

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

9 CRPF Troopers injured in road accident in Ganderbal

SRINAGAR, Jul 16 (Agencies): Nine Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) troopers were injured on Sunday in a road accident in J&K's Ganderbal district. Police sources said that the CRPF troopers were injured in the accident in the Nilgrad area of Sonamarg when their vehicle rolled down into the Sindh stream. "The accident took place near the helipad in the Nilgrad area. All the occupants of the vehicle sustained injuries.

"They have been shifted to the hospital at Baltal base camp for treatment," sources said.

The CRPF troopers were deployed on Amarnath Yatra duties.

Rusted mortar shell found in Kathua

JAMMU, Jul 16 (Agencies): A rusted mortar shell was found near the International Border in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Sunday.

The mortar shell was dugout by Border Security Force (BSF) personnel during some construction work in Border Outpost Chadwal area late Saturday evening, the officials said.

They said the shell was later destroyed by the bomb disposal squad in a controlled explosion without causing any damage.

Rains Lash J&K as MeT predicts more

SRINAGAR, Jul 16 (Agencies): Rains lashed Jammu and Kashmir since overnight with Pahalgam receiving highest precipitation during the last 24 hours, a meteorological department official here said on Sunday.

A meteorological department official here said that in the last 24 hours till 0830 hours, Pahalgam received 34.9mm followed by Baderwah 19.8mm, Jammu 14mm, Katra 12.8mm, Batote 6.6mm, Banihal and Kokernag 6.0mm each, Qazigund 1.6mm, Gulmarg 0.8mm and Srinagar traces. Regarding the

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"Awaam Ki Awaaz"

J&K Administration is pledged to work for the welfare of the poor and the vulnerable sections of the society: LG Sinha

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jul 16: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha dedicated the 28th edition of 'Awaam Ki Awaaz' programme to the local people and all the stakeholders engaged in the holy Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

He expressed gratitude to all those who are selflessly working with determination and commitment to make the spiritual pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji a pleasant one for the pilgrims.



"The spiritual odyssey symbolizes the tradition of kindness and compassion for one and all. This pious Yatra inspires us to build a bright future for Jammu and Kashmir, rooted in human dignity, social equality and jus-

tice," the Lt Governor said.

Highlighting the major decisions taken by the UT Administration, the Lt Governor said the poor, underprivileged and the deprived are the priority of the administration and

every possible effort is being made to fulfill their basic needs and promote their ease of living.

"J&K Administration is pledged to work for the welfare of the poor and the vulnerable sections of the society. The ambitious scheme to provide land to landless and a house under PMAY will enhance quality of life and empower the marginalized," the Lt Governor said.

Food security to poor people is our fundamental civilizational values. Prime Minister's

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Batch of over 6,600 pilgrims leaves for Amarnath from Jammu amid rain



JAMMU, Jul 16 (Agencies): Another batch of over 6,600 Amarnath pilgrims left the Jammu city early Sunday for Kashmir amid rain and tight security to embark on the annual pilgrimage, an official said.

Over 2.10 lakh devotees have so far visited the holy cave shrine of Amarnath, situated at a

height of 3,880 metres in south Kashmir Himalayas, since the beginning of the 62-day-long yatra on July 1.

"The 14th batch, comprising 6,684 pilgrims left Bhagwati Nagar base camp Jammu for the valley in a convoy of 241 vehicles between 3.30 am and 3.55 am," the official said.

The pilgrim convoy left for the two base camps, Pahalgam in Anantnag and Baltal in Ganderbal district, amid moderate rains which went on for hours drenching several parts of Jammu and leaving many roads waterlogged.

According to the official, 3,686 pilgrims

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Srinagar youth found dead in Jammu hotel

SRINAGAR, Jul 16 (Agencies): A youth was found dead in a hotel in Gujjar Nagar area of Jammu, officials said.

News agency Kashmir Scroll reported that a youth identified as Shaqir Mehraj Dar, son of Mehraj-ud-din Dar resident of Mehjoor nagar, Srinagar, was found unconscious at a hotel in Gujjar Nagar in the intervening night. They said he was immediately shifted to GMC Jammu

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Baramulla Police launches major crackdown on narco terror, 318 held

BARAMULLA, Jul 16 (Agencies): Baramulla police on Sunday said it conducted a massive crackdown on narco terror at various locations from Uri along the Line of Control (LoC) to other parts of Baramulla district over the last few days, arresting 318 drug peddlers while recovering huge consignments of drugs.

Pakistan-based handlers, as part of a conspiracy, are using smugglers to push narcotics into Jammu and Kashmir



get the younger generation addicted to drugs, as per police.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Baramulla, Amod Ashok Nag-

puri said, "Baramulla is a border district and cross-border drugs and weapons smuggling is big challenge for us. Over the last six months,

Baramulla police registered 187 FIRs under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act."

"Around 284 drug peddlers were arrested and another 34 notorious peddlers booked under PIT NDPS/PSA. In total, 318 drug peddlers have been arrested, so far, and the law is taking its own course. The focus of this drive is to crack down on the drug culture in Baramulla district and our endeavour is to

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Amarnath Yatra temporarily suspended due to inclement weather

SRINAGAR, Jul 16 (Agencies): Amarnath yatra has been temporarily suspended from both Pahalgam and Baltal routes due to inclement weather on Sunday, officials said.

They said no yatri was allowed to proceed from traditional Nunwan Pahalgam base camp in south Kashmir and Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district today due to inclement weather.

"It is still raining at sev-

eral places on both the routes and at the Cave shrine that has made the road condition slippery at places", they said. "Keeping in view the inclement weather conditions the authorities decided to suspend the yatra until the weather improves", they added.

Similarly no pilgrim was allowed to proceed on foot or ponies from shortest Baltal route via Dumail to Cave shrine of Amarnath to pay

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Woman pilgrim killed, two cops injured in shooting stone incident in Anantnag

SRINAGAR, Jul 16 (Agencies): A 53-year-old woman Yatri was killed while two members of Mountain Rescue Team of J&K Police were grievously injured in a shooting stone incident between Sangam Top and Lower

Cave in south Kashmir late last evening, officials said on Sunday.

GNS reported that while the woman Urmilaben daughter of Laxmi Naryan was seriously injured after being hit by the shooting stone, two members of Mountain

Rescue Team of J&K Police, Mohammed Salem and Mohammed Yaseen, suffered grievous wounds while they were trying to rescue her. The woman succumbed to her injuries before being shifted to hospital while the injured

Police personnel were evacuated by army and private helicopter on Yatra duty, they said.

DGP J&K Dilbag Singh has condoled the "unfortunate" death of the Yatri and has also expressed sympathy with the bereaved family.

"The DGP appreciated the commitment of two policemen and expressed his thanks to everyone involved in the quick evacuation. He wished early recovery to Jawans."

Meanwhile,

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Leopard captured in Doda

JAMMU, Jul 16 (Agencies): A leopard was captured in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, a wildlife department official said.

A trap was laid in remote Nalwah Ghat about a month back after locals reported frequent movement of the leopard

from a nearby forest into the village and attacks on their animals, the official said.

The leopard's capture came as a big relief to the villagers.

The iron traps set up in the village have not been removed as some

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Army organises 'Vijay Diwas' arms exhibition in Kargil ahead of 24th anniversary of 'Operation Vijay'



KARGIL, Jul 16 (Agencies): Ahead of the 24th anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Diwas, the Indian army organised a "Vijay Diwas Shastra Pradarshan" in Kargil on July 15 and 16, according to an

official statement.

Kargil Vijay Diwas is commemorated on July 26 every year to observe India's victory over Pakistan. The event, 'Vijay Diwas Shastra Pradarshan', showcased a

varied display of weapons and equipment being operated by the Indian Army with special emphasis on 'Made in India' (indigenous) weapons and equipment which have been inducted as part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, stated the official statement.

The event was inaugurated by Major General Sacin Malik, Yudh Seva Medal General Officer Commanding, Forever in Operations Division. Schoolchildren,

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Manjit seeks protection work in flood hit areas along river banks in Jammu plains

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 16: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today demanded protection of villages and residential colonies along the water bodies and rivers in Jammu, Samba, and Kathua districts.

The Former Minister was speaking at a public meeting that was organized by Women Wing Provincial President, Jammu, Pagneet Kour, Teerath Singh, and Yashpal Choudhary here at Beli Charana where the participants discussed problems faced by the people due to heavy rains and flooded rivers like Devak, Basantar, Ujh, Tawi and other river bodies in Jammu plains.

Addressing the gathering, Manjit Singh said that the flood related issues have increased worries of the people



living close to the water bodies in three districts. He said that the flood waters have posed a threat to the agricultural fields, shelters, and residential colonies.

"The Flood Control and Irrigation Department has not been able to provide protection to the land and residential houses alongside the river bodies. Whenever they are approached, they claim that they lack funds," he said, citing grievances of the people

because of the inability of the authorities to ensure protection of life and property.

He demanded that the Flood Control Department should immediately respond to the emerging flood like situation in Jammu, Samba and Kathua. He also demanded construction of protection walls, and crate work to protect the land from soil erosion, property and life of the people.

Meanwhile, he referred

to the problems confronted by the pensioners in Jammu and Kashmir as many have not received the same for the last eight months.

"The Govt should reduce the formalities as it has adversely affected the pensioners who are suffering because of multiple health issues. As many of the pensioners could not complete the formalities, their monthly pensions have stopped," he said.

Senior Provincial Vice

President, Jammu, Ex-MLA Faqir Nath, Vice President, Sheikh Mohammed Shafi, Additional General Secretary, Arun Chibber, District President Rural-B, Harpreet Singh, State President SC Wing, Bodh Raj Bhagat, State President, Apni Trade Union, Ajaz Kazmi, State General Secretary, Provincial President Youth Wing, Vipul Bali, District President Jammu Youth Wing, Shivam Choudhary, Women Wing Jammu District President, Ritu Pandita, District President Legal Cell Gaurav Sharma, Provincial Secretary Youth Wing, Vishal Jotshi, Media Coordinator Sandeep Vaid, Shivani Koul, Shikha Bhargava, Yash Choudhary, Manoj Kumar, Davinder Singh Gill, Kirti Kumari and others participated in this public meeting.

Batwal Sabha Urges 'Padma Shri' for Late Lal Chand Yamla, Icon of Punjabi Music

TOP NEWS REPORT

R.S PURA, Jul 16: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha convened a meeting in R.S.Pura, which witnessed a significant turnout of members from the Batwal community.

During the meeting, a unanimous resolution was passed, urging the Government of India to confer the prestigious 'Padma Shri' award upon Lal Chand Yamla, recognizing his immense contributions to Punjabi music.

R.L Kaith, General Secretary of JKBS,

highlighted Lal Chand Yamla's global performances and hailed him as a maestro of music in Punjab. He emphasized that Yamla's groundbreaking work has laid the foundation for contemporary music in East Punjab.

The meeting was graced by the presence of esteemed individuals such as Sarpanch Captain Hans Raj Nandan (Sena Medal), Numberdar Des Raj Kaith, Subedar Baldev Chand Sandhu, Subedar Darshan Lal, Havildar Des Raj Kaith, Hans Raj Loria, Darshan Kumar Bassa, and Jagdish Raj.

General health check up camp held at JNV Arnora (Ghat)

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Jul 16: In an initiative to start health check ups for students in order to measure their development, a medical cum health check up camp for the students was held at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) Arnora Ghat on 15-07-2023.

The camp was organized by BMO Ghat under the supervision of Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Ab Hamid Zargar, with the aim to update the students about their current health status and to implement necessary lifestyle changes for living a healthier life.

During the camp, the team examined more than 50 students of the

school for general health check up besides eye screening and emphasized upon the need for regular check ups which will not only help an individual to lead a better life but will yield in a better society.

The team also made students aware about the importance of personal hygiene, hand washing techniques, environmental sanitation and safe drinking water.

The medical team consisted of Dr Amir Malik, Dr Sheikh Shakir, Sh Raju Kumar (Ophthalmic Technician) and Ms Rani Devi (MLHP).

The school management extended their gratitude to health department for organizing the camp.



Rotary Club Jammu Helping Hands observes Rotary Annapurna Day at JMC Shelter Home



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 16: Rotary Club Jammu Helping Hands marked the Rotary Annapurna Day by providing food and support to the homeless at JMC Shelter Home, located in Kalka Colony, Boria Basti, Bahu Fort, Jammu.

During the event, Rtn Karuna Gupta, the President of the Club for the year 2023-24, addressed the gathering and highlighted Rotary's guiding principles of service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership, which have been upheld for over 118 years. She

emphasized that Rotary members believe in their shared responsibility to take action on persistent global issues. Rotary Clubs worldwide collaborate to promote peace, combat diseases, ensure access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, support maternal and child health, improve education, and stimulate local economies.

Rtn Jaswinder Singh Kuku, Secretary of the club, expressed the Club's commitment to start the new Rotary year (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024) by serving the underprivileged

sections of society. The Club provided lunch, dry ration, fruits, bakery items, and toiletries to the homeless individuals. Additionally, the Club pledged to offer medical assistance to the destitute inmates of the shelter home whenever required.

The event witnessed the presence of numerous rotarians, including Rtn Dr. Rohit Gupta, Rtn Dr. Vinu Jamwal, Rtn Sunny Gupta, Rtn Jatinder Mengi, Rtn Rumpy Madaan, Rtn Arun Sabharwal, Rtn Sanjay Gupta, Rtn Jasmeet Kaur, and Rtn Jaswinder Singh.

Tony urges LG Sinha to rescue farmers in dying paddy bowl

TOP NEWS REPORT

RS PURA, Jul 16: Taranjit Singh Tony, Chairman of AAP J&K for Administrative Engagement and Minority Affairs and DDC Member Suchetgarh urged the Lt Governor to rescue farmers from the worsening situation faced by them in the dying paddy bowl. With the scarcity of water plaguing the tail end of border villages, Tony urged immediate intervention to rescue the farming community from this dire predicament.

In a statement issued here today, the senior AAP leader said that lack of a reliable water source at the zero line of the border villages has

created a severe crisis. The D-17 canal, which should have reached the tail end at Sae Devigarh Bullachak by now, remains incomplete. Astonishingly, the entire Irrigation Department appears to be in a state of dormancy, showing no urgency in addressing this pressing issue, he said.

Tony highlighted the distressing fact that over 50 tubewells in the border villages are out of order, awaiting minor repairs that remain pending. "Furthermore, the lift irrigation system, which should be a lifeline for farmers, is completely dysfunctional. Despite repeated pleas to the engineers, includ-



ing the Chief Engineer of the Irrigation Department, all requests have fallen on deaf ears," he said.

In a direct appeal to the Lt Governor, Tony sought immediate action, requesting him to direct the concerned authorities to visit the affected areas promptly. Expressing disappoint-

ment, he emphasized that the XEn (Executive Engineers), including the Chief Engineer, have confined themselves to the comfort of their air-conditioned offices, ignoring the distressing reality faced by farmers in the field.

"Adding to the farmers' plight, prolonged power cuts have further exacerbated the situation. With their pump-sets rendered inoperative due to power shortages, farmers are unable to access any means of irrigation water, be it through canals, lift irrigation, or tubewells," he said.

Tony warned the administration, cautioning them about the dire

consequences if farmers are driven to the point of desperation, even contemplating suicide due to the unavailability of irrigation water. The gravity of the situation demands immediate attention and urgent measures to prevent such an unfortunate outcome, he added.

The AAP leader appealed to the Lt Governor to prioritize the well-being of farmers and take swift action by directing the concerned officials to address this crisis. He said that the survival of the paddy bowl and the livelihoods of countless farmers are at stake, requiring immediate intervention and long-term solutions.

JALSHAKTI DEPARTMENT, JAMMU
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) CITY DIVISION NO-1, JAMMU

0191-2543654(Fax) E-Mail:-xenphec1@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NIT No.JS/PHECD-I/ 52 of 2023-24
Fresh of E-NIT No.JS/PHECD-I/ 40 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, of J&K Union Territory, E-Tender (Item Rate Based) is invited by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) City Division No-1, Jammu, from approved and eligible contractor of appropriate class registered with UT of Jammu and Kashmir/ other UT's or State Govt./CPWD/MES registered firms/contractors under two cover system. Cover 1 comprising of technical bid and cover 2 comprising of financial bid for the following work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of Tender (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender document Fees (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion
1	Improvement of water supply from new plot lower station to OHT near Chief Engineer guest house under ward no.16 under UT Capex (financial assistance of JMC).	Rs.5.00 lacs	Rs.200	Rs.10000/-	A to D	60 days
2	Improvement of water supply from newplot lower station to Sanjay ornament shop at Sarwal under ward no.18 under UT Capex (financial assistance of JMC)	Rs.3.39 lacs	Rs.200	Rs.6780/-	A to D	45 days
3	Improvement of water supply from Rehari tubewell to opposite JK Bank Rehari under ward no.24 under UT Capex (financial assistance of JMC)	Rs.2.55 lacs	Rs.200	Rs.5100/-	A to D	45 days
4	Improvement of water supply from Amar Auto to Saraswati Tutorials and from the house of Arun Khanna to the house of Sh. Yash paul at Rehari under ward no.25 under UT Capex (financial assistance of JMC).	Rs.3.35 lacs	Rs.200	Rs.6700/-	A to D	45 days
5	Improvement of water supply behind Rajpura tubewell complex and from Friend sector mohalla Subash Nagar ward no.26 under UT Capex (financial assistance of JMC).	Rs.3.93 lacs	Rs.200	Rs.7860/-	A to D	45 days
6	Improvement of water supply o lane no.17 mohalla Pardeep kumar and mohan lal ward no.29 Rajpura under UT Capex (financial assistance of JMC).	Rs.3.60 lacs	Rs.200	Rs.7200/-	A to D	45 days
7	Improvement of water supply to Gali Shanker Singh at Shiv nagar near lane no.5 upper shiv nagar mohalla Rajpura and lower shiv nagar under ward no.33 under UT Capex (financial assistance of JMC).	Rs.2.90 lacs	Rs.200	Rs.5800/-	A to D	45 days

Position of funds :Partially Available
Position of Ts: Accorded
Position of AAA: Accorded

- Date of publishing:-13-07-2023 (1800Hrs)
- Bid documents can be seen and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 13-07-2023 (1800Hrs) onwards.
- The bids shall be uploaded on the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 13-07-2023 (1800Hrs) to 24-07-2023 upto (1200Hrs).
- The complete bidding process shall be online.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) City Division No-1
Jammu

DIP/J-5047/23

Department of Wildlife Protection J&K Government
Office of the Wildlife Warden, Jammu
Manda Hills, Near Hotel Ashok Jammu.
Email: wljajammu@gmail.com

TENDERING

Short-Term Tender Notice : e-NIT No.- 44/WLWJ of 2023-24 dated: 13-07-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. /Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:

Name of work	Adv. Cost (in lacs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Receiving/ Opening Authority
Maintenance of inspection paths in Co. 7, 8, 99 and 100 of Sudhmahadev Conservation Reserve	1.808 lacs	D	600	4 Months	Tender opening committee.

EMD (2% of advertised amount):- Rs 3,700/-

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

AA No. & Date	196 of 2023-24 (RWLWJ) dated 12-07-2023
TS No. & Date	47 of 2023-24 (WLWJ) dated 16-06-2023
Position of Funds	Approved under CAMPA

Publishing Date	13-07-2023
Download Start Date	13-07-2023
Bid Submission Start Date	14-07-2023
Bid submission End Date	28-07-2023 up to 04:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid	29-07-2023 at 12:00 PM (In the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu, Manda Hills, Jammu)
Date of opening of Financial Bid.	29-07-2023

Bid documents can be seen at and download from the website: -
<https://jktenders.gov.in>. Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.

Wildlife Warden
Jammu

No.: WLWJ/ **DIP/J-5070/23** Dated: 13-07-2023

EDITORIAL

DON'T CARRY GUILT

Guilt is not a pleasant feeling to go through but it has a purpose. It stops you from getting into a cycle of actions that are not good for you and for others. When such action happens, the guilt in you acts like a brake for you not to continue the same act. Guilt is good in the right amount and only for that period of time. If it goes beyond a limit, it eats you up like termites eat up the cupboard.

So, you need skill to get out of guilt, but, at the same time, not totally remove it. It is only when you truly realise that you are not the doer of any action that there is no purpose left for guilt. Until that blossoming, a little bit of guilt serves you. It protects you from any wrongdoing that you might engage in.

A mistake is something that pinches you. It is the pinch that irks the consciousness and that pinch disallows the mistake to be repeated. Be with the pinch and not the guilt. It will also stop you from repeating it. Your very wish to repent has solved the purpose. This wish is an indication that your intellect is maturing. Otherwise, you would not have been aware of your actions.

That person who did a mistake has packed his suitcase and gone. Now, inside you is a new person. Start believing in the innocence of the present moment.

Krishna tells Arjuna, "I will relieve you from your sins. You just surrender. Then it's my responsibility to take care of your sins. Don't worry. Drop all that you are holding on to — even your dharma." All that you need to do is to let go of everything you are holding on to.

You may have gotten angry many times, but do you stay angry forever? The Shiva sutra, 'Atma Chittam', conveys something very important. Day, night, clouds and colours all appear in the sky, and later disappear. Similarly, the mind imagines many things, which disappear just as they came.

Just as light fades in the evening, anger also fades. It is the same with envy. There is a limit to everything. When one thought arises, another falls away. Where does it go? All is in our mind. That mind is the Self. Clouds may cover the sky, but the purity of the sky remains untouched.

Whatever may be the state of mind, the Self is pure. There is no such thing as a bad Self. As anger is a quality of the Divine, it is also a quality of the Self! That is why it is said, 'Atma Chittam' — the mind itself is the Self.

The mind is part of the Divine. When we say 'Do your sadhana,' it means sadhana needs to be done daily. This is because there are millions of cells in our brain. Some work today, and others work tomorrow just like workers do shifts in a factory. The factory is running continually, but the workers have shifts — they come, work and leave. Similarly, in our brain neurons work in shifts.

Some neurons are trained today, others will get trained tomorrow and others will be trained the day after tomorrow. Through this process, one day you will reach perfection, siddhi. This will happen only if japa chanting or meditation is done regularly.

Been there, done that, got The T-shirt

By: Shreya Sen-Handley

The tide of natural disasters, pandemics, and social anarchy of the last few years has been a shock to us all. But there's been a different shock to my system that's grown insistent over time. And unlike the tremors we're all reeling from, this has been mostly delightful. I call it the shock of recognition, and it's pretty much taken over my life.

More and more, as they grow, I encounter myself in my children, but the persistence with which it happens doesn't make the jolt any less forceful. Last summer was the first time it really caught my eye, as I flicked through family holiday photos on the island of Jersey in the English Channel. I spotted a snap of me, striking a pose in the stern of a boat, of which I had absolutely no recollection. For a split-second I worried that my memory had deteriorated beyond redemption, only to realise that it wasn't my picture at all that I was examining, but one of my rapidly-changing, now-teenage daughter!

In my mind's eye, my daughter is still a child, and I look like I did a few years ago, before my newfound diabetes piled on the pounds. As a result, when I happen upon my daughter's new avatar, so strikingly similar to my previous self, I am fleetingly befuddled by it; am I looking

at a doppelganger or a mirror image? How can I be standing here and over there as well? That she borrows liberally from my wardrobe, and not always with my permission, only strengthens these surreal impressions.

That shock of recognition isn't always as heartwarming, however. At a rousing Bruce Springsteen concert in Birmingham last month, I was struck by a horrible thought — that the man I'd idolised for 40 years had begun to look like my late Dadu! I don't mean grandfatherly in general; none of us are getting any younger. I mean actually like my Dadu, with the same full head of silver hair and patrician facial features.

In the past, debating the evolutionary scientific premise that humans opt for partners who most resemble themselves (or their parents), I've laughed it off with a "Do I have a ginger beard, quill-sharp nose, and rosy skin like my husband?"

The fact, therefore, that a man I adore (Bruce) had metamorphosed into another beloved fella (Dadu) shook me up a little. Had that always been the appeal, I asked myself with horror. But then, I searched the net (strictly for research, ahem) and was reassured by the many gorgeous photos of Springsteen in his youth, where he looked more like himself and less like my Dadu (also handsome but disparately so). That the concert

was amazing reminded me as well that I'd always loved his passionate music as much as his appearance.

Yet, there's no denying how frequently these days I spot familiar features on a stranger's face, and speculate whether it's a trick of the light, a kink in my brain, or a measure of my time on this planet. Dining out with my husband recently, I pointed to a friend of my youth at a nearby table, perfectly aware that he couldn't be the man he so closely resembled. I knew from Facebook that my old friend no longer had the rippling hair, muscles, or enthusiasm for what was obviously a blind date, of our dead ringer of a neighbour.

Are there, I ruminated, only so many faces that get recycled again and again? In my nearly 50 years, have I seen every possible visage there is to see in this world, with each new face now a mere regurgitation?

Nor is this persistent feeling of déjà vu only about people. A lifelong travel buff, recent trips have reminded me of other fabulous forays. Krakow in Poland last week, brought to mind Berlin, Zurich, even Paris, but was no less memorable for it. Similarly, fresh flavours today recall childhood favourites, and snatches of songs and scents can transport me to the beloved haunts of yesterday. Even stray moments can feel like a reliving, frame by splendid

frame.

So, will everything in my future be a version of something that's already happened? Am I trapped in the eighties movie, Groundhog Day? Or, experiencing a commonplace, yet unpublicised, phenomenon amongst the middle-aged?

Of course, if the good in our lives feel great even when familiar, there can't be too many new terrors to fear either, only adaptations of what's come before. The coronavirus pandemic was only original to those (admittedly, the majority) who hadn't lived through other plagues, such as the Spanish Flu in the last century. Nor is the swing to the right around the world a surprise to those who've retained the lessons of history. But isn't that a relief? That we can plan for impending calamities, because they've already done the rounds?

Most of all, what's not to love in having what I've always cherished returned to me in contemporary packaging? What's not to prize in the plentiful comfort of the well-worn? Preloved it's called, in sync with our thoughtful new world, and life-affirming, rather than the opposite, in its thousand-fold increase. Nor is freshness lost; this constant 'been there, done that, got the t-shirt' sensation is itself a challenge to untangle and embrace.

Does the anti-defection law silence voice of democracy?

By: Manish Tewari

The ongoing tug-of-war between the National Congress Party's stalwarts, Mr Sharad Pawar and his nephew Mr Ajit Pawar, has once again shown the obsolete nature of the anti-defection law, and how it has completely lost its relevance.

In 1985, the Parliament amended the Constitution and introduced the 10th Schedule which codified the legislative mechanism pertaining to anti-defection laws in India. The intention behind the law was to combat and surmount the evils of political defection which would undermine the very foundation of our democracy, and the principles that sustain it.

However, the recent instances of mass defections in Maharashtra, Meghalaya and Goa engineered by the ruling dispensation at the Centre clearly demonstrate once again that the law has failed miserably to achieve its legislative intent. The anti-defection law epitomises a flawed legislation with noble intentions.

India's tryst with the anti-defection law commenced post the Fifty-Second Constitutional Amendment Act of 1985. According to this amendment to the Constitution, a member of a house shall be disqualified if he, or she: (1) Voluntarily gives up membership of such political party from which he was elected to the legislature or, (2) Votes or abstains against the directions of the political party, without the prior permission of the party. The law provided the exception that such disqualification shall not occur if one-third of the members of a House create a separate faction, or merge with any

other political entity. This exception was an attempt by the law to maintain equilibrium between the power of the representative to express dissent, and the powers of the political party to protect its political capital. However, this attempt was not sufficient to curb defection. Cases for defection continued, clearly showing that the law failed to achieve its objectives.

The Ninety-First Amendment Act of 2003 attempted to address the aforementioned issue. This attempt, however, also failed to address the issue of defection, and had the unintended consequence of further enhancing the powers of the almighty whip.

As a principled opponent of the 10th Schedule, my opposition is not just regarding its practical failure, but also regarding its jurisprudential incongruity with Indian law. Article 105(1) of the Indian Constitution safeguards the freedom of speech and expression in Parliament. This article was based upon the idea that a parliamentarian should have the freedom of speech to address the grievances of his constituency. However, anti-defection laws curtail this freedom of the representatives, if it is in dissonance with party lines. This is in stark violation to the very idea upon which Article 105(1) was envisaged.

Similarly, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its landmark judgment of Kesavananda Bharti vs Union of India, held that parliamentary democracy is a basic feature of the Indian Constitution. However, a party-dominated system that practically vassalises the parliamentarian, who was elected to represent the best interests of his constituency, violates this basic structure

doctrine.

It would perhaps be the understatement of our times even if it is articulated with full rigour that the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution has sucked the life breath of democracy out of the legislative institutions. While it has spectacularly failed to achieve its intended and stated objective, that is to curb the menace of the politics of Aya Rams and Gaya Rams, it has ended up turning the legislatures into plazas de toros of whip-driven tyranny. No longer can a parliamentarian exercise legislative freedom according to his conscience, common sense or even constituency.

While a representative is elected by the little person who stands in a long line in the blazing sun or pouring rain once in five years, the legislative life of that representative is run by the party that gave him the ubiquitous 'ticket' to run for elections.

When I entered the hallowed portals of the Parliament, the first private member's bill that I had moved was to relax the archaic and rigid nature of the 10th Schedule. The bill proposed to moderate the powers of the whip and ensure that the whip only be used as an instrument to prevent situations where the stability of government would get impacted.

I have again introduced another private member's bill: The Constitutional (Amendment) Bill, 2020. This bill also envisages disqualification of a member of a house on grounds that he or she votes, or abstains from voting in a confidence motion, no-confidence motion, adjournment motion, money bill, or financial matters contrary to directions issued by the party. This helps in ensuring

equilibrium between the freedom of a member of House to represent his interest, and the ability of the party to protect itself from any malafide political machinations. It is unfortunate that the government has failed to appreciate the reform, and on the contrary, is weaponising the 10th Schedule to satiate its incessant greed for power and prestige.

On the contrary, the developments in Maharashtra, Goa and various other places over the years, where governments have been toppled over the years using unjust and foul means, have once again underscored that the powers given to the presiding officers are not used in a fair, just and equitable manner to prevent political chicanery and manifest illegality that totally demolish the essence, substance and the very raison d'être of the Tenth Schedule repeatedly. There is a need to seriously deliberate upon the role, nature and even the kind of person/persons who should occupy the chair of legislative institutions both in the Central and state legislatures. The recent disqualification of Mr Rahul Gandhi, despite Article 103 of the Constitution of India vesting the powers in the President of India and not the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, given that the ingredients of Section 8(3) of Representation of People's Act, 1951, were far from complete, is legally untenable. No disqualification was possible, much less warranted.

The time has come to repeal the 10th Schedule of the Constitution of India and replace it with something that really works both to curb the menace of defections and ensure that the oxygen of democracy is pumped back into our legislative institutions.

HSS protests against Govt over high electricity bills

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 16: On the instructions of Hindustan Shiv Sena State President Vikrant Kapoor, Shiv Sena workers have opened a front against the government for huge electricity bills after installation of smart meters. In this series, on behalf of the Jammu city unit of Hindustan Shiv Sena, a vigorous demonstration was held against the electricity department in Ward 28 of Gurha Bakshi Nagar today. The protest was led by City President Appurav Gupta and Vice President Rohan Malwal, while Women's Wing President Diksha Malwal and Vice President Vishali Gupta also participated in the protest along with their supporters in large numbers.

During this, while addressing the protesters, these leaders said that the people were assured by the Electricity Department that there would be no difference in the electricity bills after the installation



of smart meters. But the way huge electricity bills are being handed over to the people, there is a lot of resentment among the people. They said that on the instructions of its State President Vikrant Kapoor, Hindustan Shiv Sena has decided to open a front against the government by coming on the streets to solve this problem of the people. That's why protests are being held today so that the eyes of the government can be opened. They expressed anger by raising slogans against the Electricity Department, BJP's

central government and the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor's administration. They also asked the BJP leaders why they are keeping silence in this matter. They alleged that the BJP government is completely against the people of Jammu and Kashmir. They said that ever since the BJP government came to power at the Centre, the common people of Jammu and Kashmir are in a bad condition. People are also deprived of Basic facilities like electricity and water. They said that such a government has no

right to remain in power. People want them to oust the BJP from power in the coming Lok Sabha elections.

They said that ever since the BJP government came to power at the Centre, the BJP has made Jammu and Kashmir a laboratory. Before starting any scheme in the country, it is trialled in Jammu and Kashmir. They said that today people are worried about the electricity bills coming from smart meters. They alleged that no state in the country has such smart meters, but the BJP government at the Centre has started its trial from Jammu and Kashmir. They said that due to the wrong decision of the government, now the electricity bills have troubled the poor people. The one who used to get a bill of five hundred rupees earlier, is now getting a bill of five thousand rupees. They warned that if this problem of the people is not resolved at the earliest, a big agitation will be organized in the coming days.

BVP Vivekananda Branch initiates plantation drive



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 16: A plantation drive was organized by the Bharat Vikas Parishad Vivekananda branch in collaboration with the Forest Department. The event witnessed the participation of Dev Raj Sharma (Regional President, North Region), Arun Sharma (Joint Gen-

eral Secretary), Amita Sharma (Regional Secretary, Mahila), Bharat Bhushan Sharma (Prant President), Vijay Phojaj (Branch President), and Kohli Sahib, Kapaij, Kulbhushan Atri (Secretary/Treasurer).

Over 50 plants with various medicinal values were planted during the drive. Vijay Sharma (Vice President, Sampark Parmukh

BVP JkPrant) and Vijay J (Executive Member) were prominent participants in the event. Dev Raj Sharma, the President, emphasized the urgent need for an extensive plantation drive to protect the environment and preserve Mother Earth.

The Forest Department was represented by Forest Officer Parveen Singh.

Pakistan pushes narco-terror strategy in J&K: Rajesh



TOP NEWS REPORT

ARNIA, Jul 16: Arnia Shiv Sena Hindustan Unit today under the leadership of J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesari on Sunday condemned the killing of two non-local labourers in Shopian and said none of the terrorists would be spared and the region would be cleared of terrorism. "Cowardly Pakistani terrorists have once again committed a grave crime by killing labourers who come to Kashmir to earn their livelihood. The conspiracy to target poor labourers was hatched by Pakistan to create a fear among the people," Kesri said.

Kesri said such conspiracies will be defeated

and Jammu and Kashmir cleared of terrorists as was done in the past when police and paramilitary forces eliminated hundreds of terrorists responsible for killing of innocent civilians. "None of the terrorists will be spared.

Our brave security forces have carried out strong action against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, breaking its backbone in the valley with back-to-back successful operations by security forces," he said. He said Pakistan-sponsored terrorists are desperate and they're targeting innocent and unarmed civilians in frustration. "They will have to pay a heavy price for their crimes

against humanity. The accounts will be settled with interest," Kesri said.

Kesri further said that given Kashmir is fast on track of normalcy, particularly seen in huge reduction in acts of terror and violence incited, aided and abated from across the border, it appears that Pakistani agencies are using terror modules to supply drug and narcotics so as to derail the process.

As the economy of Pakistan is in a dire situation and funding to terror modules from state has stopped, Pakistani agencies are increasingly relying on mobilising funds by smuggling drugs and narcotics to India in connivance with Pakistan

agencies, added Kesri. The phenomenon of drug and narcotics peddling aims at corrupting the young minds and promote the growth of hybrid terrorism, i.e. creating a terrorist mindset among ordinary citizens and youth who are otherwise engaged in their day-to-day and education businesses, added Kesri.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Jajmal Pradhan Gara Ram, Om Prakash, Rajiv Pradhan, Balveer Kumar, Arnia Pradhan Vijay Luthra, Brijesh Kumar, Labba Baba, Balwant Fauji, Darshana Devi, Jyoti Devi, Poli Devi, Rajni Devi, Neeru Devi and dozens of Shiv Sainiks.

Under hard economic condition, poor unable to afford exorbitant electricity bills: Rafiq

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 16: Expressing grave resentment over huge power bills being received by poor people of J&K after installation of smart meters in J&K, Lok Jan Shakti Party (Ramvilas) J&K President Rafiq Malik appealed the Lt Governor to ask the PDD authorities to address this grave public issue. He said the people of our state belong to middle class and below poverty line families and they cannot afford this system. This power is generated on our rivers. The government is sending it to outside states. Then they increase tariffs here to buy power. How can poor people pay ₹3,000- 4,000 bill of smart meters," Malik said. "A cooking gas cylinder costs ₹1,250, kerosene is ₹100 per litre. They can't afford to buy gas cylinders, from where they will bring money for huge power bills. They are killing poor people," he said.

Malik said poor people can't use fans for their children in this scorching heat in wake of huge power bills beyond their reach. "We are not against smart meters but the government needs



to check the ground reality. Poor people don't have the capacity to pay huge power fees. "They cannot afford the smart meter billing. Their income is very nominal as the majority of the people in our area are either working as salesmen, auto-rickshaw drivers or roadside vendors. They hardly manage the school fee of their children," said Malik.

Malik alleged that gov-

ernment is sucking the blood of poor people across JK by installing the Smart meters and by imposing large amount of power bills. While demanding free power and drinking water to people of Jammu Kashmir, he urged LG Administration to address this issue on priority basis. "We don't understand why the government is not listening to our grievances. Despite all

resentment, the government is going ahead with the move," said Malik. He said that they want flat rates and not the smart meter-generated power bills. He said that given their economic condition, they won't be able to afford exorbitant bills. "Despite abundant power resources, people are made to suffer. This is our electricity and we have first right over it," said Malik.

GSS dissolves present body, appoints Ranchhor Singh as Interim Incharge

TOP NEWS REPORT

NEW DELHI, Jul 16: Gantantrik Samaj Sangathan (GSS), a prominent social organization, held a virtual meeting which was presided over by its Founder Member, Kamal Singh. The meeting witnessed active participation from members of the Central Working Committee, marking a significant milestone in the organization's journey towards progress and development.

One of the key decisions made during the meeting was the dissolution of the present body, paving the way for the formation of a new committee that will effectively cater to the diverse needs and aspirations of GSS members. Ranchhor Singh was nominated

and entrusted with the responsibility of serving as the Incharge of the Sangathan until the formation of the new committee.

The meeting passes several resolutions aimed at strengthening GSS and enhancing its impact on society. The first resolution addressed the urgent need for the registration of Gantantrik Samaj Sangathan, which will provide the organization with legal standing and authentication. This development is anticipated to streamline various processes and empower GSS to operate more effectively.

Another noteworthy resolution passed during the meeting was the decision to hold regular virtual meetings every Saturday. This

move will allow GSS members from different states to actively engage in discussions, share ideas, and contribute towards the organization's growth and development. The virtual meetings will serve as a platform to address important issues, develop strategies, and ensure unity among GSS members.

Furthermore, in an effort to streamline communication and provide a consolidated platform for GSS's online presence, the meeting also emphasized the clubbing of two separate websites into a single, comprehensive website. This consolidation will not only enhance accessibility for members and the general public but also promote a cohesive and unified approach in

disseminating information about GSS's initiatives, programs, and achievements.

To ensure comprehensive representation and participation, GSS has decided to include members from every state and union territory across the country in its Central Working Committee. This inclusive approach will foster diversity, promote regional perspectives, and establish a broad-based decision-making process within GSS.

To maintain the momentum and continue fostering collaboration and progress, GSS will continue to conduct virtual meetings every Saturday, focused solely on GSS agenda items. This will provide a platform for members to actively engage,

exchange ideas, and contribute towards the organization's objectives.

Kamal Singh expressed his optimism and gratitude towards the commitment and dedication demonstrated by GSS members during the virtual meeting. He emphasized the importance of unity, collaboration, and inclusivity in achieving GSS's mission of social and political progress.

Among those who participated in the meeting include Ranchor Singh from Rajasthan, Pritam Singh Saini from J&K UT, Madan Mohan from Jharkhand, Shiv Dass Mahajan from Maharashtra, Adv Mukesh Singh from Allahabad, Hitler Singh from Delhi, Adv Jaipal, Pawan Saini Gujarat and others.

BJP Mahila Morcha South organizes another Millet awareness programme at Anganwadi Centre Narwal



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 16: BJP Mahila Morcha Jammu South, as part of its ongoing initiative to raise awareness about the benefits of millets, organized another impactful awareness program at the Anganwadi of Narwal Panchayat. The event, led by Divya Jain, President BJP South Jammu, aimed to educate and encourage the community to embrace the consumption of millets in their daily lives.

To engage the children and introduce them to the nutritious qualities of millets, a delicious Kheer made with Samak Rice was prepared and distributed among them. The children relished the taste and appreciated

the captivating aroma of the dish, indicating a positive response towards incorporating millets into their diet.

During the event, a special presentation of Ragi, Jowar, and Samak Rice was made to Rekha Sharma, an Anganwadi worker. This gesture aimed to encourage and support the Anganwadi staff in promoting the consumption of millets among the beneficiaries they serve.

Divya Jain, in her address, emphasized the significance of Shri-ann (millets) in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. She applauded the efforts of Anganwadi workers and encouraged them to incorpo-

rate millets more prominently in the meal plans of the children. She also highlighted the nutritional benefits of millets and their role in combating malnutrition and promoting overall well-being. The program also included a discussion on various recipes and cooking methods involving millets. Participants actively shared their experiences and ideas, fostering a sense of community and knowledge exchange.

Mahila Morcha Prabhari Radha Sharma, Vice President Sarojini Sharma, Mandal President Kamlesh Magotra, and Social Media Convener Leela Chhetri were present during the event.

Shanaya Kapoor to star in Mohanlal's pan-India film 'Vrushabha'

'Vrushabha' is directed by Nanda Kishore and also stars Zahrah S Khan

Actor Sanjay Kapoor's daughter Shanaya Kapoor is all set to star in Megastar Mohanlal's upcoming pan-India film 'Vrushabha'.

Even before the release of her debut film 'Bedhadak', Shanaya signed her new movie.

Apart from her, the film will also star, Mohanlal, Zahrah S Khan and Telugu actor Roshann Meka in the lead roles.

Taking to Instagram, trade analyst Taran Adarsh shared the news and wrote, "SHANAYA KAPOOR, ZAHRAH S KHAN TO STAR IN MOHANLAL'S PAN-INDIA FILM 'VRUSHABHA'... #ShanayaKapoor [daughter of #SanjayKapoor] and #ZahrahSKhan [daughter of #SalmaAgha] to star opposite #RoshannMeka [who has acted in several #Telugu films] in PAN-India film #Vrushabha... Stars #Mohanlal in the central role. The film will be produced by Ektaa Kapoor."

Few days ago, producer Ektaa Kapoor made the announcement about her new film 'Vrushabha' in collaboration with actor Mohanlal.

Taking to Insta, Ektaa shared a picture featuring herself, her father-actor Jeetendra and Mohanlal. Sharing the picture, she wrote, "Posing with d legend n the genius !!!! JAI MATA DI



so excited to b working with the actor par excellence @mohanlal. Balaji Telefilms partners with Connekt Media and AVS Studios for VRUSHABHA - a Pan India bilingual Telugu Malayalam Film starring megastar Mohanlal. High on emotions and VFX, the film is an Epic Action Entertainer transcending generations. Touted to be one of the biggest films of 2024, VRUSHABHA, directed by Nanda Kishore, goes on floors later this month and will be released simultaneously in Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada, Tamil and Hindi." The film is an epic action entertainer transcending generations.

'Vrushabha', directed by Nanda Kishore, goes on floors later this month and will be released simultaneously in Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada, Tamil and Hindi.

The film is slated to release in 2024. Shanaya will be making her acting debut with Karan Johar's 'Bedhadak', in which she will be seen essaying the role of Nimrit. The film also stars Lakshya and Gurfateh Pirzada in lead roles.

In March 2022, she announced the news on her Instagram handle and unveiled her first look from the film.

The official release date of the film is still awaited.

I stand with my union and colleagues: Priyanka Chopra Jonas on Hollywood actors strike



Actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas has lent support to the strike called by a Hollywood's actors union and said she stands in solidarity with her colleagues.

The Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Radio and

Television Artists (SAG-AFTRA) voted to join screenwriters in the first joint strike after failing to reach a consensus for a new contract with the studios and streaming services, represented by the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television

Producers (AMPTP).

"I stand with my union and colleagues. In solidarity, we build a better tomorrow. #SagAftraStrong #SagAftraStrike," Priyanka wrote on Instagram alongside a photo of SAG-AFTRA logo.

The strike by Hollywood actors is the first strike since 1980. It is also the first instance when two major Hollywood unions have been on strike at the same time since 1960.

Members of the Writers Guild of America (WGA) have been on strike since early May, demanding better wages, higher minimum pay, more writers per show, and shorter exclusive contracts among other things.

Priyanka was most recently seen in "Citadel", streaming service Prime Video's globetrotting spy series alongside Richard Madden.

In Hollywood, she has also featured in television series "Quantico" and movies such as "Baywatch", "Isn't It Romantic", "The Matrix Resurrections" and "Love Again".

Pankaj Tripathi wraps 'Main Atal Hoon' shoot, calls it memorable

The shooting for Pankaj Tripathi-starrer 'Main Atal Hoon' has come to an end.

The film was shot in 45 days across locations in Mumbai, Delhi, Kanpur and Lucknow. The team wrapped up filming in Mumbai.

Helmed by director Ravi Jadhav, 'Main Atal Hoon' features Tripathi as the late three-time Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who was conferred with the country's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna. The film is written by Rishi Virmani and Ravi Jadhav while the music has been composed by Salim-Sulaiman.

Announcing the wrap, Tripathi took to Instagram and expressed his gratitude.

"Yeh 'Atal' safer humesha ke liye yaadgaar



rahega. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee jaise mahaanubhav vyakti ke pehlu ko bade parade par saakar karne ke liye khud ko bhagyashali samajhta hun (This 'Atal' journey will be remembered forever!! consider myself fortunate to have received the opportunity to portray the great personality 'Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee' ji on the big screen. MainAtalHoon," he wrote.



During the Lucknow shooting schedule, Tripathi met the UP CM Yogi Adityanath, and discussed the film at length.

The makers of the film wrapped up the shoot.

A Bhanushali Studios Limited and Legend Studios production, 'Main Atal Hoon' is produced by Vinod Bhanushali, Sandeep Singh, Sam Khan & Kamlesh Bhanushali. The film will release this December.

Sunny Leone says she used to work with 'the Dharmas and YRFs' of adult film industry

Sunny Leone has opened up about her stint in the adult film industry in the West. She said that she worked with the crème de la crème of that industry, and compared it to "the Dharmas and YRFs" in Bollywood. She referred to Karan Johar's Dharma Productions and Aditya Chopra's Yash Raj Films, two production houses she's yet to work with in India.

Sunny was born in a Sikh family in Canada in 1981, and rose to prominence in the US adult entertainment industry in early 2000s. She later quit the industry and relocated to Mumbai in 2011. Her first appearance as an actor in India was as a guest contestant in Bigg Boss 5.



What Sunny said about her adult film career "The best part (of my

adult film career) was that I worked with the best of the best compa-

nies. When I mean the best, I can only compare it to the Dharmas and the Yash Raj's here. It was Vivid, it was Penthouse. And that's just something that materialised as time went by. I read every contract. So that the companies that were hiring me got what they wanted, and I got what I wanted. I made sure that I was never being taken advantage of," Sunny said in a podcast on the YouTube channel BeerBiceps.

She added that since she was cautious, the pace of her trajectory in the industry wasn't as quick as other contenders. But she always insisted on progressing at her pace. "Maybe seeing some other girls' success and how fast

it worked and I had to work harder because I worked at a very slow pace and I wasn't into some of the things that were happening around me or that wasn't the step I wanted to take at that moment. But that has been my entire life. I have always had to work twice or thrice as hard. It gets there, where I want it to, but it just takes time. Even now," Sunny said in the same podcast.

Sunny's upcoming film Kennedy recently premiered at the Cannes Film Festival. She will be seen sharing screen space with Rahul Bhat in a crime thriller directed by Anurag Kashyap. The Indian release date of the film isn't known yet.

Demi Lovato opens up about vision and hearing impairment after near-fatal overdose

Demi Lovato, the famous American singer made headlines in 2018 after it was reported that she had a nearly-fatal overdose. According to the reports, the actress-singer's overdose left her with serious brain damage and severely impacted her body. It was reported that Demi Lovato suffered a vision and hearing impairment. Now, during her recent appearance on SiriusXM's Andy Cohen Live, the popular artist admitted that she indeed has vision and hearing impairment to date.

Demi Lovato has no regrets. After five years of her nearly-fatal overdose, Demi Lovato opened up about the incident that left her with serious damage to her brain and vision and hearing impairment. The actress-singer stated that she wouldn't change anything about her life or her past, and has absolutely no regrets. "I wouldn't change my path because I don't

have any regrets. The closest thing that I get to regret is when I overdosed," said the Sonny With a Chance star, in a recent episode of SiriusXM's Andy Cohen Live.

The singer opens up about her addictions. During her appearance on the show, Demi Lovato also opened up about her battles with addictions. "I wish somebody had told me, one, that I was beautiful because I didn't believe it. And, two, I wish someone would have told me that if you just sit with the pain, it passes—you don't have to use over it," stated the 30-year-old. "It actually caused a disability. I have vision impairment and hearing impairment... The closest thing I have to regret is that because of what it's caused me today. Like, I don't drive because I have blind spots in my vision," she added.

Demi Lovato's work front. As reported recently, Demi Lovato is set to make her directo-



rial debut soon. As per the reports, the singer-actress is set to foray into filmmaking with the upcoming Hulu documentary on Child stardom, which has been titled Child Star. The reports suggest that Lovato is planning to

co-direct the documentary along with Nicola Marsh. She is also co-producing the project under her home banner DLG, along with ORB Pictures and SB Projects, headed by Michael R Ratner and Scooter Braun, respectively.

Madalsa Sharma: Audience has the power to make or break a show

Actor Madalsa Sharma believes that the audience has the power to determine the success of a project and that word of mouth publicity can make or break it. She also emphasizes the importance of the audience as the ultimate judge, and discusses her experience working on the TV show "Anupamaa". Sharma is currently focused on her show but is open to opportunities in other mediums. On a personal note, she mentions that she and her husband are planning to start a family in the future.

Actor Madalsa Sharma feels that no one other than the public can decide the fate of any project.

"The audience has the power to make or break a project. Word of mouth publicity can only add or deduct a few digits here and there, that's it. People come and go, but if the project has public support, it will go on. Also, when actors who were formerly a part of the crew go out



and try to tear the show down, their questionable attempts fall hollow, since the audience is the greatest judge," adds the Banaras and Dil Sala Sanki actor.

Sharma has been part of a TV daily for over three years. She adds, "It was my first

show since I had previously been involved in both Hindi and regional films. I was doing good work but after my marriage, I decided to slow down but my actor-husband (Mimoh) and my father-in-law (Mithun Chakraborty) made me reconsider my decision.

It was then that Rajan (Shahi) sir offered me Anupamaa and since then I am playing Kavya, one of the pivotal characters of the show. This association has made me very close and possessive for the show."

Sharma is currently focusing on her show since she believes television's enormous reach has benefited her skills. "Love of audience works like an instant booster for me. It peeps me up and I want to work with honesty. For now, TV doesn't leave me with much time but if something good comes up from other mediums I will surely balance it with my ongoing project."

On the personal front, Sharma reveals that they are intending to start a family, but not anytime soon. "We have discussed this, and we both want to plan a family but exactly when we both will be ready, might take a bit of time. God is the best planner, so you never know what's in store for us," she adds on a parting note.

Bond between India and France transcends time: PM Modi

Said he will always cherish his visit to France

NEW DELHI, Jul 16 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that the bond between India and France transcends time, echoing in their shared values and kindling their collective dreams.

Reacting to French President Emmanuel Macron's tweet in which he posted a short video of Modi's visit to the country, the prime minister said he will always cherish his visit to the country.

In his message with the video, Macron had written, "To the people



of India, trust and friendship." Modi said, "India and France... a bond that transcends time, echoing in our shared values and kindling

our collective dreams. I will always cherish my recent visit to France. Thank you my friend, President @EmmanuelMacron."

Govt reduces subsidised rate of tomato to Rs 80/kg with immediate effect in Delhi-NCR, other locations



NEW DELHI, Jul 16 (Agencies): Union Government has now decided to sell tomatoes at a discounted rate of Rs 80 per kg. Earlier, Union Government was selling at a discounted rate of Rs 90 per kg through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED)

and National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF).

"There has been a decrease in the wholesale prices of tomatoes due to the intervention of the government to sell it at a concessional rate of Rs 90 per kg, at several locations in the country where

the prices were ruling exceptionally high. After a re-assessment of the situation from across 500 plus points in the country, it has been decided to sell it at Rs 80 per kg from today," said a senior official of NCCF.

In just one month, prices of tomatoes, in various states, have jumped up by Rs 50-100.

It is learnt that NCCF is also in the process of tying up with organisations with well-established retail outlets like Mother Dairy, and Kendriya Bhandara so that the outreach can be extensive and purchasing tomatoes would be easy for the consumers.

UP's OP Rajbhar returns to NDA as BJP expands in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar ahead of 2024 LS polls

NEW DELHI, Jul 16 (Agencies): The former NDA ally Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) on Sunday returned to the alliance fold ahead of the July 18 meeting of the National Democratic Alliance to be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

OP Rajbhar, the founder of SBSP, met Union Home Minister Amit Shah here today and announced the return to the NDA.

Rajbhar had contested the 2022 Uttar Pradesh elections with the Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party.

"Met Shri @oprajbhar ji in Delhi and decided to join the NDA alliance led by Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji. I welcome him to the NDA family. The arrival of Rajbhar ji will strengthen the NDA in Uttar Pradesh and the efforts being made by the NDA under the leadership of Modi ji for the welfare of the poor and downtrodden will get further strength," Shah tweeted.

Rajbhar could join the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP Government in UP and his son Arvind Rajbhar could be offered a Lok Sabha ticket.



The BJP is working to expand NDA ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Apart from the current 18 constituents of the BJP-led NDA, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) leader Chirag Paswan, HAM chief and former Bihar Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, Shiv Sena chief and Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde, NCP's Ajit Pawar and OP Rajbhar of Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party in UP will also attend the July 18 NDA meeting in Delhi.

The BJP is also in talks with

the Shiromani Akali Dal, though it is unclear if the SAD has been invited for the July 18 meeting where some other non-NDA leaders will come.

Sources on both sides (BJP and Congress) cite the 2004 LS poll experience to hammer the importance of alliances.

It was the year when the Sonia Gandhi-led Congress, with 145 Lok Sabha seats—just seven more than BJP's 138—wrested power at the Centre having stitched together a workable alliance of pan India parties under

the UPA.

The 2024 LS polls could also pose challenges for both sides, which are preparing for all eventualities.

Outcomes next year would depend largely on which way the three big states tilt—UP (with 80 Lok Sabha seats); Maharashtra (48 seats) and Bihar (40 seats).

In all three, the BJP has struck new alliances—LJP (Ram Vilas) and HAM in Bihar; OP Rajbhar's SBSP in UP and Ajit Pawar's NCP in Maharashtra.

Current NDA parties are 18: BJP; Shivsena (Shinde); National People's Party, Meghalaya; Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party; Sikkim Krantikari Morcha; JJP; AIADMK; IMKMK; All Jharkhand Students Union; RPI; Mizo National Front; Tamil Maanila Congress; ITFT (Tripura); Bodo People's Party; Pattali Makkal Katchi; Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party; Apna Dal; Asom Gana Parishad.

The new NDA allies are LJP (Ram Vilas); Hindustani Awam Morcha in Bihar; NCP Ajit Pawar in Maharashtra; OP Rajbhar's Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party in UP.

Flood situation improves in Delhi as Yamuna water level drops to 206.02 metres

NEW DELHI, Jul 16 (Agencies): The water level in Yamuna was recorded at 206.02 metres at 8 am on Sunday against 207.58 metres yesterday morning, the Delhi Flood Control Department said.

The situation of waterlogging in several low-lying areas of Delhi, including on roads from Kashmere Gate to Majnu Ka Tila, has improved today as the water level is slowly receding, it said.

According to offi-



cial, the water level of Yamuna is likely to fall below the danger mark in the next few hours.

The Yamuna River in Delhi crossed the danger mark of 205.33 metres at 5 pm on July

10. Notably, the Yamuna water level was recorded at 207.58 metres at 8 am on Saturday. At 9 pm on Friday, the water level of Yamuna was recorded at 208.07

metres.

The Delhi Traffic Police have issued a traffic alert restricting movement on the Bhairon Marg due to waterlogging under the Railway Bridge.

"Traffic Alert: Traffic movement on Bhairon Marg is restricted due to waterlogging under Railway Bridge. Commuters are advised to avoid the stretch", the Delhi traffic police said in a tweet.

Meanwhile, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams carried out a rescue operation in the low-

lying areas near Pragati Maidan late on Saturday night as the Yamuna River continued to overflow, officials said, adding nearby areas and key roads remain affected due to waterlogging.

In a special night drive, New Delhi Municipal Council's (NDMC) workers flushed out water from the Mathura Road, near the Supreme Court area, as nearby key roads remain inundated due to heavy rain on Saturday.

Assam CM blames 'Miyas' for soaring vegetable prices; opposition hits out at 'communal politics'

GUWAHATI, Jul 16 (Agencies): Spiralling vegetable prices in Assam's largest city Guwahati has triggered a war of words between political opponents, with Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's blaming 'Miyas' for the escalating rates drawing sharp reactions from opposition parties.

While AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal said 'Miyas' have been 'hurt' by the CM's comment, Congress and other opposition parties sniffed a collusion between the BJP and the AIUDF in 'communal politics' ahead of next year's Lok Sabha elections.

Sarma, while responding to reporters' questions on high price of veggies in Guwahati, had said, "Vegetables are not priced so high in villages. Here the Miya vendors charge us more. Had it been Assamese vendors selling vegetables, they wouldn't have fleeced their own people."

"I will clear all the footpaths of Guwahati and I urge our Assa-

mese people to come forward and start their businesses," he added.

Bengali-speaking Muslims are generally referred to as 'Miyas' in the state, with the community largely engaging in agricultural activities.

Reacting to Sarma's statement, Ajmal said such words are unbecoming of a chief minister, who is the head of a state, and the community has been 'feeling hurt and offended'.

"This is creating a communal divide. If it triggers any incident, the government and Himanta Biswa Sarma will be responsible for it," the Lok Sabha MP added.

Ajmal also maintained that the prices of vegetables are not controlled by the Miyas.

Urging the Assamese youth to take up agriculture, he added, "We will welcome Assamese youth join in farming activities. But I don't think they will do it as it requires a lot of hard work."

Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah alleged that both Sarma and Ajmal are together



in creating this 'Miya-Assamese' controversy to drive a communal divide between the people.

"As elections are coming closer, both of them want to divide the people along religious lines. BJP has failed to address core issues like unemployment, price rise, illegal migrants, etc. and to divert attention, they are indulging in such tactics." Rajjor Dal president and MLA Akhil Gogoi also claimed that such communal statements by Sarma was a ploy to take away people's attention from important issues.

"There are three main reasons for such communal politics. The BJP wants to divert attention from the draft delimitation proposal as the opposition has been able to lay bare before the people that the document doesn't espouses the cause of the indigenous people.

"It also wants to sail through the elections through religious polarisation as it had failed to deliver on its promises. And also, to hide rift within old and new BJP members," the Sivassagar legislator added.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) spokesperson Hemanta Phukan also alleged communal politics is a tactic by the BJP to hide its failures.

"The BJP has failed the people and to hide it, when elections are approaching, they are taking recourse to communal politics. Ajmal is also helping them in it. I urge the government to indulge in politics of development as people will reject such communal tactics," he added.

Ajit Pawar, other Maharashtra NCP ministers meet Sharad Pawar in Mumbai



MUMBAI, Jul 16 (Agencies): Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar along with some other ministers from his Nationalist Congress Party camp met NCP president Sharad Pawar in Mumbai on Sunday, a close associate of the deputy CM said.

This was the first

meeting between Sharad Pawar and the group-led by Ajit Pawar after he rebelled against his uncle and joined the Eknath Shinde government on July 2.

Ajit Pawar along with NCP ministers Hasan Mushrif, Chhagan Bhujbal, Aditi Tatkare and Dilip Walse Patil met Sharad Pawar at the YB

Chavan Centre located near the state secretariat 'Mantralaya'.

Sources from the Sharad Pawar camp said NCP state president Jayant Patil and party leader Jitendra Awhad had also reached the YB Chavan Centre.

On Friday, Ajit Pawar visited Silver Oak, the official residence of the NCP supremo, to meet the latter's wife Pratibha Pawar after she underwent a surgery at a hospital here.

Ajit Pawar is known to be close to his aunt Pratibha. In 2019, she reportedly played a crucial role in bringing him back to the NCP fold after he and Devenendra Fadnis formed a short-lived government after the Assembly polls.

5 boys venture into Mumbai's Marve Creek; 2 rescued, 3 missing

MUMBAI, Jul 16 (Agencies): Five minor boys entered the Marve Creek waters in Mumbai on Sunday morning and started drowning following which two of them were rescued while search was on for the three others, a fire official said.

The incident took place at 9.38 am when the five boys, in the age group of 12 to 16 years, ventured into the creek in Malad area, about half a kilometre from the sea shore, he said.



Two of them, aged 13 and 16, were rescued by members of the public before the arrival of fire brigade, the official said. The three others -- two aged 12 and one 13 -- were missing, he said.

A search operation was under way. Personnel of the Mumbai fire brigade, police, Coast Guard, Navy divers, ward staffers and ambulance were at the spot, the official added.

Six Kanwar Yatra pilgrims electrocuted to death in UP's Meerut

MEERUT, Jul 16 (Agencies): Six kanwariya died from electrocution after a vehicle of the devotees came in contact with a high-tension overhead wire in the Bhawanpur area of this Uttar Pradesh district.

Confirming the death of six kanwariyas, District Magistrate Deepak Meena told news agency on Sunday that a magisterial inquiry committee has been constituted



under the chairmanship of the additional district magistrate (administration) to investigate the causes of the accident.

According to Bhawanpur police station, the deceased were identified as Prashant Saini (14), Himanshu

Saini (16), Mahendra Saini (45), Lakhmi (45), Manish (18), and Lakhya (12).

Earlier on Saturday night, Meena had told that 10 people who suffered electrocution were admitted to nearby hospitals, out of which five died.

On the inquiry committee, the district magistrate said that the superintendent of police (traffic) and a senior officer of the electricity

department will be part of it.

The joint inquiry committee will submit its inquiry report within 48 hours. The district magistrate said that necessary action will be taken based on the investigation.

Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam (PVVNL) MD Chaitra V has said that a team from Energy Corporation is investigating the accident.

President Biden's election war chest trails Trump's in size, filings show

Disclosures filed to Federal Election Commission point to a competitive money race ahead of November 2024 presidential election

WASHINGTON, Jul 16 (Agencies): President Joe Biden's re-election campaign ended last month with about \$20 million in the bank, just trailing the \$22 million plus reported by leading Republican candidate Donald Trump, according to financial disclosures released.

The disclosures filed to the Federal Election Commission point to a competitive money race ahead of the November 2024 presidential election.

Biden has amassed a smaller war chest to past presidents at this point in recent re-election campaigns. Democrat Barack Obama had \$37 million at this point in 2011, while Trump had more over \$56 million in June 2019.

The funds detailed in the disclosures represent a significant chunk of the funding behind the campaigns, but do not include money gathered by allied super PACs, which typically raise massive sums from the wealthiest



donors and are due to disclose details on their finances later in July.

Biden's campaign announced that his re-election effort, when including the Democratic Party's accounts, had \$77 million in the bank.

The President is not expected to face a serious challenge in

the Democratic nomination contest. One challenger, anti-vaccine activist Robert F. Kennedy Jr., reported raising just \$6 million through June, while another, self-help guru Marianne Williamson, took in less than \$1 million.

Trump's campaign, which was launched in November, reported spending about \$9 million in

the three months through June, more than any other campaign, according to the disclosures wiled to election regulators. The spending included more than \$2 million paid to Campaign Inbox LLC, a digital fundraising firm.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who ranks second to Trump in most opinion polls for the Republican nomination contest, had about \$12 million in his campaign account, considerably less than the \$21 million had by fellow Republican Tim Scott, a US Senator for South Carolina. DeSantis and Scott launched their campaigns in May.

Long-shot Republican candidates Doug Burgum and Vivek Ramaswamy disclosed putting millions of dollars of their own money into their campaigns. Burgum, the governor of North Dakota, lent about \$10 million to his campaign and Ramaswamy, a former biotechnology executive, lent his about \$15 million.

Rescuers retrieve six bodies from flooded South Korea underpass



CHEONGJU (SOUTH KOREA), Jul 16 (Agencies): The bodies of six people trapped in a tunnel submerged by heavy rains in central South Korea were retrieved on Sunday, firefighting authorities said, taking the death toll from days of torrential rains that have pounded the country to 33.

Seo Jeong-il, head of the west Cheongju fire station, said some 15

vehicles, including a bus, are estimated to have been submerged in the flooded underpass in the city.

"We are focusing on the search operation as there's likely more people there," Seo told reporters. "We are doing our best to wrap it up today."

The death toll in the tunnel stands at seven, he said.

The Ministry of Interior and Safety said 10

people were missing as of 11 a.m. (0200 GMT) as heavy downpours caused landslides and floods across the country, with evacuations covering 7,866 people.

The ministry data does not include those in the flooded tunnel as it was not immediately clear how many people were trapped underwater.

Korea Railroad Corp has halted all slow trains and some bullet trains since Saturday due to safety concerns over landslides, track flooding and falling rocks.

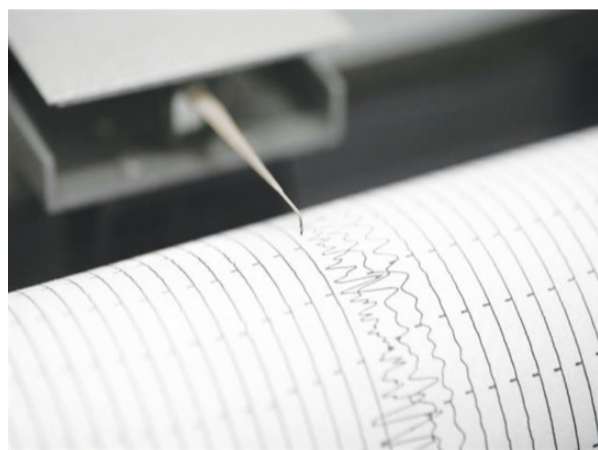
President Yoon Suk Yeol, now on an overseas trip, ordered Prime Minister Han Duck-soo to mobilise all available resources to minimise the casualties, his office said, as more heavy rain was expected on the Korean peninsula on Sunday.

Magnitude 7.4 earthquake strikes Alaska Peninsula region, tsunami warning issued

ALASKA PENINSULA, Jul 16 (Agencies): An earthquake of magnitude 7.4 struck the Alaska Peninsula region early on Sunday, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

The US Tsunami Warning System issued a tsunami threat after the earthquake.

The quake was at a depth of 9.3 km (5.78 miles), USGS said.



Russia says shot down eight Ukraine drones over Crimea's Sevastopol

MOSCOW, Jul 16 (Agencies): Russia's air defence forces and fleet in the Black Sea intercepted eight Ukrainian drones over the Crimean port of Sevastopol early on Sunday, a Moscow-installed official said.

"No objects, either in the city or in the water area were damaged," Mikhail Razvozhayev, the Moscow-installed governor of Sevastopol, said on the Telegram



messaging app.

One drone was shot down over the sea, five were intercepted by Russia's electronic warfare forces and two water surface drones were destroyed on the outer shore, he added.

The attacks were over the harbour of Sevastopol and the city's Balaklava and Khersones districts, Razvozhayev said earlier.

There was no imme-

mediate comment from Ukraine on the attack on the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

Ukraine almost never publicly claims responsibility for attacks inside Russia or on Russian-controlled territory in Ukraine, but has been saying in recent months that destroying Russia's military infrastructure helps Kyiv's counteroffensive.

US, South Korea, Japan hold missile defence drill after North's ICBM launch

SEOUL, Jul 16 (Agencies): The US, South Korea and Japan held a joint naval missile defence exercise on Sunday to counter North Korea's evolving nuclear and missile threats, the South's navy said, days after the North launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

North Korea fired its latest Hwasong-18 missile, which Pyongyang describes as the core of its nuclear strike force, off the east coast on Wednesday in what it said was a "strong practical warning" to the adversaries.

Sunday's trilateral drill was conducted in international waters between South Korea and Japan, bringing together destroyers equipped with Aegis radar systems from the three countries, the navy said.

Washington and its Asian allies have been working to improve their information-sharing system on North Korea's missiles. South Korea and Japan are independently linked to US radar systems but not to each other's.

The exercise aimed at mastering the allies'



response to a North Korean ballistic missile launch with a scenario featuring a virtual target, the military said.

"We will effectively respond to North Korea's

nuclear and missile threats with our military's strong response system and the trilateral cooperation," a South Korean Navy officer said. The North's ICBM

launch was denounced by the US, South Korea and Japan, though Pyongyang has rejected the condemnation, saying it was an exercise of its right to self-defence.

The latest launch followed heated complaints from North Korea in recent days, accusing American spy planes of flying over its exclusive economic zone waters, condemning a recent visit to South Korea by an US nuclear-powered cruise missile submarine and vowing to take steps in reaction.

Putin says Russia has 'sufficient stockpile' of cluster bombs and will use them if necessary



MOSCOW, Jul 16 (Agencies): President Vladimir Putin said that Russia has a "sufficient

stockpile" of cluster bombs and that Moscow reserves the right to use them if such munitions

are used against Russian forces in Ukraine.

"Of course, if they are used against us, we reserve the right to take reciprocal action," Putin said in a state TV interview, excerpts of which were published on Sunday.

Ukraine has received cluster bombs from the United States, munitions banned in more than 100 countries. Kyiv has pledged to only use them to dislodge concentrations of enemy soldiers.

Family of Pakistani woman don't want her back, says she's no longer a Muslim

KARACHI, Jul 16 (Agencies): A Pakistani mother of four, who sneaked into India to live with a Hindu man whom she befriended through an online game platform, has been ostracised by her family and neighbours here for daring to defy the societal norms in this conservative Muslim country.

Seema Ghulam Haider and Sachin Meena got in touch while playing PUBG in 2019 and a dramatic love story unfolded between the two living more than 1,300 kms apart, in countries not too friendly to each other.

Seema, 30, and Sachin, 22, live in the Rabupura area of Greater Noida, near Delhi, where he runs a provision store, according to Uttar Pradesh Police.

While Seema was arrested on July 4 for illegally entering India without a visa via Nepal with her four children, all aged below seven years, Sachin was put behind bars for sheltering illegal immigrants.

While they were released from jail recently, the news from across the border is not so positive.

Seema's neighbours and a relative made it clear that they didn't

want her back in Pakistan.

"She should just send her children back to Pakistan. She can stay there. Now she is no longer even a Muslim," said the 16-year-old son of the landlord in whose rented home Seema stayed with her children for the last three years before deciding to illegally enter India to be with her Hindu lover.

The story of how this largely uneducated mother of four and the wife of a husband working abroad could have the courage in Pakistan's largely conservative society to abandon everything and enter India illegally to be with a much younger man still fascinates everyone in her neighbourhood.

Her home is in the neighbourhood of Bhittaabad, Katchi Abadi in the heart of Gulistan-e-Jauhar and is nothing much to talk about as it is a three-room portion of a building devoid of any paint and located in a narrow lane full of garbage and overflowing sewerage.

The stench of sewage is toxic in the air as one drives down the crowded un-constructed lane and broken road bustling with people and shops on both sides with flies

aplenty and a general unsanitary environment.

As soon as one reaches Seema's house, one myth is broken that her husband, Ghulam Haider, who works in Saudi Arabia, brought her the house for Rs 1.2 million.

"No, she was a tenant with us for three years with her children. She lived alone with her children. Her father-in-law lives some distance away from here," Nur Muhammad, the landlord's son, explained. Seema and Ghulam Haider had eloped 10 years back to Karachi and got married against the wishes of their parents.

"We saw her call a taxi and leave one day with her children and some bags and we thought she was going to her village in Jacobabad. But after nearly a month, when we heard about her escapade on TV channels, we were all shocked," adds Jamal Jakhri, an elderly man, who was her neighbour.

Efforts to try to talk to women in the narrow lane failed as the area is mostly inhabited by tribal area Pashtuns, Sindhis and Seraikis from rural areas and the men don't allow their women to talk to

strangers and make them observe Purdah.

But one noticed some women peeking out of their windows and main door inquisitive to know what was happening.

Jamal, who belongs to the same tribe that Seema and Ghulam Haider belong to, believes it is best Seema to remain in India now.

"If ever she thinks of coming back, she will not be forgiven by the tribe and secondly, her decision to stay with a Hindu has angered everyone now," Jamal said.

Mian Mithoo, a high-profile religious leader in rural Sindh, known for using his seminary to convert Hindu girls to Islam and even bandits, has openly threatened to punish Seema if she returns.

His supporters have also threatened to attack Hindu worship places in Seema's village, but SSP Kashmir-Kandhok, Irfan Samoo, assured Hindus and Sikhs they would be protected.

Samoo, however, is puzzled by the whole case and has found anomalies in Seema's documents and tale.

"Her national identity card says

she was born in 2002. So, she should be 21 years of age now and yet she has four children all up to the age of 6 years," he said.

Samoo also said the police have asked Ghulam Haider to return from Saudi Arabia but he has been in touch with them only on video or phone calls.

Samoo is not convinced that a woman with a rural background would have the courage to plan her way to India via Dubai and Kathmandu.

An officer at the police station in Karachi where Seema's father-in-law filed an FIR is also not convinced that it is a simple case as it looks.

"The husband also keeps changing his stories to the police. First, he said he bought the house. Now he says he paid one million rupees to Seema's family to settle a tribal decision when they first fled to Karachi," he said.

"One thing is clear, Seema was frustrated with her husband's absence and being forced to take care of four children by herself as she had no support even from her in-laws," he said.

Malik, a mobile shop owner, remembers how, after a year, Seema moved into the neighbourhood, she used to visit his shop to get her balance recharged frequently.

"She always wore a chaddar over her head and had half of her face covered and also didn't talk much, so that is what surprised me when I learnt about her decision," Malik said.

Maulvi Samiuddin, a prayer leader in the neighbourhood mosque, was initially not even willing to talk about the incident but then said Seema was evil.

"Husbands should never leave their wives alone for years and parents need to constantly keep a watch on their daughters and sisters or we will have more such incidents in future as well, because most people, especially women, are not educated enough in such poor neighbourhoods to understand the consequences of their actions," he said.

"She has brought shame to Muslims and Pakistan. She will sooner or later face punishment for her actions," he said.

Number Games: The Jekyll and Hyde personality of statistics

The animosity towards official economic data has reached such a point that all official data, even when valid, is seen as a trick to pat the government's on its back.

NEW DELHI, Jul 16 (Agencies): The Indian Statistical Institute is 91 years old. Despite its near-century of existence, numbers from the Indian government's official statistical agency continues to be viewed with skepticism by many. In fact, the latest debate on our archaic statistical framework has ensued just weeks after the country celebrated the National Statistics Day on June 29.

Noted economists from the Left, the Right and the 'Centre' (government) are busy exchanging verbal volleys on how suboptimal methodologies and sampling errors can often lead to a failure to assess actual progress, or the lack of it.

The animosity towards official economic data has reached such a point that all official data, even when valid, is seen as a trick to pat on the government's back.

At the same time, there's no denying that India's statistical methods need a complete overhaul to improve accuracy and regain trust, despite the significant revisions they have undergone in the past decade.

A GLOBAL PHENOMENON

Distrust of official data is not limited to India. Statistical manipulation or statistical crimes occur everywhere, and shockingly, some of them have even claimed lives. Below, The New Indian Express chronicles some of the infamous ones.

The pharmaceutical industry has been second to none when it comes to misrepresenting data. One of the biggest statistical disasters in the healthcare sector dates back to 1996 when Purdue Pharma launched its addictive drug OxyContin in the US, setting off one of the most debilitating health crises in the country and unleashing a wave of opioid addiction that has claimed thousands of lives.

Advertised as a safe, non-addictive drug that was highly effective for pain relief, Purdue's marketing strategy used an unethical and misleading graph to get FDA approval for the product. It went on to



convince doctors that the drug was non-addictive because it stayed in the patient's blood for longer, helping avoid symptoms of withdrawal. However, it was later found that the graph incorrectly showed the drug's efficacy to spur sales and Purdue was forced to pay a \$600 million fine for its criminal actions.

Another famous catastrophe, where statistics played a part, was in 1986, when seven astronauts were killed as their space shuttle 'Challenger' exploded barely 73 seconds into the flight. A subsequent inquiry found a major flaw in statistical analysis by the solid rocket booster engineers, who had excluded flights with zero incidents from their analysis as they felt those flights didn't contribute any relevant information.

However, it was found later that all flights with no incidents were launched at temperatures above 65 degrees, while the Challenger was launched on a cold day when temperature was 39 degrees Fahrenheit. The engineers believed that there was no relationship between launch temperature and the number of O-ring (a mechanical seal preventing gas or liquid leak) incidents on a flight, while the commissioned inquiry concluded that "...O-ring performance would have revealed the correlation of O-ring damage in low temperature."

While such fatal incidents may have declined over time thanks to advanced statistical methods, what hasn't stopped is the misuse of statistics. Despite the availability of technology and advanced

data analysis tools, one can still prove anything through data manipulation. Such mistakes could have been forgiven a few decades ago when statistical methods were still taking shape and survey errors could have been seen as the result of a lack of experience.

Talking of the wilful misinterpretation of data, Darrell Huff's 1954 book *How to lie with statistics* is a classic in its genre. The 129-pager has numerous examples of the rising trend of data abuse. Sample this:

A 1950 survey found that in Yale University, the class of 1924 had an average income of \$25,111 a year. But soon, it was realized that the survey presented a grossly inflated figure, as the sample omitted groups that would have depressed the average. Furthermore, it surveyed only people who bothered to respond and only those that Yale could find.

Then there's *Literary Digest's* infamous 1936 poll that stood out for its erroneous survey results. The magazine had run a poll on every US election since 1920 and even acquired authoritative status after accurately predicting the 1932 election. However, the subsequent survey saw irreparable cracks. The poll had a biased sample of *Digest's* 10 million subscribers (largely with a Republican tilt), and forecasted a landslide victory for the Republican Presidential candidate Alf Landon, while the actual election was won by the incumbent Franklin Roosevelt.

Darrell took delight in detailing the beauty of lying with statistics. If you are told that the average income in a

neighborhood was 10,000 pounds a year, which later dives down to 2,000 pounds a year, that may not be, strictly speaking, not a lie. Both figures may be legitimate and legally arrived at. But the trick was using a different kind of average each time. The 10,000 pounds figure could be the mean, or the arithmetic average of the incomes of all the families in the area. You get it by adding up all the incomes and dividing by the number of families there are. The smaller figure could be the median, and tells you that half the families have over 2,000 pounds a year and half have less.

Cut to the current year and averages continue to be a tricky area. A relevant example is presented by Charles Wheelan in his 2015 book *Naked Statistics*:

Let's say we want a simple but accurate measure of the economic well-being of citizens and to figure out if the middle class is getting richer, poorer, or just staying in the same place. As Wheelan notes, a reasonable answer -- though by no means the right answer -- would be to calculate the change in per capita income in the country over the course of a generation, or roughly 30 years. Per capita income is a simple average: Total income divided by the size of population. By that measure, average income in the US climbed from \$7,787 in 1980 to \$26,487 in 2010.

Though it's technically correct, and it may well be far from the truth. For one, the figures aren't adjusted for inflation. The bigger problem is that the average

income is not equal to the income of an average citizen. "Per capita income merely takes all of the income earned in the country and divides by the number of people, which tells us absolutely nothing about who is earning how much of that income. Explosive growth in the incomes of the top 1% can raise per capita income significantly without putting any more money in the pockets of the other 99%. The country's average income can go up without helping the average American," he concludes.

Among other major instances where statistics went wrong was Albert Kinsey's controversial book on *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, published in 1948. The 800-odd page tome was a national best-seller alright, but was criticized and challenged by statisticians for its 'convenience sampling,' prone to bias and inaccuracy. In other words, Kinsey interviewed roughly 5,300 men and 6,000 women in his research, but followed no clear sampling methodology and so all his findings eventually turned out to be junk.

These are only some of the countless cases of misleading statistics used in advertising or by the political class. However, this is not to say statistics are often wrong or that statistical analysis rarely unveil the truth.

For example, as pointed out by economist Tim Harford in his book *How To Make the World Add Up*, it was a study by Richard Hill Doll and Austin Bradford in 1954 that established that it was cigarette smoking, not vehicular exhaust, that caused a rise in lung cancer. That was a priceless finding.

Still, one cannot ignore the numerous wisecracks warning us about how data and graphs hide more than they reveal. Therefore, in today's world where data is everywhere, the only way out of bad data can be found in Duffel's profound words: Crooks already know the tricks (to manipulate statistics); honest men must learn them in self-defence.

Viral caffeine-heavy soft drink raises concerns for US kids



WASHINGTON, Jul 16 (Agencies): With its extremely high levels of caffeine, a hip new soft drink is raising fears in the United States that it might be dangerous for children, who have been snapping up the beverage since it was launched by famous YouTube personalities.

Prime was created in 2022 by American Logan Paul and Briton KSI, two influential YouTubers whose wacky -- and sometimes controversial -- videos are devoured by child-heavy audiences.

A first drink, Prime Hydration, did not contain caffeine. But this year, a second line was launched: Prime Energy.

A single can contains 200 milligrams of caffeine -- far more than the 30 milligrams in a can of Coca-Cola, for example, or the 80 milligrams in a can of Red Bull.

A launch video showed the two internet stars playing video games and table tennis, very slowly and without enthusiasm at first, then frantically after drinking the beverage.

Since then, many TikTok videos have featured children proudly brandishing the famous bottles, set to a musical background proclaiming "We got Prime, boys!"

However, medical experts warn about the risks of younger children consuming caffeine. Children under the age of twelve should not consume the chemical at all, according to the American Academy for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP).

And between the ages

of 12 and 18, a limit of 100 milligrams per day is recommended -- or half a can of Prime Energy.

In addition to restlessness, anxiety and headaches, too much caffeine can cause a child to vomit or to suffer from high blood pressure or heart rhythm problems, according to the AACAP. Some children may be more sensitive than others.

'Eye-popping levels of caffeine'

"This product has one true target market: children under the age of 18, and that is why I am sounding the alarm," said top Democratic Senator Chuck Schumer last week.

Prime Energy comes in flavors that might attract younger kids, such as orange-mango and raspberry-melon.

But the drink contains "eye-popping levels of caffeine for a child's body," the Senate majority leader said.

The refreshment is fashionable because "it is born from the reels of social media and the enigmatic world of influencers," the senator said in a statement.

Schumer announced he had written to the head of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), demanding an investigation into the levels of caffeine the drink contains and the marketing strategy adopted.

The FDA responded this week that it is "reviewing the concerns" raised by the senator, and that it would respond to him directly.

"We encourage caregivers and families to read a product's label before giving the product to their child," an FDA spokesman said in a statement.

The can does feature a discreet line indicating that the drink is not recommended for those under 18, though the warning may not be obvious to everyone planning to pop one open.

The FDA -- which has already issued warnings in the past against several companies marketing both alcoholic and caffeinated beverages -- noted that adults can generally consume up to 400 milligrams of caffeine per day without harmful effects, or four to five cups of coffee.

Expanding market Paul partially responded to the controversy in a video posted to social media on Thursday.

He said he was offended by articles in some media that reported that Canada had recalled Prime Energy cans, though the move was only an action against illegal imports, as the drink is not officially distributed there.

"Prime formulas are complying with each specific country's regulatory bodies," he said.

"Actually it doesn't surprise me that we're being targeted by massive corporate conglomerates and the United States government," he said, claiming "We've effectively created a beverage so disruptive that it is eating the market shares of the biggest companies on the planet!"

The energy drink market is buoyant and expanding, and US supermarket shelves are stocked with several brands.

In its first year of operations, Prime sold \$250 million worth of products, Paul had previously said in an interview.

Young professionals embracing AI upskilling for job market relevance: Report

MUMBAI, Jul 16 (Agencies): A significant percentage of young professionals are keen to embrace artificial intelligence (AI) upskilling, recognising its crucial role in staying relevant in the job market, according to a report.

Around 80 per cent of respondents believed that acquiring AI skills can give them a competitive advantage and will open doors to exciting job opportunities, according to the report by jobs and professional networking platform apna.co.

The report is based on an online survey by apna.co with more than 5,000 young professionals between 18-35 years and was conducted in June.

The report further revealed that a significant (65 per cent) of young professionals showed interest in acquiring skills in the digital marketing space.

The growing prominence of digital marketing as a sought-after domain highlights its importance in today's job market and respondents recognised its



value in driving business growth and reaching target audiences in this era, the report added.

"The report mirrors the efforts of the Indian youth, who are increasingly recognising the importance of upskilling themselves with the emerging technologies in the transformed work ecosystem," apna.co co-founder and CEO Nimit Parikh noted.

The report revealed that 7 out of 10 respondents have taken proactive steps by enrolling in upskilling initiatives, demonstrating their commitment to personal and professional growth.

This proactive approach reflects the awareness among young professionals that upskilling is essential for staying competitive and securing rewarding career opportunities, it

said.

Family and personal commitments, along with financial constraints, were cited as common barriers that hinder some individuals from participating in upskilling programmes, it added.

However, the report found that a growing concern among 7 out of 10 respondents, is their lack of confidence in their current skill-set to keep up with the job market.

Around 60 per cent of the respondents said they have established a separate personal learning and development budget post-Covid, signalling a commitment to self-improvement, it said. This budget allocation indicated a strong determination among young professionals to address their skill gaps and enhance their marketability, it added.

10-year-old has 'most painful condition known to mankind': Here's what it is

SYDNEY, Jul 16 (Agencies): A 10-year-old girl in Australia has been diagnosed with complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS), a rare and debilitating condition that causes her excruciating pain in her entire right leg.

Bella Macey's condition was triggered by an infected blister on her right foot during a family holiday in Fiji.

CRPS is often referred to as the "most painful condition" known to mankind. Since her diagnosis, Bella has lost mobility in her right foot and leg, up to her groin, and is now bedridden or relying on a wheelchair to move around, according to GoFundMe campaign.

The syndrome, which

causes chronic pain, has brought Bella's life to a standstill as she is unable to shower, bathe, wear clothes, or engage in daily activities without experiencing intense pain.

Due to the lack of answers and treatment options in Australia, Bella and her mother travelled to the US to seek help from the Spero Clinic and are raising finance via crowdfunding.

What is complex regional pain syndrome?

Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) is a neurological condition that manifests as prolonged and excessive pain and inflammation, typically following an injury to an arm or leg.

This syndrome can be acute, with symptoms appearing shortly after the injury, or chronic, persisting for more than six months.

The severity of CRPS can escalate if not diagnosed and treated early.

Symptoms of complex regional pain syndrome The primary symptoms of CRPS are severe pain, swelling, loss of range of motion, temperature changes, and changes in the skin. The pain experienced is often spontaneous or excessively greater than normal following something as mild as a touch.

Other symptoms include changes in skin colour, temperature, and swelling on the arm or leg below the site of injury.



Over time, the affected limb can become cold and pale, undergo skin and nail changes, and experience muscle spasms and tightening. Diagnosing CRPS can be challenging as there is no specific test to confirm it. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) cannot distinguish between CRPS and non-CRPS, making it a clinical diagnosis.

What is the treatment for complex regional

pain syndrome?

Treatment for CRPS involves a combination of physical treatments, medication, and psychological support. Physical therapy is the cornerstone and first-line treatment for CRPS.

Mild cases respond well to physical therapy and physical modalities, while mild to moderate cases may require adjuvant analgesics such as anticonvulsants and/or antidepressants.

India in danger of losing No.1 Test ranking even with 2-0 series win vs West Indies. Here's how

India became the No.1 Test team after winning the Border-Gavaskar Trophy earlier this year, but Australia have a great chance of toppling them.

NEW DELHI, Jul 16 (Agencies): India started the World Test Championship (WTC) 2023-25 cycle as the No.1 ranked team in Test cricket. Rohit Sharma's men are currently in the West Indies where they are playing in a two-match series.

They are leading the series 1-0 after winning the opening Test by an innings and 141 runs at Windsor Park in Roseau in Dominica.

Given their current form, India will go into the second Test as favorites without much of a doubt.

The final Test is scheduled to get underway on July 20 at the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain Trinidad. It would not spring a surprise if India go on to win the match and the series



2-0.

However, winning the series 2-0 would not guarantee them a spot at the top of the Test team rankings. Australia, who are taking part in the Ashes, have every chance of going past them. The Aussies are currently leading the five-match series 2-1.

let's take a look at the

scenarios in the Test rankings:

India beat West Indies 2-0

If India win their Test series against the West Indies 2-0, then Australia have to win the Ashes by a minimum margin of 4-1. With two matches in Manchester and KIA Oval, Australia's win by that margin is on the

cards. In that scenario, India would lose their No.1 ranking in Tests.

India beat West Indies 1-0

If the second Test between India and West Indies ends in a draw, then Australia have to win the Ashes by a minimum margin of 3-1. If that happens, Australia will become the new

No.1 Test team. The Aussies cannot afford to lose a Test in this case.

India vs West Indies ends at 1-1

If India lose the second Test against West Indies, which seems highly unlikely for the time being, Australia have two ways by which they can reclaim the No.1 spot.

a) If the last two Tests of the Ashes end in draws and Australia win the series 2-1.

b) If Australia win the five-match Test series 3-2

Australia can afford to lose a Test and yet become No.1 in the rankings if India lose to the West Indies in the second Test. Otherwise, the Aussies cannot afford a defeat if they are to topple India in the rankings.

"Dream Will Be To Win A Gold": Ruturaj Gaikwad On Leading Team India In Asian Games



ROSEAU, Jul 16 (Agencies): Ruturaj Gaikwad is stoked about captaining India at the Asian Games and said the aim would be to win the gold medal and ensure India's national anthem is played at the podium. With Asian Games coinciding with the ODI World Cup, the BCCI has named a second-string Indian team for the continental event in Hangzhou. The men's cricket event will be held from September 28-October 8. The format will be T20. "The

dream will be to win a gold medal, stand on the podium and listen to the National anthem for the country," Gaikwad, who was named captain of the side, said in a video posted by the BCCI.

The 26-year-old, who is currently part of the Test squad in the West Indies tour, has been part of India's white ball set up and played one ODI and nine T20s.

With India in a transition phase, it will be a big opportunity for the Maharashtra 'run-machine' to show his

mettle. "I think this opportunity is something special and we will play a brand of cricket that would make everyone back home proud," he said.

"It will be really exciting to be part of to represent the country in the Asian Games and win the medal for the country.

"It's something that we always grew up watching on TV, seeing athletes win it for the country. To get the opportunity, go out there and win the medal will be really, really special.

"Playing for India itself is really a proud feeling, and leading the side in such a big event, will be a great opportunity for me personally, and also all the team members who are alongside me."

Cricket is being played at the Asian Games for the first time since 2014 when India did not take part. This time, India will be fielding both men's and women's teams.

Wimbledon 2023: Teary-eyed Ons Jabeur breaks down after final – Most painful loss of my career

LONDON, Jul 16 (Agencies): Ons Jabeur broke down in tears of pain after losing to Marketa Vondrousova in the final of Wimbledon 2023. The Tunisian star, who knocked out defending champion Elena Rybakina and World No.2 Aryna Sabalenka on her way through to the final, lost 4-6, 4-6 to the unseeded Vondrousova.

Earlier in the tournament, the 28-year-old Jabeur also showed the door of elimination to two-time champion Petra Kvitova.

Jabeur said that the loss was a tough pill to swallow, but also vowed to make a strong comeback. It was her second final at SW19 on the trot, but both times, she ended on the losing side.

"It's tough and it is the most painful loss of my career," Jabeur was quoted as saying after



the match.

"It is going to be a tough day for me, but I am not going to give up and come back strong."

Apart from losing two Wimbledon finals in 2022 and 2023, Jabeur had also lost to World No.1 Iga Swiatek in the US Open final last year.

"It is an amazing tournament and I wish I continued till the end. I want to thank my team for always believing in me and we are going to make it one day, I promise you," she said.

"It has been a tough journey, but that's tennis and I promise to come

back one day and win this tournament," Jabeur added.

Jabeur struggled with her serve as Vondrousova converted six of her seven break points. Jabeur was tentative with both her first and second serves, winning 48 percent points from both of them. Jabeur was a break up in the second set before Vondrousova hit back with a double break to eventually come up trumps.

Jabeur will now look to make amends when the US Open 2023 gets underway on Monday, August 28.

Tourist in 2022, champion in 2023: Marketa Vondrousova relishes 'crazy' Wimbledon triumph

On the eve of her first wedding anniversary, Marketa Vondrousova went on to win the Wimbledon women's singles crown. The 24-year-old defeated Ons Jabeur 6-4, 6-4 in the final in London

LONDON, Jul 16 (Agencies): Marketa Vondrousova did not play the Wimbledon last year but she was in London as a tourist. With her arms placed in a sling, the Czech Republic tennis player had turned up at the All England Club to cheer for her good friend, Swedish player Mirjam Bjorklund, who was playing in the qualifying for the first time.

Injuries have hampered Marketa Vondrousova's consistency ever since she won her first title at the senior level in 2017. She has spent 6 months on the sidelines as many as 3 times in her nascent career due to injuries on her left hand. It was a wrist injury and subsequent surgery that had kept her out of action from Wimbledon last year. She travelled to London with her sister and spent a week's time, rooting for her good friend.

However, cut to July 2023, millions were rooting for her as she became the first unseeded woman in the Open Era to reach the women's singles final at the prestigious grass-court Grand Slam. Marketa Vondrousova



had beaten Elina Svitolina to reach the summit clash where she took on last year's finalist Ons Jabeur.

On Saturday, she put on a show in front of thousands on the Center Court. She was watched on by her younger sister, her husband, and her team in the box as she outclassed Ons Jabeur in straight sets - 6-4, 6-4 - to become the first unseeded woman to win the Wimbledon title in the history of tennis.

Marketa Vondrousova did not play like someone who was featuring in her maiden Wimbledon

final. She sprung back from setbacks, mixed aggression with deception wonderfully well to outclass 6th seed Jabeur, who was denied the Wimbledon title for the second time in 12 months.

"After everything I have been through it is amazing I can stand here and hold this. Tennis is crazy! The comebacks aren't easy you don't know what to expect, I was hoping I could get back to this level and now this is happening," Vondrousova said after lifting the trophy at SW19 on Saturday.

WEDDING GIFT TO HUS-

BAND!

When she came as an unseeded player to Wimbledon, little did she know she would go on to win the whole thing. She had placed a bet with her coach that he would get a tattoo with her if she won Wimbledon. Her husband, Stepan, had to call a pet sitter to take care of their cat to leave for London and reach Wimbledon just in time to catch her in action in the final.

Her husband traveled to London with her sister for the final and it all turned worthwhile as Vondrousova, on the eve of their first wedding anniversary, won the biggest title of her career.

"Thank you to my box, my little sister. She is crying! I mean it is amazing. Tomorrow is our first wedding anniversary. It's great to have you guys here, I enjoyed the two weeks so much. I am so grateful and proud of myself.

"I made a bet with my coach, if I won a grand slam he was going to get a tattoo too - I think we are going to go tomorrow!" Vondrousova said on Saturday.

"Same As Yashasvi Jaiswal...": Ricky Ponting's Huge Comment On Star Who Did Not Get A Chance In 1st WI Test

Ricky Ponting believes a slew of other uncapped youngsters will be inspired by Yashasvi Jaiswal and perform similarly if given a chance at Test level.

SYDNEY, Jul 16 (Agencies): Australia great Ricky Ponting has identified a group of young India batters that can match the exploits of opener Yashasvi Jaiswal and prosper at Test level if given the chance during the new ICC World Test Championship cycle. Jaiswal was one of two players given Test debuts for India in the present Test against the West Indies in Dominica, and the 21-year-old quickly proved he was up to the task, becoming only the 17th Indian player to make a century on Test debut.

When speaking on the most recent episode of The ICC Review, Ponting was full of praise for Jaiswal, admitting that he was not surprised

to see the left-hander make a strong impression after seeing him amass 625 runs for the Rajasthan Royals during the most recent season of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

"I mean (Yashasvi) Jaiswal's IPL was something special. He almost just flicked a switch and turned into a superstar overnight. Everyone knew that he was a talented youngster, but what I saw in this year's IPL, he's got all sorts of talent," Ponting told ICC.

Ponting believes a slew of other uncapped youngsters will be inspired by Jaiswal and perform similarly if given a chance at Test level.

Ponting nominated Ruturaj Gaikwad - who scored 590 runs during this year's IPL and is



also in India's touring party currently in the Caribbean - as another player who may shine in the coming years and Sarfaraz Khan and Prithvi Shaw as two other batters that could easily adjust quickly to the rigours of Test cricket.

"There's a lot of those young Indian guys that

I can't wait to see play Test cricket and yet you look at their domestic records as well and you can't help but be impressed. I'm on record saying that I think (Ruturaj) Gaikwad's the same (as Jaiswal). I think he could be a very serious Test match player or all-format player really in the next

couple of years," Ponting said.

Shaw is another player who Ponting believes has the potential to flourish for India in the future if he works hard to make a comeback. Shaw made his international debut in 2018, but has not represented his country since 2021.

"So, yeah, I probably do think those two guys would be the standouts. I think just off the top of my head, batting-wise, they'd be the two. And as I said, well Sarfaraz is the other one that's got all sorts of talent that we might not see for a little while just yet," said the former Australia captain.

Notably, Gaikwad is in India's Test squad but didn't get the chance to play in the first Test.

Bangladesh are favourites against India, says confident Nigar Sultana Joty ahead of WODI series



NEW DELHI, Jul 16 (Agencies): Bangladesh skipper Nigar Sultana Joty said that the Tigresses are favourites to win their upcoming WODI series against India. The three-match series will take place on July 16, 19 and 22 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The hosts lost the T20I series 1-2, but finished with a resounding four-wicket win in the third and final game. Joty

reckoned that Bangladesh have momentum with them that they want to carry in the 50-over format.

"I feel Bangladesh are the favourites because we won the last match and though the format is different, it will keep us ahead," Joty was quoted as saying to the reporters.

"The team has got the momentum, and we don't want to make any mistakes initially and

start the series well," she stated.

In the second T20I of the series, Bangladesh failed to chase down a modest target of 96. But in the third game, they made amends by tracking down 103 with 10 balls left in their innings.

"Certainly, we are confident as we are playing in our own backyard and secondly, after winning the last game, everyone is [feeling] very positive. Everyone is geared up more than before."

Joty also talked about India's weakness against leg-spinners. Rabeya Khan played three games and picked up four wickets at an excellent economy rate of 4.90 with a three-wicket haul to her name.

"We are seeing India is relatively weak against legspin and so we are using an additional leg-spinner and the team is benefiting and management is doing what is better for the team," Joty added.

SAJYWS's Langar receives huge response from Devotees: Chandel Rajiv Mahajan inaugurate Langer on day 16 at Bhagwati Nagar

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 16: Raju Chandel, National General Secretary of Shri Amaranth Ji Yatra Welfare Society, highlighted the deep faith that Shiva devotees hold in Lord Shiva during a recent gathering. He emphasized that devotees who undertake the Amarnath Yatra and engage in Shiva Sadhna believe in the power of Lord Shiva. Reciting the Mahamrityunjaya mantra, devotees seek the blessings of Shivji for a long and prosperous life.

In attendance at the event were esteemed guests, Rajiv Mahajan, Editor-in-chief Top News of J&K and Satish Poonchi, renowned editors from the world of journalism, who symbolize the fourth pillar of democracy in India. They were invited as the chief guests at the langar, which received immense support and participation from devotees.

Chandel further emphasized the significance of Sanatan Dharma (the eternal way of life) in establishing peace worldwide. He drew parallels between



the devotion exhibited by Baba Shri Barfani Amarnath Ji in Jammu and the devotion displayed by Shiva devotees visiting Kashmir. The influx of Shiva devotees from across the country and abroad resembles a grand Mahakumbh Mela of Shiv devotees in Jammu. It is expected that the number of devotees will exceed one million this year. The warm welcome extended by the society and its volunteers to all Shiva devotees visiting Jammu and Kashmir is aimed at boosting tourism and supporting local businesses, thereby generating employment opportunities.

Chandel expressed gratitude towards the Jammu and Kashmir administration for extending the yatra duration to 62 days, which has led to increased business opportunities for commercial shopkeepers and workers in the region.

The Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society has been organizing a grand langar bhandara for the past 16 days at the Baba Purnath temple in Bhagwati Nagar, catering to the devotees of Shiva undertaking the Amarnath Yatra. Adequate arrangements have been made to provide food and fulfill the wishes of the Shiva

devotees.

Today, the ribbon-cutting ceremony to inaugurate the Langar was performed by the esteemed Chief Guest, Rajiv Mahajan (Editor-in-Chief of English Daily Top News of J&K), along with Satish Poonchi (Editor of Jammu Broadcasting). Sardar Sucha Singh, Councilor of Jammu Bhagwati Nagar Ward, also participated in the event.

Several prominent personalities, including Matrushakti Meena Kak, TK Kak, Paramjit Singh Happy Sardar, Charan Singh (District President Jammu), Vikram Sridhar, Chhota Yogi Majeed Bhai, and many others,

were present at the event to welcome the guests, reflecting the essence of Sanatan culture.

During a media interaction, Rajiv Mahajan expressed his belief in the innocence of Shiva and his ability to grant blessings to his devotees. By worshipping the compassionate and benevolent Shiv Shankar, devotees find their wishes fulfilled and their physical pains alleviated.

Rajkumar Goyal, the National Executive President of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society, also addressed the press, marveling at the tremendous gathering of Shiva devotees in Kashmir. He likened it to the grandeur of the Mahakumbh Mela and highlighted the overwhelming presence of Shiva devotees at the Baba Purna Nath temple in Jammu and Kashmir, where they offered Gangaajal (water from the Ganges) and milk to Lord Shiva.

Satish Poonchi, Editor of Jammu Broadcasting, expressed his joy and awe at the langar, affirming the eternal nature and limitless power of Lord Shiva.

IIT campus in Abu Dhabi is remarkable contribution towards global education: Suri

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 16: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri said, known for his productive visits, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has signed another remarkable agreement with UAE wherein both India and UAE will start trading in Rupee and open an IIT-Delhi campus in the Gulf Country. While the former initiative will ease business processes and facilitate smoother operations, the latter one will educate and equip individuals with technical knowledge to contribute to global efforts, a priority shared by every country.

Raman Suri said that this is most unfortunate that opposition leaders, blinded with enmity and personal grudges against Modi, will not see these historic steps as achievements and instead will stay mum. Their narrow-minded approach towards the nation is not allowing them to grow and call a spade a spade. Any-

ways, India, one after another is meeting its targets and progressing by leaps and bounds.

The BJP leader said that within a week's span, India signed agreements to purchase Rafale aircrafts from France, started trade in Rupee in France, launched Chandrayaan-3 on moon and now signed another historic agreement with UAE to trade in rupee as well as set up an IIT-Delhi campus, which is a proud moment for Indians.

Aimed at deepening multi-faceted bilateral ties, such offshore campus of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), the prestigious institutions of India, will take the demeanour beyond the Indian peninsula. The offshore campus is scheduled to be mentored by the Indian higher educational institutions, said Raman Suri. He further added that trade settlement in local currencies, linking the Fast Payment Systems of India and the UAE, besides an

IIT campus in the Gulf country will open new vistas for people of both the countries and, also address several global issues.

He hoped that more such IIT offshore campuses are set up in several other countries as well, so that India develops stronger relationships with the nations and produce world-class engineers who can deal with global issues. Since these institutions will be providing degrees in several areas such as Energy and Sustainability, Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science and Engineering, Healthcare, Mathematics and Computing and other disciplines of engineering, science, and humanities, those passing out from these institutions will be able to tackle various issues ably. This is the power of Indian education system and new National Education Policy (NEP) brought in by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said Raman Suri.

FICCI FLO JKL conducts industrial visit to M/s Naturis Cosmetics



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 16: FICCI FLO Jammu-Kashmir & Ladakh, led by Chairperson Ms. Varuna Anand, organized an illuminating industrial visit to M/s Naturis Cosmetics at Bari Brahmana. The visit, held today, provided FLO JKL members with valuable insights into the journey and operations of M/s Naturis Cosmetics, one of India's leading private label cosmetic manufacturers.

During the visit, Sanjay Mehra, Director of M/s Naturis Cosmetics, graciously shared the story of the company's inception and growth, taking the FLO JKL members through various sections of the factory. The tour included a glimpse into the Research and Development (R&D) department, the production area, as well as the packaging processes.

Established in 2011 in Jammu City, J&K, M/s Naturis Cosmetics has transformed into a state-of-the-art cosmetic manufacturer, catering to clients across India. The company's prestigious clientele includes renowned brands such as Nykaa, St. Botanica, Boericke & Tafel, Colorbar, Plum, Pilgrim Schwabe, among others. In addition, M/s Naturis Cosmetics has expanded its reach globally, exporting its products to UAE, Europe, and

the USA.

Expressing gratitude to Sanjay Mehra for the informative visit, Varuna Anand described the experience as truly enlightening, with many valuable takeaways and learning for all FLO JKL members. She emphasized that the purpose of such industrial visits is to nurture the spirit of entrepreneurship among women and to provide them with a deeper understanding of the production processes.

Varuna Anand further said FICCI FLO JKL has been working tirelessly to create a platform for the growth and development of women in the Union Territory. Through initiatives like industrial visits, the organization aims to empower women and inspire them to explore entrepreneurial opportunities. FICCI FLO JKL is dedicated to fostering women's empowerment and creating a supportive network for women in Jammu-Kashmir & Ladakh, she added.

The core team members who accompanied the Chairperson FICCI FLO JKL include Ruchika Gupta, Aarti Chowdhary, Sona Mehta, Pooja Gandotra, Mona Saraf, Chandni Kapoor and members Sapna Jain, Ruhi Aggarwal, Shweta Aggarwal, Neha Mahajan, Dr. Sandeep Khosla, Dr. Aastha Mahajan, Aditi Puri & Ritika Mahajan.

BJP Govt failed on all fronts: Ajeet

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Jul 16: JKNC leader Ajeet Bhagat said that the prices of essential commodities have touched such new heights that the increase in diesel and petrol prices is a cause of fear. He said that before coming to power in 2014, the BJP-led government had promised to provide 2 crore jobs every year to India's unemployed youth, but over 10 crore

people were left behind due to privatization. He alleged that crores of rupees are being spent on the rallies of the Indian Prime Minister. More than 70,000 daily wage earners in Jammu and Kashmir who have been crying for their regularization for decades should be regularized. He appealed to the people to beware of nefarious intentions of BJP, which is bent on dividing people on communal lines.

Modi Govt's schemes giving benefits to needy: Sat

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 16: On its ongoing Mahajansampark Abhiyaan of public outreach campaign today Former Minister Sat Sharma CA, BJP Talab Tillo Mandal President Keshav Chopra, Ex Sarpanch Trilokpur Raj Kumar and other leaders started door to door campaign at booth No 62 of ward 32.

The BJP Leaders went around many streets, fixed stickers, distributed books, Pamphlets and other material having details of the achievements of the 9yrs of Narendra Modi government. BJP leaders also interacted with Prominent Locals



under its Sampark se Samarthan Campaign, in which they met with Parveen Khanna & Manik Khanna Practicing Chartered Accountants and Sardar Surjeet Singh who is Sr. Vice President Guru Singh Sabha Gurudwara Sahab Gole Gujral

Talab Tillo.

While interacting with the Locals Sat Sharma said that Narendra Modi government during its 9yrs tenure has done tremendous work for the common and needy sections of the society, All the schemes of modi gov't has given benefits

to all those people who really needs it. These 9 yrs of Modi gov't has changed the fortunes of people he further added.

Keshav Chopra while highlighting the achievements of Modi gov't said that common mas has availed the benefits

of several schemes, Modi gov't has provided Ayushman Bharat (Free 5 lacs Health insurance for every citizen of Jammu Kashmir) which is a very helpful for those who can't afford the best healthcare treatment.

District Jammu Conventor Employees & Teacher, Education Cell K.L Sharma District President Kisan Morcha Jammu Raman Sharma, Mandal President BJP Talab Tillo OBC Morcha Omkar Verma, Sandesh Kumar, Mandal President BJYM Talab Tillo Dr Sanchit Sharma, Ratan Lal, Ramesh Kumar, Kamlesh Kumar, Ganesh, Villa Ram and others also Participated.

Rajesh suggests 5 points to Kejriwal for revival of AAP in J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 16: National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) J&K UT Chief Rajesh Gupta on Sunday while interacting with media here shared his one year experience in Aam Aadmi Party Gupta said, "how Aam Aadmi Party emerged in Jammu and vanished who has to be made responsible for the AAP's disappearing suddenly and completely from J&K particularly from Jammu?" There are people who are working on different theories but what I personally felt during my stay in the party for one year.

He said though the start was very positive, it did not take off. The reason being given in J&K was that Kajrewal politics may not eventually suit Jammu and Kashmir. No questions were asked and no details were offered. After few days I regularly started visiting AAP office daily and started mingling with the office bearers and observing

their policies and procedures.

NDPI leader further said, "it is being seen as a major capital for the party that is emerging as India's new political sunrise. Its future seemed bright when the party rose to power on the ruins of Congress, India's grand old party, in Punjab. The border contiguity and the cultural homogeneity might have played a role in triggering a sudden infatuation in the disgruntled political class for the broom party.

NDPI president said what I observed in Green Belt Park office there was a Jodi (Pair) of Om Parkash Khajuria the then convenor and Rajkumar Nishcal secretary. They both were busy in gossiping and back biting and were not doing any political activities. Aap sources told that Om Parkash Khajuria and Rajkumar Nishcal were called by their friends with love Om as (Titaina) and Rajkumar as (Shakuni Mama). And both were negative minded persons. Sour-



es further revealed that their main aim was to minting money from new entrants in the party by selling posts and befouling the higher ups.

As time went on, the real leaders, those who don't believe in sycophancy joined with the spirit to boost the party in continued working. But as per sources, the Titaina and Shakuni Mama were engaged in criticizing active leaders. Not a single day passed when they didn't fight with someone. Although I have some political differences with Titaina and Shakuni Mama but they are my very dear friends added, Gupta.

Rajesh Gupta recalled and said, "one day, Titaina and Shakuni Mama decided to let down these active lead-

ers. They reached Delhi and started complaining against those leaders who were doing great activities to lift the party and highlight the flag of Aam Aadmi Party to a new height in J&K. But Titaina and Shakuni Mama were sent back by the party high command with heavy scolding.

With my vast political experience, I have learned that any political party who has inner party democracy survives. After all, the workers of the party are not getting any salaries and the AAP leader treats them as their slaves. I have experienced many political parties, but AAP's culture is very dictatorial and leaders are very arrogant and extremely egoistic. I also want to share this secret with other political party leaders who are flying high. They should land on the ground and change their attitude towards innocent people and party workers.

NDPI Chief advised that Aam Aadmi Party can still roll back, in

Jammu with sincere efforts if they bring in some experienced leader who should have the ability to bring everyone united, and Delhi leaders have to change their policies towards Jammu and Kashmir. If we talk about current position of AAP in Jammu is on fag end. If Arvind Kejriwal wants revival of AAP in Jammu and Kashmir he has to follow my following suggestions 1. Leave his ego first. 2. Immediately visit Jammu and Kashmir. 3. Restructure the J&K unit make one J&K UT President two Provincial Presidents, President for all districts.give due share to women 4. Send sober leaders team from Delhi to scrutinizing the local leaders by their character no greedy and sycophants accepted. 5 Remove those hypocrites and Titaina and Shakuni Mama and some other DDC members who are denting the party for their self interest. I can bet you Arvind Kejriwal your party rocks J&K, he added.