

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Salman Rushdie speaks of 'crazy dreams' about knife attack in New York



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BRIEFLY

Govt announces 10 days summer break for college in Kashmir division, winter zones of Jammu division

SRINAGAR, Jul 13 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education Department Thursday announced summer vacation for the all government degree colleges of Kashmir division and winter zone of Jammu division from July-15.

Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, Alok Kumar said, "All the government Degree Colleges in the Kashmir Division and Winter Zone of Jammu Division shall observe summer vacation from 15-07-2023 to 24-07-2023."

Mainly dry weather forecast as temp rises at most places in J&K

SRINAGAR, Jul 13: Amid forecast for mainly dry weather with possibility of "isolated very light rain and thunderstorm" during next few days, the minimum temperature recorded a rise at most places in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

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 17.6°C against 16.8°C on the previous night and it was 0.5°C below normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 17.0°C against 14.5°C on the previous night and it was 0.5°C above normal for the gateway town of the Kashmir Valley.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 10.3°C against 10.6°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.7°C for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 15.5°C against

Amid security another batch of pilgrims leaves for Amarnath Shrine

Amarnath devotees throng booking counters as tatkal registration resumes



JAMMU, Jul 13 (Agencies): A fresh batch of over 9,200 pilgrims, the largest so far, left the base camp here in the early hours of Thursday for the Amarnath shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas.

While 6,035 pilgrims left in a convoy of 194 vehicles for Pahalgam, another convoy of 112 vehicles carrying 3,206 pilgrims left for the Baltal base camp at 3.30 am.

With this, a total of 65,544 pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for the valley since June 30.

A total to 1,46,508 pilgrims have offered prayers at the shrine since July 1.

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on July 1.

The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

JAMMU, Jul 13 (Agencies): A day after Tatkal registration for the Amarnath Yatra resumed here after suspension for three days, hundreds of people thronged the on-the-spot booking counters.

The Tatkal registration was resumed on Wednesday after the pilgrimage was suspended from Saturday to Monday due to inclem-

ent weather and the closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway for repairs in the Ramban section.

Braving the hot and humid weather conditions, devotees including women are patiently waiting in long queues to get a registration token.

"We have been waiting in long queues since morning for the registration. We will first get a token and then have to

get a health checkup done, only after which we can proceed with the registration process," Kapil Dev Pandey, a Maharashtra resident who came here for the pilgrimage, said.

Pandey, however, pointed out that there should be more counters to attend to the huge number of people.

Over 1,500 unregistered pilgrims,

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CRPF personnel deployed in large numbers to secure Amarnath Yatra: DIG Avasthy

PULWAMA, Jul 13 (Agencies): CRPF personnel have been deployed in large numbers to secure the ongoing Amarnath Yatra as the paramilitary force is equipped with the latest gadgets to augment the security grid in Kashmir, a senior officer of the force said.

"We are deployed for your service 24/7, 365 days (a year), whether there is yatra or not. There is an increase in the (number of) forces in view of the yatra, and more focus is given," Deputy Inspector General of CRPF Alok Avasthy said.

Avasthy said the CRPF was using with modern gadgets and weapons to maintain a hawk-like vigil on its area of operation in south Kashmir.

"We are using the most modern technology which is available in the world. I will not reveal the details here,



but, yes, we are using that," he added.

Asked if there was a specific threat to the ongoing pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath, the officer said the CRPF was focussed on ensuring round the year peace.

"There is no specific threat, but, yatra or no yatra, our priority is the security of the people, and our jawans do not rest. They work 24/7. They are on duty 365 days. I assure you that we are at your service,"

Avasthy said.

Asked about special drills along the highway, he said there is an increase in the traffic and the CRPF personnel are also engaged in traffic control to ensure smooth movement of the yatra convoy.

Avasthy lauded the local population's support to the pilgrimage.

"We have full cooperation of the local people. There are no problems, local population provides water to yatis, bless them," he added.

Chugh hails PM's grant of Rs 7,500 crore for fighting flood crisis in country

SRINAGAR, Jul 13 (Agencies): BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh on Thursday welcomed PM Narendra Modi's grant of Rs 7,532 cr for fighting flood crisis in various parts of the country.

Chugh said that it was time for states to utilise funds judiciously and immediately for the needy. "Your Pradhan Sevak stands with you in every crisis. For the 22 states facing natural calamities in the country, the Honorable Prime Minister Shri @NarendraModi Ji has immediately given financial assistance of Rs 7,532 crores and has directed



all the states that there should be no laxity in the rescue work and all the needy people should be reached soon. Help should be provided as soon as possible," he said in a tweet.

The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has today released an amount of Rs. 7,532 crore to 22

State Governments for the respective State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF). The amount has been released as per the recommendations of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In the wake of heavy rains across the country, the guidelines have been relaxed and the amount has been released as immediate assistance to States without waiting for the utilisation certificate of the amount provided to the States in the last financial year, read a government handout.

The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has been constituted in

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Omar Abdullah sets out on foot to party office after Police 'Deny' him escort vehicles

SRINAGAR, Jul 13 (Agencies): Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah set out from his home on foot to reach the party office here after police allegedly denied him escort vehicles and ITBP personnel cover.

Abdullah, the vice president of the National Conference (NC), was scheduled to address a function at the party headquarters, Nawa-i-Subah, to pay homage to 22 Kashmiri people who were killed by the army of a Dogra ruler on this day in 1931.

He alleged the Jammu and Kashmir Police denied him his security escort vehicles and the



Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) cover to visit the party headquarters.

There was no immediate reaction from the police.

Unfazed by the alleged denial, Abdullah set out to the office near Zero Bridge — around one kilometre from his residence in the Gupkar area — on foot. A hand-

ful of his special security group personnel — a wing of J-K Police responsible for guarding VVIPs — walked along with him.

The former J-K chief minister took to Twitter and posted a video of his walk.

"Dear @JmuKmrPolice don't think that refusing to give me my escort vehicles & ITBP cover

will stop me. I'll walk to where I have to get to & that's exactly what I'm doing now," Abdullah wrote on Twitter.

After reaching office, where party leaders and activists were waiting for him, the NC vice president said the "police would now send everything" for his security.

"Now that I've got to the office & will go ahead with my programme you will send everything. The fact is @JmuKmrPolice has stopped a lot of my senior colleagues from coming to the @JKNC_office today by adopting the same tactics of stopping them in their homes. Notable amongst those stopped

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NIA raids five more locations in Kashmir in terrorist conspiracy case



SRINAGAR, Jul 13 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday conducted another round of raids at the premises of hybrid militants and Overground Workers (OGWs) of the outfits and affiliates of Pakistan-backed banned

militants organizations, officials said.

The raids were conducted as part of its ongoing investigations in Jammu and Kashmir in a militant conspiracy case.

NIA said raids were conducted today at five locations in the three districts of Shopian, Awan-

tipora and Pulwama in south Kashmir.

The NIA also raided the premises of sympathisers and cadres of the newly floated outfits, namely The Resistance Front (TRF), United Liberation Front Jammu & Kashmir (ULFJ&K), Mujahideen Gazwatul-Hind (MGH), Jammu & Kashmir Freedom Fighters (JKFF), Kashmir Tigers, PAAF and others. These outfits are affiliated to various banned Pak-backed organisations like Laskhar-e-Toiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed

■ Turn to page 9

Deodorants! *Body Washes!*

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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)
Parnvir & 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.

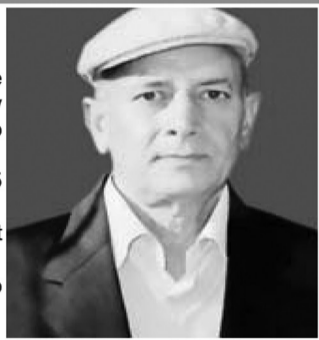
Sister & Brother in laws

Smt Krishna & Dr Jagdeep Singh Sambyal

Lt Smt Bimla & Sub Taranter Singh Jamwal.

Grand Son & Daughter

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



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

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

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.**

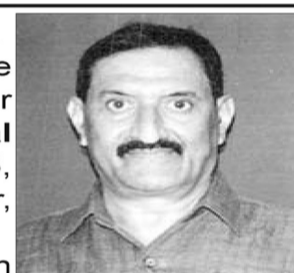
10th Day will be performed on 11th of July at 10.30 AM.

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 loose 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**

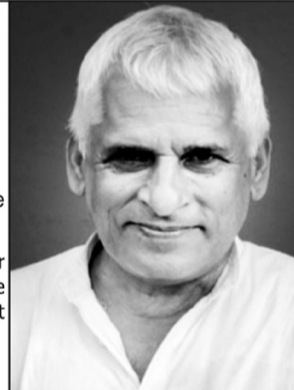
Pallavi & Raman -**Daughter & Son-in-law**

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)

FIFTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED BROTHER IN LAW (JIJA JI) **SHRI MASTAN SINGH THAKUR AND OUR SISTER SMT. SURESHTHA THAKUR** AT THEIR RESIDENCE KIRTI NAGAR, NEW DELHI.

FIFTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 14TH OF JULY 2023 (FRIDAY) AT OUR RESIDENCE POONCH LINES, MUTHI JAMMU.

GRIEF STRICKEN BLOWRIA FAMILY

SHRI MASTAN SINGH THAKUR

SMT. SURESHTHA THAKUR

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Ram Saran Saini Retd. AEE (PWD) S/o Late Sh. Sardha Ram R/o H.No. 159 Street No. 29, Mandir Wali Gali, Rajpura Mangotriam Jammu,** who left for his heavenly abode on 5-7-2023. The **Tenth Day Kriya & Satsang** will be performed on 14-07-2023 (Friday) at 10.00 am & 12.00 Noon respectively at our residence.

Grief Stricken**Smt. Devo Saini- Wife****Sons & Daughter-in-Laws**

Sh. Narinder & Smt. Monika Saini

Sh. Rajinder & Smt. Madhu Saini

Daughters & Son-in-Laws

Smt. Santosh & Sh. Ram Krishan Saini

Smt. Vandana & Sh. Aashish Saini

Smt. Shaluu & Sh. Vishal Puri

Mob.: 9622209969, 09911709642, 9469604422



Sh. Ram Saran Saini
Retd. AEE (PWD)

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

CHOUBARSI

Four years have passed since you left us for heavenly abode. Your teachings, blessings and lovely memories will continue to inspire and guide us. Your unforgettable sweet memories, smiling face and noble qualities will remain with us throughout our life. We deeply miss you and feel your presence around us. May God grant your pure soul the internal peace.

Choubarisi of our beloved **Smt. Niti Sharma W/o Sh. K.K. Sharma R/o H.No. 31, Sector-3, Roop Nagar, Jammu** will be performed on 14th July, 2023 (Friday) at 12.00 Noon at our residence.

DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY :

Sh. K.K. Sharma (Sr. Geologist G.S.I (Retd))- Husband

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Sunil Sharma & Rachna Sharma

Amit Sharma & Neelam Pandita

Grand Daughters : Saanvi and Anwita



Smt. Niti Sharma

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 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

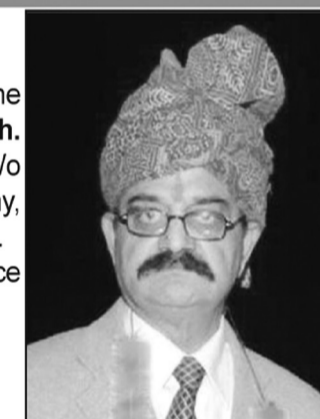
Smt. Veena Jamwal - **Wife**

Sons & Daughter-in-law

Vikrant Jamwal & Dolly Jamwal

Vikas Jamwal

Grand Daughters: Juhi & Pihu



Sh. Pardeep Singh Jamwal
(Retd. Engineer)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH. KASTURI LAL GUPTA S/O LT. SH. MULKH RAJ GUPTA ON 6TH JULY 2023.**

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED AT BALAJI BANQUET HALL, PATLI MORH ON 14TH JULY, 2023 (FRIDAY) AT 11:00 AM.

KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE KHAIRI ON 17TH JULY 2023 (MONDAY) FROM 12.00 NOON ONWARDS.

UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE KHAIRI ON 17TH OF JULY (MONDAY) 2023 AT 5.00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

SMT. SWARNKANTA (WIFE)

SH. NARESH GUPTA -BROTHER

SMT. SASHI GUPTA W/O LT. SH. DHARAM PAL GUPTA -BHABHI

SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW

SMT. RAJKARNI & SH. SURINDER GUPTA

SMT. VIJAYLAXMI & SH. RAMCHARAN GUPTA

SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

SH. RAJESH GUPTA & SMT. SAMRITI MAHAJAN

SH. PANKAJ GUPTA & SMT. SHALLU GUPTA

DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW

SMT. ANU GUPTA & SH. VINAY GUPTA

SMT. SHRUTI GUPTA & SH. DEVINDER BHARTI

GRAND CHILDREN

PH. NO. 7889564757, 7006297675,
9419124818, 9419124751



SH. KASTURI LAL GUPTA

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we would like to inform you all that **Smt Sangeeta Rani W/o Sh Pritam Dutt Sangra R/o Ward No. 17, Partap Nagar, near Police Line Kathua** has left for heavenly abode on 05-07-2023.

10th Day will be performed on 14-07-2023 (Friday) & **Kriya** will be performed on 15-07-2023 (Saturday) at our residence Ward No. 17, Partap Nagar, near Police Line Kathua.

Sangra Family

Mob. No. 94192-20482, 94191-71152



Smt Sangeeta Rani

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, Satarai, 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, 8493005930, 9682328780.



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

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

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

Bhog and Antim Ardaas From 10.00 am to 12 Noon at Gurudwara Singh Sabha Singhpora Kalan Followed by

GURU KA LANGAR.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Late MAJ Sant Singh- **Father-in-law**

Late. Sdn. Kuldeep Kour- **Mother-in-law**

Ravinder Kour- **Wife**

Harsh Pal Singh- **Son**

Nirbhay Pal Singh- **Son**

Gurleen Kour- **Daughter**



Harinder Pal Singh

Vibodh predicts crushing defeat of United opposition in 2024 polls

TOP NEWS REPORT

RAJOURI, Jul 13: Several delegations called on BJP J&K General Secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta at Dak Bungalow Rajouri. He listened to their concerns and took immediate action by calling the relevant officials and authorities to resolve their issues.

During these meetings, Vibodh expressed his deep concern about the pervasive corruption and appeasement policies allegedly adopted by the Congress party during their successive governments. He stressed that the nine years of BJP rule were dedicated to uplifting the



marginalized sections of society, ensuring good governance, and serving the citizens.

"The BJP has dedicated itself to the welfare of the people, good governance, and eradicating corruption. Prime Minister Narendra Modi efforts

have resulted in tangible changes and improvements in the lives of the citizens", he added. Gupta also emphasized the importance of promoting transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption measures to foster a prosperous and

inclusive society.

Asserting his confidence in the BJP's prospects, Vibodh firmly stated that the party would secure a resounding victory in the upcoming 2024 Parliamentary elections. He cited the evident frustra-

tion among the opposition as a clear indication of the BJP's impending success. Vibodh further predicted that the united opposition, which he deemed an alliance of corrupt and anti-nationalist parties, will suffer a crushing defeat against the BJP and will be wiped out after 2024 elections.

Senior BJP leaders present on the occasion were Ranjeet Tara, Yogesh Sharam, Kamal Bakshi, Sarpanch Bahu Ram, Sarpanch Kewal, Sarpanch Jagdish, Kulvir Sarpanch, Ex Sarpanch Raj Kumar, Ex Sarpanch Balbir Sharma, Rajan Singh, Dr Makhan Singh, Haji Zaman.

UIET organizes industrial webinar on 'Entrepreneurship in the Era of Startups'

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Jul 13: UIET, Kathua Campus (JU) organized an Industrial Webinar on "Entrepreneurship in the Era of Startups" under the Industry-Academia Partnership Series for the students of the Campus. The resource person for the webinar was Mr. Sushil Kumar Sharma, founder and CEO of Sustaineco and Former General Manager, Corporate Sustainable Development, NTPC Limited. Mr. Kumar has a professional experience of more than 39 years and has also delivered 94 physical and virtual talks during the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. Moreover, he represented India in the ABCD International Speakers Marathon as an Expert Speaker.

Kumar explored the concept of entrepre-



neurship in the era of startups and highlighted the characteristics, challenges, potential benefits and opportunities that entrepreneurs face in today's fast-paced world. He added that startups often leverage technology, disruptive business models, and unconventional approaches to address market gaps and sometimes create entirely new markets. While giving examples of various young entrepreneurs emerging in India, Mr.

Kumar said that aspiring entrepreneurs can navigate this dynamic landscape successfully by identifying market opportunities, building strong teams, securing funding and embracing innovation.

Dr. Meenakshi Kilam, Rector, Kathua Campus (JU) said that startups have become a driving force in the entrepreneurial ecosystem as they embrace agile methodologies, emphasising rapid iteration, experimentation, and

learning from failures. She also added that entrepreneurship in the era of startups represents a dynamic and transformative force in the business world as it epitomises innovation, agility, and the pursuit of rapid growth. Dr. Kilam reiterated that entrepreneurship in this era presents immense opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs to shape the future of industries and contribute to positive change. Dr. Sourabh Shastri, I/C Coordinator, UIET,

Kathua Campus (JU) introduced the resource person and said that these types of interactions with the experts provide in-depth knowledge of multidisciplinary modules.

Dr. Rubby Mahajan coordinated the whole programme, and Er. Himani Khajuria delivered the vote of thanks. Er. Amarjeet Chopra, Er. Komal Khadotra, Er. Sushant Gagal, Er. Sandeep Raj, Dr. Seema Jamwal, Dr. Shivani Sharma, Er. Archana Salaria, Er. Sarvadamman Sharma, Er. Rakshit Khajuria, Er. Rajan Verma, Er. Palvi Verma, Ms. Ritu Sharma, Ms. Ritika Gupta, Dr. Nisha Choudhary, Er. Vishavjeet Singh, Er. Sourav Gupta, Dr. Sunny Sharma, Dr. Zahir Ansari and Mr. Pranav Ratta were also present during the webinar.

NC pays glowing tributes to 1931 Martyrs

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 13: J&K National Conference today paid heartfelt tributes to the brave martyrs of 1931 in a function held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu.

On the occasion, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC Jammu was the Chief Guest. In his address, he emphasized the significance of July 13 as a pivotal day in history, symbolizing people's urge for democracy and creating a society based on social justice, harmony and equality. Remembering martyrs, Rattan said that the best way of paying tributes to them was to strengthen democracy and secularism in Jammu and Kashmir, which showed the shining example of pluralistic ethos during the most testing times of the history.

"That was the time when the people galvanized around Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah who stood like a rock for Hindu, Muslim and Sikh unity. July 13, 1931 was a crucial moment in the life of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Abdullah as well as for the people of J&K State, symbolizing a shift from passivity to action. The day represented a struggle between the oppressed and the oppressors, a



fight for freedom. On this day, a dying martyr had expressed to Sher-e-Kashmir that he had fulfilled his duty and it was now his responsibility to move forward," he said, adding that this cherished slogan of the towering leader has been the guiding force for National Conference which it has been pursuing with a sense of commitment.

The senior NC leader said "Today, we find ourselves confronting a same situation where people are unjustly deprived of their fundamental rights, particularly after the unconstitutional abrogation of Article 370. However, in our pursuit to restore justice and democracy, the National Conference remains steadfast."

"The National Conference under the stewardship of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, is relentlessly fighting for the restoration of the fundamental rights of the people of Jammu and Kash-

mir. The party firmly believes in upholding the principles of democracy and ensuring that every citizen enjoys the freedoms and liberties enshrined in the Constitution," he said.

Rattan Lal said the struggle for the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir is not a short-term battle; it is a long-term commitment. "The Party will continue to work tirelessly to bring an end to the prevailing situation and ensure that the voices of the people are heard and respected," he said, adding that the National Conference, known for its unwavering dedication to the welfare of the people, aims to create an environment where justice prevails, and the rights of every individual are safeguarded. The party stands united in its advocacy for the restoration of Article 370 and the reinstatement of the rights that were unjustly taken away.

The senior NC leader called upon the people

of Jammu and Kashmir to stand strong and united, joining hands with the party in its mission. Together, they can pave the way for a brighter future, where democracy prevails and fundamental rights are upheld, he added.

Remembering martyrs, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary Jammu Province said that the best way of paying tributes to them was to strengthen democracy and secularism in Jammu and Kashmir, which showed the shining example of pluralistic ethos during the most testing times of the history. That was the time when the people galvanized around Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah who stood like a rock for Hindu, Muslim and Sikh unity. "This cherished slogan of the towering leader has been the guiding force for National Conference which it has been pursuing with a sense of commitment", he asserted.

Army organises skill development workshop

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Jul 13: Indian Army, Dul has organised a personality & communication skill development workshop for teachers & students of district Kishtwar in collaboration with GDC, Kishtwar.

Indian Army, Dul has invited Dr Jagriti Upadhyaya, PhD. NET. a renowned rhetorician at international level to conduct the said workshop. The aim of the workshop was to highlight importance of good communication skills & personality development to enhance the confidence of teachers and students. In workshop it was emphasised that good

communication skills is very important for both professional as well as personal life. Successful communication helps us in better understanding the people & situations. It also helps in overcoming diversities, build trust & respect, creating conditions for sharing creative ideas & solving problems in day to day lives. Many modern tools to enhance communication skills were discussed & taught to attendees of the workshop. A total of 260 students and 50 teachers attended the event & lauded the initiative of Indian Army and urged for more such events in future.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION UDHAMPUR
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 68 of 2023-24 Dated 08.07.2023

(Single Cover System)

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, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1.	Lane & drain from house of Late Sh. Ashok Jamwal to H/o Parshotam Sharma W. No. 7 Udhampur	1.80	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	IDMT
2.	Repair of lane/ drain from Janta Art Press to Fouji Chart House & interlocking tiles from Fouji Chart House to Jagdish Gupta (Kalari Wale) W. No. 9 Udhampur	1.80	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	IDMT
3.	Const of lane and drain from house of Ramtirath Rehan to H/o Parsram W. No. 19 Jail Road	1.80	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	IDMT
4.	Const of lane and drain from house of Sh. Jagdev Singh onwards and its adjoining links W. No. 5 Udhampur	1.85	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	IDMT
5.	Installation of SS Sign Boards in various locations of W. NO. 3 Udhampur	1.80	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	IDMT
6.	Tile work from H/o Bansil Lal Salaria to H/o Shadi Lal W. No. 18 & const. of boundary wall at Children Burial Place W. No. 18 Udhampur	1.81	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	IDMT
7.	Laying of interlocking tile flooring from the house of RK Sharma towards W. No. 15 Udhampur	1.80	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	IDMT
8.	Interlocking tile in lane from H/o Hast Ram to Sh. Puran Chand & repairing of drain from Mechanical Office to downward Near Jail road W. No. 11 Udhampur	1.80	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	IDMT
9.	Interlocking tile work and repairing of drain from the house of Dr. Kant to the opposite shop Khajuria Cosmetic and const. of side drain repairing opposite the gate of Har Rama Hare Krishana Temple to the house of Hans Raj Ji W. No. 8 Udhampur	1.80	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	IDMT
10.	Interlocking tile in lane from near the H/o Arjun Singh (Karyana Shop) and others in W. No. 20 Sangoor Udhampur	1.80	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	IDMT
11.	Laying of interlocking tile work from House of Bishan Dev Singh and repair of lane towards NHIA W. No. 2 Udhampur	1.80	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	IDMT
12.	Laying of interlocking tile flooring from the house of Rohit Gupta onwards W. No. 14 Udhampur	1.85	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	IDMT
13.	Tile (Interlocking) work from the house of Narayan Datt Raina towards Central drain (Lucky di Gali) W. No. 10 Udhampur	1.80	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	IDMT
14.	Tile flooring from house of Ved Rani upto H/o Ramesh Sharma (Near AOC School) W. No. 1 Udhampur	1.85	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	IDMT
15.	Const. of lane from house of Sh. Rajan Singh (CC flooring) to Durga Mandir Lane W. No. 6 Udhampur	1.85	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	IDMT
16.	Const of side drain and interlocking tiles from house of Parmod Sharma onwards W. No. 17 Udhampur	1.85	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	IDMT
17.	Const. Of lane & tile flooring from H/o Dev Dutt towards Suresh Sharma W. No. 21 Udhampur	1.85	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	IDMT

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Position of AAA:- **Accorded**
Position of T.S:- **Accorded**
Position of Funds:- **Available**

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	08-07-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 10-07-2023 to 18-07-2023, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting.	-
4	Bid submission Start Date	10-07-2023 from 900 Hrs
5	Bid Submission End Date	18-07-2023 up to 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	19-07-2023 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan/ Bid Security/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur** as mentioned in the bid documents. The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.

No:- 10134-40
Dated:- 08.07.2023

DIP/J-4840/23

Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Udhampur

EDITORIAL

GURU MAKES
IDEAL PERSON

The parents and the Guru expect that their children have a good character and be successful in life. To achieve this objective they place a number of restrictions on their children. The children, however, believe that such restrictions are imposed to limit their work freedom and to make their life hard and painful. When the parents and teachers ask them to study or to do certain work and punish them for doing bad acts the children, due to ignorance, consider such acts as unpleasant. It is expected of the students to express gratitude and give due respect to their teachers.

During the scholastic period of the students the teachers and the parents want to educate their children properly and freeing them from faults and send them in the service of the nation and the community. They want their children to bring glory and fame to them.

The human body holds within it innumerable potentials and vast possibilities. These need to be brought out by imparting the students adequate knowledge and giving them true encouragement. The Guru does this work diligently and with full responsibility and in a systematic manner. It is something like a runner being encouraged by his guide that he could still run faster. Due to such an encouragement and guidance, the runner runs faster than before. The teacher tells him that because of the hidden energy and potentials the runner could still run faster. The teacher encourages him that if he can run that far and faster a prize would be given. The runner then gets enthused further due to the promise and lure of the prize and he puts in all his efforts and energy which makes him successful and a become winner.

But the Guru does not stop at this point. He encourages the runner further. In doing so it is not the runner only but also the Guru who feels proud of the achievement. Both feel proud of each other which is something like a self-rewarding victory. In this way, the teacher brings out the hidden potentials and energy of the student in the open and makes him an ideal and true hard-working responsible person. This is the significant role of the Guru in refining the character and potential of the student.

Guru has given a secret key to eternal happiness-happiness which will last forever. He has shown a path of endless joy and happiness which will never be gone. He has shown a solution to end all my sufferings.

When you drive a car and you want to go to an unknown place a GPS is your best guide and it will help you reach your destination smoothly without getting lost. If you are rigid and you do not wish to use a GPS you probably might get lost in an unknown place and it might take you a lot of time reaching your destination, maybe you never even reach it.

So in all spheres of life, you need a guide to help you reach your destination.

Similarly, a Guru is your GPS in your spiritual journey, he will never allow you to get lost and he will help you reach the destination safely and smoothly with wise instructions to follow the path and it's guaranteed success.

But for that, you will first have to surrender before him and believe in him leaving aside all your ego and myths.

When you drive the car you believe that the GPS will take you to the right direction so when you can believe when a machine that is programmed can help you reach your direction then why not believe in a Guru who is a realized soul -he will definitely help your soul reach the goal. Similarly, you will have to believe that your Guru will guide you into your spiritual journey.

July 13, 1931: When the British Supported Sheikh Abdullah's
Communal Agenda to Undermine the Dogra Maharaja

By: Col Tej K Tikoo, Ph.D.

In many ways the events of July 13, 1931, proved to be a watershed in the recent history of Kashmir. First, it pitchforked Sheikh Abdullah to the forefront of anti-Dogra protest at a crucial point in Kashmir's history, turning him gradually into a rallying point of a mass movement of sorts. Second, the British got a golden opportunity to use the events to weaken the Dogra Maharaja to such an extent that he felt compelled to hand over Gilgit agency to the British on a long-term lease, with disastrous consequences for India, seen later on at the time of country's partition in 1947. Third, Sheikh Abdullah succeeded in projecting a purely communal movement as a revolt by the oppressed against the feudal Maharaja. This appealed to the stalwarts of the Freedom Movement in India who, thereafter, supported Sheikh Abdullah politically, overlooking his essentially communal agenda. Fourth, Kashmiri Pandits and other non-Muslims who bore the brunt of the Muslim fury that broke out after the happenings at the Central Jail on July 13, 1931, were left high and dry, something that became a norm, eventually leading to their ethnic cleansing in 1989-90. Lastly, the British, having tasted blood would now onwards play increasingly partisan role to tie the Maharaja's hands to serve their own strategic interests at a crucial time in the 'Great Game' being played in the high Himalayas.

Background

The events of July 13, 1931, did not take place in isolation nor were they sudden. Actually, these were preceded by untoward happenings with communal overtones within the state at many places. But their deft handling by the state administration prevented matters getting out of hand. However, the British were determined to teach the Maharaja a lesson after he had delivered two bold and fiery speeches in favour of India deciding its own destiny during the first round table conference in London in late 1930. The British could not have left the Maharaja's stand, which sent shivers down the British foundations to go unchallenged.

In 1921, during Maharaja Pratap Singh's reign a five-member State Executive Council was formed with Wakefield as its Chief Secretary to keep the Maharaja's powers in check. The Council remained functional till the death of Maharaja Pratap Singh in September 1925. Maharaja Hari Singh retained him (Wakefield) as the head of Political and Police Department in the rehashed Council of Ministers.

In 1930, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and his colleagues, Mohammad Rajab, Qazi Saif-ud-Din and Ghulam Ahmed Mukhtar, returned to Srinagar after completing their studies at Aligarh Muslim University, where they had come into close contact with rabid Muslim communalists. This informal group, formed

itself into the Muslim Reading Room Party to oppose the Dogra rule in general and the Maharaja in particular. However, as their activities increased, conflict soon arose with Ahmad Ullah, the Mirwaiz of Kashmir, who was not in favour of opposing the Maharaja. In March 1931, at the demise of Ahmad Ullah, the mantle of Mirwaiz fell on Maulvi Yousuf Shah, who had received his religious education at the theological College at Deobandh. Maulvi Yousuf Shah became a willing supporter of the Reading Room Party and helped it by organizing large gatherings in various mosques of Kashmir. Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah emerged as a star campaigner as he could arouse religious frenzy among his audience. In him, Wakefield found a promising candidate who could be used to undermine the Dogra King and consequently, strengthen the British leverage to achieve their own strategic aims.

From here on, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah was provided all kinds of support, including financial, by Wakefield. The Reading Room Party's meetings now shifted from the mosques into the open, reaching out to the middle classes and the peasants. Though the Reading Room Party's agenda was ostensibly to oppose the feudal Dogra rule, its communal outlook was its defining feature. The Maharaja's return from Cannes, where he had gone to welcome the birth of his son on March 9, 1931, witnessed a spontaneous outburst of joy throughout the State. The residents of Srinagar formed a Reception Committee under the Deputy Commissioner, Pandit Balkal Dhar. The Reading Room Party immediately raised objections to a Kashmiri Pandit heading this Committee. Subsequently, the Muslim Reading Room Party formed its own committee under Mir Maqbool Shah. However, when the Maharaja got wind of it, he refused permission to both.

Soon, thereafter, rumours of blasphemy (in this case, disrespect to Holy Qura'n -Tauheed e Quran) were published by the Muslim (Urdu) press, vitiating the atmosphere. Some communal organizations, particularly The Young Men's Muslim Association of Jammu, used these events to incite communal passions, leading to some violent incidents, particularly in Jammu. Though the situation, handled with deft diplomacy, prevented large-scale violence, a committee headed by Muslims, was formed to investigate the events. The report submitted by the committee exonerated the alleged culprits of any wrong-doing. Projecting himself as the messiah of Muslims, Sheikh Abdullah, however, used this so-called act of blasphemy to spew venom against the Maharaja during a public meeting at Jama Masjid, Srinagar, and later by other speakers on July 11, 1931, at the Makhdam Sahib's fair. A Muslim was also caught while attempting to break the idol in Shankar Acharya Temple. It was, however, Sheikh Abdullah's speeches that kept the atmosphere charged for the most significant event,

which occurred on July 31, 1931.

The immediate cause for the violence perpetrated on the hapless Kashmiri Pandits on 31 July 1931, was the rabble-rousing speech delivered in a meeting (attended by two Mir Waizes), by Abdul Qadir, a cook of a European visitor, inciting hate and violence. He said, "We should end Hindu Raj and the time has come when we should meet force by greater force to put an end to the tyranny and brutalities to which you are subjected. You must rely on your strength and wage a relentless war against the opposition. You must use lathis and other weapons, if the need arises. Pointing his finger towards the Palace, he thundered, "Raise it to the ground." Subsequently, he was apprehended in Khanqah-e-Maula Mosque on June 25, 1931, and charged with offences under Section 124 A (Treason) and 153 A (creating hatred between two communities).

Adding fuel to the fire, Sheikh Abdullah delivered a fiery speech in a meeting organized by the Reading Room Party at Jama Masjid in which he exhorted the people to be ready to make any sacrifice for Islam. Consequently, thousands of people thronged the Session Court of Pandit Kishan Lal Kitchlu, whenever Abdul Qadir was brought to the court. The tempers ran high on these occasions as Wakefield, the Political and Police Minister, did everything to fan the trouble further. Despite the Maharaja issuing an appeal for peace on July 9, 1931, Sheikh Abdullah delivered a fiery speech at a mosque in Gawkadal on July 12, 1931, aggravating the situation further. As the situation continued to get worse, the Chief Justice of the High Court ordered that the trial of Abdul Qadir will be held inside the Central Jail premises. When Wakefield received this confidential order for compliance, he leaked it to the leaders of the Reading Room Party. They, in turn, sent messages all across the valley, asking people to assemble at the Central Jail the next day, i.e., 13 July 1931, when the trial inside the jail was to begin. On July 13, 1931, when the Sessions Judge entered the Jail premises, he found a mammoth crowd trying to force an entry into the jail premises. The defense counsels of the accused (Muslims) too appealed to the crowd to calm down and disperse, but to no avail. The Superintendent of Police, who arrived on the scene on the orders of the Judge, found the restive crowd turning aggressive. Realizing that there was no possibility of ingress into the jail premises, the violent crowd rushed to the outer gate and overpowered the guard. The Police arrested four people, but the crowds started pelting stones and brickbats on the officials and succeeded in freeing these four arrested persons. They, then, cut the telephone lines and set the quarters of the jail guard on fire, while attempts were also made to snatch the rifles from the

armed police, some of whom had been seriously injured. A lathi charge ordered as a consequence, proved ineffective. Thereafter, the District Magistrate's announcement that the police will have to use force to disperse the crowd, too had no effect. Consequently, to control the situation, the police first fired in the air as a warning, but when this too had no effect on the violent mob, the police fired for effect, which claimed 21 lives, with 42 people sustaining injuries.

The violent mobs then proceeded towards Maharajanagar, the business hub, and looted the shops and business establishments of the Hindus. In an extensive area from Bohri Kadal to Alikadal and Safakadal, all Hindu shops were looted and burnt and Hindus molested. Similarly, an orgy of violence and mayhem was let loose on Vicharnagar and Chhatabal. At Vicharnagar, a predominantly Pandit locality, the violence continued for three hours, till Colonel Nawab Khusrro Jung reached Vicharnagar with a contingent of Palace Guards. He later confirmed the untold atrocities committed on the Pandits here, turning them into paupers, while their women had to undergo the worst possible cruelties. Forcible conversions of Hindus too were reported from some towns. The rioters also cut the telephone lines at Banihal and burnt the Sangam Bridge, approximately 23 miles from Srinagar. Nine members of a Pandit family in Kanikoot, in Budgam district, which had a sizeable Kashmiri Pandit population, were axed to death by Muslims of a neighboring village. The lone survivor was a young boy who was not sleeping in the house during the night when it was attacked.

The Maharaja appointed a Commission of Enquiry into these happenings on 14 July 1931, and gave an opportunity to everyone to present their grievances to him personally. On 25 July 1931, the Maharaja appointed Raja Hari Kishan Kaul, first as the Minister-in-Waiting and subsequently being elevated to the post of the Prime Minister.

On 5 August 1931, the Kashmiri Pandits, having suffered the worst, presented their grievances through Prem Nath Bazaz, the President of the Sanatan Dharam Young Men's Association of Kashmir. The enquiry report submitted to the Maharaja on September 24, 1931, revealed that these events were a result of a conspiracy hatched by the British Political Department, headed by Wakefield and the Muslim Reading Room Party, headed by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, to discredit Maharaja's government. With too many fingers pointing towards Wakefield as the main conspirator of these events, Hari Singh removed him from the Council of Ministers. But Wakefield continued to finance and direct the activities of the Reading Room Party even after his removal and relocation to Rawalpindi.

Monsoon Wedding Tips to Keep in Mind : Shahnaz Husain



As the raindrops fall and love fills the air, monsoon weddings offer a unique charm and a touch of romance.

Monsoon and romance go hand in hand. The season of love as they call it gets even better when rain makes an appearance. Furthermore, what is more, marvelous than the idea of a monsoon wedding?

The thought of having a monsoon wedding sounds romantic and exciting. Those cold breezes, unannounced downpours, and droplets of water make it the best time of the year for romance, love, happiness, and joy.

The romance of a monsoon wedding outweighs its practicality. While monsoon offers a slew of challenges when it comes to wedding preparations, it appears that this season is the ideal time to tie the knot.

Monsoon weddings bring a unique charm and a touch of romance to the celebration.

The rain is a reality especially if we are getting married in the monsoon season. How can we do that?

While a monsoon wedding gives a major romantic feel it is also extremely adventurous for there are some crucial things that you need to plan to avoid discomfort and unexpected

troubles that can prevent you from enjoying your wedding.

Looking beautiful on the wedding day is not merely a matter of make-up and dress. It needs weeks of care. If a skin care program is followed four to six weeks before the wedding, it can really help to reinvent your beauty. The skin type and the season should be taken into consideration. For instance, a Monsoon bride, with oily or combination skins, may face a real problem. Oily skins look even more oily and dull, due to sweat and oil secretions being deposited on the skin. Indeed, during the Monsoons, high humidity poses a problem. Sweat on the skin also attracts dirt and pollutants from the atmosphere more easily.

1----Water Proof Makeup----This is crucial. The constant threat of rain showers and humidity can easily ruin your carefully applied makeup.

I will suggest all brides to choose waterproof makeup products over regular ones during the monsoon wedding. Be it rain showers or tears, the waterworks are bound to get flowing, which will create a landslide on your face if you're wearing products that aren't waterproof.

Get a makeup trial done with waterproof cosmetics and splash some water to check if the makeup stays on or not. This will help you check with your makeup can withstand the humidity of the day. Also, if you have frizzy hair, check with your hairstylist on how you can tame them in the humidity. To ensure your makeup stays in place, set it with a translucent powder. This will help absorb excess moisture and oil, keeping your foundation intact.

Cleanse your face thoroughly to remove any impurities, and follow it up with a lightweight, oil-free moisturizer. This will help create a smooth

canvas for your makeup application. Work in setting powder in light layers and build coverage gradually as you go for a soft, natural glow that will also blur pores and give you a flawless, ready-to-click complexion.

Similarly, choose power-based blushes, bronzers, and eyeshadows for they're not only waterproof but also last longer than cream-based ones.

2---- Footwear

If you're having an outdoor monsoon wedding, it is critical to select footwear that provides a solid grip and prevents slipping when you move around on the mucky ground and slippery floors. Walking in heels is no cakewalk and when it's all muddy and the grass is squishy, it is more difficult to walk than we thought off as there are high chances of slipping and getting your heels stuck in the wet grass. No matter how much you love tip-toeing in those gorgeous heels, it is best to pick shoes or sneakers under your lehenga

If you want heels, pick kitten heels or wedges instead of pointy stilettos. Wear some classy juttis which look very stylish and they will go perfectly well with your outfit and at the same time be hassle-free and comfortable.

You can even go for Punjabi juttis as they are highly comfortable and fashionable.

3---Wedding Outfits

Amidst the joyous celebration, one crucial aspect to consider is the choice of fabric for wedding attire. Choosing the right fabric for monsoon wedding attire can make a big difference in keeping you comfortable and stylish throughout the event.

Opt for lighter fabrics such as net, chiffon, georgette, crepe, and satin which are water sustainable. Not only will they dry faster but will also make you feel airy and more comfortable..

They will not get ruined by rainwater and hence, are a wonderful choice.

One of the biggest mistakes that the brides make while choosing outfits for their monsoon weddings is choosing heavy fabrics like velvet, brocade, raw silk, etc as rainwater might react with it and spoil the intricate embroidery.

Silk is a luxurious fabric that offers a very convenient option for monsoon weddings. Silk has a beautiful drape, which adds elegance to any outfit. Just be sure to choose lighter-weight silk, like crepe, to stay cool in the heat. A silk dress can keep you looking glamorous and chic, while still being comfortable for a monsoon wedding.

4----- HAIRSTYLE

The hair is quite possibly the most worrying part of our look, especially when we know that the humidity will catch up to it eventually. Hair tends to get frizzy during this weather especially if it is windy.

While open hair is lovely, it tends to get frizzy in this humid weather.

Keeping the humid climate in mind, a sleek bun, messy plaits, or an elegant ponytail are ideal hairstyle choices as go well with almost all outfits and are less risky for monsoon as they promise to keep the frizz at bay. Opt for lighter hair accessories over full-floral buns.

it is best to do a braid and or any trendy bun, because strong winds may ruin your open hair. Even if you wear a simple Lehenga but with perfect hairstyle it gives you the most distinctive look and makes you look classy and elegant

(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India)

Dimple leads protest rally against BJP Govt's policies, rising prices

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 13: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, along with hundreds of traders, organized a strong protest rally on Janipur High Court Road. The demonstration aimed to voice their opposition against the anti-poor policies of the BJP government, escalating prices, the recharge prepaid metering process, exorbitant tomato prices of Rs 200 per kg, imposition of property tax, and the lack of basic amenities.

Addressing the protestors, Sunil Dimple accused the government of failing to control the soaring prices. He highlighted the exorbitant costs of essential commodities, such as vegetables, LPG, petrol, and diesel, which have burdened the common



man.

Dimple criticized the BJP government for its inability to curb the rising prices of vegetables, pulses, edible oils, and other daily necessities, which have become unaffordable for the average citizen. He further alleged that the District Commissioner, as well as the offices responsible for price control and food supplies, have been

ineffective in addressing this issue.

Dimple also raised concerns about erroneous electricity bills being sent via SMS, with amounts higher than the actual bills. He demanded that the government provide 500 units of free electricity per month to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and waive the outstanding electricity balances, as many poor

families are unable to pay and have faced disconnection of their electricity connections.

Moreover, Dimple criticized the Power Development Department (PDD) for implementing prepaid metering without consulting consumers, converting electricity connections into prepaid recharging systems throughout Jammu city. He claimed that after

the installation of smart meters, consumers have been receiving incorrect and inflated tariff bills, contradicting the readings displayed on the meters.

Dimple called for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood with special status and expressed optimism about obtaining justice from the Supreme Court. He welcomed the upcoming daily hearings from August 2nd in the Supreme Court regarding Article 370, special status, and the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir.

Several other leaders, including Swarn Singh, Vijay Viridi, S. Kala Singh, Nitin Saini, Arun Verma Vikas, Sham Sharma, Balu Kumar, and Lohari Shaha, were also present at the protest rally.

Preparations underway for 24th Kargil Vijay Diwas commemorations

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 13: The Army is preparing extensively to honor the martyrs of the Kargil War of 1999 with a series of solemn ceremonies this year. The primary event which shall mark the 24th commemoration of the Victory is scheduled to be held at 'Kargil War Memorial' located at Dras from 25th to 26th of Jul 2023. The commemoration will be attended by a large number of dignitaries of the Army and civil administration as well as gallantry award winners of the conflict and families of many martyrs.

The conflict was fought in the summer of

1999 to evict Pakistani regular forces who had intruded and occupied winter vacated posts on the Indian side of the LOC, thereby violating an unwritten agreement. The operation cost the Indian Army hundreds of young lives, in whose memory the commemorative function is held every year.

As a run up to the event, large no of competitions and events have been planned for the local population of the area who supported the operations whole heartedly risking their lives. Marathon race painting, archery, cricket and polo matches have been planned from 15 June to 23 Jul. This event will culmi-

nate on 24 Jul 23 with prize distribution and will be followed by commemorations at Kargil War Memorial, Dras on 25-26 July 23.

Commemoration are a meaningful and earnest attempt by the Indian Army to pay solemn tributes to its fallen heroes and to remind the country of sacrifice made by our soldier to protect the sovereignty of their territory. The sterling deeds of those soldiers will be recounted with pride and will inspire future generations of our youth to live up to such exemplary conduct. The heroes of the kargil war will be remembered for upholding the hallowed traditions of the Indian Army.

TMF condemns Mehbooba's doubts on Apex Court verdict over Art 370

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 13: In response to Mehbooba Mufti's doubts and concerns about the verdict of the Apex Court on Article 370 and 35-A, the TMF chairman, Vijay Sharma, issued a press release condemning her statements. Sharma stated that Mehbooba's fears are baseless and unfounded, and her doubts stem from the recent Judges' convocation held in Srinagar

and the G-20 event where attempts were made to influence the five-judge bench hearing the case on Article 370 and 35-A.

Sharma criticized Mehbooba for questioning the integrity of the judiciary, citing the scheduling of the case for day-to-day hearings starting from August 2nd, similar to the Ram Mandir case. He emphasized that it is unfair for Mehbooba to openly express her doubts in the media

and use the term "fishy" to describe the approach of the Apex Court. Sharma called for Mehbooba to display maturity as a politician and refrain from making such statements that undermine the credibility of the judiciary.

The TMF stands firm in their belief that the judiciary will uphold the principles of justice and make a fair and impartial decision on the matter of Article 370 and 35-A.

Sunil chairs party workers meet at Kishtwar

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Jul 13: In a huge gathering of more than one thousand workers of BJP at Padyarna Nagseni the villagers as well as party workers warmly welcomed Sunil Sharma BJP General Secretary Jammu and Kashmir with great enthusiasm and fervor. He was accompanied with BJP District President Kishtwar Chuni Lal Shan Senior party leaders Rajinder Sen, Shashi Badyal, Gulab Chand, Ashok Kumar, etc. While briefing party meet Sunil Sharma appraised all about the development and other positive scenario witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir post abrogation of Article 370. He remarked that the people in valley and other parts of UT have cherished the historical movement of abrogation of Article 370 with gaiety and Trianga rallies were held by people in every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir which is a live example of great patriotic spirit of

people of Jammu and Kashmir. This is also a slap on faces of those opposition parties who try to mislead people about abrogation of Article 370 for their own personal mileage and interests.

He said that under the charismatic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, our country is marching the path of development in leaps and bounds. We are today a nation which counts and we holds the attention of rest of world. The numerous strides and achievements made in tenure of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh Narinder Modi ji is an eye opener for all world class leaders and the same is acknowledged across the globe. He said that the socio economic schemes launched for the welfare of poor and under privileged people by our Hon'ble Prime Minister has restored the dignity and scrapped the downtrodden conditions of poor people. Now, also farmers of country also live a proud and dignified life who have been main contribu-

tors in economy of our country. He lambasted the leaders of opposition parties of UT who ruled in state before and drained the wealth of state for their personal use instead of development of state. He further stated that day is not far when these crooked and vociferous money hungry leaders of opposition parties will be placed behind bars. He openly challenged opposition parties to come in battle field during election's and see the true fate of their parties, the names of which will be vanished in near future since the people of our UT have now realised the diabolical and dubious faces/roles of opposition parties.

He also congratulated VDGs for getting honararium @ Rs 4500 pm for head and Rs 4000 pm for member. He stressed that these VDGs will be further strengthened and nefarious design and malicious propoganda of some opposition political parties in downgrading the said VDGs will not succeed at any cost.

Shravan Sankranti to be celebrated on July 16: Mahant Rohit

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 13: Shravan Sankranti, an important event in Sanatan Dharma, will be observed on Sunday, July 16, 2023.

Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sanathan Trust, emphasized the significance of this occasion. The Sun God will enter the zodiac sign of Cancer, known as Kark Rashi, on Monday, July 17, at 05:07 am. The Kark Sankranti marks the solstice of the Shravan month. The auspicious time for this Sankranti will begin from 12:27 pm on July 16 and continue

until 11:30 am the next day.

Shravan Sankranti holds great importance for bathing in holy rivers like the Ganges and performing acts of charity. Donating food, sweets, and dakshina (offering) to the needy during this time is believed to be ten times more virtuous than on other auspicious days. The worship of Lord Shiva, recitation of Shri Shivmahapuran and Shiva Stotras, Rudrabhishek, and daily worship of the Shivaling with various offerings are considered essential during the month of Shravan.

Furthermore, fasting

and worshipping Shri Mangalagauri on Tuesdays throughout Shravan are believed to bring increased blessings in marriage, progeny, and good luck for women. Astrologically, Shravan Sankranti will have different effects on different zodiac signs. While it will be auspicious for Gemini, Leo, Virgo, Sagittarius, Aquarius, and Pisces, other signs may experience challenges. This period may witness religious activities, potential natural calamities, and fluctuations in the Union Cabinet.

It is advised to avoid consuming harmful sub-

stances and maintain a pure and virtuous environment on Shravan Sankranti. Worshipping the presiding deity, Satyanarayan Ji and the Sun God, is customary. Additionally, making donations based on your zodiac sign can be fruitful. Specific items such as jaggery, peanuts, sesame, copper items, curd, silver, and more are recommended for donation, depending on one's zodiac sign.

As Shravan Sankranti approaches, devotees are preparing to observe the day with devotion and adherence to these rituals, seeking blessings and prosperity.

Batwal Sabha encourages education, convinces parents to send children to school

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 13: R.L. Kaith, during a recent interaction, emphasized the significance of education and its role in societal progress. He highlighted that a society can only prosper if its children are educated, as education enables them to differentiate between right and wrong. Kaith emphasized that education opens new opportunities, dispels ignorance, and helps children reach new heights in life.

During his visit to a slum area, Kaith learned that many children were unable to



attend school due to the financial constraints faced by their parents, which posed a risk of them remaining uneducated. Recognizing the importance of education for these children, Kaith

personally spoke to the parents and successfully convinced them to send their children to school.

In addition to his persuasive efforts, Kaith provided necessary sta-

tionary items to the children and assured them of monetary assistance. This support aims to facilitate their education and ensure that they have the resources they need to thrive in school.

Delhi Machine Tool Expo 2023 to Strengthen Regional Manufacturing Sectors

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 13: The fourth edition of the Delhi Machine Tool Expo (DMTX 2023) organised by the Indian Machine Tool Manufacturers' Association (IMTMA), will be held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 24 to 27 August 2023.

DMTX 2023 would feature over 250 exhibitors occupying an exhibition space of around 12,000 square metres of gross area showcasing the latest technologies and advancement in metal cutting, metal forming, metallurgy, high-precision machine tools, technologies and solutions. Both Indian and

foreign exhibitors are expected to participate and connect with the 15,000+ visitors that are expected to attend the expo.

Stating his views on DMTX 2023, Ravi Raghavan, President, IMTMA said, "The previous edition of the show held in Pragati Maidan in 2017 had evoked a good response from the manufacturing industry. Machine tool manufacturers who participated in the show were able to expand their range and I firmly believe that DMTX 2023 would help them to build on to their earlier success and reach out to many more industries

in the northern region of India."

The expo would have pavilions on Metrology Expo (metrology, testing instrument and equipment) and Weld Expo (welding, cutting, and joining). A special attraction is going to be the pavilion showcasing the futuristic Digital Manufacturing (additive manufacturing and evolving Industry 4.0 concepts) tools and techniques.

Speaking on the objective behind organizing the expo, Jibak Dasgupta, Director General & CEO, IMTMA said, "IMTMA is organizing the expo to enable industrial units in the

North Indian region to stay in sync with the emerging technologies. DMTX 2023 would play an enabling role to address the numerous requirements of OEMs and component manufacturers in the North India market. The Association expects a good turnout, and we believe the expo will continue to grow in future editions as well."

DMTX 2023 would greatly benefit the industries located in northern, western and eastern regions of India. Visitors from various states of these three regions are expected to turn up for the show.

Several youths join MRM

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 13: Organiser Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM) Gulshan Kumar convened a meeting of workers at party head office here today. A number of people including youth from different educational institutions of Jammu and Kashmir UT like M.A.M P.G College Jammu, SKUAST Jammu, GDC Poonch participated in the meeting.

"Several youth of J&K have joined "Muslim Rashtriya Manch" (MRM) during an impressive organisational function today. This overture shows the popularity of the Munch and people friendly programs launched by the organisation," Gulshan



informed.

The delegates and other prominent persons who joined the Organisation today were warmly welcomed in to the Organisational fold.

Speaking on the occasion, Gulshan said that India is multifarious in all its manifestations whether language, region, religion or ethnicity in which every citizen ought to come on

common platform to work for unity and integrity of the nation and dedicate themselves for the National and humanitarian causes and work for cementing peace and harmony amongst different sections of the society and the youth is the capital of the nation. "They should actively work together with such organizations to take the nation to the heights of

success," he added.

Prominent among those who were present in the meeting included Ali Mohd Chechi (Co-Convener JKUT), Tanzeer Ahmed Khatana (Legal Advisor JKUT), Zaffar Iqbal (Convener district Rajouri), Ajaz Kalas (Secretary Jammu Province), Fayaz Ahmed Wani (Secretary distt Kishtwar) and others.

When Preity Zinta was blamed for Suchitra's divorce with Shekhar Kapur, singer-actor alleges her husband cheated on her

Suchitra Krishnamoorthi—in a recent interview—spoke about her divorce with Shekhar Kapur.

Suchitra said she hasn't forgiven Preity Zinta. "She is not a part of my consciousness at all," said Suchitra.

Suchitra and Shekhar Kapur got married in 1997 and it ended in 2006, following which she had allegedly blamed Preity for her divorce in interviews.

"My husband didn't want me to act. But it wasn't a big deal for me. I came from a non-film background. I started getting film offers when



I was in school and college. In college, I got the offer to do 'Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa'. While I was in college, I did a Malayalam film. My parents were very strict, they didn't want me to act. But I lied to them and



went to Kochi to shoot for a film. After that, I did a lot of films that became superhits. But then my husband was very clear that he didn't want his wife to act. I was too naive to understand the thinking of a



person who asks you not to work. But it wasn't a big deal for me, I had more talent than ambition. So I never thought that anything will ever stop in my life, though it did," Suchitra said. Preity back then had

hit back saying, "It is unfortunate that I am bearing the brunt of someone else's paranoia. She's clearly unstable and I wish her a speedy recovery."

The singer-turned-actress had also accused Preity in a blog, but the actress had maintained silence.

Suchitra, in her statement, had said that after a media house published the blog, Preity used to call her daily and try to explain it to her that she was not responsible for anything and that she had nothing to do with her husband Shekhar.

Ankita Lokhande through AI lens



One trend that has caught everyone's attention recently is the rise of AI-generated looks.

Ankita Lokhande has embraced the latest trend in the entertainment world by joining the league of celebrities, who are diving into the realm of AI-generated looks.

She shared a series of images created by her fans using AI technology in which she appeared in various avatars, showcasing different hairstyles, makeup, and outfits. Ankita has multiple projects in the pipeline, including Swatantra Veer Savarkar.

Megha Chakraborty talks about importance of social media presence for an actor

Megha Chakraborty believes that no matter how experienced you are, your social media presence determines your destiny in the entertainment industry.

She says, "Whoever is trending and has a large number of followers is being cast, not on the basis of their merit, skill, or experience. I've noticed a lot of senior artistes who aren't getting work because they aren't engaged on social media.

Actors, who are just active on social media, are getting opportunities instead.

"It's a harsh reality that social media rules everything nowadays."

She adds, "If you are famous on social media, you may become an actress since lip-sync and dancing make you famous nowadays.

You can be an actor if you have a large number of followers. You'll have a chance, whether you're a good or an awful actress."



Suvinder Vicky plays a cop in Netflix's upcoming show, Kohrra



Netflix's upcoming series Kohrra is set to portray a world where emotions run deep, secrets unravel, and dysfunctional families

and love are put to the test. It is set against the backdrop of Punjab, where an NRI is murdered just before his wedding. Among the

cast, Suvinder Vicky takes on the role of Balbir, a cop-character, who is set out to solve a murder mystery while dealing with his complicated personal life.

Talking about the difficulties he faced while portraying Balbir, Suvinder says, "The first one was when I had to raise my hand at Harleen. Before shooting this scene, I apologised to her in case I hurt her in the process."

He adds, "The second was my wife's flashback scene. We had to be in the moment, a bit unstable, and truly immersed in our characters. To make it appear natural, we even grew our nails to depict our state of mind, and we agreed in advance that if there were any unintended injuries, we would apologise to each other. The intensity demanded by the scene pushed us completely into the moment."

Story attracts me to a brand, not money: Alia Bhatt on entrepreneurial pursuits

When it comes to lending support to a business idea, actor-producer Alia Bhatt on Wednesday said the "story" behind the brand is a motivating factor for her and not money.

The actor was in the capital to attend the launch of Prime Video's "Mission Start Ab", a business reality series in partnership with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India.

Alia, also the founder and sole investor of children's clothing brand Ed-a-Mamma, said she will always be a storyteller first. She launched her production banner Eternal Sunshine Productions in 2021.

"It's not about the money. Money does not attract me to any brand to invest in, support or create. It is the story, I'm a storyteller first. It's always the story," the 30-year-old said at the event here.

Alia said she plans to create "an Ed-a-Mamma universe", which will include personal care, sustainable diapers, and sustainable toys, with storytelling at its centre.

"As a mum, one of my favourite things is when I read a book or sing a song to my daughter. My dream in the beginning may not have been to create an Ed-a-Mamma universe, but that's my plan now... The universe



where you feel connected to nature, the planet, and celebrate the child within you," she added.

Talking about "Mission Start Ab", the actor further said she hopes the series surprise and inspire her.

"I expect to be wowed, surprised, on the edge of my seat, being so proud of where our country is today. I am expecting to see honesty and a lot of vulnerability. I would like to see that because it's not easy. At the end of

the day, this is a competition. What I know is one will win but the other nine are not going to go unnoticed. You'll have people sitting at home and watching the show, maybe resonating with them," she said.

"Mission Start Ab", a seven-episode series, will show promising entrepreneurs, focussed on scaling made-for-India innovations with the potential to impact socio-economic change, undertake a series of

challenges in pursuit of scaling their business and securing funding for their ventures.

Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India; Sushant Sreeram, Country Director, Prime Video, India; Chetan Krishnaswamy; Vice President - Public Policy, Amazon India, and Aparna Purohit, head of India Originals, Prime Video also attended the event.

The actor said she was "bit by a bug" to create something amid the mushroom growth of social media applications in 2015-16.

"I also want to create an app. Little did I know you need a lot of money, a clear idea, and somebody to back that idea. When I sat to ideate about what I want to create, usually you'd consider an actor to do a fashion brand, clothes, the limited edition of something, which is fine in its place. But then I thought 'Do you need another fashion label? Why would anybody come for any product just because my name is associated with it?'" she said.

The actor said when she was expecting a child with actor-husband Ranbir Kapoor, she found a "gap" in the market which she attempted to fill by releasing maternity

wear. Alia and Ranbir welcomed their daughter Raha in November 2022.

According to Alia, for a start-up to be successful a budding entrepreneur should "find a gap" in the market.

"Do not be afraid of failing but that's easy to say when you're not putting in your money. It takes time but that's where (having a) mentor is sort of important, this is where the support system comes into play... Looking actually not where people have succeeded, sometimes (it's about) looking where people have failed but there was something there.

When Sreeram, who moderated the session with the actor, asked Alia how she strikes work-life balance considering she dons multiple hats, she said it is all about sorting out priorities.

"Everyone has a balance they need to maintain. Your family, work life, take care of the house, yourself, your health, everything. But we do it because such is life. You need to just keep moving... Sometimes I do not manage, but I know what my top priorities are. Now, my daughter is at the top of the mountain. Stop every now and then to give yourself a pat on the back," she added.

Remakes of classic Indian films Bawarchi, Mili, Koshish announced



Official remakes of classic Indian films Bawarchi, Mili, and Koshish were announced on Wednesday.

Taking to Instagram, trade analyst, Taran Adarsh shared a post and captioned it, "Official remake of timeless classics Mili, Koshish, & Bawarchi announced. In a major development, #AnushreeMehta

and #AbirSengupta (of Jaadugar Films) and #SameerRajSippy (of SRS Productions) will jointly produce the 'official remake' of three iconic films."

The cast and crew of these three films will be announced soon. Anushree Mehta and Abir Sengupta of Jaadugar Films and Sameer Raj Sippy of SRS Productions will jointly pro-

duce the official Hindi remakes of three ever-green classics. Loved by millions, all three films are considered masterworks of Indian cinema. Koshish was directed by Gulzar, Bawarchi and Mili are timeless favourites directed by Hrishikesh Mukherjee.

The filmmakers' unique visions, down-to-earth characters and wholesome storytelling left an

incredible mark on generations of audiences. Legendary actors like Amitabh Bachchan, Jaya Bachchan, Rajesh Khanna, Sanjeev Kumar and others gave their career-best performances in these films.

Anushree Mehta and Abir Sengupta of Jaadugar Films jointly said, "We are absolutely thrilled to be setting upon this magical journey of

making three of our all-time favourite movies in a new form and mould. It is a huge responsibility as Koshish, Bawarchi and Mili are celebrated in India and across the globe, which have been made by the legendary Gulzar saab and Hrishi da, who have set the standards of filmmaking for generations to come. These are the films we have grown up on and they are the stories that the new generation should also witness; to know our rich cinematic legacy.

We endeavour to put our best to live up to the expectations, the responsibility and most importantly remake these films which will touch the audiences hearts far and wide. The cast and crew of the films will be announced soon.

Visit to France will provide new impetus to our strategic partnership: PM Modi

Modi said he looks forward to holding wide-ranging discussions with President Emmanuel Macron on taking forward the time-tested relationship over the next 25 years.

NEW DELHI, Jul 13 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday expressed confidence that his visit to France will provide a new impetus to the bilateral strategic partnership, and said that he looks forward to holding wide-ranging discussions with President Emmanuel Macron on taking forward the time-tested relationship over the next 25 years.

In his departure statement, Modi said his visit to France was particularly special as he will join President Macron for the French National Day, or Bastille Day celebrations in Paris as the Guest of Honour.

An Indian tri-services contingent will be part of the Bastille Day Parade, while an Indian Air Force aircraft will perform a flypast on the occasion, he said.

Noting that this year marks the 25th anniversary of India-France strategic partnership, he said that rooted in deep trust and commitment, the two countries cooperate closely across various domains, including defence, space, civil nuclear, blue economy, trade, investment, education, culture and people-to-people ties.

"We also work together on regional and global issues," he added.

"I look forward to meeting President Macron and holding wide-ranging discussions on taking forward this longstanding and time-tested partnership



over the next 25 years," Modi said.

The prime minister pointed out that he has had the opportunity to meet President Macron several times since his last official visit to France in 2022, most recently in Hiroshima, Japan in May 2023 during the G-7 Summit.

"I also look forward to my interactions with the French leadership, including Elisabeth Borne, Prime Minister of France, Gerard Larcher, President of the Senate, and Yael Braun-Pivet, President of the National Assembly," he said.

During his visit, Modi said, he will also have the opportunity to meet the vibrant Indian community, leading CEOs from both countries as well as prominent French personalities.

"I am confident that my visit will provide a new impetus to our strategic partnership," the prime minister said.

From Paris, Modi said, he

will be travelling to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, for an official visit on July 15.

"I look forward to meeting my friend, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and ruler of Abu Dhabi," he said.

"Our two countries are engaged across a wide range of sectors such as trade, investments, energy, food security, science and technology, education, fintech, defence, security, and robust people-to-people ties," he noted.

Modi said last year, President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed and he agreed on a roadmap on the future of the bilateral partnership, and he looks forward to discussing with him how to further deepen ties.

Noting that the UAE will be hosting the 28th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC (COP-28) later this year, the prime minister said he also looks forward to exchanging views

on strengthening global cooperation towards accelerating climate action to facilitate the energy transition and implementation of the Paris Agreement.

"I am confident that my visit to UAE will usher in a new chapter in our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," he said.

Later, Modi left for Paris and is expected to arrive there around 12:30 PM local time (4 PM IST). Expansion of bilateral defence ties is expected to be a key focus of Prime Minister Modi's two-day visit to Paris.

Without delving into specific details or possible outcomes, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said at a media briefing on Wednesday that the prime minister's visit to France would be rich in "substance" and set "new benchmark" for strategic partnership between the two countries in years ahead.

Modi will be the guest of honour at the annual Bastille Day Parade and hold talks with President Macron to take forward cooperation in a range of key areas, including defence, space, trade and investment.

After concluding his visit to France, Modi will travel to Abu Dhabi. A 269-member Indian tri-services contingent will participate in the parade.

Three Rafale fighter jets of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will also join the flypast on the occasion along with French jets.

Cybercrime not limited to digital world, but poses threat to national, global security: Amit Shah at G20 meet



NEW DELHI, Jul 13 (Agencies): Noting that cybercrime is no longer confined to the digital world, it has become a subject of national and global security, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said incidents ranging from ransomware attacks, sale of critical personal data, online harassment and child abuse to fake news and misinformation campaigns with toolkits are being carried out by cybercriminals.

Inaugurating the G20 conference on crime and security in the age of NFTs, AI and the

Metaverse, Shah cautioned the global community that terrorists are using dark-net to hide their identity and spread radical material.

"We have to understand the pattern of these activities running on the dark-net, and find solutions for the same. To create a "robust and efficient" operational system, we need to think coherently to crack down on the use of various virtual assets," Shah said.

The Home Minister also expressed concern over the transformation of security challenges from 'Dyna-

mite to Metaverse' and 'Hawala to Crypto currency'. He said this required countries of the world to come together and devise a common strategy against these menaces.

Asking the world community to come together to ensure a "safe and secure cyberspace", Shah said, "There must be efforts to bring some uniformity in the laws of all countries made to counter digital crimes."

Keeping in mind the borderless nature of cybercrimes, the minister said, "We must put in place a response mechanism under different laws of the countries."

He also stressed on preservation, investigation and coordination of evidence in line with the United Nations Convention on Criminal Use of Information and Communication Technology.

Procurement of 26 Rafale jets for Navy approved

The project is cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on a day Prime Minister Narendra Modi begins the two-day visit to Paris

NEW DELHI, Jul 13 (Agencies): The defence ministry on Thursday approved the proposed procurement of 26 naval variants of Rafale jets from France, people familiar with the development said.

The project was cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on a day Prime Minister Narendra Modi begins the two-day visit to Paris.

The DAC, which is the defence ministry's highest decision-making body on procurement, also cleared a proposal for construction of three more Scorpene submarines in India.

The mega defence projects are expected to be announced after wide-ranging talks between Prime Minister Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris on Friday.

The DAC's approval to the projects came



around a week after they were cleared by the Defence Procurement Board (DPB).

The Indian Navy is looking for procurement of 26 deck-based fighter jets for indigenously-built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.

After a lengthy process, the Navy had narrowed down on Boeing's F/A-18 Super Hornet and French aerospace major Dassault Aviation's Rafale M aircraft for the procurement.

Later, Rafale-M, the naval variant of the lethal jet, emerged as

the winner in the tight race.

India has already procured 36 Rafale jets from France for the Indian Air Force.

The Rafale jets are India's first major acquisition of fighter planes in 23 years after the Sukhoi jets were imported from Russia.

Another important project with France would be the follow-on order of three Scorpene submarines. Under Project 75, six Scorpene submarines have already been made in India.

Two Dalit men killed over land dispute in Gujarat

The victims were attacked because of a land dispute between the members of two different communities.

SURENDRANAGAR, Jul 13 (Agencies): Two Dalit men were killed allegedly by a group of persons belonging to an OBC community over a land dispute in Gujarat's Surendranagar district, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place on Wednesday evening in Samadhiala village under Chuda taluka.

The two victims - Aalji Parmar (60) and his brother Manoj Parmar (54) - died during treatment at a government hospital in Surendranagar town on Wednesday night, the police said.

Based on a complaint given by one Parulben Parmar, who was also injured in the attack, the Chuda police on

Thursday morning registered an FIR against six identified and 12-15 unidentified persons from Kathi Darbar community, Inspector General of Police, Rajkot and Surendranagar Range, Ashok Kumar Yadav said.

"The victims were attacked because of a land dispute between the members of two different communities. The Dalits as well as Kathi Darbars have been staking claim on a piece of land in Samadhiala village," he said.

"While two men died in the incident, some others, including women, were injured. An FIR has been registered in this connection," said Yadav.

He said the dispute over the piece of land was going on since 1998 and the Dalit family had also won the case in a lower court.

As per the FIR, the complainant, a widow living in Ahmedabad, along with her two brothers-in-law (brothers of her deceased husband) and their wives went to their ancestral Samadhiala village to start sowing on their agricultural land.

The complainant alleged the accused had been trying to grab her ancestral land and threatening her and other family members for a long time.

When they were returning after ploughing the field, a group



of nearly 20 men allegedly attacked them with sticks and sharp weapons, as per the FIR.

These accused, led by one Amrabhai Khachar, and his brother and sons, allegedly attacked their vehicle and started beating them saying the land belongs to them only and no one should enter it, it said.

Following the serious injuries received in the attack, two brothers -

Aalijbhai and Manojbhai Parmar - died during treatment while three women and a tractor driver were admitted to hospital for treatment, the police said.

The accused were booked on charges of murder, attempt to murder and rioting, as well as under provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, the police added.

72 per cent districts in India exposed to extreme floods, only 25 per cent of them have early warning systems: Report

NEW DELHI, Jul 13 (Agencies): An estimated 72 per cent of districts in India are exposed to extreme flood events but only 25 per cent of them have level flood forecasting stations, or early warning systems, a new report said on Thursday.

Despite high exposure to floods, Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, and Sikkim are the best performing states in terms of flood early warning systems (EWS), according to the report by independent policy research think tank The Council on Energy Environment and Water.

The report showed that Himachal Pradesh, currently battling massive floods, is among the states with the lowest availability of EWS.

Uttarakhand, on the other hand, is moderate-

ly exposed to extreme flood events but has a high availability of flood EWS, it said.

Delhi, in the throes of severe flooding due to a raging Yamuna, is moderately exposed to extreme floods and has a moderate level of resilience through EWS. Approximately 66 per cent of individuals in India are exposed to extreme flood events; however, only 33 per cent of them are covered by flood EWS. Moreover, 25 per cent of the Indian population is exposed to cyclones and their impacts, but cyclone warnings are available to 100 per cent of the exposed population, the report said.

"The district-level analysis revealed that while 72 per cent of districts in India are exposed to extreme flood events,

merely 25 per cent of these exposed districts have level flood forecasting stations. This means that two-thirds of individuals in India are exposed to extreme flood events, and only one-third of them have flood EWS," the report said.

According to the CEEW, 12 states -- Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Bihar -- are highly exposed to extreme flood events. However, only three -- Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Bihar -- have a high availability of flood early warning systems.

Odisha has moderate EWS availability and the rest low availability, indicating a gap in the



planning for installing flood monitoring and forecasting stations, the report said.

Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana are moderately exposed to extreme floods.

While Sikkim, Uttara-

rachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tripura have a high availability of flood early warning systems, the rest have a moderate resilience through flood EWS.

States such as Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana have the lowest availability of flood EWS.

Research shows that

97.51 million people in India are exposed to extreme flood events, and most districts are exposed to more than one extreme event, highlighting the importance of making EWS available to all in the country, especially in the states and districts most exposed to its impacts, the report said.

The recent floods in India and Cyclone Biparjoy have once again shown the importance of investing in early warning systems, said Dr Vishwas Chitale, senior programme lead, CEEW.

"The country is rapidly expanding its early warning coverage by embracing transformative technologies. However, as we witness swapping patterns in the climatic extremes in the country, where previous-

ly drought-prone areas are now facing floods, all states need to ramp up their early warning systems to safeguard lives and livelihoods," he said.

According to him, states should leverage state-of-the-art technologies to build inclusive, impact-based multi-hazard early warning systems that involve the local communities for last-mile connectivity.

"Intensifying adaptation finance for enhancing disaster preparedness is the need of the hour," he said.

Incessant, heavy rain wrought massive damage in several parts of north India over the last few days.

Due to a rare interaction of a western disturbance, monsoonal winds and a cyclonic circulation, heavy to extremely heavy rainfall in Him-

achal Pradesh over the weekend caused flooding and landslides in the hilly terrain. The gushing water swept away bridges, homes and cars, and caused widespread devastation in the state.

Neighbouring Uttarakhand also saw a similar situation with water levels of several rivers crossing the danger mark.

In Delhi, the Yamuna swelled to 208.62 metres, surpassing the previous all-time record of 207.49 metres set 45 years ago. The raging river inundated nearby streets, impacted public and private infrastructure, road and rail traffic and caused immense hardships to people living in close proximity to the river. Curbs have also been placed for the entry of vehicles into the national capital.

There's no sign of crime by BBC anchor who allegedly paid teen for sexual photos: Police

The episode comes less than two months after commercial UK broadcaster ITV faced its own scandal

LONDON, Jul 13 (Agencies): There's no evidence a BBC presenter who allegedly paid a teenager for sexually explicit photos committed a crime, London police said Wednesday as the broadcaster's wife publicly identified him for the first time as veteran news anchor Huw Edwards.

Metropolitan police decided to take no further action after speaking with the alleged victim and that person's parents. The parents told The Sun newspaper last week that the presenter had been allowed to remain on air after the mother complained to the BBC in May that he paid the youth 35,000 pounds (\$45,000) starting in 2020 when the person was 17.

As the story topped the news in Britain all week and embroiled the BBC in scandal, speculation swirled about the identification of the presenter. Some of the BBC's biggest on-air personalities publicly said it wasn't them and others called on the unnamed presenter to come forward.

Edward's wife, Vicky Flind, named her husband late on Wednesday and said he was hospitalised with serious mental health issues.

After "five extremely difficult days for our family," Flind said she was naming him "primarily out of concern for his mental well-being and to protect our children."

"The events of the last few days have greatly worsened



matters, he has suffered another serious episode and is now receiving in-patient hospital care where he'll stay for the foreseeable future," she said.

Edwards, 61, is one of Britain's best-known and most authoritative news broadcasters, lead anchor on the BBC's nighttime news and the face of its election coverage. He led BBC coverage of the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II in September. He's among the broadcaster's best-paid stars, with an annual salary of at least 4,35,000 pounds (\$565,000).

The father of five said in a 2021 documentary that depression had left him bedridden for periods over two decades.

The BBC said it would continue its investigation into the matter.

The UK's publicly funded national broadcaster had scrambled to deal with the crisis after the claims were first published

by The Sun over the weekend. It said it became aware of a complaint in May but "new allegations were put to us on Thursday of a different nature."

It did not name Edwards, but said it had suspended a male star over the allegations. He last appeared on air a week ago in Edinburgh for a special broadcast on Scottish celebrations of the coronation of King Charles III.

A lawyer representing the young person in question, who was not named, told the BBC earlier this week that "nothing inappropriate or unlawful has taken place between our client and the BBC personality."

The lawyer said the allegations reported in The Sun were "rubbish."

The tabloid defended its reporting, saying that concerned parents had made a complaint to the BBC that had not been acted on.

The Metropolitan Police issued a statement Wednesday saying no further action would be taken.

"Detectives from the Met's Specialist Crime Command have now concluded their assessment and have determined there is no information to indicate that a criminal offence has been committed," the force said.

Though the age of sexual consent in Britain is 16, it is a crime to make or possess indecent images of anyone under 18.

Jon Sopel, the former BBC News North America editor, sent his best wishes to Edwards and his family.

"This is an awful and shocking episode, where there was no criminality, but perhaps a complicated private life," Sopel tweeted. "That doesn't feel very private now. I hope that will give some cause to reflect."

The episode comes less than two months after commercial UK broadcaster ITV faced its own scandal when Phillip Schofield, a long-time host on the channel's popular morning show, quit in May, admitting he had lied about an affair with a much younger colleague.

The BBC has been hit by several scandals involving its stars over the years, most notoriously when longtime children's TV host Jimmy Savile was exposed after his death in 2011 as a pedophile who abused children and teens over several decades.

Salman Rushdie speaks of 'crazy dreams' about knife attack in New York



LONDON, Jul 13 (Agencies): Salman Rushdie has spoken for the first time about having "crazy dreams" following the near-fatal knife attack on him in New York in August last year, which has left the Mumbai-born author blind in one eye, and working with a therapist to help him process the mental impact of the trauma.

The 76-year-old Booker Prize-winning author was on stage almost a year ago when he was stabbed up to 10 times by the suspect Hadi Matar, who is being held in prison for attempted murder.

Speaking to the BBC this week, Rushdie said he was in "two minds" about whether to face his alleged attacker, who has pleaded not guilty, in court.

"I have a very good therapist who has a lot of work to do. I have

crazy dreams," the British-American novelist said.

"If he changes his plea to guilty then actually there's not a trial, there's just a sentencing, and it may well be that then my presence isn't required. I'm in two minds about it. There's one bit of me that actually wants to go and stand on the court and look at him and there's another bit of me that just can't be bothered."

"I don't have a very high opinion of him. And I think what is important to me now is that you're able to find life continuing. I'm more engaged with the business of, you know, getting on with it," he said when asked if he plans to attend Matar's trial later this year.

The injuries from the attack resulted in damage to his liver, loss of vision in one eye and a paralysed hand caused by nerve

damage to his arm.

"The human body has an amazing capacity to heal. And so I'm fortunate to be well on that way," said the author of 'Midnight's Children' who says he feels physically "more or less OK".

He was put on a ventilator and spent six weeks in hospital after being stabbed up to 10 times.

Rushdie is now writing a book about the near-fatal stabbing incident as a means of processing what he has been through. In the virtual interview, he told the BBC it won't be more than a "couple of hundred pages" long.

"There's this colossal elephant in the room and, until I deal with that, it is difficult to take seriously anything else," he noted.

The British American author, who lives in New York, has been the subject of a fatwa by Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini for his controversial novel 'The Satanic Verses' issued over 30 years ago and has had several death threats over that time.

His latest book, 'Victory City', was finished just before the attack in August last year and has been well-received by critics.

Influencer arrested over TikTok video satirising wealthy Emiratis in Dubai shows limits on freedoms

DUBAI, Jul 13 (Agencies): An online influencer has been arrested in Dubai over a satirical TikTok video in which he portrays a brash Emirati on a spending spree inside a luxury car showroom.

The comedic sketch, in which he tosses stacks of bills at bewildered employees and offers to buy the most expensive car — a USD 600,000 Ferrari SF90 — poked fun at the lavish lifestyles on display in the city, known for its gleaming skyscrapers and over-the-top tourism attractions.

Dubai is more socially lenient than much of the Middle East, with a relaxed dress code, bars and clubs serving alcohol — and even a local comedy scene. But vaguely worded laws forbid any speech, including journalism and satire, that is deemed critical of authorities or insulting to the United Arab Emirates, the federation of sheikhdoms that includes Dubai.

The influencer, Hamdan Al Rind, who refers to himself as the "Car Expert" online, is a UAE resident of Asian nationality.

He boasts over 2.5 million followers on the popular video-sharing site TikTok. His latest video attracted millions of views and was widely shared before being taken down following his arrest.

In the video, he is wearing a kandura, the long white robe typically worn by Emirati men, sunglasses and a surgical mask. He speaks in English with a heavy Arabic accent, shouting clipped sentences at the dealership's employees while his assistants haul around a stretcher filled with stacks of cash.

The Federal Prosecution for Combating Rumors and Cybercrimes says he is accused of "abusing the internet" by posting "propaganda that stirs up the public opinion and harms the public interest." It said the video "promotes a wrong and offensive mental image of Emirati citizens and ridicules them," the state-run WAM news agency reported.

The WAM report described the video but did not identify the influencer or specify his nationality. It's unclear when exactly Al Rind was arrested or what penalties he could face. It's not known whether he has hired an attorney.

Just last month, a UAE resident of Arab nationality was sentenced to five years in prison and a USD 1,36,000 fine for violating hate-speech laws by posting a video ranting against men and domestic workers.

Prosecutors had ordered her arrest "in the context of the buzz" generated by the posting of the offending video," WAM reported.

A vaguely-worded cybercrime law enacted in January 2022 heav-

ily restricts expression and assembly, criminalising virtually any form of political opposition and anything that could harm the reputation of the UAE or its leaders. Fifteen human rights groups have called for the law to be repealed or amended.

Ahmed Mansour, the owner of Luxury Super Car Rentals Dubai, where Al Rind filmed his video, said he thought the man was an Emirati citizen.

"He came in, he wanted to shoot a video, I said yes. If it didn't happen in my showroom, it probably would have happened somewhere else," he told The Associated Press. "Some people thought it was offensive, some people thought it was funny, everyone has their own opinion."

"I thought he understood the law," Mansour added.

Al Rind, who operates his own car dealership in the UAE, has posted satirical videos before — including one that went viral in which he portrays a wealthy Emirati purchasing cars for each of his four wives — besides video tutorials on how to fix vehicles.

The UAE is home to some of the world's wealthiest individuals, and Dubai boasts the world's tallest skyscraper, a ski resort inside a shopping mall, and luxury neighbourhoods built on man-made islands shaped like a palm tree and the world map.

Dubai's fleet of police cars includes a USD 2.5 million Bugatti Veyron and a USD 500,000 Lamborghini Aventador. Emirati citizens, who are far outnumbered by expatriates, enjoy lavish cradle-to-grave social benefits funded by the country's large petroleum reserves.

Some Emiratis have posted videos in recent years showing themselves making impromptu purchases of high-end cars and watches, riding thoroughbreds through the desert, and driving convertibles with cheetahs and lions in passenger seats.

But authorities are more sensitive to such portrayals by foreigners. Laws against hate speech and public incitement target anything seen as aggravating political, religious or ethnic differences in the intensely cosmopolitan country, which portrays itself as a beacon of tolerance and co-existence.

The Interior Ministry announced an investigation into another video featuring two men in a high-end sports car stranded on a desert road. The video shows a female Emirati police officer arriving at the scene and assisting them by sticking a gas pump into the ground and refilling their tank.

"In our country, no problem with gas," she says.

High times in Thailand: New weed laws draw tourists from across Asia

Even as more countries around the world legalise marijuana, Thailand has been the outlier in Asia, where several countries still have the death penalty for some cannabis offenses

BANGKOK, Jul 13

(Agencies): A Japanese tourist reaches into a baggie of cannabis he's just bought in a central Bangkok weed shop, pulling out a gram of buds to chop down in a small black grinder, before rolling them neatly into a joint.

Only the slight spillage onto the smoking lounge's table — and his cough as he lights up and inhales deeply — betray the fact that until two weeks ago, he'd never tried marijuana.

Most Asian nations have strict drug laws with harsh penalties, and Thailand's de facto legalisation of marijuana last year has brought a wave of tourists from the region like the visitor from Japan, intrigued by the lure of the forbidden leaf.

"I was curious about how I would feel after smoking," said the 42-year-old tourist who spoke on condition that his name not be used, for fear his experimentation in Bangkok could lead to legal issues at home.

"I wonder why Japan bans it?" he pondered. "I wanted to try it."

Even as more countries around the world legalise marijuana, Thailand has been the outlier in Asia, where several countries still have the death penalty for some cannabis offenses.

Singapore has already executed two people this year for trafficking marijuana and its Central Narcotics Bureau has announced plans to randomly test people returning from Thailand.

Japan does not have the death penalty for drug offenses, but has warned that its laws on



cannabis use may apply to its nationals even when they are abroad.

China has been more explicit, with its embassy in Thailand warning that if Chinese tourists consume marijuana abroad and are "detected upon returning to China, it is considered equivalent to using drugs domestically."

As a result, you will be subject to corresponding legal penalties." It issues similar warnings for travel to other countries where marijuana is readily available, such as the United States, Canada and the Netherlands.

On a recent flight from the Chinese city of Shanghai, passengers were cautioned not to "accidentally" try marijuana in Bangkok, with an announcement that in Thailand "some food and drink can include cannabis, so please pay attention to the leaf logo on the package of food."

Neither Chinese nor Singaporean authorities would detail how frequently they test citizens returning from countries where marijuana has been decriminalised, responding to queries from the AP simply by reiterating their previously-announced policies.

hire employees who speak English, the lingua franca of the industry.

"You don't need to speak perfect English, but you need to communicate with foreigners," Thongwilai said.

About half of his customers are first-time weed users and most of them are Asians, he said.

Some want to try edible cannabis products, but Thongwilai said he tries to steer them toward smoking.

"Edibles take more time to take effect, and during that time people may eat more and more, leading to an excessive experience for beginners," he said.

Not all are new to the drug, said Thongwilai, remembering a Malaysian customer who snuck away from a meal with his wife and daughter at a nearby restaurant. The man said he smoked marijuana secretly at home, but had heard the Thai product was better quality and wanted to try it.

"He bought the cheapest weed in our shop and tried it in a mall, and then he came back and bought more," Thongwilai recalled.

Not far from Thongwilai's shop at Dutch Passion, a newly opened retail branch of a Netherlands seed distributor that has been in business for more than three decades, about half the customers are also first-time users, said Theo Geene, a Dutch shareholder in the business.

Cannabis has been available in coffee shops in the Netherlands since the 1970s, and Geene said he has used his experience to train his

staff how to serve those unfamiliar with the drug.

"For beginners, it's not good to use a bong," he said. "It's too much for them. We don't want anyone to pass out here."

Most customers refused to talk about their experiences, with the Japanese tourist in Geene's shop the only one who agreed to — and only on the condition his name not be used.

Most of the shop's Asian customers are similarly discreet, choosing to smoke their purchases inside rather than on the streets like many Westerners do, which is common but a violation of Thai regulations, Geene said.

"They are more cautious and afraid," he said. "They don't want to be seen when they smoke weed."

Before he embarked on his trip to Thailand, the 42-year-old Japanese tourist said he researched extensively online and determined that while customs might randomly check bags and luggage for marijuana being smuggled into Japan, there was no testing going on in line with government policy.

Since his first puff two weeks ago, he said he's been smoking every day, visiting different shops, comparing prices and trying different strains.

Dispensary staffers taught him how to grind buds and roll a joint and he's been having fun perfecting the technique.

"I practice it every day," he said, looking down at the joint he was rolling and repeating the word "practice" twice before bursting into laughter.

DSE Kashmir encourages students to become brand ambassadors

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jul 13: The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, continued its grand exhibition today, marking the fourth day of the 5-days Multimedia Exhibition event commemorating the 9 Years of Governance G-20 Presidency Mission Life and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at SP Higher Secondary School.

Today's programme was graced by Dr Tasaduq Hussain Mir (JKAS), Director School Education Kashmir as Chief Guest, Rajinder Choudhary Additional Director General CBC, J&K and Ladakh region, Ghulam Abbas, Joint Director, CBC, J&K and Ladakh region, Mohd Shabir, Chief Education Officer, Srinagar, Nisar Ahmad, Principal SP Higher Secondary School and others.

The exhibition aims to



highlight the achievements and progress made by the Government of India during its G-20 presidency and celebrate the spirit of freedom in the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava.

Dr. Tasaduq Hussain Mir (JKAS), Director School Education Kashmir delivered an inspiring speech, encouraging students to become brand ambassadors and effectively communicate various government schemes to the people around them.

The exhibition, which has garnered tremendous public interest since its inauguration, showcases the remarkable initiatives undertaken by the Govern-

ment of India in various sectors, including education, healthcare, infrastructure, and technology. Visitors are treated to a captivating display of interactive exhibits, informative presentations, and engaging activities, providing them with a comprehensive understanding of the nation's progress under the G-20 presidency.

During his address, Dr. Tasaduq Hussain Mir expressed his gratitude for being part of such a significant event. He emphasized the crucial role that students can play as ambassadors of the government's schemes, stressing the

importance of effective communication to create awareness and ensure the benefits reach every citizen. Dr. Mir encouraged the students to take an active interest in the nation's development and contribute towards its growth.

Rajinder Choudhary, Additional Director General CBC expressed gratitude to all the stakeholders and participants for turning up in great numbers to visit the exhibition. He thanked School Education Department, Health and Family Welfare Department, Employment, Skill Development and various other departments who contributed in the exhibition.

Joint Director, CBC, J&K and Ladakh region, Ghulam Abbas expressed gratitude to all the stakeholders and participants for turning up in great numbers to visit the exhibition.

Chief Justice assesses quality of legal aid services for prisoners

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jul 13: Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Patron-in-chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh today visited the Central Jail here to assess the conditions of the prisoners and the quality of legal aid services being provided to them.

The Chief Justice was accompanied by his Principal Secretary, M K Sharma and Member Secretary J & K Legal Services Authority, Amit Gupta.

On arrival at Central Jail, the Chief Justice was received by the Director General Prisons, J & K, Deepak Kumar and Chairman DLSA Srinagar Jawad Ahmed. Superintendent of Central Jail Srinagar, Daljit Singh; SP North Zone Srinagar, Raja Zuhair and other officers of Central Jail Srinagar were also present on the occasion.

The Chief Justice, upon his arrival, was also accorded ceremonial



guard of honour by contingent of CRPF deployed at the Central Jail.

During the visit, the Chief Justice had round of all the bars and interacted extensively with the inmates and patiently listened to their grievances and concerns. The Chief Justice assured the inmates that their genuine grievances shall be redressed and also issued on spot instructions to the concerned to ensure that the grievances projected by the jail inmates are addressed at the earliest.

During the visit, the Chief Justice engaged in constructive discussions with prison officials, legal aid volunteers, and inmates of Central Jail Srinagar. During inter-

action all the jail inmates admitted that they are being represented in the respective courts either by the counsel engaged by them or by counsel provided by the respective District Legal Services Authorities, where ever their cases are pending.

To gauge the effectiveness of VC facility available in the Central Jail, the Chief Justice directed the jail authorities to connect the District Court Srinagar and interacted with the System Assistant and expressed satisfaction about the quality of Video Conference Facility.

Chief Justice also emphasized the significance of safeguarding the fundamental rights of prisoners, ensuring their access to justice, and

offering them adequate legal support.

The Chief Justice also inspected Legal Aid Clinic within the Central Jail Srinagar and acknowledged that the same plays a pivotal role in providing legal assistance to the inmates. The Chief Justice expressed his satisfaction with the functioning of the clinic and lauded the efforts of the dedicated legal para legal volunteers for tirelessly striving to uphold the rights of the prisoners.

The Chief Justice also inspected the Medical Facility unit, Recreation Facility, Tailoring unit, Gymnasium, Carpentry Unit, Vet Canteen, Mulaqaat Centre, Calling Booth and other facilities available at the Central Jail.

DG Prisons, on the occasion assured the Chief Justice that for the decongestion of the Central Jail, Srinagar, appropriate steps will be taken at the earliest, besides assuring the construction of additional washrooms for the jail inmates.

Advisor Bhatnagar visits SDH Pahalgam, reviews its functioning, healthcare facilities

TOP NEWS REPORT

PAHALGAM, Jul 13: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today visited Sub-District hospital (SDH) Pahalgam and reviewed functioning as well as facilities being provided to the public there.

Accompanied by a team of officials from the Health Department and officers of other line departments, Advisor

Bhatnagar assessed the existing facilities at the hospital and took firsthand appraisal of all the healthcare facilities being provided to the public.

During the visit, Advisor Bhatnagar took a detailed tour of the hospital and inspected all its sections. He meticulously examined the infrastructure, medical equipment, and patient care services in the hospital and engaged in con-



structive deliberations with doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals for improving the healthcare system in the hospital.

The Advisor also inter-

acted with patients and attendants during the visit, and took onspot review of all the facilities being provided to them.

While interacting with the doctors and para

Medical staff, the Advisor emphasized on providing comprehensive healthcare services to the people as well as the visitors owing the importance of Pahalgam as a favourable tourist destination. He also stressed on availability of quality medicines and other health care equipments in view of the ongoing Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

The Advisor on the occasion commended that doctors and staff

for their relentless efforts to provide quality healthcare services to the people here. He also noted the suggestions and requirements of the doctors and para medical staff there and gave on spot directions for the same.

Meanwhile, Advisor Bhatnagar also inspected ongoing construction works at new 50 bedded hospital.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the prog-

ress of the construction works and ensure adherence to the stipulated timelines and quality standards. The Advisor closely inspected the ongoing construction activities and directed the executing agency to leave no stone unturned in completing the project within the stipulated timeframe.

While interacting with the officers of executing agency on the occasion, Advisor Bhatnagar

emphasized on the government's commitment to ensuring accessible and high-quality healthcare services for all citizens of J&K. He reiterated that the new 50-bedded hospital would significantly enhance healthcare facilities in Pahalgam and adjoining areas by providing state-of-the-art infrastructure and comprehensive medical services to the locals as well as visitors.

FROM PAGE 1

Amarnath devotees throng booking counters as tatkal registration resumes

including women, who have arrived in Jammu city, have been registered so far for the Yatra to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas.

Five counters have been set up for Tatkal registration of the devotees. While three counters have been put up at Vaishnavi Dham, Mahajan Sabha, and Panchayat Ghar for registration of the general public, two have been set up at Geeta Bhawan and Ram Mandir for the registration of 'sadhus', the officials said. Dharminder Bhargava, a pilgrim from Madhya Pradesh, standing in the queue for three hours, said he arrived here a week ago and has been waiting for the Amarnath Yatra registration to resume.

"We visited the Mata Vaishnodevi cave shrine during the suspension of Yatra last week. There should have been more counters so that registrations could have been conducted faster," Bhargava said.

Pilgrims waiting in the queues said the shelter and drinking water facilities at the registration spots were inadequate.

While 1.40 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the Icelingam of Lord Shiva at Amarnath so far this year, over 53,000 devotees in 11 batches have left for the shrine from the Jammu base camp.

The Yatra remained suspended for three days from Saturday to Monday and was resumed on Tuesday from Jammu. In view of the suspension, around 8,000 pilgrims were stranded in Jammu, particularly the Bhagwatinagar base camp.

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine began on July 1 and is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

Chugh hails PM's grant of Rs 7,500 crore for fighting flood crisis in country

each State under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. The fund is the primary fund available with State Governments for responses to notified disasters. The Central Government contributes 75% to the SDRF in general States and 90% in North-East and Hima-

layan States. The annual Central contribution is released in two equal instalments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission. As per the guidelines, the funds are released on receipt of Utilisation Certificate of the amount released in the earlier instalment and receipt of a report from the State Government on the activities undertaken from SDRF. However, in view of the urgency, these requirements were waived while releasing the funds this time.

The SDRF is to be used only for meeting the expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims of notified calamities like cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloud burst, pest attack and frost & cold wave.

Allocation of SDRF funds to the States is based on multiple factors like past expenditure, area, population, and disaster risk index. These factors reflect States' institutional capacity, risk exposure, and hazard and vulnerability.

Based on the 15th Finance Commission recommendations, the Central Government has allocated Rs. 1,28,122.40 crore for SDRF for years 2021-22 to 2025-26. Out of this amount, the Central Government's share is Rs.98,080.80 crore. The Central Government had already released Rs. 34,140.00 crore before the current release. With the current release, the total amount of Central share of SDRF released to the State Governments so far has gone up to Rs. 42,366 crore.

Omar Abdullah sets out on foot to party office after Police 'Deny' him escort vehicles

are Abdul Rahim Rather Sb, @AliM-Sagar_Sb, Ali Mohd Dar Sb and others," he said.

July 13 was a public holiday in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and a grand official function was held every year on this day where the chief minister or the governor would be the chief guest.

However, the governor administration dropped the day from the list of gazetted holidays in 2020, after the abrogation of Article 370 and splitting of the erstwhile state into two Union territories by the Centre on August 5, 2019.

Apart from the official function at the Martyrs' graveyard in the city, mainstream

political leaders also used to visit it to pay homage to the 22 Kashmiris who fell to the bullets of the Dogra army while protesting the autocratic rule of Maharaja Hari Singh. However, there have been no official functions since 2018 when J-K went under the governor's rule.

For these last few years, political parties have alleged their movement was restricted on the day and they were not allowed to visit the graveyard.

Speaking to reporters at his party office, Abdullah said he does not have a habit of creating a "drama" and he did not have any plans for a foot march.

"I wanted to come in vehicles. I do not have a habit of creating a drama. But, today they compelled me to come out of home and walk on foot, as they stopped all my vehicles, did not allow the security to move, because they did not want me to reach the office and pay homage to 13 July martyrs," he said.

The NC vice president said if the authorities "do this regularly, I will have no other option than to take such steps".

Asked about the cancellation of the July 13 holiday, Abdullah said when the government changes, such decisions can also be changed.

"Governments change, governments' decisions change and the times change. Today, they have cancelled one holiday and added another one. But, no worries, these times will also change. The way they used the pen to cancel many holidays and added new ones, same way, when the new government comes, it will cancel many and add many others," he said.

To a query that if a former chief minister had to experience such a behaviour, what can be expected about common people, Abdullah said "they cannot destroy our future anymore".

"The issue (of revocation of Article 370) is in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has refused to listen to them. The CJ has said this in no uncertain terms that the political affidavit filed by the Centre will have any bearing on their decision. It is a good thing, they will continue with their lies, but their lies will have no impact," he added.

Asked about the allegations by PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti that the CJ Justice D Y Chandrachud and other judges were brought to Kashmir to showcase that everything was normal here, the NC leader said the situation in the valley was not normal. Srinagar hosted the '19th All India Legal Services Authorities' meeting last month

at SKICC.

"I know how the situation was then. Those living in Gupkar road area could not reach their homes as the road was closed. No one was allowed to move near the SKICC. The police personnel in training schools had been brought to the city to increase the deployment.

"The situation here is not normal. I will accept that the situation is normal when our LG reaches airport from the Raj Bhavan without stopping traffic anywhere. The situation is such that traffic is stopped 10-15 minutes before his cavalcade passes. Even when his empty cavalcade passes, when LG is not in the vehicle, traffic is stopped so that it reaches airport. Is this normal? I do not think so," Abdullah said.

To a query about the reference to the religion of July 13 martyrs during his speech at the function, he said though it took him time, he has understood the "reality" of the BJP-led government.

"This is the reality. It took me time to understand...I have also understood their reality," he added.

Abdullah had said that had the July 13 victims been from any other community, then J-K LG Manoj Sinha would have paid homage to them.

He said there was a concerted effort to "distort" the history of the country, including J-K.

"There is an attempt to distort the history of India, why would they not try to distort the history of J-K. Look at the way entire text books are being changed, entire chapters are being deleted. The authors of those textbooks are now refusing to acknowledge that those books had anything to do with them.

"They (authors) want their names withdrawn from those textbooks because they do not want to be associated with those books. There is a concerted effort being made to rewrite the history of the Union, and in that obviously, there is an attempt to rewrite the history of J-K as well," he said.

NIA raids five more locations in Kashmir in terrorist conspiracy case

(JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Al-Badr and Al-Qaeda, the NIA said

"Several digital devices containing large volumes of incriminating data were recovered by NIA during today's searches, which have once again put the spotlight on OGWs as an important part of the terror

ecosystem in the Valley, which is being dismantled on a continuous basis. Also known as hybrid terrorists, they provide support to militants and terrorists based in Pakistan," the NIA spokesperson said.

They said some of these newly-floated outfits, The Resistance Front (TRF), a shadow organisation of Lashkar-e-Taiba, have been found issuing threats of carrying out attacks in J&K over the social media.

The NIA had registered a suo moto case on June 21, 2022 to investigate the involvement of the cadres and OGWs of the various outfits in spreading activities relating to terror, violence and subversion in J&K. These cadres and workers have been involved in the collection and distribution of sticky bombs/magnetic bombs, IEDs, funds, narcotic substances and arms/ammunitions.

NIA investigations have revealed that Pak-based operatives were using social media platforms to promote terror. Drones were being used by them to deliver arms/ammunition, explosives, narcotics etc. to their operatives and cadres in the Kashmir valley.

The terror conspiracy relates to plotting by the banned outfits in both physical and cyber space to unleash violent terrorist attacks in J&K with sticky bombs, IEDs and small arms etc. The organisations, supported by their masters in Pakistan, have been conspiring to commit acts of terror and violence, by radicalizing local youth and mobilizing overground workers, to disturb peace and communal harmony in J&K.

Mainly dry weather forecast as temp rises at most places in J&K

14.9°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 0.9°C for the north Kashmir area. Kokernag recorded a low of 16.5°C against 14.7°C on the previous night and it was 0.6°C above normal for the place, the officials said. Gulmarg recorded a low of 11.6°C against 11.2°C on previous night and it was 0.2°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said. Jammu recorded a low of 25.9°C against 27.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.1°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 18.7°C, Batote 18.5°C, Katra 22.3°C and Bhandarwah 16.3°C, the official said.

Sensex, Nifty hit all-time highs

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbs 391.48 points to 65,785.38 in early trade

MUMBAI, Jul 13 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices rebounded in early trade on Thursday, with the Sensex and Nifty scaling their all-time high levels following a rally in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 391.48 points to 65,785.38 in early trade. The NSE Nifty went up by 111.3 points to 19,495.60.

Later, both the benchmark indices hit their respective all-time high levels. The Sensex hit its lifetime high of 65,943.57 and the Nifty reached all-time peak of 19,540.25.

From the Sensex pack, Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, Mahindra & Mahindra, Info-



sys, JSW Steel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, State Bank of India and HDFC Bank were among the major gainers.

TCS quoted 1.62 per cent higher a day after announcing its June quarter earnings.

The country's largest IT services company on Wednesday reported

16.83 per cent increase in June quarter net profit to Rs 11,074 crore but

sounded circumspect about growth prospects for the fiscal due to market uncertainties.

Power Grid, HCL Technologies, Asian Paints, Hindustan Unilever, Maruti and Nestle were among the laggards.

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

The US markets ended in the positive territory on Wednesday.

Tesla in talks to set up India factory, cars' starting price Rs 20 lakh: Report

By localising production, Tesla aims to make its cars more affordable in India, paving the way for higher sales and enhancing its competitive position in the nascent Indian EV market.

NEW DELHI, Jul 13 (Agencies): Electric vehicle maker Tesla is actively pursuing talks with the Indian government to establish a local factory. This strategic move aims to enable Tesla to manufacture EVs in India and offer them at more affordable prices.

According to government sources cited by news agency, Tesla plans to produce up to 500,000 EVs annually, with prices starting at Rs 20 lakh. If accomplished, this development could significantly boost India's emerging EV market.

In May, Tesla expressed its interest in building a local factory in India, and as per the TOI report, the company intends to utilize the facility as an export base, similar to its operations in China.



Sources mentioned in the report described Tesla's plan as ambitious and expressed confidence in positive outcomes, considering the involvement of local manufacturing and exports.

The establishment of a local manufacturing base would be

mutually beneficial for Tesla and India.

For Tesla, it would provide access to the world's fastest-growing market, tapping into the increasing demand for EVs. Simultaneously, for India, it represents another step towards positioning the country as a

global manufacturing hub.

By localising production, Tesla aims to make its cars more affordable in India, paving the way for higher sales and enhancing its competitive position in the nascent Indian EV market.

Notably, in the past, Tesla had expressed intentions to enter the Indian market but withdrew due to high tax rates, which rendered its already-expensive vehicles unaffordable for most Indian consumers.

Should Tesla's plan to establish a local manufacturing presence in India succeed, it would mark a significant milestone for the company, opening doors to a vast market and contributing to India's industrial growth as a prominent player in the EV sector.

TCS Results: Analysts take note of the revenue miss, 'guarded commentary'

NEW DELHI, Jul 13 (Agencies): Analysts have largely welcomed Tata Consultancy Services Ltd's first-quarter results, but have been left disappointed by the sharp dip in the company's profit margin.

The country's largest IT services company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) reported a 12.6% increase in its revenue and 16.8% y-o-y increase in its net profit. Sequentially, this translated to a 0.7% increase in the top line and a 2.8% dip in the bottom line.

However, the company disappointed the Street on EBIT or earnings before interest and tax – a key measure of profitability which strips away the impact of non-operational factors such as tax and interest rate fluctuations and gives a more accurate picture of the company's performance.

This time, the Mumbai-based company's EBIT fell to 23.2% of sales from 24.5% in the preceding quarter. However, it was clearly better than the 18.8% margin posted in the year-ago period.

Speaking to the media, the company had blamed the margin dip on salary hikes that came into effect on April 1.

Indeed, the IT sector has been seeing intense competition for talent, and companies like TCS and Infosys have been forced to roll out steep



salary hikes to retain their employees.

The 'war for talent' has, however, eased off in recent months with global uncertainties impacting the companies' new order wins and forcing them to be more prudent in making job offers.

For its part, TCS said it gave salary hikes of 12-15% on April 1 for exceptional performers. This is higher than the traditional 6-10% hikes that IT companies give on an average, indicating that the company continues to be on the guard against poaching of its employees by talent-hungry rivals.

Despite the fierce competition in the job market easing off, analysts are not expecting a sudden jump in the company's profit margins due to the overall cautious atmosphere in the industry.

Nomura, for example, said the EBIT margin is likely to improve only by around 0.1 to 0.5 percentage points this year due to two reasons: Weak growth and lack

of scope to further cut down on the use of sub-contractors.

The company had resorted to sub-contracting some of its work during the last two years as it was not able to find enough in-house staff to deal with the surge in orders. However, this comes at a cost, as contract employees typically cost much more than in-house staff. With demand easing off, the company has successfully reduced its dependence on contract workers over the last three quarters.

TCS has also started going slow on hiring new employees. It added just over 500 employees to its workforce in the first quarter, compared to 14,136 added in the same quarter a year ago. The company has a target of adding 40,000 freshers to its rolls this year.

Some of the easing of the talent-crunch was visible in the form of a lower attrition rate – a measure of what percentage of the com-

pany's employees left it to pursue other opportunities in the previous 12 months. The attrition rate for the June quarter was at 17.8%, down from 20.1% three months earlier.

TCS said it expects to reach its 'normal' levels of attrition by the second half of the current financial year, or some time between October this year and March next year.

TEMPERED EXPECTATIONS

TCS' April-June performance was largely in line with Street expectations, except for on the revenue front. The company was widely anticipated to post a modest revenue increase of around 0.2%-0.3% on a sequential basis, but ended up reporting a flat revenue performance.

The company's guarded commentary about growth for the rest of the year also caught analysts' attention.

"TCS management's guarded commentary around demand pick-up in the near term reflects

a high level of uncertainty around discretionary projects in certain key verticals like banking, hi-tech and telecom," pointed out ICICI Securities in its review of TCS' results. "It could also be a function of accelerated technology spends, which global enterprises carried out post pandemic and are now rationalising amid higher scrutiny of technology budgets."

The broker said it expects a "gradual pick-up in demand" for TCS for the remainder of the financial year, and sees overall revenue growth at 5.9% for the current year, compared to 13.7% last year.

"Our restraint is due to the uncertain demand outlook shared by TCS management in the near term for key verticals like banking, hi-tech and telecom," the broker said, adding that it was "modestly tweaking" its estimates in light of the slightly underwhelming first quarter results.

However, it maintained a BUY rating on the stock and expects the stock to gain 16% in the next 12 months to Rs 3,780.

"Strong order booking momentum, large deal win announcements, macro recovery in key geographies like the US and EU, and release of pent-up demand in the coming quarters would help TCS get back to double-digit revenue growth in FY25," it added.

Five foods to boost immunity during monsoon that you can find in your kitchen



NEW DELHI, Jul 13 (Agencies): As the monsoon season provides respite from the scorching summer heat, it also ushers in a time of increased susceptibility to infections and diseases.

The damp and humid conditions provide an ideal breeding ground for various pathogens, making it crucial to bolster our immune system. Fortunately, nature has provided us with a plethora of nutrition that can help us ward off these seasonal ailments.

Nutritionist Lovneet Batra shared a few foods that could be a part of your diet during monsoon to boost immunity and avoid infections.

Tulsi, or Holy Basil, in Ayurveda, is known for its medicinal properties. It acts as a natural immune booster. It increases the activity of T helper cells and natural killer cells, which are vital components of our immune system.

These cells play a significant role in fighting off infections, keeping us healthy during the monsoon season. Consuming tulsi leaves directly, brewing them into herbal tea, or incorporating them into soups and curries can help you reap their benefits.

Another potent food, as per the expert, is ginger. Known for its anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties, ginger is packed with compounds like gingerols, paradols, sesquiterpenes, shogaols, and zingerone.

"Besides, ginger improves assimilation and transportation of nutrients to the body's tissues, much needed to keep cold and flu away.

You can add grated ginger to your tea, soups, and stir-fries," wrote Lovneet Batra. Adding grated ginger to your tea, soups, and stir-fries can help keep colds and flu at bay.

Black Pepper, often referred to as the "king

of spices," is another powerful ally during the monsoon season.

It contains a compound called piperine, known for its antioxidant and antimicrobial properties. Regular consumption of black pepper can enhance your body's defense mechanisms, protect against harmful pathogens, and reduce the risk of falling ill.

Sprinkling black pepper on your dishes can add a burst of flavor while providing numerous health benefits.

Curry Leaves, a staple in Indian cuisine, are rich in compounds like linalool, alpha-terpinene, myrcene, mahanimbine, caryophyllene, murrayanol, and alpha-pinene.

These compounds function as antioxidants, playing a crucial role in keeping our bodies healthy and disease-free. Curry leaves can be used in your daily cooking, especially in curries, soups, and lentil dishes.

Lemon, rich in vitamin C, potassium, and calcium, is highly desirable for reinforcing body defenses and preventing numerous illnesses.

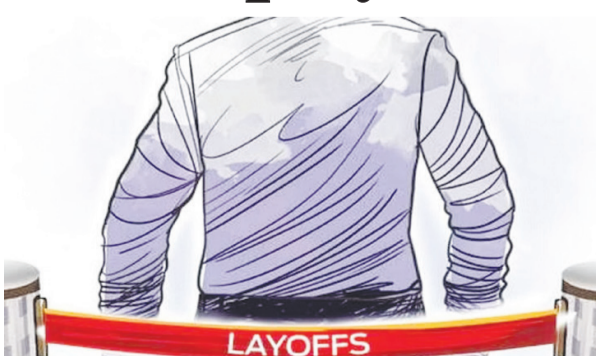
Its capacity for regeneration of white corpuscles makes it a potent immune booster. Squeezing lemon juice into warm water or using it as a dressing on salads can help you enjoy its benefits.

Sachin Bansal's Navi Technologies lays off around 200 employees

NEW DELHI, Jul 13 (Agencies): IPO-bound Navi Technologies has laid off around 200 employees across departments, according to multiple industry sources.

A source said that the lay-off started a couple of weeks back, and more employees are likely to be fired from the company.

"Around 200 employees have been fired across all departments. 60-70 per cent have been impacted in the product development and management sec-



tion," one of the sources said.

Another source said that more lay-offs are expected this week. Navi Technologies did not respond to the queries.

According to Navi technologies' draft IPO

paper, the company had 4,680 employees as of December 31, 2021.

The company has plans to raise Rs 3,350 crore through the proposed IPO and has received market regulator Sebi's approval for the same.

6 ways to help you boost your metabolism

Metabolism, which takes place in the cells of the body, plays an important role in maintaining a healthy body weight.

NEW DELHI, Jul 13 (Agencies): Our body's metabolism plays a crucial role in maintaining a healthy weight. It consists of various chemical reactions that take place in the cells which help to convert food into energy.

The speed at which your body burns calories and converts them into energy is influenced by various factors. There are a few ways to boost your metabolism.

Build lean muscle mass
Muscle tissue burns more calories at rest than fat tissue, so incorporating resistance training into your fitness routine can help rev up your metabolism. According to a study published in the journal Obesity, each pound of muscle gained can increase the resting metabolic rate by up to 50 calories per day.

High-Intensity Interval Training (HIIT)

HIIT workouts involve short bursts of intense exercise alternating with brief recovery periods. Research published in the Journal of Obesity indicates that HIIT sessions can significantly elevate post-exercise metabolism, leading to increased calorie burning even after the workout is completed.

Stay Active Throughout the Day

Incorporating non-exercise physical activities, such as taking the stairs instead of the elevator or walking during breaks, can contribute to higher energy expenditure. Studies have shown that even small bouts of activity throughout the day can increase your metabolic rate and improve overall health.

Stay hydrated

Drinking water has been linked to a temporary boost in metabolism. A study published in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism found that drinking 500 ml of water increased the metabolic rate by 30 per cent for about an hour. Staying adequately hydrated may also prevent dehydration-induced metabolic slowdown.

Get sufficient sleep

Inadequate sleep has been associated with metabolic disturbances and an increased risk of obesity. Research published in the journal Annals of Internal Medicine revealed that sleep deprivation can reduce resting metabolic rate by approximately 5 per cent. Aim for 7-8 hours of quality sleep each night to sup-

port a healthy metabolism.

Include protein in your diet
Protein has a higher thermic effect on food compared to fats and carbohydrates. It requires more energy to digest and metabolise, thereby temporarily boosting your metabolic rate. Including protein-rich foods like lean meats, fish, legumes, and dairy products in your diet can promote a higher calorie burn.

By implementing these evidence-based strategies, you can enhance your metabolism and promote a more efficient fat-burning process.

Remember that healthy lifestyle habits, such as regular exercise, a balanced diet, adequate sleep, and staying hydrated, are key to optimising your metabolism.

1st Test: Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi extend India's dominance after R Ashwin show restricts WI to 150 on Day 1

ROSEAU (DOMINICA), Jul 13 (Agencies): Captain Rohit Sharma and debutant Yashasvi Jaiswal forged an unbeaten 80-run opening stand in the final session to make sure that India took advantage of the bowlers' superlative performance on the opening day of the first Test of the two-match series at Windor Park in Dominica. India closed the day's play at 80 for 0 to trail West Indies' first innings total by 70 runs after comeback man Ravichandran Ashwin-led bowling attack bundled out the hosts for just 150 runs in their first innings.

There were a few close calls including a review against Rohit Sharma, but the umpire's call, which was initially not out, saved the India captain early in his innings. The game was also delayed for 5 minutes due to rain, but it had no effect on India's openers.

Jaiswal took his time to open his account in Test cricket, but he did so in style, smashing an upper cut on his 16th ball and never looked back, hitting six fours en route to his unbeaten 40-run knock performance. WI's quick bowlers Jason Holder and Kemar Roach, along with Jomel



Warrican, kept things close, but the openers cut the deficit to 70 runs.

Earlier on Wednesday, West Indies openers Kraigg Brathwaite and Tagenarine Chanderpaul provided a solid start after winning the toss and electing to bat, adding 31 runs to the scoreboard. Their partnership, however, was short-lived as seasoned Ravichandran Ashwin struck twice, dismissing both openers in the opening session. The exit of Brathwaite and Chanderpaul in quick succession provided India with a much-needed reprieve, putting them in command.

West Indies' struggle continued as the Indian spinners capitalized on the early break-

through. Raymon Reifer and Jermaine Blackwood failed to make an impact and lost their wickets before lunch. Ravindra Jadeja joined the party after the break, dismissing Joshua Da Silva shortly after the match resumed in the second session.

Jason Holder then joined hands with debutant Alick Athanaze and the duo stitched a 41-run stand for the sixth wicket and managed to take West Indies past the 100-run mark. Athanaze (47), who was the sole glimmer of hope for the West Indies, unfortunately, fell short of a half-century on his debut, being dismissed by Ashwin just three runs away from the milestone.

The remaining West Indies

batsmen struggled to display resilience following captain Kraigg Brathwaite's decision to bat first. The Indian bowlers maintained a disciplined line and length, making it difficult for the West Indian batsmen to score freely. Eventually, the hosts were bowled out for a modest total of 150 runs in 64.3 overs.

ASHWIN COMPLETES 700 INTERNATIONAL WICKETS

Ashwin returned with figures of 5/60, securing his 33rd five-wicket haul and fourth against the West Indies, resulting in the hosts collapsing in less than half an hour. In doing so, Ashwin joined the ranks of Anil Kumble (956) and Harbhajan Singh (711) as the third Indian spinner to achieve 700 International wickets across all formats, marking a significant milestone in his career.

Day one of the opening Test match belonged to the Indian bowlers, particularly the spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, who turned the tide in India's favor. Their consistent line and length, coupled with the ability to take crucial wickets at regular intervals, disrupted the West Indies batting lineup.

Duleep Trophy: Bowlers have a ball as West Zone gain control against South Zone



BENGALURU, Jul 13 (Agencies): The relentless West Zone bowlers left South Zone in trouble at 182/7 on the opening day of their Duleep Trophy final here.

After choosing to field, West never let the advantage slip on an overcast day that was eventually called off for a few minutes due to bad light.

South's captain Hanuma Vihari waged a lone battle, making 63 off 130 balls.

Even though they were operating in a favourable space, West's pacers Arzan Nagwaswalla, Chintan Gaja and Atit Sheth should be lauded for keeping South's batters in check.

They moved the ball quite appreciably to keep openers Mayank Agarwal and R Samarth on toes. The first wicket did not take long to come, though it was more the result of the batter's callousness.

Samarth opted to cut Gaja's short and wide

delivery outside the off-stump and Harvik Desai, who replaced Het Patel, completed a simple catch behind the stumps.

Thereafter, Mayank and N Tilak Varma started to move things ahead for the South. In the process, Mayank, who began the match at 6,976 runs, also completed 7,000 runs in First-Class cricket from 159 innings.

However, Mayank was not able to convert the start. He often tried to negate the movement while walking down the pitch, and it was brought an undesired result when the Karnataka right-hander's expansive drive off Sheth ended in a catch to Sarfaraz Khan at third slip.

Brief scores: South Zone: 182/7 (Vihari 63, Tilak 40; Mulani 2-19, Gaja 2-27) vs West Zone.

"Give Him A Chance In Test": Ex-India Star's 'Mark Wood' Compliment For Umran Malik

NEW DELHI, Jul 13 (Agencies): Former India batter Sanjay Manjrekar has urged the selectors to give a chance to tearaway pacer Umran Malik in Test cricket. Umran, who impressed everyone with his pace in the Indian Premier League, has already represented India in white-ball cricket, but is yet to wear the whites for the team. He has not been selected for the two-match Test series against West Indies. Umran had a below-par season in the IPL this year but Manjrekar feels that Umran can "be an X-factor" in the longest format of the game due to his pace.

Manjrekar drew com-

parison between Umran and England pacer Mark Wood, who made an instant impact in the third Ashes Test against Australia last week.

"I believe if you have to pick Umran, give him a chance in Test cricket because we saw when Mark Wood played the last Ashes Test, a guy who can bowl 90 miles per hour, his speciality is that the tail-enders don't stay against him for long. So if you have to see Umran Malik, instead of white-ball cricket, if you have a Test series that is not that high-profile, give him a chance there, three-four over spells. So he will be an X-factor in our bowling," Manjrekar told agency. To further back his

claim, Manjrekar also gave the example of how Pakistan fast-tracked pacers, who bowled at 90 miles an hour, straight into the Test.

"When you have a lot of pace, there is a lot of pressure in white-ball cricket, you have to bowl absolutely accurately, if the ball goes even slightly here and there, you can prove expensive and then the captain does not gamble that much. This is how Pakistan used to think earlier, when they had young bowlers who bowled 90 miles an hour, they fast-tracked them straightaway into Test cricket and not much in white-ball cricket," he added.

NADA issues notice to Vinesh Phogat for whereabouts failure

NEW DELHI, Jul 13 (Agencies): Two-time World Championships medallist Vinesh Phogat has been issued a notice by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for whereabouts failure.

A dope control officer (DCO) visited the address in Partap Colony in Sonapat on June 27. Vinesh was nowhere to be found and unavailable over phone. The DCO spent over 40 minutes trying to reach her and also called her husband Somvir Rathee but there was no response from his side as well.

NADA's project officer Ankush Gupta has asked Vinesh to respond to her "failure to comply with the whereabouts requirements of the ADR".



Athletes who are part of the registered testing pool (RTP) have to use the Anti-Doping Administration Management System (ADAMS) to update their whereabouts information every three months. They must include their address, email address, phone number, work sched-

ule, training venues and schedule. Vinesh has been a part of the RTP since December 2022.

Vinesh has 14 days to respond to this notice. However, Vinesh has little to worry about as this is the first time in 12 months that she has had a whereabouts failure. Three whereabouts fail-

ures in the space of 12 months are considered anti-doping rule violation, which could lead to a two-year suspension.

Incidentally, Vinesh is the second Indian wrestler who has received this notice. World Championships bronze medallist Pooja Dhanda has registered three whereabouts failures in the last 12 months. Dhanda registered back-to-back whereabouts failures in July, October and December 2022.

Asiad trials on July 22-23

The ad hoc committee formed to run the Wrestling federation of India has decided to hold the trials for the Asian Games in New Delhi on July 22-23. On the first day, trials will be held for the Greco-Roman

and women's teams. The freestyle trials will be held the next day. The World Championships trial will be held on August 10-11. Meanwhile, the committee has not received any confirmation from the protesting wrestlers whether they will take part in the Asian Games trials. Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat are in Kyrgyzstan, while Sakshi Malik and Satyawart Kadian are training in the USA. "We do not have any confirmation when it comes to the wrestlers who sat on the protest. It is highly unlikely that they will come back but we will know in a day or two," said coach Gian Singh, who is part of the ad hoc committee.

Wimbledon, women's singles semis: Ons Jabeur faces Aryna Sabalenka, Elina Svitolina takes on Marketa Vondrousova

WIMBLEDON, Jul 13 (Agencies): The stage is set for exciting women's singles semi-finals clashes between Aryna Sabalenka and Ons Jabeur, and Elina Svitolina and Marketa Vondrousova at Wimbledon 2023.

Sabalenka, the second seed, expressed her anticipation for the match, recognising Jabeur's exceptional performance during practice sessions prior to the tournament. The two players have a history of closely contested battles and Sabalenka expects a fierce encounter.

"Actually we practiced here before Wimbledon," Sabalenka said of Jabeur. "I felt like she's going to do well here because she played unbelievable tennis on the practice court. ... We always had tough battles against each other, very close matches. I'm really looking forward for this great battle."

Sabalenka has displayed remarkable consistency in Grand Slams this year, securing the Australian Open title and



reaching the semifinals at the French Open. She continued her impressive run by defeating Madison Keys in the quarterfinals at Wimbledon 2023.

On the other hand, Jabeur, the sixth seed, aims to claim her first major title after finishing as the runner-up at the Wimbledon and US Open last year. She fought back from a set down to defeat defending champion Elena Rybakina in the quarterfinals.

Jabeur acknowledged the potential for an emotional match, as both players tend to

express their feelings on the court. She remains focused and determined to seize every opportunity against Sabalenka, who is known for her passionate displays.

"Probably her shouting that way, me shouting this way," Jabeur said. "I'm going to try my best to stay focused and take every opportunity. Aryna is more emotional than Elena, so maybe it could be a good or bad thing, I'm not sure. But let's see tomorrow."

In the other semi-final, two seeded players, Elina Svitolina and Marketa Vondrousova, will face off. Svitolina, who

recently defeated top-ranked Iga Swiatek, reached her first Grand Slam semi-final since returning to the tour after giving birth to her first child. Vondrousova, a finalist at the 2019 French Open, has exceeded expectations at Wimbledon this year, surpassing her previous best performance at the tournament.

Schedule for women's singles semi-finals [WC] Elina Svitolina (UKR) vs Marketa Vondrousova (CZE) - 6 PM IST

[2] Aryna Sabalenka vs [6] Ons Jabeur (TUN)

Cyclothon to be held in Chennai on October 8

Our vision is to position ourselves as a global destination for sports by shoring up infrastructure and bringing world-class sporting events to the state.

CHENNAI, Jul 13 (Agencies): HCL launched the Cyclothon, its first cycling initiative in Chennai, in the presence of Udhayanidhi Stalin, Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development of Tamil Nadu at a function here on Wednesday. The event is being held under the aegis of the Cycling Federation of India with support from the Tamil Nadu government and SDAT. Cyclothon will be held on October 8, 2023, in Chennai and will cater to professional cyclists, amateurs and hobbyists.

Udhayanidhi Stalin informed that Tamil Nadu will be the second host of the Cyclothon. He also insisted that Tamil Nadu had successfully hosted the Chess Olympiad and the Squash World Cup, and also informed the line of international events to be held in hockey, surfing and so on in the city



in the next few months. "Tamil Nadu has a rich tradition of producing professional athletes in multiple sports.

Our vision is to position ourselves as a global destination for sports by shoring up infrastructure and bringing world-class sporting events to the state. Cyclothon is one such sporting initiative in this direction and we are happy to associate with HCL to conduct this event," said Udhayanidhi Stalin. Dr Atulya Misra, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, and J

Meghanatha Reddy, Sports Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu were also present at the launch.

Atulya Misra, additional chief secretary, sports said, "I believe cycling will get a major push after this cyclothon...the government is spending money on infrastructure. "We are trying to bring sports for the masses and we are trying to bring big events to Tamil Nadu," he said, referring to events like the Chess Olympiad and WTA tennis tournament last year and the upcoming

international surfing competition.

Onkar Singh, chairman, of the Cycling Federation of India and Secretary General of the Asian Cycling Federation said, "his event presents a remarkable platform for cyclists across the nation to showcase their skills and passion for the sport."

The race will begin at Mayajal Multiplex, and follow the ECR Road to Kovalam before returning. Registrations are open from July 12 to September 20, 2023.

Constitutional changes in J&K recognized globally: Dr Andrabi

TOP NEWS REPORT

LANGATE, Jul 13: Minister of State and Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board, Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, addressed a mega public rally in Langate, North Kashmir. Jameel Ahmad Rather, a local BJP leader and Vice President of Langate Municipal Committee, was also present. Dr. Andrabi received a warm welcome from the people upon her arrival at Langate Park, the venue of the rally. In his speech, Jameel Rather praised Dr. Andrabi as a leader who unconditionally addresses public issues without any discrimination, making her



the first in contemporary Kashmiri politics to do so. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Andrabi highlighted the focus of the government on peace, prosperity, and development in Jammu and Kashmir since the implementation of the Prime Minister's vision for the region three years ago. She emphasized that the constitutional changes in J&K have been recog-

nized globally, while political opportunists express baseless grievances. Dr. Andrabi expressed optimism about the progress being made towards peace, development, and prosperity in the new and transformed Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Andrabi mentioned her successful efforts in fulfilling public demands, including the establish-

ment of a Fire & Emergency Services facility, bridge construction, and the establishment of a Degree College in Handwara. She reiterated that the BJP's politics revolve around public service with honesty and a commitment to transparent governance.

Following the rally, Dr. Andrabi chaired a meeting with representatives from various government departments. They discussed issues related to public welfare and emphasized the need to prioritize the resolution of genuine concerns faced by the public.

J&K All Alliance Democratic Party ensures better future for people of Jammu region

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 13: An important Joining Programme and Meeting were held at the Press Club Jammu, presided over by State President Er. Raquib-ul-Rashid. The event marked a significant milestone for the J&K All Alliance Democratic Party (JKAADP) as they emphasized their rigorous campaign for growth, expansion, and preparations for the upcoming elections.

During the press conference, Chairman Nasir Ali Kochak, State General Secretary Dr. Zahoor Qadiri, and all founding members of JKAADP highlighted the

party's commitment to the welfare of the people and their dedication to addressing pressing issues such as drugs, unemployment, and rising prices.

The JKAADP Jammu unit received a major overhaul with the inclusion of new prominent faces. Notable leaders such as Ashok Kumar Kachroo, Ashfaq Ahmad, Atta Mohd, Raja Shahid Mughal, Shahid Qayoom, Tanvir Hussain, and many others from the Jammu and Pirpanjal region of J&K have joined the party. Their decision to join JKAADP reflects the love and affection of the people of Jammu and

Pirpanjal region towards the party's people-friendly policies.

The program witnessed a significant number of individuals joining the JKAADP, demonstrating their commitment to strengthening the party at the grassroots level throughout J&K. Their collective effort aims to address the challenges of drugs, unemployment, and rising prices, ensuring a better future for the region.

The JKAADP leadership expressed their gratitude towards the newly joined members and affirmed their commitment to working together towards the betterment

of Jammu and Pirpanjal region. The party leaders also thanked the people for their continuous support and trust in the party's vision and policies.

The State Media representative of the party, Mohd Ejaz, was also present during the press conference, ensuring effective communication and dissemination of information to the public.

The JK All Alliance Democratic Party remains dedicated to serving the people and addressing their concerns through proactive measures, sustainable development, and inclusive policies.

Aryans Law students shine in Punjabi University Patiala Results

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 12: Law students of Aryans College of Law, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh, brought laurels to the college in the examinations conducted by Punjabi University, Patiala.

In BALLB, 2nd semester examination, Sukhwant Kaur bagged 1st position with 82%, David & Jyoti bagged 2nd position with 80% respectively and Anish bagged 3rd position with 76% marks.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group congratulated the students and faculty for the hard work. He said that Aryans students are doing well not only in academics but in sports, innovations, cul-

tural also. Such excellent results by the students add more name and fame to the College, added Kataria.

It is to be mentioned that Aryans was the only Law College in the region to be associated with Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) in the years 2019, 2020 and 2021. For the first time, Pearson VUE on behalf of Law School Admission Council (LSAC) has made Aryans College of Law the Exam Centre for Law School Admission Test (LSAT). The score of the test is being used by famous law schools of America & Canada i.e Harvard, Yale, Stanford University, British Columbia, Chicago etc.

S P Verma is new President Rotary Club Jammu

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 13: Today in an impressive meeting of Rotary Club Jammu at Jammu Club Rtn Sat Pal Verma and Rtn D N Pangotra has been installed as President and General Secretary of Rotary Club Jammu for the Rotary year 2023-24.

In his concluding speech the outgoing President Rtn Sunil Kumar Sawhney handed over the baton of the club to Rtn Sat Pal Verma. He said that the club has two major projects in hand and planning for more in near future. The club has contributed to the society during 22-23 in the shape Medical camps, cancer awareness camps and Cornea transplantation of blind persons. He requested



the incoming President to carry on these projects and also ensured full support to the new team from all the members of the club in his tenure.

Rtn Sat Pal Verma in his maiden speech has assured the members to continue with the existing projects and also assured to propose new projects in near future with the help of the club members.

He announced his team for the year 23-24 which includes S/Rtn Dr Gaurav Vaid, Dr Navneet Gupta, Rtn Harbans Singh, Rtn Prem Shankar Singh, Rtn Sunil Kumar Sawhney, Rtn Deepak Baboo, Dr Anil Amla and Rtn Anil Sawhney as Directors of the Club. He said that their portfolios will be announced later on after consulting all of them in next meeting

.He said that Rtn Sunil Kumar Sawhney will work as Treasurer of the club.

Rtn Anil Sawhney has unanimously elected as President for the year 2024-25. He said that we are soon starting a project of distribution of sanitary pads packets in rural girls schools and colleges when the institutes open after summer vacations.

MRT team rescues Yatri with RIB fracture

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jul 13: The MRT Rescue Team stationed at Poshpathri Medical Camp demonstrated exceptional efforts in rescuing an Amarnath Yatri. The yatri, identified as Shashi Saraswat, 67 years, resident of Gurgaon had suffered a rib fracture and was promptly attended to by the proficient rescue team.

After the successful rescue operation at the Poshpathri Medical Camp, Shashi Saraswat

is now en route to be handed over to the MRT Rescue Team at Kelnar. From there, she will be further transported to the medical camp at Panjtiri for an essential orthopedician check-up, as advised by the attending doctor.

The MRT Rescue Team demonstrated their unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of yatri, ensuring that immediate and appropriate medical attention was provided.



10-day workshop on Art & Craft conclude at Ved Mandir

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, July 13: 10-days workshop on "Promotion of Art and Craft" which was organized by Department of Lifelong Learning, University of Jammu in collaboration with Department of Commerce and Buddha Art and Painting Studio was concluded here today. Employment Information cum Advisory Bureau of DLL coordinated the initiative along with Buddha Art and Painting Studio.

The valedictory function was attended by Dr. Jeevan Jyoti, Director, Department of Lifelong Learning, Sh. Nagar



Mal Gupta, Secretary Ved Mandir Committee, Sh. Suresh Kumar, President, Amita Sharma, Vice-President, Alok Sharma, Joint Secretary, Seema Magotra, Headmistress, Ved Mandir School, Dr.

Tarsem Lal, Incharge, Extension and Outreach Activities, Department of Commerce, Dr. Rewa Khajuria, Counsellor, EIAB, DLL, Smt. Sanjogita Dogra, Founder Buddha Art and Painting Studio and Rekha

Sharma, Art teacher. In her address, Dr. Jeevan Jyoti expressed gratitude towards the resource person for teaching Art and craft to the students. She motivated the students with

her life stories. She also assured the committee members for all type of help and support from the department as well from her own self.

Nagar Mal, Suresh Kumar and Alok in their addresses appreciated the efforts of Department of Lifelong Learning and Department of Commerce for such activities for the students. While giving feedback, students very enthusiastically stressed on the need of such skill development programmes for them. In the end, the participation certificates were also distributed among the students.

Raman Suri condoles Yudhviri Sethi's mother demise

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 13: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri has expressed his grief over the demise of Mrs Chanchal Sethi, mother of Vice President BJP J&K UT Yudhviri Sethi and mother-in-law of former Minister Priya Sethi, and said that the Sethi family has suffered an irreparable loss. He also expressed his sympathies with the bereaved family.

In his statement issued here, Raman Suri prayed for peace to



the departed soul and courage for the family to beat this irreparable loss. He said that Chanchal Sethi was a great human being besides a philanthropist who always helped

the poor and downtrodden. She used to extend helping hand to all the needy and underprivileged sections of the society.

He added that the loss of mother can never be compensated by any means, and Yudhviri Sethi, along with his wife Priya Sethi, their brothers, and the entire family, has experienced a profound and irreplaceable loss. He prayed for peace to the departed soul and wished the family strength to endure this heartbreaking loss.

CCI handover four wheel chairs to Railway authorities for Amarnath Yatri

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 13: Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu welcomes the Yatries coming from different States/Cities of the Country to have darshan of Baba Amarnath. Chamber always feels that the pilgrims should get all the required facilities whether it is from the administration or from the local people who are always ready to help the needy pilgrims.

In this context to facilitate the easy movement of Handicapped and elderly pilgrims and



tourists, Sh. Arun Gupta President Chamber of Commerce & Industry

accompanied by Sh. Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President, Sh. Rajesh

Gupta, Secretary and Sh. Rajesh Gupta Treasurer today provided

four wheel chairs to the Railway Authorities of Jammu Tawi Railway Station. The Station Master of Jammu Railway Station alongwith Superintendent of Railways highly appreciate this gesture of Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu who always have been at the forefront to render all possible help to the Needy.

The Chamber urges the government and also the general public to ensure hassle free yatra of Amarnath yatries so that they do not feel disparity while performing their yatra.

MHA permits foreign tourists to visit Hanle for Nomadic Festival 2023

TOP NEWS REPORT

LEH, Jul 13: In a historic moment, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), GoI, grants permission to foreign tourists to visit and stay at Hanle, Changthang, specifically for the upcoming Ladakh Nomadic Festival 2023, scheduled to be held from July 15-16 at Hanle in Changthang region.

Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv Tashi Gyalson expressed heartfelt gratitude to

Union Home Minister, Hon'ble Amit Shah led Ministry of Home Affairs and Lt Governor, Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) B D Mishra (Retd), for allowing foreign guests to visit Hanle for the Ladakh Nomadic Festival.

He also thanked MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, UT Administration headed by Advisor, UT Ladakh, Dr Pawan Kotwal for their support.

Highlighting the importance of the Nomadic

Festival, CEC Gyalson added that the visitation permit for foreign tourists, apart from domestic tourists, to the eastern border of Ladakh has been a long genuine pending demand and heartily welcomes the MHA decision. He expressed hope that in the near future, MHA would generally permit foreign tourists to visit and stay in Hanle and all other important areas of Changthang without restrictions.