as the natural habitat of Meiteis. That this absurd arrangement, including colonial laws like the Eastern Bengal Frontier Regulation Act 1873, now called Inner Line Permit, should be allowed to continue after 1947, when India became independent, reveals the lack of thinking of Indian rulers who took over from the British.

The Meiteis, roughly 53 per cent of Manipur's population, feel a deep sense of injustice as they are

unable to buy land and settle in the hills, while the Kuki-Zo and Nagas, who virtually own the hills, can also settle in the Imphal Valley. That this would blow up into full-scale warfare was inevitable. Remember that both Meiteis and Kuki-Zo people have their share of armed militia, who have been agitating over perceived and real injustices. To that add the Naga militants — the NSCN(I-M) — whose turf is the Ukhrul region, also in the Manipur hills. While the NSCN(I-M) has been in talks with the Government of India since 1997, and Kuki outfits too are on a Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement, the fact remains that these are weaponised societies. In the valley there are at least three dozen militant outfits demanding sovereignty, but essentially counter-checking the hill-based militants. That a turf war would break out sooner or later was predictable.

The problem today is that all militants are heavily armed and are being let loose by their communities on the plea that they are defending their villages and people. Lt. Gen. K. Himalay Singh (Retd), a Meitei and the first person from the Northeast to reach three-star rank in the Army, said recently: "Where society is weaponised, there will be violence. The current violence is based on aspirations and fears of one group that faces an uncertain future." Obviously, he was alluding to the Meiteis' fear of their land being overrun by "illegal immigrants" from Myanmar. A narrative was created that the Kuki-Zo are growing poppy and that trade in cocaine was growing phenomenally, destroying young lives. According to Babloo Loithangbam of Human Rights Alert, Manipur's drug trade is in the range of ₹50,000 crores annually, much above Manipur's state budget. Obviously, this isn't unknown to the Manipur gov-

ernment, and the drugs trade isn't entirely run by the Kuki-Zo people; a number of drug lords are also well-heeled Meitei elite.

The immediate spark was the Meitei demand for Scheduled Tribe status, which the Kuki-Zo people felt was an infringement into their rights and would deprive them of jobs and educational opportunities as Meiteis are already a majority and benefit as all development in Manipur is valley-centric. All institutions of governance and learning are in Imphal while the hills remained undeveloped.

Another problem is Article 371-C, which envisages governance autonomy for the hills, but has never been implemented properly. What may have worked better for the tribes is the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, as implemented in the Bodoland Territorial Council, which has substantial Central funding for institutions of learning and other development infrastructure that could prevent the out-migration of Kuki-Zo people in large numbers in search of employment.

Violence is embedded in inequalities. Political scientist Neera Chandhoke says the moral evaluation of any political violence should be determined by two facts — whether it is used to counter the State's larger violence or to overcome the bigger injustices, structured inequalities and constant neglect of popular aspirations. The Manipur violence is a legacy left behind by the British, which the Indian State never had the time or inclination to resolve as the region itself was seen as conflict ridden. The Naga insurgency had started with India's Independence. There may have been a fear that tinkering with the governance norms left by the British could trigger fresh conflicts in areas beyond Nagaland. Even today, India is yet to comprehend its northeastern periphery and the angst of people in this region,

which shares just one per cent of its borders with India and 99 per cent with foreign countries.

The Manipur conflict has now crossed its borders, with Mizoram bearing the brunt of hosting over 20,000 displaced Kuki-Zo people, who are bound by kinship ties. The Kuki-Zo have dug in their heels to not settle for anything less than separate self-governance, severed from Manipur. If this is granted to the Kuki-Zo, it will have its repercussions in Tripura where the Tipra Motha, a party representing the aspirations of tribals that is demanding self-governance and an empowered Sixth Schedule with rights over tribal lands. Manipur's Nagas too won't acquiesce to the Kuki-Zo demand as their living spaces are a continuum, with no definite borders. But what's worrying is the demonstration by Meitei and Kuki-Zo militia that they can freely use arms. This may be replicated by other armed groups like Assam's Bodos, who want a separate state, and the Garos in Meghalaya. The militia in these states are not totally disarmed. A small spark could push the tribal groups to take to arms.

There are over 40,000 security forces in Manipur now, but they haven't been able to contain the violence. What happens if a similar conflict erupts in other states where militancy lurks below the surface. Is the Indian State ready to accede to demands to redraw state boundaries?

Is anyone even thinking of these possibilities?

(The writer is a prominent social activist and the editor of The Shillong Times)

Indian banks shine amid robust economic growth

By: Subir Roy

(Senior Economic Analyst)

THE banking sector has turned out to be the star performer in the Indian economy, even as global banking has been plunged into uncertainty with the collapse of several US banks serving the startup community. The economy itself represents an island of stability and robustness in a global environment marked by slowdown and uncertainty resulting from the Ukraine war. This is the burden of the RBI's financial stability report released last month.

Before we find out why this has happened, first let us take a look at the numbers defining the performance. Banks have done well both in terms of assets and liabilities. Their assets in particular, represented by their loan books, have displayed impressive growth. This has reached 15.4 per cent, thus exceeding the 15 per cent benchmark, contributed to by both public and private sector banks. Within banks, the personal loan book has been the star performer, clocking a year-over-year growth of 22.2 per cent. It is just not that banks have been lending aggressively, they have been doing this along with not just maintaining asset quality but actually improving it. Gross non-performing assets as a share of total assets fell to a 10-year low of 3.9 per cent in March. Even as the share of doubtful loans has gone down, banks have been assiduously providing for them. The share of net non-performing assets (gross assets minus provisioning) has improved to a mere 1 per cent in March.

The improvement in asset quality has partly contributed to a rise in

the share of small or personal loans along with a decline in the share of loans by large borrowers. Typically, individuals try their level best to keep repaying their loans whereas large borrowers sometimes engage in diversion of resources to meet group liabilities.

While the performance on the asset side has been more impressive, liabilities or deposits have also given a good account of themselves. In June, deposit growth reached 11.8 per cent, thus exceeding the benchmark of 10 per cent. As incomes grow with economic growth, depositors typically try to save more. Thus, term deposits have grown faster than other forms of deposits like savings and current accounts.

Within this overall positive scenario, expectedly banks have done well on their bottom line or profits. Net interest margin (difference between interest paid and earned) has been higher, contributing to higher profit after tax (PAT). This has improved by 30 basis points (100 points make up 1 per cent) during 2022-23. PAT has grown by over a third, a healthy 38.4 per cent.

There are two broad reasons why banks are doing well. Just as a rising tide lifts all boats, as the overall economy does well, it takes banks along with it. The other is that banks have done well by setting their own house in better order.

Globally, the Indian economy has turned out to be the best-performing among all large economies. In the last fiscal (2022-23), the Indian economy is estimated to have grown by 7 per cent; it is projected to grow at 6.5 per cent in the current financial year, according to the Economic Survey. The global econ-

omy is likely to grow at 2.9 per cent during 2023, according to the IMF's World Economic Outlook.

In the current year, the world economy has been hit foremost by the disruption in commodity supplies, particularly oil and wheat, as a result of the Ukraine war. The Indian economy has been largely insulated against this for two important reasons. One, it is still a relatively self-sufficient economy. What it lacks and needs to import to meet most of its consumption needs is oil. This it has been able to do from Russia, not being a part of the sanctions imposed by the West. Besides, so far the monsoon has held up, raising the hope that agriculture will be able to carry its load in achieving the projected economic growth.

As against this, the US and the European Union economies have been hit by both the negative global environment and rapid escalation in inflation. This has led central banks to raise interest rates, thus putting a further dampener on demand and growth. Even China is witnessing a serious slowdown in growth. In 2022, it grew by only 3 per cent against the official expectation of 5.5 per cent.

Now, let us look at what the banks have done to set their own house in order and pave the way for the current robust performance. In 2016, the RBI under Raghuram Rajan ordered an 'asset quality review' which sought to end the practice of window dressing whereby non-performing assets were not declared to be so. This was the first step towards cleaning up the balance sheets whereby a spade would be called a spade. Thereafter has followed 'prompt corrective action' through

steady provisioning which has led to the writing off of irredeemable accounts (booking the entire outstanding as loss) and marking down those which have still some value left in them. This has led to a paring down of bank bottom lines so that balance sheets could be cleaned up. Gross NPAs of public sector banks first went up from 5 per cent in March 2015 to 14.6 per cent in 2018 as a result of asset quality review. Thereafter, with improving health, the figure came down to 5.5 per cent in December 2022.

Where do banks go from here? The government has asked banks to be wary of competition for deposits. As the economy grows robustly, there will be greater demand for bank loans and pressure on bank managements to fund them through higher deposits. These will be garnered by paying higher interest rates, thus affecting the bottom line.

In particular, banks have been asked to be wary of the consequences of the merger of HDFC with HDFC Bank. Housing loan customers of the former, who kept their deposits wherever they liked, will now be pressured to bring them to the bank. This matter could be serious as the post-merger bank is a behemoth, figuring among the largest banks in the world. With a market capitalisation of \$108 billion, it is one of the 10 most valuable banks in the world. To put this in perspective, the State Bank of India, till now the largest bank in India, is valued at \$57 billion.

A robust and healthily growing economy needs to be well served by a similarly healthy banking sector. By the same logic, a healthy and robust banking sector thrives best within a healthily growing economy. This is the scenario being played out in India today.

Mission Indradhanush 5.0" Block level trainings held across District Doda

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Jul 12: Under the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 5.0 and U-WIN vaccination portal, the health department organized a series of training sessions of health workers in each medical block of the district on 11.07.2023.

The training sessions were held under the guidance of respective BMOs and overall supervision of CMO Doda, whereas Dy CMO Doda is also monitoring the ongoing training programmes in the district.

At SDH Bhaderwah, the training programme was chaired by Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Ab Hamid Zargar in presence of BMO Bhaderwah Dr Mohd Ashraf, which was attended by ANMs, ASHAs, FW Staff, Field Workers who have been trained about IMI 5.0 and U-WIN portal. The staff have been educated to identify childrens and do head count surveys in their villages to strengthen the routine immunization



planning and delivery mechanism.

At Doda, the training was held at ANMT School which was chaired by Dy CMO Doda Dr Om Kumar and was attended by the ANMs and other concerned staff from Block Ghat. The staff on this occasion were briefed about the importance of IMI 5.0. The Dy CMO who was imparting training to the staff, enjoined upon them to work in a mission mode and participate actively in awareness of beneficiaries i.e pregnant woman and child & their mobilization during the

different phases of the programmes.

Similarly, the Block Medical Officer Assar Dr Tanveer Ahmed, BMO Gandoh Dr Dr Ghansham Singh and BMO Thathri Dr Shafiqat Javeed have also organized training cum workshop on IMI 5.0 at their respective block hqrs, where the health staff was briefed about the objectives of IMI 5.0 and U-WIN. The training emphasized on selecting the right beneficiaries, areas, drop outs and left out childrens under the immunization process besides different parameters

to be considered while conducting IMI 5.0.

Regarding training sessions and successful implementation of IMI 5.0, the CMO Doda Dr A H Zargar directed all the BMOs and others concerned to work in synergy to ensure coverage of all drop outs under the Mission is achieved in a time bound manner. He further asked the BMOs to maintain close liaison with the different allied departments and mobilise grassroots functionaries including Aganwadi workers, AHSAs, for the effective implementation of the Mission Indradhanush 5.0.

Army organises free medical camp in Madwan Village

TOP NEWS REPORT

HAJIN, Jul 12: In an attempt to provide basic health facilities to people residing in rural areas, the 13 Rastriya Rifles of Manasbal Battalion of Indian Army conducted a medical camp at Madwan village in Hajin tehsil of Bandipora district on Wednesday.

A large number of locals, children, and elderly alike, visited the camp and consulted the doctors.

Genuine medical requirements of the Awaas were addressed and free medical advice and medicines were provided to the attendees on the occasion.

The team of Army Doctors and Health Department provided treatment to all patients hailing from different areas with inadequate medical facilities.

The army doctors on the occasion educated the general public on prevention of various lifestyle diseases.

Dr. Zara worked tire-



lessly along with Army doctors providing essential support.

The medical camp witnessed an overwhelming response from locals from nearby villages availed free medical advice and medicines during the camp. Appreciating the steps taken by the Indian Army to provide basic health facilities in far flung areas, the

villagers demanded that more such medical camps should be organised on a regular basis.

A woman Raja Begum who attended the camp told Kashmir Reader, We are from a poor village. They have given us good medicines. I am extremely grateful to the army. I also got a check-up done.

Free medicines

also have been given. Good doctors have come here to treat the patients. We are grateful to the army for this camp and hoped that such camps would be organized in futures as well She said

The medical camp has acted as a hub for broad-based interaction, harmony and trust between the army and villagers, official said.

Jamal calls on LG Sinha at Srinagar

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 12: A delegation of "BJP Minority Morcha" under the leadership of its National President Jamal Siddiqui accompanied by Ranjodh Singh Nalwa BJP Minority Morcha President JK UT met Lt Governor Jammu And Kashmir Manoj Kumar Sinha in Raj Bhawan at Srinagar on Wednesday. The delegation presented a memorandum listing demands for resolution of various problems being faced by the public of the UT.

According to a press release, the delegates which also included Bashir Ahmed Khan State Prabhari J&K Minority Morcha apprised the Lt Governor about the inclusion of Punjabi in the list of official languages in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Union Cabinet on September 2 approved a bill under which Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi, apart from the existing Urdu and Eng-

lish, will be the official languages in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, release quoting Jamal Siddiqui said and added that on the same pattern, Punjabi should be included in the list of official languages in J&K.

The memorandum further incorporated demand that Mujawirs and Sajada Nashins of Dargahs in various parts of Jammu and Kashmir who have been ousted by the newly constituted Waqaf Boards be rehabilitated so as to ensure that their livelihood may not get affected, release added.

However, Lt Governor while assuring the delegation of early action in response to the points depicting problems so highlighted in the memorandum said that the concerned departments dealing with the projected demands shall be directed to mitigate the sufferings of the public of J&K on priority with out further delay.

BJP Mahila Morcha South holds Millet Awareness Program



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 12: J and K BJP Mahila Morcha Jammu South, in collaboration with Gandhi Nagar Mandal, organized a Millet Awareness Program to promote the significance of "Shriann" and its pivotal role in maintaining our health and wellness. The event aimed to educate attendees about various aspects of "Shriann" and its benefits.

The Millet Awareness Program, led by Divya Jain, President of BJP Mahila Morcha Jammu South, witnessed enthusiastic participation from women of the area. She threw light on the importance of incorporating millets into our daily diet and emphasized their positive impact on our overall well-being.

The program was chaired by mandal president Bharat Bhushan ji along with Meetu Sharma, Bharti Sargotra, Diler Singh, Suraj Raina, Sarojini Sharma, Mohini Manhas, Amrika Devi, Ram

Kour, Susheela Sharma and Shivali Gupta.

During the program, "shriann" was distributed among the participants as a goodwill gesture.

Divya Jain expressed her gratitude to all the participants and highlighted the objective behind the program. She stated, "Our primary aim was to raise awareness about the tremendous health benefits of incorporating millets into our diets. Unfortunately, this miracle grain called 'Shriann' has been largely forgotten, and it is our responsibility to reintroduce it to the community."

Divya Jain further elaborated on the nutritional value of millets and their role in combating lifestyle diseases. Millets are considered an excellent source of essential nutrients, providing numerous health advantages. Their inclusion in our diets can contribute to improved overall health, boosted immunity, and a reduced risk of various ailments, she added.

DPAP's KDP Wing highlights problems of displaced youths

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 12: Kashmiri Displaced People Wing of DPAP, said that displaced youth since last thirty three years have been ignored from the employment share of J&K State as well U.T and by the Central Govt.

In a jointed statement issued here today, Sanjay Dhar President, Chairman Piaray Lal Pandita, Raj Kumar Ticku General Secretary, Gowher Wani Spokesperson and Youth President Naveen Gosani said that in 1990's about 27000 employees had fled from the Valley being in minority due to disturbance and their vacant posts filled from majority community by the Govts of the time, without caring for reservation

of these posts for the displaced youth as the displaced employees salaries were got met from the funds of Relief and Security Measures, but not from State/UT exchequer.

"The unemployment of displaced youth got increased with the passage of time as no employment avenues were created for this displaced community except just an compensation of P.M Package was announced that too with a political motive, which took more than thirteen years to complete the announced 6000, yet incomplete but remained dependent on funds of Central Govt," they said.

They further said that the most of the youth from this displaced community after get-

ting degrees could not get jobs and ultimately had to face frustrations, unforeseen diseases, and the numbers raised the unemployment in lakhs year to year, touching overage. Besides the youth who could not continue their studies beyond Higher Secondary level due to lack of financial resources also got depression, they said.

These leaders requested the Govt of India as well as UT Government to work-out a comprehensive plan for appointment of over aged qualified youth of the Community with appointment of low qualified youth in various Department/Police, but with some special relaxation of norms required to be kept in consideration. They

have stressed that the overaged/ Unemployed youth till their absorption require stipend for usual livelihood so that the rate of depression, frustrations, drug addiction among them may go down.

The leaders appealed to the Government of India to remove the word PM Package Employment from the Foreheads of our youth and must be treated as employees of UT Govt. with drawl of salaries from UT Govt. exchequer, as all these employees are giving their services to Valley People but salaries depend on Central Govt funds.

The leaders appealed to the Govt. for consideration of absorption of the unemployed youth of displaced people in

Police force with creation of two Separate Battalions with facilities of relaxation in age, qualification and other norms.

Lastly, the Leaders have in one voice appealed the Govt. of India to work-out a concrete one time Rehabilitation and Return Policy of Kashmiri Displaced People back in Valley which is anxiously awaited by these people in exile, so that we can restore our lost Constitutional Rights and till then our community in exile may be provided with the rightful survival facilities by increase of Cash Relief, modernization of medical, civic, educational, stipend to overaged educated youth and other Constitutional guaranteed rights.

Army conducts medical campaign & refreshment centre at Oldest Peer Baba in Bernate



TOP NEWS REPORT

BONIYAR, Jul 12: The Indian Army stationed in Boniyar Tehsil, in a display of solidarity and community outreach, organized a successful medical campaign and established a refreshment centre at one of the oldest Peer Baba shrines in Bernate in Boniyar Tehsil, Baramulla district. This initia-

tive took place on the occasion of the annual Urs celebration.

The Urs celebration holds significant cultural and religious importance, drawing thousands of devotees from various walks of life.

Recognizing the importance of this event and the need for support in the local community, the Indian Army in

Boniyar Tehsil took the opportunity to provide essential medical services and refreshments to the attendees.

Under the banner of Operation Sadbhavana, the medical campaign aimed to cater to the healthcare needs of the devotees and locals alike. A team of experienced medical profes-



Army Camp organizes lecture cum health screening camp

TOP NEWS REPORT

KUPWARA Jul 12: Continuing the effort to connect with people in Vilgam Area, Kakrota Army Camp organized a lecture cum health screening of students in collaboration with PHE, Vilgam at Light House Public School today.

Programme commenced with lecture by Regimental Medical Officer, Vilgam Battalion followed by screening of children for growth abnormalities, skin issues, Eye, ENT and Dental problems. A total of two doctors from PHC, Vilgam and 02 doctors from Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Srinagar attended the health screening event. Necessary advice and suggestions were explained to teachers and children.

First aid kit was also distributed to the

school. Medically ill children were provided with basic medical aid in the form of essential medicines, ointments, tablets and syrups. A total of 210 students including 82 girls and 128 boys participated in the health screening.

Apart from children, 12 teachers and 6 staff members also took part in the event.

Saima Jan seeks adequate arrangements on Muharram

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jul 12: Social Activist and DDC BK Pora Saima Jan has called for foolproof arrangements during Muharram in various areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued she urged the administration to make all the required arrangements. She also urged for ensuring availability of uninterrupted water and power supply in and around various imam-



baras adding that all the roads, lanes and inner links leading to various imambaras should be repaired and black topped in advance.

Saima Jan appealed for launching of a sus-

tained cleanliness drive by pooling men and machinery of concerned local bodies and Municipal bodies. She has asked the administration to press into service additional water so that devotees do not face any inconveniences. She has demand for additional quote of ration, sugar, LPG and kerosene to the consumers adding that the availability of essential commodities should be ensured in the market.

Zeenat Aman is all for grey hair, promises to celebrate fans who flaunt their beautiful silver mane

Zeenat Aman is happy to embrace her natural look

Veteran actor Zeenat Aman made her place in the industry in the era of the 70s and 80s with her style statement and bold looks. Even today, she keeps inspiring her fans with her thoughts and the way she carries herself at this age.

Zeenat shares a new photo on Instagram, which she says is her 50th post on the social media platform. This post she dedicates to those who are not hesitant or shy away from flaunting their grey hair.

She wrote, "Grey weather, grey hair... and a splash of colour to offset it all! I didn't intend for my grey hair to be a statement, but a statement it has become. In fact, yesterday I read a tweet by someone who said they know at least three people who have been inspired to stop colouring their hair since I made my Instagram debut! I thought this was a wonderful compliment. If embracing my natural hair is



encouraging others to do the same, then I'm all the happier for it." "So, with my 50th post on Instagram I want to celebrate all of you who are flaunting your beautiful silver hair! Please post a story of yourself (or your silver-haired loved one) and tag me in it. I'd love to share your

pictures to my own stories. After all, life isn't black and white, it's grey!" she added.

Archana Puran Singh reacted and commented, "Lovvvvvve what you write Zee"

One of her fans mentioned, "Multiple generations of women are now inspired by a real role

model instead of someone ephemeral. What a refreshing breath of air you've been ma'am. You remind me of my ma- she stopped colouring her hair 10 years ago and inspired everyone with her grey styling."

Another fan wrote, "Yes absolutely. Grey is beautiful. On my 40th when I had enough grey hair for friends to advise me to color my hair, I decided I am never going to color my hair and embrace all the sign of 'ageing'- greys, lines, receding hair lines with confidence. And I think I look fabulous!"

On the work front, the actress has given several hits such as 'Satyam Shivam Sundaram', 'Hare Rama Hare Krishna', 'Qurban', 'Dhund', 'Don', 'Manoranjan' and 'Yaadon Ki Baarat', was known for doing unconventional roles in her era when many actresses are reluctant to take up those characters.

Shriya is a busy girl!



After the success of her previous project, Taaza Khabar, Shriya Pilgaonkar is now wait-

ing for the release of her next feature film Ishq-e-nadaan. She also recently wrapped

up filming the second season of The Broken News, where she portrays a spirited journalist.

Shriya says, "I am absolutely thrilled about both Ishq-e-nadaan and The Broken News Season 2. Each character I have portrayed this year has been exciting, different and allowed me to delve into diverse realms of storytelling. Madhu from Taaza Khabar was sassy and ambitious, while Radha from The Broken News Season 2 is fiercely dedicated to fighting the war between news and fake stories. As for Siya in Ishq-e-nadaan, she is a young girl who is navigating relationships and the complexities of love as well as family dynamics. I want to focus on doing both good films and series in different genres."

Harleen Sethi gets inked for Kohrra and calls it an ode to her Punjabi roots

Harleen Sethi has formed a very special connection to her series, Kohrra. Harleen got inked for the series.

Getting Gurmukhi script engraved on her hand, Harleen shared a little video. She wrote, "Nimrat is a part of me. As a Mumbai ki mulgi, I never quite took to my Punjabi roots; rather, I always ran away from it as a kid. I had a cosmopolitan attitude as someone born and brought up in this city that was considered cooler. But as they say, it's never too late, and Kohrra was a push in this direction. Before we started filming, after one of the workshops, I asked Sudip sir if I could get Nirbhau Nirvair engraved on my hand in Gurmukhi. I now wanted something I ran away from to become eternal and go with me to my grave."

Harleen adds, "Today, I am proud of who I am and where I come from. I intend to start right from my roots and go right up."

Harleen has previously appeared in



Gone Game Season 2, Broken But Beautiful, and Kathmandu Connection. And with this one, once again, she will win our hearts.

Salman Khan is sure to watch Shah Rukh Khan's 'Jawan' on first day; Bhai compliments King Khan 'mazaa ahh gaya'

It's not just the audience who are floored by Shah Rukh Khan's 'Jawan' prevue, even Salman Khan can't stop praising it. On Tuesday, Salman Khan shared 'Jawan' trailer on Instagram and said he is sure to watch the film on the first day itself.

In the caption, Salman Khan wrote, "Pathan jawan ban gaya, outstanding trailer, absolutely loved it. Now this is the kind of a movie we should see in theatres only. I toh for sure seeing it 1st day ko hi. Mazaa ahh gaya wahhhhh."

Shah Rukh Khan's come back film Pathaan, which broke all box office records in January this year, had Salman Khan's cameo. In continuation with this tradition, now Shah Rukh Khan



will make a special appearance in Salman Khan's most-awaited film of the year, 'Tiger 3'. There have been reports that

Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan have already shot the high-octane action sequence for 'Tiger 3'.

Reports suggest that 'Jawan' trailer garnered 112 million views across all platforms becoming the most-watched video in the first 24 hours. The trailer presents Shah Rukh Khan in an all new bald look, with hard-core action by Nayanthara.

Written and directed by Atlee, Jawan trailer shows Shah Rukh Khan fighting with an army of women. It also features Vijay Sethupathi and Sanya Malhotra in key roles. We also got a glimpse of Deepika Padukone making a special appearance in the movie.

'Jawan' is scheduled to on September 7 in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu languages.

The Bachelorette star Katie Thurston to be seen on Season 3 of FBoy Island



TV personality Katie Thurston, who was seen as a contestant on Season 25 of The Bachelor and the star of Season 17 of The Bachelorette, has joined the cast of FBoy Island Season 3.

The series follows three women who move to a tropical paradise where they're joined by 26 men — 13 self-proclaimed Nice Guys looking for love and 13 self-proclaimed FBoys, there to compete for cash. The women will navigate the dating pool together with the hope of finding a lasting love connection. The finale reveals who is a Nice Guy, who is an FBoy, who the women ultimately choose, and who walks away with the prize money.

Thurston first appeared on Season 25 of The Bachelor as a contestant as Matt James looked for a partner eventually choosing Rachael Kirkconnell. Thurston was later seen on The Bachelorette, where she got engaged to Blake Moynes, albeit their relationship ended a few months later. Thurston continued to date John Hersey, another participant, but revealed that their relationship had ended after seven months.

FBoy Island is produced by STXtelevision.

Jimmy Shergill's heist comedy drama series Choona to stream on August 3



Jimmy Shergill, announced the release date of his upcoming heist comedy drama web series, Choona. Taking to Instagram, Jimmy shared a special announcement video and captioned it, "Janhit mei jaari suchna, ab sabko lagega #Choona. Premieres on 3rd August, only on Netflix!"

The show is all set to stream on the OTT platform Netflix from August 3.

Produced by Flying Saucer and written and directed by Pushpendra Nath Misra, Choona stars Jimmy Shergill, Aashim Gulati, Vikram Kochhar, Chandan Roy, Namit Das, Gyanendra Tripathi, Atul Srivastava, Monika Panwar and Niharika Lyra Dutt in key roles. Sharing his excitement Jimmy said, "This is my first outing with Netflix and I am looking forward to Choona. As an actor, I have always been inclined towards stories that push me to explore my capabilities. Also, as an audience myself, I personally like narratives that are engaging, character driven and bring out the flavour of our rich cultural backdrop. Choona gave me an opportunity to play a character that's spiteful yet appealing, which to me is unique. The story itself is high-spirited, captive and engaging."

Soon after he shared the announcement video, fans flooded the comment section with red hearts and fire emoticons.

Meanwhile, Jimmy was earlier seen in the web series Your Honour, which streamed on the OTT platform Sony Liv and received massive responses from the audience.

Stree 2 takes off

Bollywood actors Rajkumar Rao and Shradha Kapoor on Tuesday began the shooting for their next film, the horror comedy sequel Stree 2. Taking to Instagram, Rajkumar Rao shared a special video and announced the news. He captioned the video as: "Ek baar phir, Chanderi mein faila aantak! Stree 2 filming begins! Aa rahi hai woh — August 2024!"

The video hints that the sequel might be having two ghosts this time as it was written sarkate ka aantak in Hindi in the clip.

Helmed by Amar Kaushik, the film stars Rajkumar Rao, Shradha Kapoor, Pankaj Tripathi, Aparshakti Khurana and Abhishek Banerjee in the lead roles.

It is all set to hit the theatres in August 2024. Soon after the actor dropped the video, fans flooded the comments' section with red hearts and fire emoticons. Bhumi Pednekar commented, "Can't wait guys." "Most awaited movie," a fan wrote.

Helmed by Amar Kaushik, Stree was released in 2018 and was a blockbuster. Rajkumar and Aparshakti also had a cameo in Varun Dhawan's horror comedy Bhediya, which was released in November last year. The makers of Bhediya also announced the sequel of the film.



PM Modi to visit UAE on his return journey from France

The Ministry of External Affairs says Modi will hold talks with Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the United Arab Emirates and ruler of Abu Dhabi

NEW DELHI, Jul 12 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Abu Dhabi on July 15 after concluding a two-day visit to Paris.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Modi will hold talks with Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and ruler of Abu Dhabi.

"The India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has been steadily strengthening and the prime minister's visit will be an opportunity to identify ways to take this forward in various domains such as energy, education, healthcare, food security, fintech, defence and culture," it said.

The prime minister is visiting France on July 13 and 14 at the



invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron. Modi will be the guest of honour at the Bastille Day parade on July 14 in Paris where a tri-services Indian

armed forces contingent would be participating. The MEA said President Macron will host a state banquet as well as a private dinner

in honour of the prime minister. The two leaders will also hold wide-ranging talks.

"The prime minister is also scheduled to meet the prime minister of France as well as the presidents of the Senate and the National Assembly of France," the MEA said.

He will separately interact with the Indian diaspora in France, CEOs of Indian and French companies, and prominent French personalities.

"The prime minister's visit will provide an opportunity to chart the course of the partnership for the future across diverse sectors such as strategic, cultural, scientific, academic and economic cooperation," the MEA said.

Special NIA court convicts 6 people in 2010 college professor hand chopping case

KOCHI, Jul 12 (Agencies): A special NIA court in Kerala on Wednesday convicted six persons, who are allegedly members of now banned radical Islamic outfit Popular Front of India (PFI), in the sensational hand chopping case of a college professor in Kerala in 2010.

Special NIA court judge Anil K Bhaskar found them guilty of attempted murder, conspiracy and various other offences under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in the second phase of the trial in the case.

Some of the accused were also held guilty of offences under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). It acquitted the five other accused in the case.

In the first phase, 31 accused had faced trial and of them, the court had in April 2015 convicted 10 for offences under the UAPA as well as the Explosive Substances Act and the IPC and found three others guilty of harbouring

the offenders.

The court had acquitted 18 others in the case back then.

The right hand of T J Joseph, professor of Newman College in Thodupuzha in Idukki district, was chopped off allegedly by activists of now outlawed Islamic outfit PFI on July 4, 2010.

The attack took place while he was returning home with his family after attending a Sunday mass at a church in Muvattupuzha in Ernakulam district.

The attackers, a group of seven people, pulled the professor out of the vehicle, assaulted him and then his right hand was chopped off by main accused Savad, who is still absconding.

According to the police that initially probed the case, the accused wanted to kill Joseph for derogatory religious remarks in a question paper he set for B Com semester examination in Newman College.

3 arrested for hacking to death CEO and MD of private firm in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, Jul 12 (Agencies): Three men, including the main accused, were arrested on Wednesday a day after the gruesome double murder of two senior executives of a private firm here, police said.

Amruthahalli police arrested three people involved in the murder of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Managing Director (MD) of internet broadband service provider Aeronics Media Pvt Ltd. at Pampa Extension near Amruthahalli, a residential area here, on Tuesday evening.

The three men have been identified as main accused Shabarish alias Felix (27), along with Vinay Reddy (23) and Santosh alias Santhu (26).

The accused had barged into the Aeronics office and hacked to death company CEO Vinu Kumar (40) and MD Phanindra Subramanya (36).

Armed with daggers, they stormed into the office and attacked Subramanya in the presence of employees. As Kumar rushed to his rescue, he, too, was assaulted with the sharp weapons,



according to police.

After they fled the spot, the employees rushed to the injured to the hospital where the victims succumbed to their injuries.

The motive behind the murder is yet to be ascertained but police suspect that business rivalry was the reason for the brutal crime.

Felix was a former employee of the firm who had started his own venture after resigning recently. Felix had quit to form his own company, which is said to be a rival business.

Police said more details will follow after a thorough investigation.

As raging Yamuna swells to record level, Delhi CM Kejriwal calls emergency meeting

NEW DELHI, Jul 12 (Agencies): As the raging Yamuna in Delhi swelled to 207.55 metres on Wednesday, breaching its all-time record of 207.49 metres set in 1978 and posing a threat of floods in the city, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal called an emergency meeting.

The meeting will be held at the Delhi Secretariat where senior officers of all departments concerned will be present, said a Delhi government official.

Kejriwal also urged the Centre to intervene in the matter.

Taking to Twitter, he stated, "Central Water Commission predicts 207.72 meter water



level in Yamuna tonite. Not good news for Delhi. There have been no rains in Delhi last 2 days, however, levels of Yamuna are rising due to abnormally high volumes of water being released by Haryana at Hathnikund barrage.

Urge Centre to intervene and ensure that levels in Yamuna don't rise further

Highest Flood Level 207.49m (in 1978)
Current Level 207.55m

After breaching the all-time record water

level, the water from the Yamuna entered the low-lying areas along the banks of the river. Thousands of people have been evacuated and shifted to safer places.

According to the Central Water Commission's (CWC) flood-monitoring portal, the water level at the Old Railway Bridge crossed the 207-metre mark at 4 am, the first time since 2013, and rose to 207.55 metres by 1 pm.

The river is likely to rise further, an official of the irrigation and flood control department said.

Delhi recorded a rapid increase in the Yamuna water level over the last three days.

It shot up from 203.14 metres at 11 am on Sunday to 205.4 at 5 pm on Monday, breaching the danger mark of 205.33 metres 18 hours earlier than expected.

The river had exceeded the evacuation mark of 206 metres on Monday night, prompting the relocation of people residing in flood-prone areas to safer locations and a closure of the Old Railway Bridge for road and rail traffic.

Delhi water minister Saurabh Bharadwaj told the media that the city government was prepared to deal with the situation. "We are monitoring the situation and all possible steps are being taken," he said.

22 injured as bus rams into trailer truck on Samruddhi Expressway in Maharashtra

MUMBAI, Jul 12 (Agencies): At least 22 passengers were injured as the private luxury bus they were travelling in hit a trailer truck on the Samruddhi Expressway in Maharashtra's Aurangabad district in the early hours of Wednesday, the police said.

The incident on the Mumbai-Nagpur high-speed carriageway took place near Phulambri in the district around 2.30 am, an official said.

The private bus was going from Nagpur to Pune, while the trailer truck carrying steel was on its way from Jalna to Surat, he said.

The driver of the bus lost control of the vehicle and rammed it into the rear side of the trailer truck. At least 22 passengers on the bus sustained injuries, he said.

Among the injured, four are in serious condition and undergoing treatment at a private hospital. The rest were taken to a state-run hospital in Aurangabad city, he said.

Chopped body remains found near Delhi's Geeta Colony flyover, cops begin probe

NEW DELHI, Jul 12 (Agencies): Delhi police found several chopped body parts, possibly of a woman, scattered at two different places near a flyover in north Delhi's Yamuna Khadar area on Wednesday morning.

According to a senior Delhi Police official, the body remains were found near the Geeta Colony flyover. "Prime facie it is a body of person around 35-40 years," Deputy Commissioner of Police (north) Sagar Singh Kalsi said.

Multiple teams of the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Rohini and the Crime Team of the Delhi Police are scanning the area for any other evidence.

Divulging more details, Joint Commissioner of Police (Central Range) Parmaditya said one of

the polythene bags contained the head of the victim while the other bag had more decomposed body parts.

"The head which was recovered in one of the polythene bags had long hair. Prima facie we assume it to be possibly of a woman," the senior official said, adding the body parts have been sent for postmortem.

As the preliminary investigation indicates that it a murder, the police have registered an FIR under section 302 (punishment for murder) at the Kotwali police station.

"The identity of the deceased is yet to be established and currently we are searching the whole area to find if there is any more evidence," the senior official said.

When asked whether all the

body parts have been recovered, the official responded that only the medics can tell us whether any part is left or not. "Even if a body part is yet to be recovered, the doctors will convey us," he said.

Notably, Delhi witnessed two similar incidents last year -- one was the murder of Shradha Walkar by her live-in partner Aaftab Amin Poonawala, who had allegedly killed her and chopped her body in several pieces and later dumped them at different locations in the city. The second case was reported from east Delhi's Pandav Nagar area where a 48-year-old man was allegedly murdered by his wife and stepson. The victim's body was also chopped into a dozen pieces and then gradually disposed off at an abandoned place in the city.

3 drown as car falls into river in Uttarakhand's Pauri

DEHRADUN, Jul 12 (Agencies): Three people died when their car fell into the swollen Khoh river at Kotdwar in Uttarakhand's Pauri district, police said on Wednesday.

A police official said the vehicle was headed for Kotdwar from Dugadda with five occupants on Tuesday night when the incident took place.

As soon as the car fell into the river, one occupant somehow managed to swim to safety

while another got stuck on an island in the river, he said, adding that the person was rescued by a State Disaster Response Force team.

A search operation is on to trace the other occupants of the car and one body has been retrieved so far, they said, identifying the deceased as Muhammad Israr (35) of Bijnor district of Uttar Pradesh.

The empty car has also been recovered, police said.

Woman killed, 19 injured as bus falls into gorge in Maharashtra's Nashik

MUMBAI, Jul 12 (Agencies): A woman was killed and 19 people were injured when a bus operated by the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) fell into a deep gorge in Nashik district on Wednesday morning, an official said.

The injured have been rushed to a state-run hospital, the official said.

The incident took place around 5.45 am near a temple at Vani on the Saptashrungi Garh chat section in Kalwan taluka, the official said.

On Tuesday night, the MSRTC bus had come to Saptashrungi Garh from Khamgaon in Buldhana district.

The bus was going back on Wednesday morning when the

driver lost control of the vehicle and it fell into a 150-foot-deep gorge, the official said.

Local residents, police and other agencies reached the spot and started rescue and search operations, he said.

A woman died and 19 people, including the driver and conductor of the bus, sustained injuries in the accident, he said.

Bengal rural polls: ISF, police clash in Bhangore, three killed

KOLKATA, Jul 12 (Agencies): Three persons, including two activists of the Indian Secular Front (ISF), were killed and several policemen injured in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district as a clash broke out outside a centre where counting of votes for rural polls was going on, police said on Wednesday.

The two deceased ISF supporters were identified as Rezaul Gazi and Hasan Mollah, while the other person was Raju Mollah, a senior officer said.

The incident occurred late Tuesday night when members of the ISF allegedly hurled bombs outside the counting centre at Bhangore, around 30 km from Kolkata, and police restored to baton charge, he said.

Police personnel fired a few rounds of rubber bullets and lobbed tear

gas shells to disperse the mob, the officer said.

"A senior IPS officer, his bodyguard and several other policemen as well as a few alleged members of the ISF were injured in the clash," he told agency.

A few people have been detained from the spot for their alleged involvement in the incident, the officer said.

"Around midnight, some people started a commotion outside the counting centre at Bhangore. They hurled bombs, aiming at our colleagues. In retaliation and to maintain law and order, our officers had baton charged. The police personnel had to fire a few rounds of tear gas and rubber bullets after the situation started deteriorating," he said.

The injured policemen and several ISF sup-

porters are undergoing treatment at a hospital, the officer said.

A huge team of police personnel has been deployed at Bhangore, particularly outside the counting centre.

Crude bombs were found in several localities of Bhangore on Wednesday morning and a team of bomb squad reached there, the policeman said.

Shops and market-places remained shut as locals have chosen to stay indoors.

Bhangore has been on the boil since June 8 when the rural polls were announced by the state election commission.

Governor Dr C V Ananda Bose had visited violence-hit Bhangore twice and spoken to the family members of a person who was killed in a poll-related clash there and also to the

injured people.

Bose had gone to the area on Tuesday, soon after returning from New Delhi, primarily to understand the situation there in the context of poll counting.

The ruling Trinamool Congress on Wednesday is set for a landslide victory in violence-scarred rural polls in West Bengal as the overnight count of ballots gave it an unsailable lead in results declared till now by the state election commission.

The violence, which rocked the panchayat elections held on July 8, has claimed at least 15 lives on the polling day with 11 of them from the ruling TMC.

Since the elections were announced last month, the number of people who died in poll-related incidents was 33.

Over 35 children injured after school bus overturns in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer

JAISALMER, Jul 12 (Agencies): More than 35 children were injured after a school bus in which they were travelling overturned in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district on Wednesday, police said.

The bus was ferrying the students to their school when the accident occurred near Pokhran town. It overturned as the vehicle was carrying the students beyond their capacity.

The injured have been rushed to hospitals in Sankra-Bhisra and Pokhran. The driver and the conductor also suffered injuries.

More than a dozen children, who were seriously injured, were referred to a hospital in Jodhpur.

Assistant Sub Inspector of Sankra police station (Jaisalmer) Kailash Chand was present at the spot.

RSS worker shot dead in Jharkhand's Dhanbad



DHANBAD, Jul 12 (Agencies): A Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) worker was shot dead by unidentified miscreants in Jharkhand's Dhanbad on Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Shankar Prasad, who also worked as a member of the village defence team. Police said Shankar Prasad was a native of Duma village in the city. The reason behind the killing is not yet known, police said. Further investigations into the case are underway, police said.

North Korea conducts its first inter-continental ballistic missile launch in 3 months

Some experts say North Korea likely tested its developmental, road-mobile Hwasong-18 ICBM, a type of solid-fuel weapon that is harder to detect and intercept than the North's other liquid-fuel ICBMs

SEOUL, Jul 12 (Agencies): North Korea conducted its first intercontinental ballistic missile test in three months on Wednesday, two days after it threatened "shocking" consequences to protest what it called provocative US reconnaissance activity near its territory.

Some experts say North Korea likely tested its developmental, road-mobile Hwasong-18 ICBM, a type of solid-fuel weapon that is harder to detect and intercept than the North's other liquid-fuel ICBMs. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un previously called the Hwasong-18 his most powerful nuclear weapon.

A long-range North Korean missile fired from its capi-



tal region around 10 am flew about 1,000 kilometres at a maximum altitude of 6,000 kilometres before landing in waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, according to South Korean and Japanese assessments. They said the missile was launched on a high angle, in an

apparent attempt to avoid neighbouring countries.

South Korea's military called the launch "a grave provocation" and said the South Korean and US authorities agreed to maintain robust, combined defence postures.

Chief Japanese Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno also denounced North Korea over its repeated ballistic missile launches as "threats to the peace and safety of Japan, the region and international society." He said that Japan protested to North Korea via embassies in Beijing.

The launch came as South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida were visiting Vilnius, Lithuania, to attend this week's NATO summit.

Nepal Prime Minister Prachanda's wife Sita passes away



KATHMANDU, Jul 12 (Agencies): Sita Dahal, wife of Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', passed on Wednesday after suffering from a rare neurological condition for a long time.

She was 69. Sita, who had been ill for a long time passed away on Wednesday at Norvic International Hospital in Kathmandu.

She was undergoing treatment at the hospital, where the doctors confirmed her death at 8.33 am, according to his press coordinator Surya Kiran Sharma.

She was suffering from Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP), Parkinson, diabetes and hypertension diseases, according to a bulletin issued by the hospital. Progressive supra-

nuclear palsy is a rare neurological condition that can cause problems with balance, movement, vision, speech and swallowing.

She was taken to the hospital on Wednesday after her health condition turned serious.

Prime Minister Prachanda and wife Sita had three daughters and one son. Their eldest daughter Gyanu Dahal and son Prakash Dahal have already passed away.

She is survived by Prime Minister Prachanda and two daughters, Renu and Ganga. Renu Dahal is currently serving as Mayor of Bharatpur Metropolitan City.

Her last rites will be held in Kathmandu in the afternoon.

11 Russian Drones Shot Down In The Second Night Of Attacks, Claims Ukraine

KYIV, Jul 12 (Agencies): Ukraine said Wednesday it had shot down 11 Russian drones overnight in a second consecutive night of attacks on the capital Kyiv, as NATO leaders prepared to meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Vilnius.

"A total of 15 kamikaze drones were involved in the strike. Eleven of them were destroyed in the areas of responsibility of the Centre and East air commands," Ukraine's air force said on social media. The statement did not say if other drones were shot down in other parts of Ukraine.

Igor Taburets, governor of Cherkasy region in central Ukraine, said two people were hospitalised with burns after a drone hit a non-residential building, sparking a fire.

"Cherkasy was on alert for more than three and a half hours," he said.

Kyiv military authorities said there was also a drone attack on the capital but did not say how many drones



were involved. "All enemy targets in the airspace around Kyiv were detected and destroyed," it said on social media, adding that there were no reports of victims or damage.

The air raid alert in Kyiv lasted for more than two hours.

On the first day of the NATO summit on Tuesday, Ukraine said Russian attack drones had targeted grain facilities at a southern port in the Odesa region.

The Ukrainian military said on Tuesday it had downed a total of 26 Russian attack drones in the latest barrage.

China evacuates 40,000 people from floods, more rain expected

BEIJING, Jul 12 (Agencies): More than 40,000 people in China's Sichuan province have been evacuated because of floods, state media reported on Wednesday, as cloudbursts dropped huge amounts of precipitation over several parts of the country.

Bursts of unusually heavy rain have saturated different areas over the past few weeks, causing flooding and mudslides that have destroyed homes, damaged infrastructure and killed several people.

China's rain and floods come as several other parts of the world have been seeing similar disastrous downpours, raising new fears about the pace of climate change.

State broadcaster CCTV reported that 300.7 mm (11.8 inches) of rain had fallen over Yaan city in Sichuan province



over about 14 hours, causing flash floods and mudslides that destroyed homes.

Zhengzhou, the capital of Henan province, issued a red alert, the highest in a four-tier warning system, for heavy rain and several areas have reported

record rainfall.

Guanyun county in Jiangsu province had 275.4 mm (10.8 inches) of rain overnight on Monday, according to the China Meteorological Administration.

Xiatai town in Guangdong province had daily downpours

averaging 439 mm (17.3 inches) at the end of June, Southern Metropolis Daily reported.

Yuanling county in Hunan province had 137.4 mm (5.4 inches) of rain in an hour on June 30, the Hunan Meteorological Bureau said.

Meteorological authorities extended an alert for rainstorms to Thursday morning for several provinces including Shanxi, Hebei, Shandong, Jiangsu, Anhui, Sichuan, Gansu, and the Tibet region, the Xinhua news agency reported.

The National Meteorological Center said some of those areas could see more than 70 mm of rain in an hour, as well as thunderstorms, gales, and hailstorms, state media reported.

Officials have repeatedly warned of extreme weather and geological disasters throughout July.

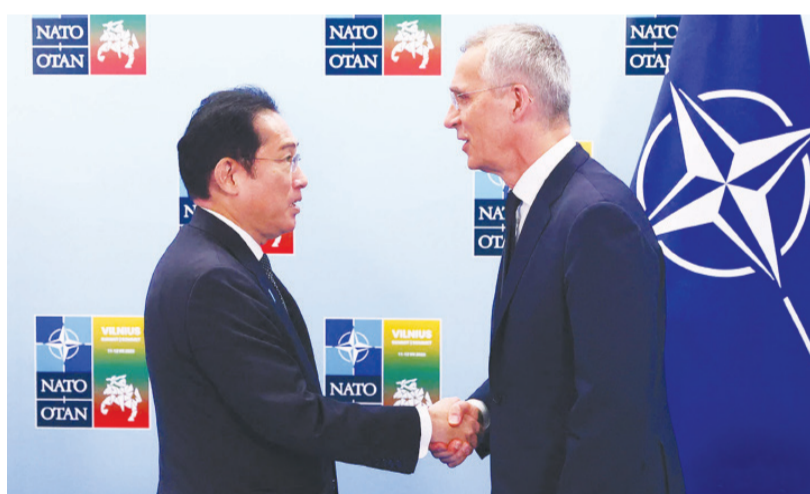
Japan, NATO Agree On New Partnership Including Cyber-Security

TOKYO, Jul 12 (Agencies): Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Wednesday he welcomed that Japan and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) had agreed on a new partnership programme, ahead of his attendance at the NATO Vilnius summit.

At a joint announcement with NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg, Kishida said he looked forward to furthering cooperation in new areas including cyber-security, and hoped to deepen cooperation with NATO as it increases its engagement with the Indo-Pacific.

The new partnership programme comes as NATO explores a deeper engagement with Asia while China increases its military presence.

Stoltenberg said at the announcement that NATO is concerned with China's heavy military buildup and its expansion of nuclear forces,



and also condemned the launching of missiles by North Korea.

"No other partner is closer to NATO than Japan," he said, adding that Asia matters to Europe just as much as Europe matters to Asia.

China has lashed out at a communique issued by NATO during its two-day summit in Lithuania's

capital Vilnius claiming that China challenged the military alliance's interests, security, and values.

China has said it opposes NATO's "eastward movement into the Asia-Pacific region" and warned any action threatening Beijing's rights would be met with a resolute response.

Thai FM says met Myanmar's Suu Kyi in first foreign envoy talks since coup

JAKARTA, Jul 12 (Agencies): Thailand's foreign minister said Wednesday he met with ousted Myanmar democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi last week and she was in good health in her first known meeting with a foreign envoy since she was detained following a 2021 coup.

Suu Kyi has been seen only once since she was held after the February 1, 2021 putsch -- in grainy state media photos from a bare courtroom in the military-built capital Naypyidaw.

"There was a meeting, she was in good health and it was a good meeting," Don Pramudwinai told reporters on the sidelines of a meeting of Southeast Asian foreign ministers in the Indonesian capital Jakarta.

The coup that overthrew Suu Kyi ended Myanmar's brief democratic experiment and plunged the Southeast Asian nation into bloody turmoil.

The Nobel laureate, 78, was later hit with a raft of charges and jailed by a junta court for a total of 33 years in trials that rights groups slammed as a sham.

Don confirmed that he met with Suu Kyi on Sunday and that she had called for renewed talks to end the crisis.

"She encouraged dialogue," Don said.

The meeting was private and lasted "over one hour", a spokesperson from Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs



told agency.

The Philippines' foreign minister said Don briefed ASEAN ministers on his meeting with Suu Kyi but reiterated any independent effort to restart the peace process should be in line with a five-point ASEAN plan agreed two years ago with Myanmar's junta.

"We feel any initiative should be consistent with the five-point consensus. He (Don) just reported on that," Enrique Manalo told reporters.

Divided ASEAN The junta has rebuffed repeated requests by foreign diplomats to meet Suu Kyi and her lawyers were barred from speaking to the media for much of her trial.

She was transferred from house arrest in Naypyidaw to solitary confinement in prison in June last year.

Manalo said it was "good to hear" that Suu Kyi was in good health because "she used to attend our meetings".

The two-day Association of Southeast Asian Nations meeting has

but a joint communique was expected by the end of the day, a Southeast Asian diplomat told agency.

One day visit

Don "visited here just for a day trip and met with the commander in chief" Min Aung Hlaing, a senior Myanmar military official told agency on condition of anonymity.

"I didn't know about any meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi," he said, using a Burmese honorific and without detailing when Don had visited Myanmar.

The military has cited alleged widespread voter fraud during elections in November 2020 as a reason for its coup, which sparked huge protests and a bloody crackdown.

Those polls were won resoundingly by Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy.

International observers said at the time the polls were largely free and fair.

The NLD was devastated by the coup, with many senior members jailed or sent into hiding.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since, with the junta razing villages and conducting mass extrajudicial killings and air strikes on civilians, according to rights groups.

More than one million people have been displaced by fighting between the junta and opponents of the coup, according to the United Nations.

Ahead of Taipei's military drills, China sends jets, warships towards Taiwan in forceful display

TAIPEI, Jul 12 (Agencies): China sent navy ships and a large group of warplanes, including fighter jets and bombers, toward Taiwan over two days, the island's defence ministry said on Wednesday, before its annual military exercises aimed at defending itself against a possible invasion.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army sent 38 warplanes and 9 navy vessels around Taiwan, between 6 a.m. Tuesday to 6 a.m. Wednesday. From Wednesday morning until noon time, the military flew another 30 planes, among which included J-10 and J-16 fighters. Of these, 32 crossed the midline of the Taiwan Strait, an unofficial boundary that had been considered a buffer between the island and the mainland. Later

on Wednesday, another 23 planes crossed the midline.

Taiwan is scheduled to hold the annual Han Guang exercise later this month, in which its military will hold combat readiness drills against preventing an invasion. It will also conduct the annual Wan'an exercises aimed at preparing civilians for natural disasters and practising evacuations in case of an air raid.

China claims self-ruled Taiwan as its own territory and in recent years has shown its displeasure at political activities in Taiwan by stepping up the number of military planes sent toward Taiwan. In the past year, it has also started sending its navy vessels, as well as drones to circle the waters near the island.

In Tuesday and Wednesday's

manoeuvres, the PLA flew H-6 bombers in a large loop to the south of Taiwan, travelling past the island before looping back towards China's southern coast.

Its largest military drills in recent years were in response to former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan last August. It fired missiles over the island in a significant escalation and the military exercises disrupted trade lanes in the Taiwan Strait and forced airplanes to reroute their flights.

In April, the PLA held large-scale combat readiness drills in the air and waters around Taiwan in response to the island's President Tsai Ing-wen meeting with the current U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

ISRO gears up for third lunar mission as India eyes to achieve rare feat

'Fat boy' LVM3-M4 rocket will carry Chandrayaan-3 as part of the country's ambitious moon mission

SRIHARIKOTA, Jul 12 (Agencies): Four years after it broke many hearts, ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 is all set to soar towards the moon in its third expedition on Friday in an attempt to put the country in an elite club of nations that accomplished lunar missions with a soft landing.

'Fat boy' LVM3-M4 rocket will carry Chandrayaan-3 as part of the country's ambitious moon mission as the Indian Space Research Organisation is gearing up for the hugely anticipated launch from this spaceport on July 14. The soft landing on moon's surface is planned for late August.

Chandrayaan-2 failed to achieve the desired soft landing on the moon surface in 2019, leaving the ISRO team dejected. Images of an emotional then ISRO chief K Sivan being consoled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who was here to achieve the rare feat, remains vivid in the memory of many.

Scientists at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre here, after investing many hours of hard work, now aim at mastering the technology of soft-landing on the surface of the moon. A success would make India only the fourth country to achieve the feat after the United States, China and the former Soviet Union.

Chandrayaan-3, is the third lunar exploration mission ready for take-off in the fourth operational mission (M4) of LVM3 launcher. ISRO is crossing new frontiers by demonstrating soft-landing on the lunar surface by its lunar module and demonstrating roving on the lunar terrain, the space agency said.

The mission is expected to be supportive to future interplanetary missions.

Chandrayaan-3 mission consists of an indigenous propulsion module, lander module and a rover with an objective of developing



and demonstrating new technologies required for inter-planetary missions.

With the 43.5 metre tall rocket, scheduled for the lift off from the second launch pad at pre-fixed time at 2.35 pm on July 14, the countdown for the launch is expected to begin on Thursday.

The largest and heaviest LVM3 rocket (formerly GSLV MkIII), fondly called as 'fat boy' by ISRO scientists for its heavy-lift capability, has completed six consecutive successful missions.

The LVM3 rocket is a composite of three modules -- propulsion, lander and rover (which is housed inside the lander).

Friday's mission is the fourth operational flight of LVM3 which aims to launch the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft into a Geo Transfer Orbit.

The LVM3 vehicle has proved its versatility to undertake most complex missions including injecting multi-satellites, interplanetary missions among others. It is also the largest and heaviest launch vehicle ferrying Indian and International customer satellites, ISRO said.

The reason to fix the launch window during the month of July similar to Chandrayaan-2 mission (July 22, 2019) is because the earth and moon would be closer to each other during this part of the year.

Friday's mission follows Chandrayaan-2 where scientists aim to demonstrate various capabilities including reaching the orbit of the moon, making a soft-landing on the lunar surface using a lander, and a rover coming out of the lander to study the surface of the moon.

In the Chandrayaan-2 mission, the lander instead of making a soft landing crashed on the surface leading to an unsuccessful attempt by ISRO.

However, this time scientists have left no stone unturned in an effort to ensure smiles in August when the landing is planned.

As the days neared for the launch, the Satish Dhawan Space Centre was bustling with activity as the launch vehicle was integrated into the launch mission complex at the second launch pad recently.

On Tuesday, the 'launch rehearsal' simulating the entire launch preparation and process that lasted for over 24 hours concluded at Sriharikota.

According to scientists, after the lift-off at 2.35 pm on Friday, around 16 minutes after lift-off, propulsion module is expected to get separated from the rocket and would orbit the earth for about 5-6 times in an elliptical cycle with 170 km closest and 36,500 km farthest from earth moving towards the lunar orbit. The propulsion module along with the lander, after gaining the speed would proceed for an over a month long journey towards reaching the orbit of the moon until it goes 100 km above the lunar surface.

After reaching the desired position, the lander module would begin its descent for a soft landing on the south pole region of the moon and this action is expected to take place on August 23 or 24, scientists at ISRO said.

The moon's south pole region has been chosen because the Lunar South Pole remains much larger than that

at the North pole. There could be a possibility of presence of water in permanently shadowed areas around it.

The significance about Chandrayaan-3 mission, unlike its unsuccessful predecessor, is that the Propulsion Module has a payload -- SHAPE -- Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth which is to study earth from lunar orbit.

ISRO said the SHAPE is an experimental payload to study the spectro-polarimetric signatures of the Earth in the near-infrared wavelength range.

Apart from the SHAPE payload, the Propulsion Module's main function is to carry the Lander Module from launch vehicle injection orbit to till lander separation.

The lander module after landing on the surface of the moon has payloads including RAMBHA-LP which is to measure the near surface plasma ions and electrons density and its changes, ChaSTE Chandrayaan-3's Surface Thermo Physical Experiment -- to carry out the measurements of thermal properties of lunar surface near polar region and ILSA (Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity) to measure seismicity around the landing site and delineating the structure of the lunar crust and mantle.

The Rover, after the soft-landing, would come out of the lander module and study the surface of the moon through its payloads APXS - Alpha Particle X-Ray Spectrometer - to derive the chemical composition and infer mineralogical composition to further enhance understanding of lunar surface.

Rover, which has a mission life of 1 lunar day (14 Earth days) also has another payload Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) to determine the elemental composition of lunar soil and rocks around the lunar landing site, ISRO said.

Tackling tomato prices: Consumer Affairs Dept orders procurement from mandis for distribution in major consumption centres

Retail tomato prices surged up to Rs 240 per kg in the Delhi on Wednesday due to the supply disruption from Himachal Pradesh

NEW DELHI, Jul 12 (Agencies): Amid the rising prices of tomato, the Department of Consumer Affairs has directed National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF) to immediately procure tomatoes from mandis in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra for simultaneous distribution in major consumption centres where retail prices have recorded maximum increase in the last one month.

Retail tomato prices surged up to Rs 240 per kg in the Delhi on Wednesday due to the supply disruption from Himachal Pradesh.

"The stocks of tomato will be distributed through retail outlets at discounted prices to the consumers in Delhi-NCR region by this Friday," said a senior official.

The targeted centres for release have been identified on the basis



of absolute increase in retail prices over the past one month in centres where prevailing prices are above the all-India average. Key consumption centres in states having higher concentration of the identified centres are further selected for the intervention.

Tomato is produced almost in all the states in India, though in varying quantities. Maximum production is in southern and western regions of India, contributing 56%-58% of all India production. Southern and Western regions being surplus states, feed to other markets depending on production seasons.

The production seasons are also different across regions. The peak harvesting season occurs from December to February. The periods during July-August and October-November are generally the lean production months for tomato. July coinciding with monsoon season, adds to further challenges related to distribution and increased transit losses adding to price rise. The cycle of planting and harvesting seasons and variation across regions are primarily responsible for price seasonality in tomato.

Apart from the normal price seasonality, temporary supply chain

disruptions and crop damage due to adverse weather conditions, etc., often lead to sudden spikes in prices.

Currently, the supplies coming to markets in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and some other states are mostly from Maharashtra especially Satara, Narayangaon, and Nashik, which is expected to last till this month end. Madanapalle (Chittoor) in Andhra Pradesh also has continued arrivals in reasonable quantities. The arrivals in Delhi-NCR are mainly from Himachal Pradesh and some quantity comes from Kolar in Karnataka.

New crop arrivals are expected soon from Nashik district. Furthermore, in August, additional supply is expected to come from Narayangaon and Aurangabad belt. Madhya Pradesh arrivals are also expected to start. Prices are anticipated to cool down in the near future, accordingly.

12 men barge inside bus, hurl chilli powder at cops and shoot dead murder accused in Rajasthan

JAIPUR, Jul 12 (Agencies): Around a dozen men barged inside a Rajasthan Roadways bus on Wednesday and shot dead a murder accused who was being escorted by a police team for a court hearing in Bharatpur, officials said.

Another murder accused was injured in the firing and is admitted in a hospital in a critical state, they said.

According to police, the bus was stopped near Amoli toll plaza under Halena police station of Bharatpur by around 12 men who came in a car and two motorcycles.

They entered the bus and hurled chilli powder at the policemen and

started firing on Kuldeep Jagheena and Vijaypal.

Jagheena and Vijaypal, accused in a 2022 murder case, were being taken to Bharatpur from Jaipur by a team of seven policemen led by a head constable armed with two semi-automatic rifles (SLR).

SP Bharatpur Mridul Kachhawa said the two murder accused were rushed to RBM government hospital in Bharatpur where Jagheena was declared brought dead by doctors, while Vijaypal is being treated in critical condition.

Meanwhile, the police said they have identified the culprits with the help of CCTV footage and a vehicle has been

recovered. Police in nearby districts, including Dausa, have been alerted and intense checking on highways is going on. Detailing the incident, Additional Commissioner of Police (Administration)-Jaipur Rahul Prakash said several bullets were shot at Jagheena, while the policemen managed to protect Vijaypal from the direct assault.

He said the police team did not open fire in view of the security of the bus passengers.

The officer said an inquiry will be done and action will be taken if any policeman is found guilty of negligence.

Jagheena and Vijaypal were allegedly involved in the murder of Kripal

Jagheena, who was shot dead in Bharatpur on September 4 last year over a land dispute.

Jagheena was the main accused in the case. He, along with four others, was arrested on September 11 last from Maharashtra in the case.

NOTICE

I, Mohd Shafi, S/o Haji Kaloo, R/o Pashalla Tipri, Tehsil Banoo Banjwoh, district Kishtwar J&K UT have lost my Passport while I was travelling through Passri area of Bhadarwah. If anybody has found kindly contact on 9541151223 or communicate the same to Police Station Bhadarwah.

FROM PAGE 1

Amid tight security, 10th batch of over 7,800 pilgrims leave Jammu for Amarnath

Anantnag district and Baital in Ganderbal district on July 1. The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

A total of 7,805 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the Valley in a convoy of 339 vehicles around 3:15 a.m., the officials said.

They said 4,677 pilgrims are headed for Pahalgam in a convoy of 207 vehicles and 3,128 pilgrims left for the Baital base camp in a convoy of 132 vehicles.

With this, 56,303 pilgrims have now departed the Jammu base camp for the Valley since June 30, when the first batch began the yatra.

"We are happy that our prayers were heard by Lord Shiva who facilitated our pilgrimage to his abode," Sunita Devi of Assam said. She was with a group of 23 people stranded in Jammu for the last seven days.

Expressing happiness and appreciation that the administration reconstructed within hours the road damaged due to floods triggered by heavy, she said "they have fulfilled my wish of visiting Barfani Baba".

The incessant rains on July 8 and July 9 caused unprecedented damage to the highway, especially a stretch in Ramban district, forcing its closure.

DG BSF lauds high level professionalism of

forces during Amarnath Yatra

Ashok Yadav, Inspector General, BSF Kashmir Frontier.

On the same day, the DG BSF interacted with BSF officers and thereafter moved to Pahalgam by road along with the IG BSF and visited the area of responsibility of the BSF battalion deployed for the Amarnath Yatra.

"He also carried out a security review, held discussions with BSF and CRPF commanders, and interacted with troops of all the CAPFs (central armed police forces) and JKP deployed on the route to review the overall deployment/dominance plan for SANJY-2023," the spokesperson said, adding that DG halted for the night at Pahalgam.

The next day, DG BSF travelled on the Chandanwari axis route and reached Panjtarni. En route, he interacted with yatriss, langarwalas, and troops of different CAPFs deployed on the Chandanwari axis. He halted for the night at Panjtarni.

On Wednesday, DG BSF Agrawal left from Panjtarni for Holy Cave via Sangam Top.

The DG BSF interacted with troops from different security forces and reviewed the security arrangements on the route. Thereafter, he offered his prayers and paid darshan to Shri Amarnath Ji.

"During interaction with BSF troops, the DG lauded the high level of professionalism and exhorted them to remain alert for any eventuality. He appreciated the high level of synergy among various agencies for SANJY-2023. He also praised and

appreciated the involvement of forces in running medical camps and the placement of BSF disaster response teams at various locations and enroute covering both axes, i.e., Baital and Pahalgam, for SANJY yatriss," the spokesman said.

Spirituality knows no boundaries | 2 US nationals undertake Amarnath Yatra in J&K

Bhole Baba, this time we managed to visit and we are feeling completely blessed," he said.

"Swami Vivekananda came to Amarnath; he had a very important experience. I have known of this story for 40 years. It was a dream to come here," another pilgrim said. He said they are filled with gratitude and happiness, adding that the organisation that keeps this yatra together is very impressive.

"There is a particular kind of peace that prevails in these mountains. We hope this kind of peace can prevail everywhere," he added.

Five injured as car carrying pilgrims hits road divider in Udhampur

The injured pilgrims and the driver of the vehicle have been admitted to a hospital, the official said, adding their condition was stated to be "stable".

Army felicitates youth for

helping retrieve bodies of two soldiers in Poonch

the locals helping the Army retrieve the bodies of the soldiers.

Govt working to solve long pending issues of daily wagers: Darakhshan Andrabi

are going on. She, however, denied to comment about holding of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

SC drops Shah Faesal, Shehla Rashid as petitioners challenging scrapping of Article 370

Kashmir's special status and divided the erstwhile state into two union territories from August 2.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant, fixed July 27 as the deadline for filing of written submissions and convenience compilations by different parties.

Police arrest five LeT associates in Budgam

Khag, linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT. Incriminating materials have been recov-

ered from their possession. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation.

Accordingly, a case FIR No. 45/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Khag and investigation has been taken up.

MeT forecasts mainly dry weather with possibility of 'isolated' light rain in J&K

normal for the gateway town of the Kashmir Valley.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 10.6°C against 10.7°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.4°C for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 14.9°C against 15.1°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.5°C for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 14.7°C against 15.3°C on the previous night and it was 1.2°C below normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 11.2°C against 9.8°C on previous night and it was 0.6°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammur recorded a low of 27.2°C against 25.1°C on the previous night and it was 2.5°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 17.4°C, Batote 17.3°C, Katra 23.6°C and Bharderwah 14.2°C, the official said.

Equity markets climb in early trade on foreign fund inflows

In Asian markets, Seoul and Hong Kong were trading in green while Tokyo and Shanghai quoted lower

MUMBAI, Jul 12 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices extended their rally for the third day running on Wednesday, driven by continuous foreign fund inflows and buying in Reliance Industries.

Rally in the US markets on Tuesday also helped equity indices maintain their winning run.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 193.8 points to 65,811.64 in early trade. The NSE Nifty went up by 68.3 points to 19,507.70.

From the Sensex pack, Reliance Industries, Titan, Bajaj Finance, Kotak Mahindra Bank, NTPC, ITC and State Bank of India were among the major gainers.

IndusInd Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, HCL Technologies, Infosys and Asian Paints were the major laggards.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) continued their buying momentum as they bought equities worth Rs 1,197.38 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Hong Kong were trading in the green while Tokyo and Shanghai quoted lower.

The US markets ended in the positive territory on Tuesday.

Markets may log steady gains in early trade on Wednesday thanks to a

sharp upsurge in the overnight US markets. With Asian indices, too, witnessing strong gains, local indices could advance further, even as concerns of the market being in an overbought position looms.

"Investors will focus on inflation numbers set to be announced later in the day, while IT majors TCS and HCL Tech would set the tone with their Q1 results, which could give some indication of the global IT sourcing scenario and the outlook on the same," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said in his pre-opening market comment.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.18 per cent to USD 79.54 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark had advanced 273.67 points or 0.42 per cent to settle at 65,617.84 on Tuesday. The Nifty climbed 83.50 points or 0.43 per cent to end at 19,439.40.

"Even after the recent run up in markets, sentiments are clearly bullish. Global and domestic cues are positive. If the US CPI data expected late today indicates YoY inflation dipping below 3 per cent, the US market will rally further lifting other markets, too," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

Bank of America fined USD 250 million for 'double-dipping' fees and fake accounts

NEW YORK, Jul 12 (Agencies): Bank of America will reimburse customers more than USD 100 million and pay USD 150 million in fines for "double-dipping" on overdraft fees, withholding reward bonuses on credit cards and opening accounts without customer consent.

Combined, it is one of the highest financial penalties in years against Bank of America, which has largely spent the last 15 years trying to clean up its reputation and market itself to the public as a bank focused on financial health and not on overdraft fee income and financial trickery.

BofA must refund USD100 million to customers, pay USD 90 million in penalties to the Consumer

Financial Protection Bureau and USD 60 million to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. "Bank of America wrongfully withheld credit card rewards, double-dipped on fees, and opened accounts without consent," said CFPB Director Rohit Chopra, in a statement. "These practices are illegal and undermine customer trust."

Empowered by a broad mandate from the White House, Chopra and the bureau have



focused heavily in the past year on the issue of "junk fees" — fees charged to Americans that are often seen as unnecessary or exploitative by banks, debt collectors, airlines and concert venues. Banks such as BofA, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and others have been a target for the bureau under the Biden administration.

Part of the fines and penalties come because Bank of America had a policy of charging customers USD 35 after the bank declined a transaction because the customer did not have enough funds in their account, the CFPB said. The agency determined that the bank double-dipped by allowing fees to be repeatedly charged for the same transaction.

The fees often came when customers had routine monthly transactions, like a gym membership. If a customer had too

low of a balance to cover the transaction, it would be declined and BofA would charge the customer a USD 35 fee. The business, which hasn't been paid, often would recharge the customer's account, resulting in another USD 35 non-sufficient funds fee. The bank ended this practice last year, but will still have to repay customers who got charged before the policy was changed.

BofA has been cutting down on its reliance on overdraft fee revenue for more than a decade and cut how much it charges customers for an overdraft to USD 15 last year. Brian Moynihan, the bank's CEO and chairman, told The Associated Press in 2022 that under these new policies, overdraft fee income was down 90 per cent from 2021. The bank said that it voluntarily reduced overdraft fees and eliminated all non-sufficient

fund fees in the first half of last year.

Bank of America also offered people cash rewards and bonus points when signing up for a card, but the CFPB said the bank illegally withheld promised credit card account bonuses.

The CFPB also found that, since at least 2012, Bank of America employees illegally applied for and enrolled consumers in credit card accounts without their knowledge or authorization. It is similar to but smaller than, a charge that was made against Wells Fargo, which paid billions in fines after it was determined that the San Francisco bank opened millions of unauthorized bank accounts in order to meet unrealistic sales goals.

In 2014 the CFPB ordered Bank of America to pay USD 727 million for illegal credit card practices. Last year it was ordered to pay a USD 10 million civil penalty over unlawful garnishments. Also in 2022, the CFPB and OCC fined Bank of America USD 225 million and required it to pay hundreds of millions of dollars in redress to consumers for botched disbursement of state unemployment benefits at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

TCS may go slow on hiring as company shifts focus to improving utilization

NEW DELHI, Jul 12 (Agencies): India's largest IT exporter Tata Consultancy Services Ltd indicated that it will not be very aggressive in hiring this year, and will instead focus on utilizing the people it has taken onboard last year.

"While we are committed to honor all the offers we have made, our focus will be on leveraging the capacity we built last year," Miliind Lakkad, Chief HR Officer of the company said.

The company, as such, net hired just 523 new employees during the three months ended June, taking its total workforce to 6.15 lakh.

This comes close on the heels of unprecedented hiring done by IT companies over the last two years as they struggled to cope with a sudden surge in contracts from the US and European markets.

The fight for talent had led to high levels of attrition in the IT industry. But Lakkad said the situation is expected to return to normal by the second half of the current year. As of the end of June, attrition was at 17.8% on a 12-month basis.

"Our attrition continues to trend

down and we expect it to be back in our industry-leading, long term range in the second half of the year," he said.

The company said it gave 12-15% raise for exceptional performers in its latest compensation review.

It said 55% of the workforce are attending the office at least thrice a week.

The company, meanwhile, reported net profit above analysts' expectations.

Net profit came in above expectations at Rs 11,120 crore. The Street was looking for Rs 10,907 crore.

However, first-quarter revenue was below estimates at Rs 59,381 crore. Analysts were expecting revenue of Rs 59,615 crore.

The miss on revenue seems to have come from a lackluster performance in the US market.

As a result, while United Kingdom grew by 16.1% year on year, North America grew by only 4.6%. Continental Europe, which is seeing the impact of the Russo-Ukraine war, also disappointed by growing at just 3.4%.

In emerging markets, Middle East

& Africa grew 15.2%, India grew 14%, Latin America grew 13.5%, and Asia Pacific grew 4.7%.

The company, however, said it witnessed a hit to its operating margin due to salary hikes that took effect on April 1.

"Our operating margin of 23.2% reflects the 200-bps impact of this hike, offset through improved efficiencies," said Samir Seksaria, Chief Financial Officer.

For the preceding, fourth quarter, the company had missed street estimates. For the three months ended March, the company had posted net profit of Rs 11,392 crore, registering a growth of 14.8% year on year.

In the January-March quarter, revenue from operations had grown by 17% to 59,162 crore.

The company had, three months ago, said that its results were being impacted by some of North American bank clients deferring spending in the wake of a crisis in the sector in the US. At the time, the company said it saw "a lot of uncertainty" in its banking, financial services and insurance segment in the near term.

Infosys defers salary hikes of employees below senior management level: Report

NEW DELHI, Jul 12 (Agencies): One of India's leading IT services companies, Infosys, has decided to defer salary hikes for all its employees below the senior management level that are otherwise rolled out from April every year, a Money-control report stated.

The report also claimed that multiple employees of the tech major have confirmed that many employees eligible for a pay hike have not received their revised salaries which usually come in the first quarter (June) of a financial year.

Employees have also expressed their lack of knowledge regarding when they can expect to receive the salary increase, as no official communication has been issued on the matter.

The report highlights



that this decision reflects the challenging conditions faced by the IT sector due to the prevailing macroeconomic circumstances.

This marks the first instance since 2020 that Infosys has chosen to defer salary hikes. Previously, in 2020, the company had deferred the pay hikes due to the Covid-19 outbreak and the cash conservation that occurred due to the pandemic.

However, the company rolled out the hike in January next year when the situation came under control.

It is also to be noted that Infosys is scheduled to release its first-quarter results on July 20 and expectations indicate a subdued quarter for the tech major.

Throughout the fiscal year, Infosys has witnessed revenue growth ranging from 4 per cent to 7 per cent, which represents the first time since the 2018 financial year that the company's revenue has fallen within this range.

In the last quarter of the 2023 financial year, Infosys reduced its variable payout by approximately 60 per cent across the

organisation. However, the final variable payout varies depending on factors such as the employee's unit or department and pay grade.

During the Annual General Meeting last month, Infosys CEO Salil Parekh expressed optimism about the company's efforts to decrease attrition rates.

"What we have seen over the last four quarters, Q4 and before, attrition has steadily been coming down each quarter on a quarterly basis. We see a lot of the initiatives that we've put in place, and also the overall economic environment, both of them relating to the attrition coming down, our employee engagement scores are continuing to go up and we believe that with that we will have a good control on attrition in the coming quarters," he said.

New study links gum disorder to Alzheimer's disease

NEW DELHI, Jul 12 (Agencies): Scientists have found a link between periodontal (gum) disease and the formation of amyloid plaque, a hallmark of Alzheimer's disease.

The study, published in the Journal of Neuroinflammation, found that gum disease can lead to changes in brain cells called microglial cells, responsible for defending the brain from amyloid plaque, a type of protein that is associated with cell death.

The research provides important insight into how oral bacteria makes its way to the brain, and the role of neuroinflammation in Alzheimer's disease, a brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills.

"We knew from one of our previous studies that inflammation associated with gum disease activates an inflammatory response in the brain," said senior study author, Alpdogan Kantarci, from the Forsyth Institute in the US.



"In this study, we were asking the question, can oral bacteria cause a change in the brain cells?" Kantarci said in a statement.

The microglial cells the researchers studied are a type of white blood cell responsible for digesting amyloid plaque. They found that when exposed to oral bacteria, the microglial cells became overstimulated and ate too much.

"They basically became obese. They no longer could digest plaque formations," Kantarci said.

The finding is significant for showing the impact of gum disease on systemic health. Gum disease causes lesions to develop between the gums and teeth.

"The area of this lesion is the size of your palm. It's an open wound that allows the bacteria in your mouth to enter your bloodstream and circulate to other parts of your body, Kantarci explained.

These bacteria can pass through the blood-brain barrier—a protective layer that lines the inner surfaces of the

blood vessels inside the brain—and stimulate the microglial cells in the organ.

Using mouse oral bacteria to cause gum disease in lab mice, the scientists were able to track periodontal disease progression in mice and confirm that the bacteria had travelled to the brain.

They then isolated the brain microglial cells and exposed them to the oral bacteria. This exposure stimulated the microglial cells, activated neuroinflammation, and changed how microglial cells dealt with amyloid plaques.

"Recognising how oral bacteria causes neuroinflammation will help us to develop much more targeted strategies," said Kantarci.

"This study suggests that in order to prevent neuroinflammation and neurodegeneration, it will be critical to control the oral inflammation associated with periodontal disease," Kantarci added.

Doctors successfully perform non-surgical Mitral valve repair on 80-year-old woman

Doctors at the Asian Institute of Medical Sciences successfully performed the MitraClip procedure on an 80-year-old woman who had severe Mitral valve leakage.



NEW DELHI, Jul 12 (Agencies): Doctors at the Asian Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS), Faridabad, have successfully performed a first-of-its-kind transcatheter mitral valve repair (MitraClip) on an 80-year-old woman with severe Mitral valve leakage.

Dr Amit Chaudhary, a cardiothoracic and vascular surgeon at Asian Hospital said, "The elderly woman had severe breathlessness for the past two to three months which led to bed rest for the past month. Echocardiography

revealed a significant leakage in one of her left-sided heart valves, known as the mitral valve.

He added that further investigations disclosed a history of coronary artery bypass surgery and a troublesome lumbar disc prolapse that severely limited her mobility. She had also undergone carotid angioplasty 10 years ago.

"Given her age, frail condition, and multiple comorbidities, traditional surgical options were deemed unsuitable," as per the expert.

The patient was then offered a non-surgical solution - the transcatheter mitral valve repair, also known as MitraClip.

This innovative technique represents a paradigm shift in the field of mitral valve repair, providing a lifeline for patients who are not candidates for traditional surgery.

Following the successful MitraClip procedure, the patient experienced significant improvement and resumed her daily activities without the burden of breathlessness.

Dr Subrat Akhoury, a cardiologist at Asian Hospital, said, "The transcatheter mitral valve repair technique offers hope and improved quality of life for patients who were previously considered inoperable. This innovative approach demonstrates our commitment to providing the best possible care for our patients."

The patient's recovery following the procedure has been very encouraging and she was discharged merely two days after the MitraClip surgery.

Asia Cup schedule finalised, India not going to Pakistan: BCCI

India in all likelihood will play Pakistan in Sri Lanka's Dambulla just like the 2010 edition

NEW DELHI, Jul 12 (Agencies): The much anticipated Asia Cup games between India and Pakistan will be held in Sri Lanka as Rohit Sharma-led team won't travel to Pakistan, IPL chairman Arun Dhumal confirmed on Wednesday.

Dhumal, who is in Durban for the ICC Chief Executives' Meet (CEC) confirmed that BCCI secretary Jay Shah and PCB representative head Zaka Ashraf met ahead of the ICC Board meeting scheduled for Thursday to finalise the schedule.

"Our secretary met PCB head Zaka Ashraf and the Asia Cup schedule was finalised and it is on course as it was discussed earlier. There will be four games



of league stage in Pakistan, followed by nine games in Sri Lanka, including both India versus Pakistan games and in

case a third game if both teams play final," Dhumal told agency from Durban. He rubbished reports emerg-

ing from Pakistan media that India will travel to neighbouring country as their sports minister Ehsan Mazari had been claiming in some quarters.

"There was no such discussion held. Neither India nor our secretary is travelling to Pakistan contrary to reports that have surfaced. Only the schedule was finalised," Dhumal added.

India in all likelihood will play Pakistan in Sri Lanka's Dambulla just like the 2010 edition.

Pakistan's only home match in their country will be against minnows Nepal.

The other three games are Afghanistan vs Bangladesh, Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan.

Duleep Trophy: Lot on line as South face North in final



BENGALURU, Jul 12 (Agencies): South Zone will look to end West Zone's dominance in the Duleep Trophy when they face each other in the final starting here from today.

West have a proud record to preserve as they have appeared in 34 finals so far and won 19. They are the most successful team in this tournament and South will be eager to end that monopoly by winning their 14th title.

South also have a point to prove as they had lost to Ajinkya Rahane-led West Zone by a massive 294 runs in the final last year.

The tournament is also platform for fading players to revitalise their careers, and sharing the spotlight will be West's Cheteshwar Pujara and South's Mayank Agarwal in particular.

Pujara was dropped from the India squad for the West Indies tour. The omission might certainly have left him a bruised man. But the Saurashtra star was quick to bounce back as he made a solid 133 for West in their semi-final against Central Zone, leading his side's entry into the title clash. He will be eyeing another big outing in the final and hope his teammates — Sarfaraz Khan and Prithvi Shaw — too fire.

South's vice-captain Agarwal made two fifties (76 and 54) in the quarterfinals against North Zone and will look continue in the same vein.

South's Washington Sundar knows the importance. "Duleep Trophy is very important because if we perform here it will give us a lot of confidence and belief in our skills," he said.

India pull off heist as Bangladesh implode

MIRPUR, Jul 12 (Agencies): Spinners Deepti Sharma and Shafali Verma held their nerves during death overs as India pulled off a nail-biting eight-run victory over Bangladesh to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in their three-match T20I series here.

Off-spinner Sultana Khatun claimed a career-best figures of 3/21 as the hosts grounded India to a below-par 95/8, their lowest-ever total against Bangladesh in the women's T20I.

However, Bangladesh were all out for 87 in 20 overs. The inconsequential third match will be played on Thursday.

From a comfortable 86/5, Bangladesh lost their last five wickets for just one run in a space of eight deliveries in what seemed to be an inexplicable batting collapse.

The two young Indian spinners — off-spinner Minnu Mani (2/9 in 4



overs) and left-arm orthodox Anusha Baredy (1/20 in 4 overs) — made early inroads before the seasoned duo of Deepti (3/12) and Shafali (3/15) pulled off a heist with controlled bowling in the 19th and 20th overs.

In fact, Shafali got all her wickets in the final over in which she gave away only one run when 10 were needed with four wickets intact.

Bangladesh's chase was steered by skipper Nigar Sultana (38) — the only batter of their

side to reach a double-digit score.

However, credit should be given to skipper Harmanpreet Kaur as she has shown a lot of faith in both Minnu and Anusha. "In this series we have a couple of young bowlers who are going to take responsibility and bowl for us. We are not going to hide them in the field," Harmanpreet said.

Brief scores: India: 95/8 (Shafali 19; Khatun 3/21); Bangladesh: 87 all out (Sultana 38; Deepti 3/12, Shafali 3/15).

System rebooting...: Transition phase underway against West Indies, onus on batters to lead from front

ROSEAU (DOMINICA), Jul 12 (Agencies): India will need significant contributions from their batters to compensate for a lack of firepower in their depleted pace attack in the first Test against West Indies, which begins here today.

The two-Test series is being viewed as the starting point of a transition period for Rohit Sharma's side, who lost to Australia in the World Test Championship final last month.

The visitors are without injured spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and have rested seamer Mohammed Shami, leaving Mohammed Siraj, who has played 19 Tests, as the leader of an inexperienced pace battery.

Established bowlers Ishant Sharma and Umesh Yadav have been overlooked in favour of Jaydev Unadkat and Navdeep Saini, who have played



two Tests each, and the uncapped Mukesh Sharma.

While they remain the world's top-ranked Test team and begin as favourites against eighth-placed West Indies, vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane said there would be no complacency against a side who beat England in successive home series.

"We, as a team, respect West Indies. They are not the ones to be taken lightly," the batsman told reporters on Monday. "West Indies has performed well at home during the last couple of years or so, especially in Tests.



We are looking to give our 100% and backing our game plan and strengths."

Change is also coming to the batting order, where Yashasvi Jaiswal is set to make his Test debut in place of stubborn veteran Cheteshwar Pujara at No. 3. Jaiswal has already built a reputation as a hard-hitting batter in the Indian Premier League (IPL), an approach which stands in stark contrast to Pujara's often dour displays.

"I am so happy for Jaiswal, he has worked so hard, scored runs for Mumbai in domestic cricket and in the IPL," Rahane said. "He is

an exciting talent and the way he is batting is nice."

West Indies, on the other hand, will see the series as a chance to lift the mood after they failed to qualify for this year's ODI World Cup, a new low for the two-time champions.

"It's important to start well," home captain Kraigg Brathwaite said. Lot of cricket left in me, asserts Rahane

India skipper Rohit Sharma gives a lot of freedom to his players and has all the traits of a great captain, said Ajinkya Rahane ahead of the series.

Rahane made a comeback to red-ball cricket after a gap of 18 months when he was included in the World Test Championship final against Australia last month. A veteran of 83 Test matches, Rahane, who was deputy to former skipper Virat Kohli in the past, has been named the India vice-captain

for this series.

"I am used to this role. I was vice-captain for almost four-five years. I am really happy to be back in the team and really happy to be back as a vice-captain," Rahane said. "WTC final was the first game where I played under Rohit Sharma's captaincy. Rohit gives freedom to all the players and those are good traits of a great captain," said Rahane.

Rahane was left a tad irritated when he was asked about his comeback to the national team at the age of 35, insisting he is still young and has a lot of cricket left in him. "What do you mean by at this age? I am still young. There's still a lot of cricket in me," he said. "I had a good IPL and domestic season. I have grown in confidence as a batter but in the past one-and-a-half year I have also worked a lot on my fitness."

Major League Cricket aims for US breakthrough

MIAMI, Jul 12 (Agencies): The most ambitious attempt yet to establish professional cricket in the United States gets under way on Wednesday when wickets will be pitched for the start of the inaugural season of Major League Cricket.

With backing from four franchisees in the Indian Premier League, including the league's most successful teams the Mumbai Indians and the Chennai Super Kings, MLC has plenty of money and expertise behind it, unlike prior attempts to crack the American market.

As well as financial muscle and television deals, MLC has also been sanctioned by USA Cricket and the International Cricket Council -- rubber stamps that have been absent from short-lived private ventures in the past.

Like the IPL, the league will play the shortest and most explosive version of cricket, Twenty20, and has recruited some experienced international players.

England opening batsman Jason Roy, Australian batsman Aaron Finch, South African pace bowler Kagiso Rabada and West Indies spinner Sunil Narine are among the foreign players drafted by the six teams.

While cricket has long been played at a recreational level in the USA -- the first-ever international game being between the USA and Canada at New York in 1844 -- there remains a shortage of facilities for the sport in a country where baseball is beloved. A former baseball park in North

Texas, Grand Prairie Stadium, has been transformed into a cricket-specific venue and will be the site of the opener when the Texas Super Kings face the Los Angeles Knight Riders.

Other games will be played in Morrisville, North Carolina, before the playoffs and final return to Texas.

While organizers expect good levels of support from fans with family backgrounds in cricket-loving countries, they aim to gradually win over the broader American public.

"The goal is to grow the game of cricket and expose the sport in the USA," tournament director Justin Geale, told AFP.

"We've got some of the best players in the world that can actually represent the product, do it justice. So it's going to be a good quality game of cricket that gives us the best chance to show existing fans and new fans the game.

"We've got as far as anyone ever has. So after all the false starts, I think it's finally here."

"An exciting project" Part of the groundwork that MLC did was been the creation of Minor League Cricket, a 26-team competition which began in 2021 to spark domestic player development.

The teams will feature a maximum of six foreign players and a minimum of five domestic players and Geale says developing a talent pool for the USA national team is a big part of the mission.

"Building talent here domestically is one of our big pillars for sustainability," he said.

It will be a challenge for coaches and captains to manage teams with experienced international players alongside emerging domestic players but South African Robin Peterson, head coach of the Mumbai Indians-backed MI New York team, says it will work.

"In my experience, I found that the local boys tend to learn quite a bit playing alongside these superstars," he told agency.

"I've seen it firsthand in the SA20 and even if you look at the growth and trajectory of the Indian cricket since the inception of the IPL, it has just been amazing the amount of talent that they're producing.

"I see the league here playing a similar role for USA cricket."

As well as the involvement of IPL teams, Australia's Cricket Victoria has a high-performance partnership with the San Francisco Unicorns and Cricket New South Wales has a similar role with the Washington Freedom.

The league has broadcast deals with streaming service Willow TV, whose owners are also investors in MLC, and also with Viacom18 in India.

Peterson is optimistic that T20, much more than longer forms of the game, has the ingredients to win eyeballs in the American market.

"It's becoming more entertainment," he said. "It speaks to the American sporting psyche where the players are a lot more physical, fitter, stronger, hit the ball further.

"It's an exciting project. I think it's about time people start taking cricket seriously in America."

"Didn't Find A Reason Why I Was Dropped": India Test Star, Says 'Nobody Contacted' Him

NEW DELHI, Jul 12 (Agencies): Once a regular member of the Indian Test side, especially on away tours, middle order batter Hanuma Vihari is not a part of the side that will be playing on the West Indies Tour.

Known for his gritty display, the 29-year-old Vihari has been part of 16 Tests. His last match in India colours came in July, 2022 in the one-off Test at Birmingham against England. Since then, Vihari has been overlooked in the Test side. He has now opened up on being dropped.

"Definitely, there was disappointment," Vihari told news agency.

"I didn't find a reason why I was dropped and it was the only thing that was bothering me. Nobody really contacted me and told me the reasons why I was dropped. It took some time and I have gone through ups and downs and I'm not worried about it now. I've put aside my personal



side of things and I don't take too much stress about whether I'm in the Indian team or not. There are other matches to win and it is about winning the trophies."

Meanwhile, India skipper Rohit Sharma confirmed that he would have a new opening partner in the first Test of the two-match series against West Indies that begins in Dominica on Wednesday. India will select a new opening combination in their first Test of the ICC World Test Championship

2023-25 cycle, with the skipper expected to be joined by 21-year-old left-hander Yashasvi Jaiswal.

Jaiswal enjoyed a successful year of white-ball cricket, hitting 625 runs in the 2023 IPL with an average of 48 and a strike rate of 163.61 while averaging over 80 in his first 26 First Class innings.

Jaiswal also enjoyed a successful year of red-ball cricket, making 265 in the second innings of the Duleep Trophy Final last year.

In order to fill the spot left by Cheteshwar Pujara, who wasn't selected for this trip, Rohit's current partner Shubman Gill will go down to No. 3, according to the India captain.

"Gill will play at number 3 because Gill himself wants to play at number 3," Rohit said in a pre-match press conference ahead of the first Test on Wednesday.

"He discussed with Rahul (Dravid) that I have played all my cricket at 3 and 4. I think I can do better for my team if I bat at number 3.

And it is good for us too because it becomes an opening combination of left and right," said the India skipper.

"So I think we will try to do this and hopefully this will go on for a long time. Because we have been looking for a left-hander for many years.

So now that we have got that left-hander, let's hope he performs well for the team. And he can really make that spot his own," Rohit added.

Kavinder joins Shri Amarnath Yatra Welfare Society's Langar service for Shiva devotees

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 12: Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister today joined the Langar Service organized by Shri Amarnath Yatra Welfare Society for Shiva devotees at Bhagwati Nagar Jammu. He participated in the Langar, which has been organized to cater to the needs of pilgrims undertaking the Amarnath Yatra.

Rajkumar Goyal, National Executive President of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society informed that Kavinder Gupta along with Vijay Gupta, BJP leader visited the Langar organized by the society for the Shiva devotees participating in the Amarnath Yatra. The Langar, located at Bhagwati Nagar Baba Purnath Temple, has



been serving food and fulfilling the needs of the devotees for the past 13 days.

Sardar Sucha Singh, Corporator of Jammu Bhagwati Nagar Ward, also attended the occasion. The Langar Director, Matrushakti Meena Kak, T K Kank, Paramjit Singh Happy Sardar, Charan Singh, District President Jammu Ji Vikram Sridhar, Chhota Yogi Majeed Bhai, and other dignitaries extended a warm wel-

come to the guests in accordance with the Sanatan culture.

Kavinder Gupta and other dignitaries were greeted with a Tilak and presented with Chunri. Kavinder served the devotees by distributing food and langar, expressing his belief in the innocence of Lord Shiva and his ability to fulfill the wishes of his devotees. He emphasized the significance of worshipping Lord Shiva and the removal

of sins through his Darshan.

Kavinder Gupta further stated that the sight of the immense gathering of Shiva devotees in Jammu and Kashmir resembled the grandeur of the Maha Kumbh Mela. He praised the spirit of brotherhood and the warm hospitality extended to guests in Jammu and Kashmir.

Raju Chandel, the National General Secretary of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare

Society, shared that the society has made special arrangements for the stay, bathing facilities, and meals for the devotees. Breakfast includes tea, biscuits, and bread, while Chole Bhature and Desi Ghee pudding are served in the morning. Lunch and dinner are provided, ensuring that the langar runs round the clock for 62 days, adhering to the guidelines provided by the administration. The langar is entirely free of cost and maintains a high standard of cleanliness. Clean water facilities have been arranged, and no compromises have been made in the provision of any essential items.

Sardar Sucha Singh expressed his joy in witnessing the devotees of Lord Shiva relishing the langar's Prasad with immense pleasure.

Hope SC uphold the constitution of India while hearing Article 370: Mehbooba

SRINAGAR, Jul 12 (Agencies): A day after the Supreme Court announced to hear the petitions on Article 370 on a daily basis, Peoples Democratic Party President Mehbooba Mufti hoped that the Apex Court will decide the case in accordance with the Constitution and law of the country.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar on Wednesday Mufti said the people of Jammu and Kashmir want the SC to do justice with the Constitution of the country and not to satisfy the collective sentiment of the people of India. She hoped that the Chief Justice of India who had unquestionable integrity would appreciate the sentiment of the people of J&K and would give a decision in favour of the constitution and law.

The PDP chief raised concern over the listing of the Article 370 petitions immediately after Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice D Y Chandrachud and Supreme Court judges visited Kashmir for the '19th All India Legal Services Authorities' meeting last month.

Mehbooba said that the 200 judges who were brought here during a seminar recently were just to show them that everything is all right in Jammu and Kashmir. "There are apprehensions that after four years the Supreme Court has decided to start hearing on Article 370 from August 2 on a daily basis suddenly.... the BJP has laid a trap to mislead the world

by holding G20 meeting here and bringing Judges from all across the country just to show them the silence of graves in Jammu and Kashmir.... It seems that something happened behind the curtain," she alleged.

"However, I hope that all these judges, who are wise and decide the destiny of the people, must have seen what the reality is behind the wall."

She said the Government of India submitted a fresh affidavit in which they tried to justify the scrapping of Article 370 but the Supreme Court has said that it would not consider it.

Mufti said BJP has torn apart the constitution and law of the country.

She said if they (BJP) said that stone pelting has been stopped after Article 370 was scrapped, why thousands of youth and religious leaders would have been put in jails. She said that raids are being conducted on a daily basis and monitoring is also taking place. "You (BJP) governments have adopted Israeli policy in Jammu and Kashmir. The BJP is claiming that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved with the abrogation of Article 370... It is like that when a goon enters a house and beats the inmates and threatens them and later claims that there is everything right as there is no noise or violence in the home... the same thing they (BJP) have done with Jammu and Kashmir," she said.

Amarnath Yatris are our guests, give them best hospitality is our tradition: Braham Jyot



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 12: Braham Jyot Satti (Senior leader and Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir) inaugurated yearly Bhandara for Amarnath Yatris at Hanuman Mandir, Manda Jammu.

It was organized by Nitai Dass and Madalsa Devi (Sewaks of Radha Govind Goushala Shakti Nagar Jammu).

Organizers welcomed Braham Jyot and other dignitaries by presenting them Mata Ki Chunni.

Sanjay Verma (Mandal President Bakshi Nagar), Rakesh Pandey Vicky (Mandal President Ambphala), Raj Kumar, Rahul Kumar, Sant Singh were present on the occasion and serve devotees.

The programme started with obeisance paid by dignitaries in the feet of Lord Shiva then they pray for peace and Harmony of Nation.

After that they inaugurated Bhandara for pilgrims and performed Langar Seva, served Langar among devotees.

This Bhandara will remain open during Amarnath Yatra. A huge number

of Amarnath devotees will get Langar Prasad during Yatra.

Braham Jyot congratulated organising committee and Gou Sewaks for conducting this annual Bhandara every year. He said all Amarnath pilgrims are our guests and we should facilitate them in a better way. Best hospitality and facilitation to our guests is our Dogra culture, he added. He said Nitai Das and Madalsa Devi are great social workers and from time to time they organise Bhandara for the well being of public. He said we worship Lord Shiva who is the supreme power and Generator, Operator and destroyer of this universe and there are crore of devotees who worshipped Lord Shiva across the world. He said at present there is a huge number of Amarnath devotees visiting many sites in Jammu Kashmir and providing food to a hungry person is the real service of humanity and BJP workers are continuously organizing these kind of tasks across Jammu Kashmir. He said BJP always provides helping hands to others so we don't leave anyone in hard times and tries to do our best in the service of humanity.

DDC Suresh organizes Janta Darbars in Chowki Choura

TOP NEWS REPORT

AKHNOOR, Jul 12: BJP leader and member DDC, Jammu Pt. Suresh Sharma alongwith Sectoral Officers organised Janta Darbars in remote Panchayats Ghar, Majoor and Ghaneri of block Chowki Choura of Chhamb Constituency.

The public and their representatives of PRI's apprised Suresh Sharma about their problems related to electricity, drinking water, road, education, rural development etc. Their problems were listened and some of them were solved on the spot. Suresh Sharma assured to solve the rest of their problems very soon.

Addressing the public, Suresh Sharma said that in order to mitigate the problem of drinking water in the area, an amount of rupees 3.44 crore (pyt. Ghaneri), rupees 2.80 crore (pyt. Ghar) and rupees 2.54 crore (Pyt. Majoor/Sanda) shall be utilized for new water supply schemes under Jal



Jeevan Mission. All the defunct and old water supply pipes shall be replaced, new water connections shall be provided and new dug wells and filter plants shall be constructed so that the public may not face any problem related to drinking water.

Suresh Sharma says that he knows that there are still some villages which lack road connectivity and BJP Govt. is committed to provide the same to the public. DPRs of some roads have been prepared and some are under process.

Suresh Sharma also

asks the concerned officers of PWD (R&B) to immediately restore services of roads that get blocked during rainy season so that public may not suffer.

Suresh Sharma also ensured the public that new transformers shall be provided to the villages that are facing the problem of low voltage and new poles be provided also wherever required.

Suresh Sharma views that our Prime Minister is committed to provide Pucca House to all the poor under PM Awas Yojna. He also asks the officers of RDD to pre-

pare the list of those households that have not been benefitted so far so that they are covered under this scheme.

Suresh Sharma also says that the vacant posts of teachers in the schools shall be filled soon so that education of students may not suffer.

Suresh Sharma also visited PHC Ghar to know the functioning and services being provided to the patients. He viewed that it is our effort that the last man standing in the line gets benefit of welfare schemes launched by government.

On this occasion XEN R&B, AEE R&B, AEE PDD, AEE Flood Control AEE PHE, TSWO Akhnoor Naib Tehsildar, AEO Chowki Choura, Sarpanch Madan Lal Sarpanch, Chuni Lal, Ashu Sharma, Naib Sarpanch Satpaul, Vijay Sharma Panches Chiman Lal, Mukesh Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Suraj Parkash, Parshotam Lal, Vijay Kumar, Deepu Kumar, Prem Nath, Sanjay Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Yashpaul Shastri, Sunil Sharma, Deep Singh other Departmental Officers and Engineer were present.

Batra-Jamwal Cycle Rally from Leh to Drass Commemorates Kargil Vijay Diwas

TOP NEWS REPORT

LEH, Jul 12: As a run-up to the 24th Kargil Vijay Diwas, Fire and Fury Corps organised 'Batra-Jamwal' Cycle Rally from Leh to Dras. The rally was flagged off by Colonel Sanjeev Singh Jamwal, Vrc, Subedar Major (Honorary Captain) Tashi Chhepal, Vrc (Retd) and Subedar Major (Honorary Captain) Chhering Stobdan, Vrc (Retd).

Over the next eight days, the team of 19 valiant soldiers of Forever in Operations Division will emulate the indomitable spirit of Kargil Bravehearts as they traverse 270 kilometers through the tough terrain of



Ladakh, from Leh to Dras.

The theme of cycle rally is to acknowledge the determination and

grit of soldiers who have laid down their lives during the Kargil War.

During the rally, the

soldiers will also interact with school children, enroute with an aim to apprise them of the heroic valour of

our Bravehearts during the Kargil War as also informing them of various entry schemes to join the Indian Army.

Rajesh Gupta expresses concern over skyrocketing inflation in JK

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 12: National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) on Wednesday expressed concern over skyrocketing inflation in Jammu and Kashmir, saying it is the poorest of poor, daily wagers and salaried class that are feeling the squeeze.

Expressing concern over the peaking inflation in Jammu and Kashmir, NDPI J&K Chief Rajesh Gupta said the inflation rate has touched 7.59 percent in J&K which is even higher than the national inflation rate of 6.95 percent. "There is no breather for inhabitants of J&K. Our People continue to face inflationary pressure. It is anybody's



guess what people must be going through at this time. The soaring price rise has pinched the daily wagers, the most. People are finding it very difficult to make ends meet," he said.

NDPI leader further said "Constant price rise is hitting the common man where it hurts the most and the administration has failed to take meaningful steps to curb the trend. The political instability and

governance deficit have already wreaked havoc on our people, particularly daily wagers, hawkers, labourers, middle, BPL and salaried classes and depleted their savings. The soaring prices of essential commodities in the face of salary cuts and job losses have dealt a double blow for the common man, especially those from the middle and lower-middle income groups and below poverty line (BPL) segments of society.

NDPI president added that the government was punishing people, particularly poor farmers, transporters, traders, daily wagers, hawkers, BPL, middle and salaried classes for its own incompetence.