

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

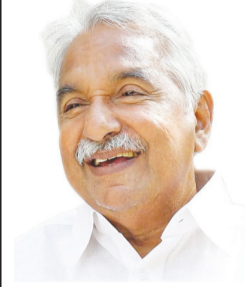
JAMMU, TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Man dies of cardiac arrest in Sopore as he reaches home from Hajj

SOPORE, Jul 18 (Agencies): A 70-year old man died of a massive cardiac arrest in Sopore locality of north Kashmir's Baramulla district as he returned from Saudi Arabia on Tuesday after performing Hajj.

Quoting an official, news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reported that Ghulam Mohammed Gojree of Hygam Sopore suffered a massive cardiac arrest soon after he reached home after performing Hajj.

He said that he was taken to JVC Bemina where he was declared dead on arrival.

The official said that after legal-medico formalities, body will be handed over to the family for last rites.

On Tuesday, first batch of 630 pilgrims arrived in Kashmir after perform annual Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia.

### Woman killed, husband injured in Pampore road accident

SRINAGAR, Jul 18 (Agencies): A 42 woman was killed and her husband sustained injuries in a road accident at Wahab Sahab Shar Shali area of Pampore in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Tuesday.

Reports said that the incident happened when a Scooty bearing registration number JK13D-6985 met with an accident at Wahab Sahab area of Pampore.

The accident took place at Wahab Sahab area when the couple were returning home from Wahab Sahab Shrine riding on a Scooty and met with an accident, resulting into seriously injures of both.

With the help of local people and police, they were brought to PHC Khrew where from they referred to SMHS hospital Srinagar, however the woman succumbed to her injuries, police officials told Kashmir Reader.

The deceased has been identified as  
**Turn to page 9**

## Amarnath Yatra | Amid heavy rains fresh batch of 6225 pilgrims leave from Jammu base camp

JAMMU, Jul 18 (Agencies): Chanting 'Bam Bam Bhole' as many as 6225 pilgrims amid heavy rains left from Bhagwati Nagar Base Camp here on Tuesday for Shri Amarnath Cave Shrine in South Kashmir Himalayas.

An official said that a batch of 6225 pilgrims left the base camp in a convoy of 217 vehicles.



A group of 3714 pilgrims (2790 males, 793 females, 18 children, 101 sadhus and 12

sadhvis) left for Pahalgam in a convoy of 131 vehicles.

For Baltal, 2511 pilgrims comprising (1545 males, 955 females and seven children and four sadhus) left in a convoy of 86 vehicles amid tight security arrangements.

The yatra started on July 1 will conclude on August 31.

## First batch of hajj pilgrims arrives at Srinagar airport

SRINAGAR, Jul 18 (Agencies): As the Hajj pilgrimage concluded, the first batch of pilgrims arrived at Srinagar Airport on Tuesday, officials said here.

Officials said that first flights started arriving at the airport in the morn-

ing where they were welcomed by officials. As many as 630 pilgrims are arriving today after performing the Hajj.

They said that the Hajj flights from Saudi Arabia to Srinagar will continue between July 18 to August 2.

Div Com Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, DIG Central Sujit Kumar & DC Budgam Akshay Labroo warmly received the first batch at Srinagar Airport Executive Officer, J&K Haj Committee, Shujaat Ahmed Qureshi saying that the authorities have  
**Turn to page 9**

## Landslide hits construction site in Udhampur six labourers rescued

JAMMU, Jul 18 (Agencies): Six labourers were rescued while one was missing after a landslide hit an under-construction building in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Udhamp-

pur, Joginder Singh Jasrotia said a rescue operation is on to locate the missing person, who is believed to be trapped under the debris of the landslide.

Police officials said a group of labourers were busy in construction work at Kallar near veg-

etable market when they came under the landslide around 11.45 am.

A rescue operation was launched immediately and six labourers were rescued, while the search is on for a missing labourer, the officials said.

Jasrotia said the  
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## Fraudster detained under PSA by Crime Branch Jammu

JAMMU, Jul 18 (Agencies): Economic Offences Wing, Crime Branch, Jammu, has recommended the detention of a fraudster under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

The District Magistrate of Jammu has issued a detention order against Saroop Lal, a notorious conman involved in nine FIRs and two preliminary verifications in the



Crime Branch, Jammu. Saroop Lal, an ex-serviceman, first came under the radar of the Crime Branch in 2006

when the first FIR was registered against him for fabricating fake and forged appointment orders. Since then, he has been targeting innocent unemployed youth, exploiting their vulnerability. According to the complaints and FIRs filed against him, Saroop Lal has defrauded as many as  
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## Court frames charges against former IAS officers in Roshni land scam

JAMMU, Jul 18 (Agencies): Special Judge CBI Srinagar SC Katal today framed charges against former IAS officers Basharat Ahmad Dhar, Mehboob Iqbal, Ejaz Iqbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Malik, Akram Khan and Sajad Parvez in the much publicized Roshni land scam.

The FIR No 26/2015 initially came to be registered by the Vigilance Organization Kashmir (now ACB Kashmir), thereafter, the investigation of case was transferred to CBI when the High Court of J&K issued direction in PIL No. 19 of 2011.

Accordingly, CBI registered the case RC 1232020A0004 dated 20.11.2020 for offences under Sections 120-B/420/RPC & Section 5(1)(d) read with 5(2) of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act. As per the CBI case, in the year 2007 ownership rights of State land measuring 07 kanals and 07 marlas under Khasra No. 216 min, 217 min & 218 min Estate Nursing Garh site Shaheed Gunj were vested in favour of Sajjad Parvaiz at the rate of Rs 45 lakh per kanal by empowerment committee in its meeting held on 28.04.2007.

The beneficiary Sajad Parvez was not legal occupant in terms of Section 2(e) of State Land (Vesting of Ownership Rights to the Occupants) Act as he was only authorized agent of lessee Ashok Sharma and Bipin Sharma by virtue of special power of attorney.

After hearing both the sides, the court observed, "at the stage of the framing of charge the court has to see that whether the investigation agency has assembled the evidence which if taken on its face value is sufficient to presume  
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## Ganderbal, Bandipora, Kulgam to get Cinema halls in September: LG Manoj Sinha

SRINAGAR, Jul 18: Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that art is flourishing in Kashmir and that Cinemas are coming up in every city and town while Ganderbal, Bandipora and Kulgam districts will get Cinema halls in September this year.



during Covid pandemic. Now I am happy to see the artists coming from other parts of the country

"Artists suffered a lot to Kashmir to showcase their art and to learn new art as well," said LG while addressing a Amrit Yuva Kalotsav at Tagore Hall, Srinagar. The LG said that earlier, Pulwama and Shopian districts got Cinema halls after which Baramulla and Handwara saw inauguration of Cinema halls recently.  
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## Shopian terrorist attack | J&K Police attaches Shopian SHO to Anantnag's RPHQ

SRINAGAR, Jul 18 (Agencies): Days after a terrorist attack, which left three migrant workers from Bihar wounded in south Kashmir's Shopian district, Jammu and Kashmir Police has attached Shopian Station House Officer (SHO) Ghulam Jeelani Bhat to Range Police Headquarter (RPHQ) Anantnag, pending an inquiry.

"In view of the incident occurred on 13-7-2023 at about 2030 hours at Gagren Shopian, Inspector Gh Jeelani Bhat (AWP) (SHO P/S Shopian) PID No ARP-109258, is attached to RPHQ Anantnag pending inquiry," read an order issued by the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of police south Kashmir range, Rayees Mohammad Bhat on Monday.

"This order shall have immediate effect," the order added.

On July 13 evening, three migrant labourers identified as Anmol Kumar, Pintu Kumar Thakur and Heralal Yadav, all residents of Supaul, Bihar were shot at and injured in a terrorist attack in Shopian district.  
**Turn to page 9**

## Drug abuse challenge in border areas, significant work done to curb it: SSP Baramulla



BARAMULLA, Jul 18 (Agencies): The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Baramulla, Amod Ashok Nagpure on Tuesday said the drug abuse was a significant challenge for Baramulla

police in border areas stressing that they often have to deal with cross-border smuggling in border areas like Uri.

He, however, expressed his optimism saying that significant

strides have been made in curbing drug smuggling on a large scale through the sustained campaign conducted by the J&K police in the past six months.

"I am confident that this serves as a warning to all the drug peddlers that they should refrain from such activities. If they have not yet experienced the consequences of their actions, they will soon face the consequences. Baramulla police will not be  
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## SIA conducts raids in three districts of south Kashmir in Sanjay Sharma killing case



SRINAGAR, Jul 18 (Agencies): The State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir carried out raids at different locations in three districts of South Kashmir, an official said on Tuesday.

Quoting an official,

news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reported that the SIA personnel, accompanied by police and the paramilitary CRPF, are carrying out raids at different locations in the three districts.  
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## Police arrests 4 Lashkar-E-Taiba Associates in Budgam

SRINAGAR, Jul 18 (Agencies): Security forces arrested four militant associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district, police said on Tuesday.

The arrests were made in the Beerwah area of Budgam by a joint team of Police and Army's 62 Rashtriya Rifles.

The four were identified by police as Mush-taq Ahmad Lone of  
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**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief & sorrow, it is being informed that our beloved **Sh. Maghar Mal Kangla (Retd. Sr. Post Master)** S/o Late Sh. Dinu R/o Janipur Colony has passed away for his heavenly abode on 10-07-2023.

His **TENTH DAY** will be performed on Wednesday, 19th of July 2023 at Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib Ji Gurudwara, Janipur Colony Jammu at 11:30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Manju Lata - **Wife**

Ravinder Kangla & Sheetal Kangla -**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Surinder Lakhnotra & Vandna Lakhnotra -**Son-in-law & Daughter**  
Suraj Parkash Kundal & Rekha Kundal - **Son-in-law & Daughter**  
Rakesh Kumar Pagot & Ritu Pagot- **Son-in-law & Daughter**  
**Grand Children** : Nihar, Vivek, Tushar, Muskan, Aliya, Bhuvan, Tanmay & Aayan  
**MOB: 9906165181, 9419186359**



**Sh. Maghar Mal Kangla (Retd. Sr. Post Master)**

**10TH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform sad demise of **Sh Des Raj (Retd SI)** S/o Late Sh Kamlu Ram R/o Bharat Nagar Jakhani on 11th July 2023. **10TH DAY** will be held on 20th July at Sansaar Palace near ARTO Udhampur office.

**SATSANG** will start at 12 noon.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Vishno Devi -**Wife**

**Sons and Daughters in law**  
Smt. Usha Devi (AW) & Manish Kumar (Zoom Studio)  
Smt Seema (Tr.) & Er. Aatish Bhardwaj (AEE)  
Smt. Aarti JKAS and DySP Dr. Satish Bhardwaj JKPS  
**Daughter and Son in law**  
Smt Sheetal Bhardwaj (Tr.) & Ajit Kumar (JTO BSNL)  
**Kids:** Pihu, Aaron Adhyatam, Bhavya Aradhvi, Ahvaan, Aadyaansh, Adhyann Aradhita, Jiva  
**ALL BROTHERS AND BOGAL FAMILY**  
**MOB: 9906028968, 9906905654, 9469632600**



**SH DES RAJ (RETD SI)**

**ARDAAS SAMAGAM**



S Ranbir Singh Bali (Director Finance, J&K Govt) | Sdn Parminder Kaur | S Irwanjyot Singh

Words of sympathy feel inadequate in expressing grief and sorrow for a loss so great.

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S Ranbir Singh Bali (Director Finance, J&K Govt)**, **Sdn Parminder Kaur** and **S Irwanjyot Singh** in a tragic road accident on 9th July 2023. In their **Loving Memory Remembrance/Ardaas Samagam** will be held on 21st July 2023 (Friday) at Gurudwara Baba Fateh Singh Ji Gandhi Nagar Jammu from **5.00 pm to 6.30 pm.** to pay homage to departed souls.

**From: All Jammu & Kashmir Officers Forum**

**10TH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our young and beloved **Sandeep Misri** S/o Smt. Veena and J.K.Misri originally from Shakti Nagar, Jammu presently at Centurion Park low rise, Greater Noida west on wednesday 12th July 2023.

**10th Day** shall be observed on Friday 21st. July 2023 at Murad Nagar. (UP)

**Assembly** is planned at our present address at 10 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Smt. Veena & Sh. J.K. Misri - **Parents**

Aarti Misri - **Wife**

Arjun Misri - **Son**

Sumit Misri - **Brother**

Smt. Anuradha & Sh. Ashok Kaul - **Parents in Law**

Smt. Anuranjani & Sandeep Tikoo - **Sister in law & Co Brother in law**

Smt. Ambika & Sh. Rohit Tikoo - **Sister in law & Co Brother in law**

**Contact- +91 99106 79292**



**Sandeep Misri**

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Son Rajat Bhat** (S/o Kuldeep Kumar Bhat) Originally resident of Danow Bogound (Kulgam) presently at House No. 66 D, Lane 2, Sector 1, Durga Nagar, Jammu left for his heavenly abode on 12-07-2023.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 21-07-2023 at Muthi Ghat at 7:00 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**RAZDAN'S DANOW**

**PH: 8803794772, 9419908395**



**RAJAT BHAT**

**MOURNING FROM MALUN SIDE/ TENTH DAY**

Words seem inadequate to express the profound pain that the sudden demise of our sister **Smt. Sheela Rawal (Sheel Jigri)** W/o Late Shri Mohan Lal Rawal & D/o Late Sh. Arjan Nath Koul & Prabawati Koul (Habba Kadal). Your departure has left us with deep sense of void which can never be filled. A good heart has stopped beating, but a heart that has touched so many lives will continue to live in those it loved some one as special as Smt. Sheela Rawal (Sheel Jigri) can never be forgotten. Her beautiful memories will always remain in our heart.

The **Tenth Day** will be performed at 8.30 AM on 21-07-2023 (Friday) at Muthi Ghat, Jammu.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-**

**Sister-in-law**

Smt. Anusuya Koul W/o Late Shri Pran Nath Koul

Smt. Desha Dassi W/o Late Sh. Chuni Lal Dassi - **Sister**

Mr. Vishal Koul - **Nephew**

**Niece**

Smt. Isha Warikoo W/o Shri Sanjay Warikoo

Miss Anuttara Warikoo

**Mob: 9682152978, 9149461414**



**SMT. SHEELA RAWAL (SHEEL JIGRI)**

**10th DAY KRIYA AND SHANTI PAATH**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mrs Mohni Raina** W/o Mr. Makhan Lal Raina who left for heavenly abode on 12-07-2023 originally from Dalpatian, Jammu / Ganderbal, Kashmir presently residing at Flat no 702, Tower B-10, RPS SAVANA, Sector 88, Faridabad - 121002. **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 21-07-2023 at MURADNAGAR GHAT from 7:00 am to 10:30 am followed by a Shanti Paath which will be held at GREEN HOUSE CLUB, RPS SAVANA, SECTOR 88, FARIDABAD from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Mr. Makhan Lal Raina (Husband) +91-9711475660

Mrs. Bharti & Mr B.L Raina (Sister-in-Law & Brother-in-Law): +91-7006595252

Mrs. Basanti & Mr Nana Jee Jalali (Sister-in-Law & Brother-in-Law): +91-9818774493

Mrs. Usha & Mr. Mohan Jee Raina (Sister-in-Law & Brother-in-Law): +91-8803689723

Mrs. Shama Jee Mathu (Sister-in-Law): +91-9797426525

Mrs Ratna Kaul (Sister-in-Law): +91-9796439968

Mrs. Renu & Mr Sundeeep Kashkari (Daughter & Son-in-Law) : +91-9818664281, +91-9868121170

Mrs. Meenakshi & Mr. Ashish Kak (Daughter and Son-in-Law) : +1-7039533120

Rakesh (9899385660), Neeraj (9650944455), Munish (9871387219)

Aparna, Shivani, Artili, Neetu, Neeraj, Esha, Ritika, Malvika, And All Grandchildren & ENTIRE RAINA & TRAKROO PARIVAAR FROM MALUN SIDE (GANDERBAL / NUNAR)



**MRS MOHNI RAINA**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh .Virander Mattoo** S/o Sh. Damodhar Nath Mattoo R/o H.No. 11, Hello Kids Lane, Butta Nagar, Paloura Jammu who breathed his last on 15-07-2023.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on Monday, 24th July 2023 (8:30 AM)

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt Kiran Mattoo - **Wife**

Samuksha Mattoo -**Daughter**

Romil Mattoo- **Son**

Smt. & Sh. Shibani Jee Mattoo -**Brother**

Sh. J.L. Tukra - **Brother-in-law**

Sh. C.M. Ganjoo -**Brother-in-law**

**PH: 7006381286, 7006089390, 7780847353**



**SH .VIRANDER MATTOO**

**SHADMOS & MASWAR**

Six months have passed since you left us suddenly in deep sorrow & tears. Fragrance of your sweet memories is as fresh as ever. We pray respectful homage & pray to God for eternal peace to your noble soul.

**Shadmos & Maswar** of our beloved Father **Karamyogi Sh. Niranjani Nath Koul** originally from Batapora Shopian is being performed on 18th and 19th July 2023 at our residence House No. 59 Lane No.02 Shantipuram Muthi Jammu.

**DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY:**

Ashok Koul & Sarojini Koul

Rajinder Koul & Bimla Koul

Pinki Koul

**Grand Children**

Atul Koul & Megha Koul

Shivani Koul & Ishan Koul

Arpit Koul

Esha Koul



**N. N. KOUL BATAPORA SHOPIAN**

**SAMAST KOUL PARIVAAR (KOUL LAHORIES)**

**MOB: 9419143212, 9419148372**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **SMT RANI SHARMA** W/o Ghan Sham Sharma R/o H.No. 258 Tange Wali Gali Kachi Chawni Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 09-07-2023.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 18-07-2023 (Tuesday) at Rani Park (near Jain School) at 10 AM. **Kriya** will be held on 19-07-2023 (Wednesday) at our residence.

**Uthala** will be performed at Trikuta Yatri Niwas (Ved Mandir) Karan Nagar, Jammu on 19-07-2023 at 5 Pm to 6 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Ghan Sham Sharma -**Husband**

Son & Daughter-in-law

Abhishek Sharma & Aradhya Sharma

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Shaveta Sharma & Satyan Sharma

Nibha Sharma Gupta & Sourav Gupta

**Grand Children:** Yanis, Yardhan & Zin.



**SMT RANI SHARMA**

**FIFTH DAY**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH SHAM SUNDER GOSWAMI** H/O SMT JATINDER KANTA GOSWAMI R/O GARHI, UDHAMPUR (PRESENTLY BROMPTON, CANADA).

**FIFTH DAY** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 19TH JULY, 2023 (WEDNESDAY) AT 11.00 AM TO 12.00 NOON AT SHIV MANDIR HALL, HOUSING COLONY UDHAMPUR.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sister-in-law (Jammu)

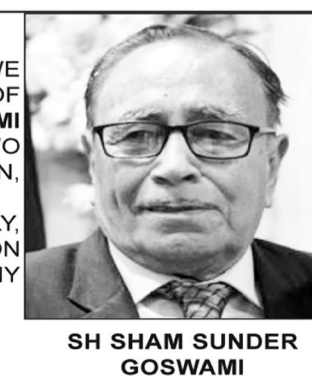
Kanta Rani Hastir W/o Lt. Sh Balwant Rai Hastir

Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law

Tara Devi Sharma & Sant Kumar Sharma (Ret CHO)

Hosing Colony, Udhampur

**Mob. 7006096488, 9419160649**



**SH SHAM SUNDER GOSWAMI**

**10TH DAY**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the untimely demise of our beloved mother **Rajrani** W/o Lt. Sh. Gopi Nath Pandit of Tulmulla, Ganderbal at present house no. 44, Main Road, Durga Nagar, Sector No. 1, Jammu.

**10th Day** will be performed at Muthi Ghat 21-7-23 at 8:30 AM & **Assembly** will be performed at above present address.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Smt. & Sh. Kuldeep Pandit - 9796271710

Smt. & Sh. Sanjay Pandit - 9796052522

Smt. & Sh. Vinod Pandit - 9906109108

Smt. & Sh. Susheel Ganjoo - 9469193321



**RAJRANI**

**TENTH DAY /KRIYA/UTHALA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH. PRITAM PAUL GUPTA** S/O LT. SH. CHAJJU RAM MAHAJAN R/O 155-A SUBASH NAGAR WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 07.07.2023. **TENTH DAY** WILL BE PERFORMED AT HARI MANDIR, REHARI AT 11:00 AM ON 16.07.2023. **KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE ON 19.07.2023 FROM 12.00 NOON ONWARDS.

**UTHALA** WILL BE PERFORMED AT HARI MANDIR, REHARI ON 19.07.2023 AT 5.00 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

SMT. KAILASH GUPTA (WIFE)

SH. KISHORE KUMAR (SON).

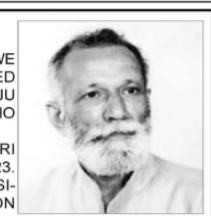
SH.MUKTESH KUMAR (SON)

MS.ARUSHI GUPTA AND MR.SANJEEV KUMAR (DAUGHTER & SON & -IN-LAW)

MS.GARGI GUPTA (DAUGHTER).

SOIJANYA MAHAJAN (GRAND SON).

PH. NO. 9419115403, 7889631017, 7068916608



**SH. PRITAM PAUL GUPTA**

**10TH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you the sad demise of **Smt. Kapuro Devi** W/o Sh. Amar Nath Bavoria R/o 5117 Vikas Nagar, Patoli, Jammu who has left for heavenly abode on 10th July 2023. **10th Day** Satsang would be performed on 19th July, 2023 (Wednesday) at Grand KP (Kamla Palace), Akhnor Road, Jammu from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm followed by Guru ka Langar.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Husband

Sh. Amar Nath Bavoria (President Bavoria Biradar)

Daughter-in-law and Sons

Smt. Santosh and Sh.Ashok Bavoria (Retd ATDO tourism)

Smt. Sunita and Sh. Rishi Kumar (MD, Swaraj Electronics Industry)

Smt. Sonia and Sh. Chain Lal Bavoria (D&S Judge)

Daughter and Son in law

Smt. Subash and Sh. Gharu Ram Thapa (Retd. IAF)

**Grand Children:** Dr. Shaili, Dr. Rahul Gorka, Dr. Nadhia, Mr. Rameev, Mr. Panjay, Dr. Seema, Mr.Swaraj, Mrs. Shivali, Mr. Dheeraj, Mrs. Pooja, Dr.Ankit, Dr. Jagriti, Mr. Rehan

9797593767, 9419144940, 9419214434



**Smt. Kapuro Devi**

**TENTH DAY / KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Brij Rani Gupta** W/o Late Sh. Ashok Kumar Gupta R/o House No. 145, Sector - 14, Nanak Nagar Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 07-07-2023 (Friday). **Tenth Day** will be performed on 16 July 2023 (Sunday) at Sector - 7, Panch Mandir / near Imperial Lodge Trikuta Nagar Jammu at 11.00 am

**Kriya** will be held on 19 July 2023 (Wednesday) at our residence.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sons & Daughter-in-law

Umesh Gupta & Rohini Gupta

Rohit Gupta & Poshita Gupta

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Rekha Mahajan & Rajeev Mahajan

Bharti Mahajan & Jatinder Mahajan

Ramnie Andotra & Hemant Andotra

M.No: 9697516794, 7006371632



**Smt. Brij Rani Gupta**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **SMT RANI SHARMA** W/o Ghan Sham Sharma R/o H.No. 258 Tange Wali Gali Kachi Chawni Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 09-07-2023.

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**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Ghan Sham Sharma -**Husband**

Son & Daughter-in-law

Abhishek Sharma & Aradhya Sharma

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Shaveta Sharma & Satyan Sharma

Nibha Sharma Gupta & Sourav Gupta

**Grand Children:** Yanis, Yardhan & Zin.

# Four foreign terrorists killed in Poonch; Army says major terror strike thwarted

POONCH/JAMMU, Jul 18 (Agencies): Four heavily-armed foreign terrorists were killed in a fierce gunfight with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Tuesday, the Army said, asserting that the successful operation scuttled possible terror strikes in the region.

The killing of four terrorists comes a day after security forces foiled a major infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Krishna Ghati Sector of Poonch on the intervening night of July 16 and 17.

Earlier in the day, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh confirmed the killing of four terrorists in the Sindarah top area of Surankote.

"Four foreign terrorists were neutralised in a forest area during the ongoing 'Operation Trinetra II'. The presence of such heavily-armed terrorists in hinterland is indicative of attempts to destabilise the region, and if not neutralised on time, these terrorists could have carried out major terrorist-initiated incidents in coming days," Commander, 6 Sector Rashtriya Rifles, Brigadier M P Singh told reporters in Poonch.

"Operation Trinetra" was launched by the Army in the aftermath of the deadly terrorist ambush on security forces' vehicles in the Mendhar area of Poonch that left five soldiers dead on April 20.



Brig Singh, who was also flanked by Poonch Senior Superintendent of Police Vinay Sharma, said a joint operation was launched by the Army and the police in the forest area on July 16 as part of relentless operations over the past three months after getting information about movement of unidentified persons in the general area of Sindarah.

"Accordingly, the area was cordoned off after a specific intelligence with regard to the presence of armed terrorists. Based on this, Army and Special Operations Group of Jammu Kashmir Police launched a specific cordon and search operation of this area (on July 17)," he said.

After establishing an effective cordon, the Army officer said, the troops commenced their search and approached Sindarah village. "Four terrorists who had taken shelter in the forest near

the village opened indiscriminate fire on the approaching troops. Their fire was promptly retaliated and the terrorists were pinned down." Brig Singh said the cordon was then readjusted to deny any space to the terrorists to escape.

"Special Forces (of the Army) were also inducted to augment the troops. The terrorists making use of the terrain, forest foliage and inclement weather kept opening fire on the troops in a desperate attempt to break the cordon," he said.

He said the intermittent fire between terrorists and the search parties continued throughout the day and the night before the guns fell silent around 5.30 am.

In the morning, the officer said, a detailed search of the area was carried out which led to the recovery of the bodies of slain terrorists and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition, which

included four Chinese-make AK assault rifles and two pistols with a Pakistani marking.

"This joint action by Indian Army and Jammu Kashmir Police has resulted in saving the lives and contributed towards maintaining peace in the region. The relentless efforts by security forces in past few months have started giving results," he said, asserting that the operations against terrorists would continue with renewed vigour to make the region terrorism-free.

The officer lauded the cooperation of the forces as well as the locals and said the people played a key role in the successful operation which speaks volumes about the love for their nation and maintaining peace.

Referring to the recent killing of terrorists on the LoC while attempting to sneak into this side from across the border, Brigadier Singh said, "It shows the neighbouring country (Pakistan) will not stop and make continue attempts to disturb our region. We will not stop and eliminate all terrorists who are hiding in the area." SSP Poonch Vinay Sharma said the successful operation is the glaring example of the synergy between the Army and the police in the fight against terrorism.

# J&K stands number one in Union Ministry's CDPs for Geo Tagging

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 18: Jammu and Kashmir stand number one in Geo Tagging of Cluster Development Projects (CDP's) in the country, implemented by the Union Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

This achievement of Jammu and Kashmir will result in faster approval of projects and timely release of funds from central government, which will result in faster growth of MSME's across J&K.

Union ministry of Micro, Small and medium Enterprises (MSME) is implementing Cluster Development Projects in the country including J&K through Central government grant up to 80% is applicable for Common Facility Centre's projects and 70% for development of Industrial Estates.

J&K has received 10 Projects from Ministry of MSME for the development of Industrial Estate and Common Facility



Centre's (CFC's), MSME DFO Jammu field office of the union Ministry of MSME, takes lead role in the implementation of various schemes including Cluster Development projects for the benefit of the MSME sector of the region.

The total project cost of CFC and IDs in J&K is 90.73 approximately. Recently the union Ministry called for Geo Tagging all the projects under MSE-CDP for all the states including J&K. An app was also developed by Ministry, used for tracking the performance, including the completion, percentage of completion of the projects sanc-

tioned under MSE-CDP which are monitored online based on the photographs taken through the Geo app.

In Jammu and Kashmir two teams were appointed for Jammu and Kashmir divisions for completing this task by G.Velladurai, Joint Director, MSME DFO Jammu. The teams worked with full spirit and completed the Geo Tagging of all the projects completed and ongoing across J&K. The team includes Saheel Yaqoob Alaqband, Assistant Director, AB. Hamid Wagey, Arkam, Sunil Dang, Assistant Director, Ajay Kumar and Arjan Singh.

Office of the Deputy Director Forest Protection Force  
Gamma Unit J-01 Flying Squad, Jammu  
TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No.:- 04 of 2023-24 Dated:- 15-07-2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Government/Central Government Organizations for the following works:

S.No	Name of Work	Advised Cost (Amount in Lacs)	Earliest Money @ 2%of the advised cost (Amount in rupees)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (Amount in rupees)	Time of Completion (Days)	Receiving /Opening Authority
1	Construction of cost effective multistorey structure with steel truss over the already constructed store building at PPF head Quarter Narwal Jammu by PPF Gamma Unit J-01 F/S Jammu	23.00	Rs.46000/-	"B&C" only	Rs.600/-	45 days	Tender Opening Committee

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

Position of funds: Partially Available

Position of AA / TS: Accorded

Publishing Date	15-07-2023
Download Start Date	15-07-2023 from 5.00 P.M
Bid Submission Start Date	15-07-2023 from 5.00 P.M
Bid Submission End Date	05-08-2023 upto 1:00 P.M
Date of opening of Technical / Financial Bid (online)	05-08-2023 at 01.05 PM (in the office of the Joint Director, Forest Protection Force, Jammu)

- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the Departmental Website:- [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)
- The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened on 05-08-2023 at 01:05 PM in the office of the Joint Director, Forest Protection Force, Jammu In case of public holiday on the date of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

No. : DD/FS/J-01/Capex/ 405-409  
Dated: 15.07.2023

Sd/-  
(Dharminder Sharma)  
Deputy Director  
Forest Protection Force,  
Gamma Unit J01 Flying Squad Jammu

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECH RURAL DIVISION JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 66 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Rural Division Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/individuals for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Est. cost (in Lakh)	Cost of document / tender fee (in Rs.)	Bid Securing Declaration	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Providing/Replacement of damaged components of LT control panel installed at T/well cum P/s Lower Thathar.	0.782	Rs. 100/-	Bid Securing Declaration form as per Annexure "A".	180 days	180 days
2.	Repairs to HC pump set of capacity 10000 GPH x 175 mtrs head HC pump set installed at P/s Lower Thathar.	0.444	Rs. 100/-	Bid Securing Declaration form as per Annexure "A".	180 days	180 days
3.	Providing/Replacement of damaged components of LT control panel installed at T/well Sai Tangali.	0.461	Rs. 100/-	Bid Securing Declaration form as per Annexure "A".	180 days	180 days
4.	Providing/Replacement of damaged components of LT control panel installed at T/well Gho-Manhasan-IV (Chak Lal Din)	0.464	Rs. 100/-	Bid Securing Declaration form as per Annexure "A".	180 days	180 days
5.	Replacement of damaged components of HC pump set of capacity 15000 GPH x 150 mtrs head installed at CPS Domana.	0.479	Rs. 100/-	Bid Securing Declaration form as per Annexure "A".	180 days	180 days
4.	Repairs to HC pump set of capacity 10000 GPH x 175 mtrs head HC pump set (Unit-I) installed at P/s Upper Thathar.	0.382	Rs. 100/-	Bid Securing Declaration form as per Annexure "A".	180 days	180 days

Date of Publishing: 14/07/2023

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 14/07/2023 (02:00 P.m)
- The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 14/07/2023 (02:00 P.m) to 22/07/2023 (2:00 P.m).
- After opening the tender Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table (and for DIC/SSI registered firms as per Industrial Policy of J&K Govt.) payable at Jammu pledged in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Mech. Rural Division Jammu.
- Bid security will have to be in form of CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for one year from the date of issuance of tender. The cost of downloaded tender documents should be in form of Treasury Challan/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Rural Division Jammu payable at Jammu.

Sd/-  
DIP/J-5205/23

(Er. Narinder Singh)  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Rural  
Division Jammu

## Shivkhori Shravan Mahotsav

# Play on life lessons, teachings of Lord Shiva presented at Ransoo



## Top News Report

REASI, Jul 18: On the second Monday of Shivkhori Shravan Mahotsav, the artists from Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages presented a play on the life lessons and teachings of Lord Shiva here at Ransoo.

District Development Council Member Pouni, Rita Devi was the chief guest on the occasion.

To create a memorable experience for pil-

grims and visitors, a variety of events have been scheduled for each Monday of the Shravan month as a part of Shravan Mahotsav. These activities encompass bhajan concerts, stage performances, katha and sermons, bhajan competitions, screenings of movies and documentaries, art competitions and exhibitions, as well as religious ceremonies.

With the aim to promote the art and culture of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Academy of Art Culture and Languages presented a colourful cultural programme on

the second Monday of Shivkhori Shravan Mahotsav including a play on the teachings of Lord Shiva.

Speaking on the occasion, District Development Council Member, Rita Devi said the religious Mahotsav is being jointly organized by District Administration, Reasi, Shiv Khori Shrine Board and Tourism Department.

Congratulating the people on the occasion, the DDC member said that the administration is taking far reaching steps to promote tourism in Reasi and adjoining areas by creating necessary infrastructure including development of Shiv Khori and other heritage spots in the district to attract tourists.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Jyoti Slathia stressed upon the need to develop Ransoo town in a planned manner to attract Vaishno Devi pilgrims. She appealed to the people to ensure their maximum participation in the mega event which will also give them an opportunity to seek blessings of Lord Shiva at Ransoo.

DDC member Pouni, A Kewal Krishan; Non official Board members of Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board Prof. Lalit Mangotra and Dr. Shiv Prasad Raina, Executive officer SSKSB Pardeep Kumar were also present on the occasion.

## Handholding Session

# DJJM Doda imparts training on water testing using FTK

## Top News Report

DODA, Jul 18: Mission Directorate Jal Jeevan Mission J&K in collaboration with District Jal Jeevan Mission Doda on Tuesday organized a Handholding Session here in the conference Hall of DC Office and imparted Training to participants in water testing by using Field Testing Kit. The event witnessed active participation of Paani Samiti members, Anganwadi workers, Asha Workers, Women FTK users, Women Self Help Groups, Teachers and PRIs. In all, about 250 stakeholders participated in the event. District Development Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan was the chief guest.

At the onset of the programme, IEC Coordinator DPMU, Vivek Singh Jamwal welcomed the participants and briefed them about the JJM Mission and highlighted the role and responsibilities of Paani Samitis, importance of FTK in analysing and



maintaining water resources and its quality.

Addressing the audience, the DDC stressed on the role and the support of PRIs particularly Pani Samitis in the effective implementation of JJM Schemes. "Their cooperation will greatly help in early completion of all the schemes under JJM, a flagship programme of

the Government of India to provide HAR GHAR NAL SE JAL", he said.

The other prominent guests included Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE), Subash Chander Gupta; AEE, Doda East, Arshad Ahmed; AEE Doda West, Akhilesh Gupta; AE DPMU, Er Aamir Malik; JEs and other field staff. Rawal Hussain Chemist Dis-

trict Water Testing Lab and his team demonstrated FTK and trained Paani Samiti members and about 250 other participants present over there.

The programme concluded with felicitation of best performing stakeholders including Chairman Paani Samiti, Best Engineer and Best Chemist

## EDITORIAL

## NAXALITE-A THREAT

Majority of the people of India are poor. There has been a serious problem of livelihood in front of them. Due to the possession of a handful of people over the land and means of production, the seriousness of this problem has increased. People have to work on the orders of the living beings but they do not get enough wages. Apart from this, physical harassment and mental abuse also have to be endured.

It is not easy to oppose landowners and resourceful people. For not walking in their favour, they are physically and mentally harassed and tortured. One has to work in their fields and homes by becoming a bonded laborer.

We do not get wages, even if we get it, it is very less. Women also have to bear different kinds of insults. Years have passed since a particular class suffered this pain of oppression. Even the government systems are not fully able to get rid of this oppression.

When the tolerance of the oppressed victim gave an answer, then it became necessary to retaliate. In the year 1967, the farmers of the village 'Naxalbari' of Bengal started a movement. Its name was Naxalism. Farmers, laborers, tribals etc. were included in this.

Naxalites believe in violence. According to his opinion, power originates from the barrel of a gun. There is severe poverty in India, it has raised the challenge of survival in front of the people. In the name of removing poverty, politicians have been doing politics for years, cheating people. Land reform is not taken care of. Farmers do not get the fruits of their production.

The movement which started from Naxalbari village of Bengal in 1967 has expanded a lot. This movement has reached the states of West Bengal, Odisha, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh etc.

In 2004, the Maoist organization People's War Group and the Maoist Communist Center of India merged to form the Communist Party of India (Maoist). Naxalites consider themselves well wishers of Dalits, Adivasis and poor villagers. For this reason some people cooperate with them voluntarily and some out of fear.

Till now thousands of villagers, security men and others have become victims of Naxalite violence. On 6 April 2010, Naxalites ambushed C.R. P.F. 76 soldiers were killed in Dantewala district of Chhattisgarh. The Kolkata-bound Dnyaneshwari Express was derailed by the derailment and more than 150 passengers were killed.

Attacks in new ways Darbha-Jheeram Ghat was attacked on March 11, 2014. Police and C.R. were ambushed by 200 Naxalites. P.F. Fifteen soldiers were killed. Road construction work was going on here.

Congress leaders like Nandkumar Patel, Vidyacharan Shukla, Mahendra Karma etc. were victims of Naxalite violence at this place on 13th May. Naxalite violence has not yet been completely curbed. Military personnel of the armed forces have been killed in Chhattisgarh in a short span of time.

Naxalite violence has become a threat to the lives of the people. Due to this, the country's development and democracy are also being challenged. Till now the government has talked a lot to end this problem, but has not taken any concrete initiative. Now there is a strong need to take strict and effective steps for its solution.

## The new race in space: Can India emerge on top? What lies next?

By: Aakar Patel

In the dozen years between 1957 and 1969, the Americans and the Russians went on a series of space races. The Russians won almost everything at first. They were to first to send a satellite into orbit (Sputnik in 1957), the first to send a living thing into space, the dog Laika in the same year, the first to send a human being into orbit (Yuri Gagarin in 1961). The first person to "walk" in space, meaning exit the spacecraft while in orbit, was Aleksey Leonov in 1965. After this the United States registered its first win in 1969 when it was able to land humans on the moon. The US remains the only nation to be able to do this and it last did so in 1972. The Soviet Union tried and failed to develop a large rocket and so the space race virtually ended in the early 1970s. For 50 years, there has been no interest in moon landings with humans because the cost is very high and the American public lost interest.

The Space Shuttle programme was seen as a lower-cost, reusable way for America to send its astronauts into orbit and to the International Space Station. However, two disasters, one in the 1980s and another in the early 2000s (in which Kalpana Chawla was killed) and unexpectedly high costs ended the programme over a decade ago. After that, America did

not even have the capacity to send humans into orbit, something that changed only in 2020 when a private firm was able to begin its service.

Russians still fly rockets based on the same technology that was used in the 1960s, with some modifications, and much of the technology in the space race came from Nazi Germany's military rocket programme of 90 years ago. The captured scientists on the two fronts were pressed into service by the Americans and the Russians.

One reason why space innovation was stagnant for so many decades is that it was funded by governments which were spending large amounts on nationalistic projects. Even today, the budget for Nasa, the US space agency, is \$25 billion. Isro's budget is about \$1.5 billion, which makes its achievements over the decades quite remarkable.

This changed about 15 years ago, when it became clear that satellite communications, GPS and the Internet, were going to be very big drivers in the economy. Private firms began to take an interest first in developing the technology that would go into satellites and then to build rockets. This second shift happened after the US government funded space start-ups and allowed them, under conditions, to develop rocket technology. As rockets are no different from missiles,

their development and manufacturing is tightly controlled. Only American citizens, for instance, can work at these firms. This limits the amount of talent they can absorb but is one way that the government can ensure the technology does not reach what it considers to be the wrong hands.

Even with these restrictions, the private sector has breathed new life into the space sector. Another, much smaller, space race began after the US government's funding between two firms to launch the first human to orbit on a private rocket. Boeing, the giant company, lost out to the younger SpaceX, though it had received more funding than the start-up. Today, the rockets are reusable to a large extent and at least two firms are building giant rockets of the size that existed 50 years ago. The target is two-fold, the first is to lower the cost of space and reduce the cost per kilogram of putting things into orbit. The second is human space flight and attempting to colonise Mars. Imagine what a difference it will make to the world if there is an outpost humans create on another planet. Of course, this will be difficult: Even today in 2023, the number of entities that have sent humans into orbit around the earth is limited to Russia (USSR), the United States, China and the company SpaceX.

The winners in the race this

time stand to make large amounts of money (SpaceX, which is privately held, is valued at over \$100 billion) and also own technology that will help them monopolise space. Efficient rocket engines, new fuels, highly complex aspects of reusability and fuel transfers make this the domain of a very few entities.

The cost of launching a satellite runs into hundreds of crores of rupees. The monopoly over space will mean that, particularly on the commercial side, that is to say satellite launches, will be controlled by companies or nations that others will have no option but to go to. Even the UK and Germany today have no launch capacity and are dependent on either private entities or their ally, the United States, to launch satellites.

France's Ariane programme is currently dormant after it eased out its older rocket and is developing a new one. All of this makes this an exciting time for space around the world. This is the background in which India is attempting to soft-land a rover on the moon and will attempt, at some point next year hopefully, sending humans into orbit.

By the end of this decade, we will have a good idea of which nations and which companies are winning this new space race, and what that means for the future not just of science and technology but of humans as a whole.

## West Asia gaining strategic significance for New Delhi

By: Syed Ata Hasnain

It's after fairly a long time that I attended a half-day seminar on West Asia, a region till recently in the focus of the world but now seemingly less spoken about. In 2015, we had wars raging in Yemen, Syria and Iraq, with the Islamic State (Daesh) taking over the reins of ambition to establish its proverbial Islamic Caliphate. The confrontation between Iran and Saudi Arabia was threatening to go beyond just a proxy war. Qatar was isolated, with some nations establishing a blockade against it. The implosion of Syria through its civil war and the presence of the Islamic State in northern Syria and Iraq had led to a refugee crisis with a beeline of displaced people heading to Europe, especially through Turkey and Greece. Iraq also had an internecine Shia-Sunni confrontation on its streets. While Israel's relations with the Arabs continued to improve, the same was not the case with Iran. The Israeli-Palestinian confrontation remained the core conflict and blew up once in a while. That is a bagful for a region.

With the end of the Covid-19 pandemic and the early developments of a new world order, much focus has shifted to Ukraine and its war with Russia. The global cycle of terror which began after 1979 appears to be tapering off, with a reduction in high-profile terrorist activity and weakening of networks. It was in West Asia, Afghanistan-Pakistan region and parts of Europe that global terror's activities were earlier much more pronounced; in Af-Pak the intensity is still very high. The anticipated

shift of international focus was to the Indo-Pacific, where the US-China contest has been held back for long but the dynamics seem to suggest that the first testing of waters in the kinetic domain could well begin in the near future. The other area of attention of the strategic community appears to be Central Asia, as culled out of the larger Eurasian landmass. This is the area of the Great Game of the early twentieth century and the New Great Game of the twenty-first century. Global terror has its eyes on this area, which is populous and rich in minerals, awaiting exploitation of both human and mineral resources. The focus of the strategic energy scene seems to have diluted from West Asia and shifted to Russia. India's bulk of energy resources are currently being sourced from Russia.

So, in the midst of shifting strategic attention, Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to pay his fifth visit to the United Arab Emirates on his way home from France. The ministry of external affairs obviously thinks otherwise about West Asia's perceived dwindling strategic significance. Notice that the Prime Minister also visited Egypt on his way back from Washington. A deeper than peripheral look at the recent developments in West Asia appear to suggest that it may be premature to conclude that its strategic significance has in any way reduced. The MEA is not wrong.

In the last six months developments of a strategic nature have been rife in this region. It began with China's first serious entry into the strategic affairs of the region. Things moved at breakneck speed with the visit of China's Xi Jinping's

to Saudi Arabia in December 2022 and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Beijing in February 2023. Then came the Iran-Saudi Arabia deal brokered by China, in March 2023; that is within three months of the visit of Xi Jinping. Both Saudi Arabia and Iran perceive China as a more neutral mediator and China views itself as a reliable friend of both nations. In fact, China is the largest trading partner for the two countries, a major source of foreign currency for Iran, and has strategic relationships with both Riyadh and Tehran. Most analysts ascribe this Chinese intrusion into West Asia to US arrogance and its refusal to assess how far forward China had moved in the maturing of its diplomacy. A window of opportunity was grabbed, although many analysts believe that China's ability to understand Islamic politics and sectarian dynamics remains highly questionable. For China, keeping West Asia in ferment to offset US focus and pivot to the Indo-Pacific, is a core objective. The US is not going to redeploy to Afghanistan in a long time, although it remains concerned about it. The Ukraine war will dilute in intensity; it is West Asia with tapering conflicts which could rekindle.

There are some positive trends too, in fact quite a few. The Saudi-Iran conflict seems somewhat arrested, at least temporarily. Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammad bin Sultan's quest to introduce some liberal practices in the kingdom, and make the nation free from dependence on energy as the main source of its economy, is real, and there is an air of expectancy about it. The recent visit of Sheikh Mohammed Abdul

Karim al-Issa, secretary-general of Muslim World League, to India bears particular significance. What was thus far heard in India, in terms of the change in tone and tenor of Islam in Saudi Arabia, could be judged by the words of Dr al-Issa. He was convincing and genuine in all the interactions he had in India, mostly multi-faith events. If Saudi Arabia, the custodian of the holiest Islamic shrines, changes its outlook to a more modern interpretation of Islam, will it be natural for the rest of the faith to follow. There is no compulsion on that and much will depend on the Saudi royal family and its relationship with the clergy within.

What India is doing is the right thing. It's a major stakeholder in West Asia through its diaspora, remittances and growing economic relations, besides the energy linkages. This also dilutes Pakistan's strategic communication against India. The UAE has emerged as a pivotal partner for India. The agreement to promote the use of local currencies for mutual transactions may be the trend-setter for such eventual understanding with many more nations. The comfort level established in this relationship works well for outreach to many others. Besides, this is good for inter-faith ties too, as efforts of the diehard followers of Political Islam to create schisms in society through divisive ways can be curbed to a large extent. What we need is more mutual exchange visits between think tank representatives and personalities like Sheikh Mohammed Abdul Karim al-Issa also visiting and speaking to either end.

## DST-SERB sponsored Karyashala, Vritika programmes conclude at SKUAST-K



### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jul 18: Valedictory function of High End Workshop (Karyashala) and Training & Internship programme (Vritika) sponsored by DST-SERB under the Accelerate Vigyan (AV) Scheme on "Advanced techniques in soil, water & plant tissue testing" and "Advanced instrumentation techniques for assessment of soil health indicators" organized by Division of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry was held at Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura SKUAST-Kashmir.

encourage and identify youth who are motivated towards startup creation and entrepreneurship so that they can turn around the economy. Prof. Raihana in her address stated that these programmes aim to provide opportunity to participating PG scholars to acquire specialized research skills. Besides, participants will get sensitized with latest advanced technologies in the soil, water, plant & fertilizer analysis. She impressed upon the participants about the importance of the skill based training programmes to build entrepreneurial mindset among the youth and develop their skills so they can launch their own innovation-led startups and business ventures. She also said the skill training is a great service for our society to empower unemployed youth and enable them for a better life. The valedictory function ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. M.H Chetri.

## Sarveshwar Smile Foundation starts Stitching & Salaie training centre at Panjar Mounгри

### Top News Report

PANCHARI, Jul 18: Sarveshwar Smile Foundation, a J&K based (Section 8) Company engaged in social activities, started 4th Women Stitching & Salaie training centre at village Panjar of Tehsil- Mounгри, District Udhampur. The programme was inaugurated by Jasvir Singh, District Development Councillor Panchari-Mounгри. He appreciated the work of Sarveshwar Smile Foundation for the welfare of Needy people of the Panchari-Mounгри. Surat Singh representative of Sarveshwar Smiles Foundation conveyed that Sarveshwar Smiles Foundation is committed to bring smile on the faces of women community at large & gave commitment for free of cost one month training on Embroidery,



for their better livelihood. He informed that such skill trainings not only empowers them but also gives an opportunity to rural women to support their family in income generation. The programme was coordinated by Khajur Singh, Founder Sanjeevani Jan Kalyan, Jarnail Singh Naib Sarpanch & attended by more than 90 local women entrepreneurs of Panjar-Mounгри area villages of Udhampur District of Jammu & Kashmir.

## 95th ICAR day celebration and Technology demonstration concludes at KVK Samba

### Top News Report

SAMBA, Jul 18: Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Samba of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu on Tuesday concluded 3-day celebrations of 95th ICAR day by organizing technology demonstrations from 16th-18th July, 2023. More than 300 farmers/farm women enthusiastically participated in these programmes held at KVK premises under the leadership of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu. The day event witnessed a display of novel and innovative technologies including specimens, exhibits and agricultural tools and implements for the farmers. The concluding day of the programme began with a welcome address by Dr. Sanjay Khajuria, Chief Scientist & Head, KVK Samba. He welcomed the farmers and highlighted the importance of new and innovative technologies in agriculture particularly in Samba district for enhancing the income of the farmers. He emphasized upon the need to include new and innovative technologies in agriculture to improve the profitability in the

agriculture sector. He elaborated upon the various initiatives undertaken by the KVK during the last 03 days like organization of training and awareness programmes, demonstration on processing and value addition of kandi fruits like mango, citrus fruits, kissan goshtis, exhibition of the latest technologies for the benefit of the farmers. A series of the expert lectures were also delivered by the KVK scientists for the farming community of the Samba district. Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Senior Scientist (Horticulture) discussed in detail about the value addition of the fruits and vegetables in the Samba district and various post harvest measures to improve the income of the farmers. Dr. Abhay Kumar Sinha, Senior Scientist (Agricultural Engineering) elaborated upon the various aspects of farm mechanization in the field of agriculture like tractors, tillers, farm machinery banks, custom hiring centers, innovative farm tools and their role in reducing the farm drudgery to a greater extent. Dr. Saurav Gupta, Scientist (Entomology) gave detailed information about the importance of innovative farming as it offers a solution to vari-

ous problems, such as food security, farmers' distress, and health problems arising due to pesticide and fertilizer residue in food and water, global warming, climate change and natural calamities. He also discussed different ways to control various insects -pests and diseases of Chickpea through various innovative farming techniques. Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, Scientist (Animal Sciences) elaborated upon the role of livestock in improving the livelihood security of the farmers and different initiatives undertaken to improve the livestock farming and also different schemes for the welfare of the livestock farmers. Dr. Shalini, Programme Assistant, KVK Samba emphasized the importance of soil in agricultural productivity. She stressed upon that farmers should use organic farming techniques to promote soil health. Dr. Amit Mahajan discussed in detail about the various weed management practices in the Kharif crops. The programme concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. Saurav Gupta. Others who participated in the programme include Bharat Bhushan, Tajinder Singh and Pawan Singh.

## Army holds drug awareness campaign



### Top News Report

KUPWARA, Jul 18: With an aim to spread awareness about Drug Addiction and its ill effects, Haphruda Army Camp in collaboration with Widows, Orphan & Disable People's Trust NGO J&K, organized awareness campaign on Drugs at Govt Boys Higher Secondary School, Trathpora wherein various events like skits, group songs, speech and group dance were organised by the school students. These events primarily focussed upon ill effects of drugs on society and how collectively we can eradicate this social menace. Prominent personalities like SHO Vilgam,

Nb Tehsildar Trathpora, BDC Trathpora, Block Medical Officer Trathpora, Principal & Teachers of Higher Secondary School Trathpora, Sarpanches, Ward members, Asha workers of nearby villages, National Motivational speaker Md Shafi Mir and 2ic Vilgam Battalion shared their valuable knowledge on the subject. A total of 307 Students and 36 guests from various sections of society participated in aforesaid campaign. The awareness drive will also help to build confidence amongst civil society and motivate them to do well in their life. At the culmination of the event the participants were felicitated with prizes.

## Army felicitates Machipora boy for his achievement

### Top News Report

HANDWARA, Jul 18: Army Camp Bhagat-pura, on Tuesday felicitated Danish Javed Bhat, resident of Machipora, who has brought immense pride to the entire Kupwara District. His extraordinary achievement lies in being selected for the "Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Programme" in Science as part of the 'Sakura Exchange Programme' which is going to be held on 5th November later this year. Danish is one among the three students from

J&K taking part in the student exchange program. His ticket to this prestigious program was earned through his ingenious creation: a versatile "Multipurpose Stove", which he showcased at the esteemed National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC). This project has garnered widespread recognition and commendation. Danish and his parents expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Indian Army for their invaluable assistance, guidance and resources offered throughout the journey.

## Enjoy Monsoons, good skin days with best of skincare from Forest Essentials

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 18: Monsoons bring with themselves humidity and a plethora of skin concerns such as acne & clogged pores that are a result of excess oil production, hormonal changes, medication, diet, excessive stress and environmental pollutants. Implying one to create a skincare regimen that is specifically curated to target blemishes while stimulating the renewal of new cells. Forest Essentials presents a multi-step transformational ritual; a special selection of skincare products infused with superior Ayurvedic herbs that help address the concerns of oily skin. Each ingredient in these products addresses either a specific root cause or a side effect associated with acne, thereby

combatting & preventing it holistically. Together these Ayurvedic herb-enriched, clarifying products regulate sebum production, balance excess oil, and alleviate inflammation for blemish-free, matte skin. The ubtan is a skincare must-have that has stood the test of time - an age-old, at-home beauty ritual. The tradition dates back to ancient texts in India having found prominence during the Vedic Age when it was prescribed by Vaidyas or physicians for protection, feeding and beautification of the skin. Multani Mitti, or Fuller's Earth, has been synonymous with clear skin for eras - both in Indian cultures and internationally. First introduced to us in our grandmother's Nuskhas, it effectively treats acne and regulates oil production.

## Medical camp organised by 92 Bn CRPF at Panzula

### Top News Report

BARAMULLA, Jul 18: A free medical camp for distribution of lifesaving medicines to local populace was organized by 92 Battalion CRPF under its Civic Action Programme at Panzula Baramulla. The objective of the programme was to provide free medical aid to needy local villagers. Services of CRPF and State government, doctors specialized in various faculties of Medical Science were utilized for this purpose. The camp effectively catered to various medical needs of the local populace and to strengthen the already cordial relations between Public and Forces. The efforts of CRPF have been highly appreciated by the local people and they showed their willingness to support the CRPF in their endeavor to



Masoodi, Dr Sehrish and Dr Ruqaya from SDH Rohama and PHC Panzula were also present in the Medical Camp. Commandant 92 Battalion CRPF emphasized on the importance of such camps to help the populace and to strengthen the already cordial relations between Public and Forces. The efforts of CRPF have been highly appreciated by the local people and they showed their willingness to support the CRPF in their endeavor to

bring peace and normalcy in the area. The officers of CRPF promise to organize such programmes regularly in the future and meet the expectation of the local population to establish brotherhood between both. Commandant 92 Bn has also expressed gratitude to the doctors of the state govt./ CRPF & the people from the press, whose valuable contribution made this programme for so successful.

## NYKS organises Webinar on "Catch the Rain"

### Top News Report

MANDI, Jul 18: Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Poonch under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Govt of India organized another Webinar on theme "Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls". This webinar was hosted by Ex NYV, President Youth club. Three resource persons from different departments delivered lecture on Catch the Rain.

The webinar was also attended by a number youth from across the Poonch district. Some of them also shared their experiences towards water conservation. He said, Rainwater harvesting is collecting the run-off from a structure or other impervious surface in order to store it for later use. Traditionally, this involves harvesting the rain from a roof. Vote of thanks was presented by Ex NYV and President Youth club.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION NOWSHERA

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e- NIT No. 16 of 2023-24  
Dated: - 15-07-2023

For and on behalf of President of India, Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer PHE Division Nowshera, by e-tendering mode on percentage basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. / CPWD/ MES and Railways for the following works.

S.No	Particular	Estimate Cost in Lacs	Cost of Document (in lacs)	Earnest Money @ 2%	Time allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of Technical Bid	Class of Contractor	Bid Validity
1.	Construction of water testing laboratory at Jal Shakti (PHE) Sub Division Sunderbani under Jal Jeevan Mission.	17.93	1000.00	35860/-	45 days	27-07-2023	"B&C"	90 days

- Position of funds = Demanded
- Position of AAA = Submitted
- Date of publishing from 15-07-2023 upto (1800 Hrs.)
- The bidding documents can be downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 1800 P.M. on 15-07-2023 onwards.
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 1800 Hrs on 15-07-2023 to 26-07-2023 up to 1800 Hrs. The bids received will be opened at 12:00 Hrs. on 27-07-2023.
- The complete bidding process will be on line.
- Technical bids of bidders shall be opened on line in the office of Executive Engineer PHE Division Nowshera on 27-07-2023.
- The financial bid of the bidder shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer PHE Division Nowshera and shall be communicated separately.
- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specification, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.
- The site for the work is available.

No:-PHE/N/2664-2718  
Dated:-15-07-2023

**DIP/J-5170/23**

Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division  
Nowshera

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
Mechanical Division Kishtwar  
e-mail: [mechanicalkishtwar@gmail.com](mailto:mechanicalkishtwar@gmail.com)

### Notice Inviting Tender

For and on behalf of the Lt. governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders in two (02) cover system are invited from the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) or their authorized dealers/distributors or registered, reputed, functional firms for the work mentioned below as per the Scope & Technical specifications, terms and conditions and works completed as envisaged in this standard bidding document:

S.No.	Description of work.	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money	Inviting Authority
1.	Design, Fabrication, Erection of CGI Shed (20x30) feet in Model Orchard cum Nursery at Damber Chatroo for Horticulture Department in District Kishtwar	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 13000/-	Executive Engineer Mechanical Division MED Kishtwar
2.	Repairs to the MS-Steel Structure in Model Orchard cum Nursery at Dumber Chatroo for Horticulture Department.	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 5000/-	
3.	Repairs to Backhoe Loader Excavator CASE	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 4000/-	

S No	Particulars	Schedule Date & Time
1	Date of issue of E-Nit	13.07.2023
2	Document download start Date	13.07.2023
3	Bid Submission Start Date	13.07.2023
4	Bid Submission End Date	22.07.2023
5	Technical Bid Opening Date	22.07.2023 or date convenient to the tender inviting authority
6	Price Bid Opening Date	To be intimated Separately

Interested and eligible firms may submit the complete proposals, both technical and financial in prescribed formats through Tender Fee in Shape of Treasury Challan of Rs. 200/- each issued by J&K Government Treasury well within the valid time period of the said e-NIT and requisite documents required online on <https://jktenders.gov.in>.The Site can be inspected any time during working hours before the due date and clarifications if any can be sought from the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Kishtwar in person or through email at [mechanicalkishtwar@gmail.com](mailto:mechanicalkishtwar@gmail.com).

-sd-  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical Division  
Kishtwar

No:- MDK/23-24/ 317-23  
Dated:-13.07.2023

**DIP/J-5133/23**

## Apple Valley Association calls on JD(U) Leader Vivek Bali

### Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Jul 18: A delegation of Apple Valley Association led by Manzoor Ahmed Shah, President along with JD(U) Chairman Sikh community Dilar Singh called on JD(U) State General Secretary Vivek Bali at Anantnag here today. The 6-member delegation including Vice President, Javed Ahmed, Secretary Jagdish Singh, Members Manzoor Ahmed Bhat, Jahangir Ahmed Shah and Moin Salam submitted a

memorandum of demands to the Vivek Bali and put forth various issues and demands pertaining to smooth operations of Business community and welfare of Local People. Vivek Bali said the recent restriction on tourist movement in the Bijbehara and Langabal and other Areas has had a severe impact on the local businesses. With tourists no longer visiting the region, establishments such as juice centers, hotels, restaurants, handicraft shops, fruit points, and resorts have experienced



a sharp decline in customers and revenue. As a consequence, approximately 1500 families in the area are now grappling with financial hardships, leading to difficulties in paying wages to non-local laborers. Bali said the situation calls for urgent attention and intervention from the LG administration, led by Manoj Sinha. We earnestly

appeal to him to assess the situation and find a balanced approach that considers both the need for tourism regulation and the livelihoods of those dependent on the tourism industry. Timely intervention is crucial to provide relief and support to the affected families and businesses in the region. The JD(U) leader Vivek Bali gave a patient hearing to the members of the delegation and assured that their genuine issues and demands would be redressed on merit.

# With the growing popularity of audio series and podcasts, many actors have taken up voice overs as another medium to showcase their talent. Here's getting to know a few among them

Celebrities never shy away from trying their hand at different things. Be it fashion, business, YouTube, Vlogs or humanitarian causes, artistes often jump into the fray. As more actors are lending their voice to audio series, here's a quick check.

**Marvel universe**  
Saif Ali Khan joined the Marvel universe with the first-ever Hindi original audio-series by Audible India titled Marvel's Wastelanders: Star Lord. Released on June 28, the 10-episode series is already commissioned for six seasons focused on different Marvel superheroes, including Hawkeye, Black Widow, Wolverine, Doom, and Marvel's Wastelanders. It has been adapted in Hindi from Marvel's hit audio series by the same name.

Kareena Kapoor Khan will also be joining her husband, Saif, for this ambitious project in the following seasons, as she has signed up to lend her voice to the character of Black Widow (Helen Black).

At the announcement event of this series, actors Jaideep Ahlawat (Hawkeye), Ashish Vidyarthi (Doctor Doom) and Sharad Kelkar (Wolverine) also joined the power couple, confirming their roles in the series in the near future. The upcoming season will release through this year and 2024. Apart from them, Mithila Palkar, Prajakta Koli and Masaba Gupta (Lisa



Cartwright) have also lent their voice for supporting roles in the first season of Wastelanders (Hindi).

**Power couple**  
Another Bollywood couple associated with voice-overs is Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal. Together they were part of audio thriller Virus 2062 back in 2021 when many actors were still contemplating whether audio medium was good for their careers. And now the season two of the same series awaits release.

**Going global**  
Actress Shruti Haasan had recently lent her voice to a character in DC's audio-drama Sandman: Act III. She voiced the character of the landlady at the World's End Inn in this New York Times best-selling original audio drama series. The project has been directed by Neil Gaiman. This is her third international project after acting in the series Treadstone and lending her voice to the character of

Elsa in Frozen 2 (Tamil).

Gaiman's The Sandman got a Hindi adaptation last year and Tabu (narrator), Manoj (Dr Destiny) Bajpayee and Adarsh Gourav (John Constantine) lent their voices to the audio series. Other members of the voice-cast include artistes Vijay Varma (Lord Morpheus/Dream), Kubbra Sait (Death), Sushant Divgikar (Desire), Tillotama Shome (Colliope) and Neeraj Kabi (Lucifer).

Bollywood actor Amit Sadh made his debut as a voice artiste for a podcast on DC Superhero, titled Batman Ek Chakravayu. While Mantra is the director of this Spotify series, actors Sharib Hashmi and Shweta Tripathi have lent their voices for the important characters of Riddler and Barbara Gordon, respectively. Anangsha Biswas, Aseem Hattangady, Ashwin Mushran, Danish Hussain, Pooja Gor, Rajat Kapoor, Sarika and Vrajesh Hirjee were also part of the series.

Mirzapur-fame Rasika Dugal has been part of BBC Radio 2 audio series, The Empire. This international comedy audio series has been written by stand-up comedian-screenwriter Anuvab Pal and directed by Ed Morrish. British veteran Stephen Fry is also a part of the series.

**Work wise**  
Actor Adarsh Gourav's recent audio series, Desi Down Under, was released in May this year. Earlier, he also worked in Neil Gaiman's The Sandman as a voice artiste. Actress Prajakta Koli is also part of Desi Down Under and has worked in Marvel's Wastelanders: Star Lord.

**Beyond television**  
TV show Anupamaa-fame Sudhanshu Pandey hails podcasts as the future of the entertainment industry. He has lent his voice for an audio series, Shraapit. He says, "Audio platforms represent a new form of entertainment and I firmly believe that they have a bright future ahead. This growth is evident in various aspects, such as the popularity of audiobooks. People truly enjoy listening to stories, and for actors, it offers a unique opportunity to showcase their talent solely through their voice. They need not worry about facial expressions, makeup or hair, but can instead channel all their focus into voice modulation. Personally, if I were to lend my voice to an international character, I would choose the Hulk."

# Anupama Solanki talks about her character in Nath Krishna Aur Gauri ki Kahaani



Anupama Solanki believes the look of her character in Nath Krishna Aur Gauri Ki Kahani

has gone to another level, thanks to her nail extensions.

"I love nail extensions, and whenever I have a shoot, I make sure to get them done. However, for the past two months, I have been consistently wearing nail extensions because of my role in the new Dangal TV show Nath Krishna Aur Gauri ki Kahani.

As an actor, I felt that this character, Kalawati, required nail extensions. Although nobody explicitly instructed me to get them, I decided to incorporate them to enhance the portrayal of Kalawati's vibrant and slightly cruel personality," she says.

She adds, "Nail extensions give my character power and authority because I am playing with nails. It's like a prop that allows me to manipulate and showcase them. As an actor, it greatly aids me in my performance. Furthermore, my fans love my extensions, and they pay close attention to them. Even on the sets, all of my co-stars admire my nail extensions because I consistently opt for creative designs."

# Singer-actor Ariana Grande appears at Wimbledon without a wedding ring

Singer and actor Ariana Grande continued to spark rumours about her relationship with her husband, Dalton Gomez, after being spotted without her wedding ring at the Wimbledon men's singles final.

During the match, Grande was seated between Andrew Garfield and Bridgerton star Jonathan Bailey. She seemed to be enjoying the match and reacting to the moments by covering her mouth with her right hand while her left hand rested on her lap, and it was without a ring!

The last time the God Is a Woman singer was seen with her wedding ring in public was back in April at Jeff Goldblum's concert in London. Dalton and Grande married secretly in 2021 at her Montecito, California, home. The popstar previously dated Pete Davidson, Big Sean, and the late Mac Miller.



# From cleaning to writing, AI has completely taken over our lives. Here's what celebrities think about this development...

**Amazing efficiency**  
Romiit Raaj  
AI is amazing. Recently, I used AI to create my work profile, and I sent it, along with my pictures, to director Vikram Motwane. I was impressed that my entire life history was covered on paper in seconds, and all I had to do was copy and paste. Life is all about saving time and being efficient at work today, and I believe AI will make things more professional.

**Affecting thinking ability**  
Siddharth Joukani  
It affects logical reasoning. The information we are receiving from ChatGPT is the information that has been fed to the servers, and it is not up-to-date; it was last updated in 2021.

**Core competence**  
Lokit Phulwani  
Artificial Intelligence (AI) is set to become a core component of all modern software over the coming years. For instance, AI can identify an individual's personality traits based exclusively on what Facebook posts they have liked.



**A new future**  
Chitra Vakil Sharma  
There would always be humans in the loop, but the skill set of the future would change. There would be enough opportunities with growth in the market. Jobs involving manual labour would change, but high-skill jobs would come up in the market. Post offices have closed with email,

cameras have been replaced with smart phones, but jobs are generated in different sectors. We just need to embrace change and move forward with new technologies.  
**AI is limited**  
Madalsa Sharma  
The use of Artificial Intelligence is undoubtedly an amazing idea. But again, it is the result

of programming done by humans. AI is limited, while the human mind has no limits so far.

**Human over AI**  
Ruhaan Saapru  
According to me, the only region where AI overpowers humans is their efficiency, and that's the reason AI was created. However, we humans have vision, creativity, and problem-solving skills that machines cannot master. The one difference that makes humans better than AI is that humans have the ability to think as per the situation and emotion.

**It's revolutionary**  
Arun Mandola  
ChatGPT is just in the initial stage, but it has already completed many tasks, making it one of the biggest revolutions in the last 100 years. With just one click and at half the price, you can receive efficient and quick work. Currently, I am managing my entire household with the help of AI. I no longer need a servant to clean my house. With just one click, my AI robot cleans my house.

**Tread carefully**  
Charrul Malik  
AI is a technology that has been developed to help humans, and it is important that we understand its role in our lives. Similar to all other innovations in the past, we need to ensure it doesn't become the cause of insecurity or an inability to learn. It is imperative that humans continue to stay involved in the process!

**Just a disruptor**  
Nikhil Nanda  
In earlier times, when computers came along, the typists working on typewriters lost their jobs. People thought it was the end of manual labour, but over time it has increased and improved efficiency, the output has gone up multiple times, and there have been multiple employment opportunities. In the case of AI, we are also going to see a lot more advances. I don't think it would cause any major job losses, but it's going to be a big disruptor, which will improve in times to come.

# Salman Khan, production house SFK warn acting aspirants against fake casting call



Superstar Salman Khan and his production company Salman Khan Films (SKF) on Monday issued a statement

warning to fans as well as aspiring actors against false casting calls.

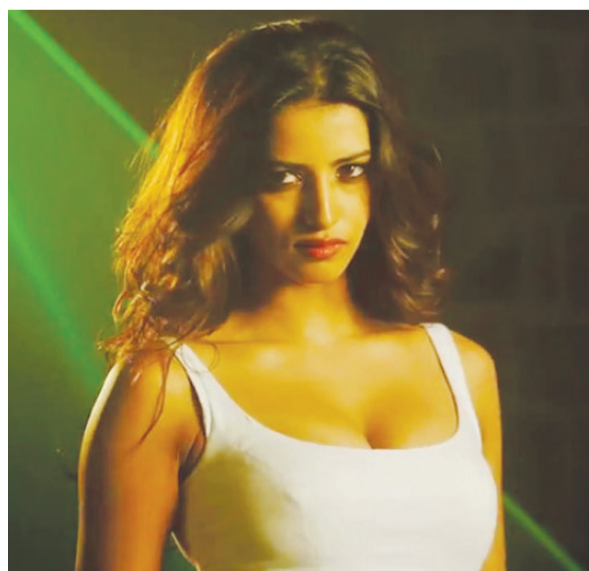
The production banner, known for backing films such as "Chillar Party", "Bajranghi Bhaijaan" and "Bharat", said they have not hired any casting agents for their future movies.

"This is to clarify that neither Mr Salman Khan nor Salman Khan Films are casting for any film currently. We have not hired any casting agents for any of our future films. Please do not trust any emails or messages received by you for this purpose," the statement read.

"Legal action will be taken if any party is found falsely using Mr Khan's or SKF's name in any unauthorised manner," it added.

Salman's last big-screen release was "Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan", which is available for streaming on ZEE5. His next theatrical outing is Yash Raj Films "Tiger 3".

# Manasvi Mamgai talks about her OTT debut



Manasvi Mamgai recently made her OTT debut with The Trial. The former Miss India made her debut with Ajay Devgn's 2014 film Action Jackson. Manasvi plays the role of a star's girlfriend, who is on the receiving end of a witch hunt after the suspicious death of her boyfriend. Her case is taken up by Kajol's character, who is determined to prove Manasvi's innocence.

# Actress, singer and fashion icon Jane Birkin passes away at 76

Jane Birkin, the British actor and singer who rose to fame in France, is no more. She was 76. Birkin was born in London, but moved to Paris at the age of 20 to work in the film Slogan.

She fell in love with the film's star, French actor and singer Serge Gainsbourg, and the two quickly became the focus of public attention.

The couple frequently collaborated professionally, most notably on Je t'aime... moi non plus. Despite being British, Birkin quickly became a star in her own right and a fashion icon in France. Hermes, the French luxury house, used her as inspiration for the famous Birkin bag.

Birkin began her acting career with minor roles in Michelangelo Antonioni's Blowup (1966) and Kaleidoscope (1966). Birkin went on to appear in the Agatha Christie adaptations Death on the Nile (1978) and Evil Under the Sun (1982).

In 1991, she starred in the miniseries Red Fox, and in 1998, in the American



drama film A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries. She also starred in the Academy Award-nominated short film La Femme et le TGV in 2016, which she stated was her final film role.

## 'For opposition, democracy means of the family, for the family, by the family', PM Modi tears into Bengaluru assembly

*Was speaking at the inauguration of an integrated airport terminal in Port Blair, through virtual mode*

NEW DELHI, Jul 18 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday launched a blistering attack on the opposition assembly in Bengaluru saying that democracy for the parties gathered in Karnataka's capital, meant an arrangement "of the family, for the family, by the family and not of the people, for the people, by the people".

Describing the gathering of 26 opposition parties in Bengaluru as "bhrashtachar ki dukaan (a shop of corruption)," the PM said, "In this shop, two products are guaranteed -- poison of casteism and unprecedented corruption."

Speaking at the inauguration of an integrated airport terminal in Port Blair, through virtual mode, the PM tore into the opposition parties gathered in Karnataka to strategise against the ruling BJP for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"Look at the multiple faces these people (opposition parties) are wearing. When they



appear in one camera frame, what comes to people's minds is their standing for corruption worth lakhs of crores. People are saying that 'Kattar bhrashtachari sammelaan' (a seminar of the super corrupt) is going on in Bengaluru," the PM said, adding that the only product guarantee the opposition can offer is scams of Rs 20 lakh crore.

The PM also attacked the non-BJP parties assembled in Bengaluru saying the assembly was according special importance to the corrupt.

"Another speciality of this meeting is -- if anyone is on bail for corruption, they get more respect. If an entire family is out on bail they get even greater respect. If a sitting minister goes to jail for corruption he is a

special invitee; if someone has been convicted of defaming a community they are extended a special welcome. They seek guidance from corruption convicts," the PM said in veiled jibes on the Gandhi family, RJD chief Lalu Yadav and DMK chief MK Stalin whose ministers are being raided by the ED for graft.

The PM also slammed the opposition saying their sole ideology is "personal and family welfare rather than the welfare of the country".

"Democracy normally means an arrangement of the people, for the people and by the people. But for these dynasts, the mantra is of the family, for the family and by the family. Family first, nation nothing. Their sole motive is family welfare," alleged the PM holding the opposition responsible for failure to unleash the potential of India's youth who are now scripting a revolution in the start-up industry.

## Former Kerala CM Oommen Chandy passes away at 79

*The Kerala government has announced Tuesday as a public holiday and two days' mourning as a mark of respect to the late former chief minister*



BENGALURU, Jul 18 (Agencies): Senior Congress leader Oommen Chandy, who served as the chief minister of Kerala twice, died in Bengaluru in the early hours of Tuesday, his family said.

He was 79. The death of the former Kerala chief minister was announced by his son, Chandy Oommen, in a Facebook post.

"Appa has passed away", Oommen wrote on his Facebook page,

without elaborating. The Kerala government has announced Tuesday as a public holiday and two days' mourning as a mark of respect to the late former chief minister.

Congress sources said Chandy died at a private hospital at 4.25 am while undergoing treatment for cancer.

Chandy, who had not been keeping well for quite some time, was staying in Bengaluru for treatment.

He was the chief minister twice for a total of seven years (2004-2006 and again from 2011-2016).

Chandy had also served as Minister of Labour, Home, and Finance in various governments headed by K Karunakaran and AK Antony. He also served as the Leader of Opposition in the Kerala Assembly.

Representing Puthupally constituency, Chandy served as the MLA for more than half a century setting the record for the longest tenure.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Assembly Speaker AN Shamseer, Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly VD Satheesan, Union Minister V Muraliedharan, and leaders of various political parties condoled Chandy's demise.

## 1 killed, another seriously injured after bike falls on car from flyover above while performing stunts

VARANASI (UP), Jul 18 (Agencies): One person was killed and another was seriously injured when a motorcycle fell from a flyover above on top of their car in Ganjari area of Shivpur here, police said on Tuesday.



The incident occurred on Sunday night when a couple allegedly performing stunts on a motorcycle on the flyover lost control and fell on the two-wheeler passing underneath, SHO Shivpur Bajinath Singh said.

According to eyewitnesses, a young couple was shooting a video while performing a stunt on the flyover.

A Railway engineer, Sarvesh (25), suffered

head injuries and died on the spot, while his friend Aditya Verma -- also travelling in the car -- was admitted to a private hospital with serious injuries, Singh said.

Soon after the accident, the couple abandoned the bike and fled from the spot, the officer said. A case has been registered against unknown persons, he

said, adding efforts are on to identify the culprits with the help of chassis number of the bike. The bike was without a registration number, Singh added.

Sarvesh was posted in the electricity department of East Central Railway in Prayagraj and was going to the market with Aditya, police said.

## Supreme Court to hear Rahul Gandhi's appeal against Gujarat High Court verdict in defamation case on July 21

NEW DELHI, Jul 18 (Agencies): The Supreme Court will hear on Friday Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's petition challenging the Gujarat High Court's order refusing to stay his conviction in the 'Modi surname defamation case'.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Tuesday agreed to take up Gandhi's petition challenging the Gujarat High Court's July 7 verdict after senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi mentioned it for urgent listing.

Following a Surat court's March 23 verdict convicting him in the defamation case and giving him two-year imprisonment, Gandhi-elected to the Lok Sabha from Wayanad in Kerala in 2019--was disqualified as an MP



under the Representation of the People Act. A stay on his conviction would pave the way for his reinstatement as an MP.

Noting that Gandhi was already facing 10 criminal cases across India, Justice Hemant Prachchhak of the Gujarat High Court had on July 7 said there was no reasonable ground to stay the conviction and the magisterial court's order was "just, proper and legal".

However, even after dismissal of his plea for stay of conviction by the sessions court, Rahul Gandhi will not go to jail as his sentence remains suspended.

The high court had noted that Gandhi, while addressing a poll rally where he made the controversial remark, took Prime Minister Narendra Modi's name in his speech to "add sensation" and with an intention to "affect the result" of the 2019 Lok Sabha

election.

However, Gandhi submitted before the top court that if the impugned judgement was not stayed, it would lead to "throttling of free speech, free expression, free thought, and free statement" and it would contribute to the "systematic, repetitive emasculation of democratic institutions and the consequent strangulation of democracy which would be gravely detrimental to the political climate and future of India".

BJP MLA and former minister in Gujarat government Purnesh Modi had filed a criminal defamation case against Gandhi over his "How come all thieves have Modi as the common surname?" remark made during an election rally at Kolar in Karnataka on April 13, 2019.

A metropolitan magistrate's court in Surat had on March 23 sentenced Rahul Gandhi to two-year jail term after convicting him under sections 499 and 500 (criminal defamation) of the IPC in the case. Gandhi challenged the order in a sessions court in Surat, which remains pending. While granting him bail, the sessions court on April 20 refused to stay the conviction, following which, he had moved the High Court where he failed to get a favourable order.

The Congress leader moved the top court on July 15 against the high court's order, arguing that his comment was a part of a political speech made during the 2019 Lok Sabha campaign and that there was no intention to defame the complainant.

## Man beaten to death in Thane; murder case registered against 3 persons

THANE, Jul 18 (Agencies): Police have registered a case against three persons for allegedly beating to death a 49-year-old man after a dispute in Maharashtra's Thane district, an official said on Tuesday.

The incident took place at around 1 am on Monday when the victim while walking accidentally pushed the accused in Vitthalwadi locality of Ulhasnagar, he said.

The accused got angry and

allegedly beat up the man severely, the official said quoting a complaint filed by the victim's son.

On Monday morning, the victim's son received a phone call from his father saying some people beat him up and he was in a hospital.

The complainant then took his father to a government hospital in Ulhasnagar, but as the victim had breathing problems, he was rushed to a civic-run hospital in

Kalwa area.

As there was no oxygen bed available there, the victim was rushed to the KEM Hospital in neighbouring Mumbai where he vomited and doctors later declared him dead, according to the FIR.

The victim's son subsequently filed a police complaint against the three accused.

The police said an acquaintance of the deceased informed

his son that he had seen the three accused beating up the victim severely.

Based on the complaint, the police early Tuesday morning registered a case against the three accused under Indian Penal Code Sections 302 (murder) and 34 (common intention), the official said.

No arrest was made so far, he said, adding a probe was on into the case.

## 4 persons killed, 8 injured as truck hits jeep in Maharashtra's Thane

THANE, Jul 18 (Agencies): At least four persons were killed and eight others injured when a speeding container truck hit a jeep in which they were travelling in Maharashtra's Thane district on Tuesday, police said.

The truck coming from the opposite direction hit the jeep following which the vehicle got dragged for about 100 metres

and overturned, an official from the police control room said.

The accident took place at around 6.30 am amid heavy rainfall at Khadoli turning in Padgha area of Bhiwandi taluka, an official from Padgha police station told agency.

Four persons died on the spot and eight others, including the jeep driver, were injured,

the control room official said.

After getting information, some locals rushed the injured persons to the IGM Hospital in Bhiwandi and a civic-run hospital in Kalwa, the police said.

The bodies were sent to a government hospital for postmortem, they said.

## 9-month-old dies after falling into bucket of water in Ghaziabad



GHAZIABAD, Jul 18 (Agencies): A nine-month-old child died after he fell into a bucket half-filled with water in the Kaushambi area of Ghaziabad.

"The child wandered into the bathroom of the house while his mother was sleeping. He accidentally fell into a bucket half-filled with water, and died, said Manish, father of the child. His mother woke up after nearly an hour, and found the baby missing. She then rushed to the bathroom looking for the child, and found him lying motionless in the bucket.

She immediately rushed the child to a nearby hospital, where he was declared dead.

## Woman air force officer attacked by mess worker in Punjab's Pathankot, hospitalised

PATHANKOT, Jul 18 (Agencies): A woman Indian Air Force (IAF) officer was seriously injured after being allegedly attacked by a mess worker at her official residence in Pathankot district of Punjab, police said on Tuesday.

They said the accused gained entry into the officer's house Monday night and intended to commit robbery.

The officer, a Squadron Leader, was asleep and woke up when she heard some noises. She tried to confront the intruder but he



attacked her with a knife, causing her multiple injuries, Pathankot Senior Superintendent of Police Harkamalpreet Singh Khakh said.

The accused, identified as Makhan Singh, was arrested with the

help of CCTV footage, he said.

The woman officer was alone in the home during the time of the incident, Khakh said.

Another woman IAF officer, living in an adjoining quarter, who

went to the victim's residence found her in an injured condition and called for assistance, the police official said.

She was rushed to a hospital and later referred to Army's Command Hospital in Haryana's Chandimandir, he said.

The accused was apprehended and charged with attempt to murder, the SP said, adding further investigation in the case is on.

Police said the accused lived near the house of the victim.

## Labourer from Odisha killed after fight in Karnataka



MANGALURU, Jul 18 (Agencies): A construction worker was killed following a tussle with a fellow labourer over some work-related issues at Katapady in Udipi district, police sources said on Tuesday.

Ganesh (50) from Odisha was engaged in a construction work near the Katapady-Shirva road. Sources said the two labourers had engaged in a fracas over some work-related issue on Monday night. Ganesh was seriously injured in the clash that followed. Though he was rushed to hospital by fellow labourers, he died on the way.

The accused labourer is absconding and the police have launched a search for him, they said.

## No indication that Afghan refugees in Pak guilty of acts of terrorism: White House

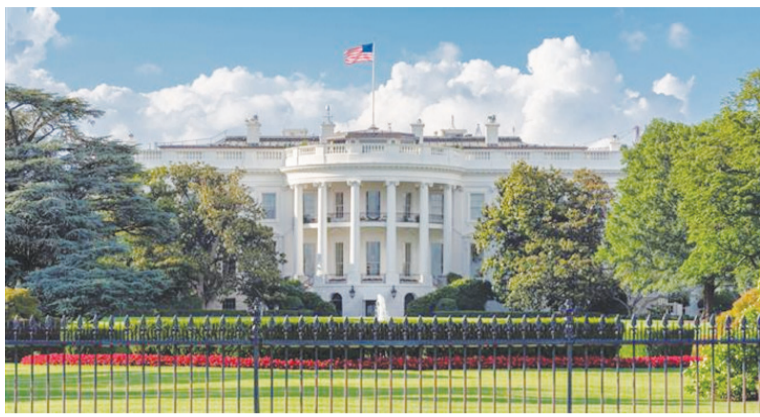
*Remarks come two days after Pakistan's Defence Minister said that allowing Afghan refugees to settle in Pakistan was grave mistake*

WASHINGTON, Jul 18 (Agencies): There is no indication that the Afghan refugees in Pakistan or those living along the border with Afghanistan are guilty of acts of terrorism, the White House has said after Islamabad accused them of creating instability.

The remarks by White House National Security Spokesperson John Kirby came two days after Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that allowing Afghan refugees to settle in Pakistan was a grave mistake amid a spike in terrorist attacks on the country.

"The current situation has raised significant concerns about the facilities provided to the Afghan refugees," Asif said, adding Pakistan has suffered the consequences of sheltering and hosting the Afghan refugees. He also accused Afghan nationals involved in terrorist activities.

"(We are) seeing no indication that Afghan refugees in Pakistan or along that border are guilty of acts of terrorism,"



Kirby told reporters at a news conference here on Monday.

Kirby said the US is grateful to Pakistan for the incredible generosity that they have extended to so many Afghans who are just looking for a safe and secure place to be.

"And we'll continue to work with Pakistan as we have on their legitimate terrorism threats and their challenges in counterterrorism," he said.

"I mean the President's been clear that we're going to take seriously our ability to improve our over-the-horizon counterterrorism capability, and we'll

use it effectively as we need to use it," Kirby said in response to a question.

Asif on Saturday said: the previous government led by Imran Khan made serious errors during its tenure, committing crimes against the state.

"Over 300,000 people have been brought here, with 500,000 Afghan migrants already present," he said.

The Pakistan Army's top brass on Monday said that sanctuaries and latest weapons available to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorists in a "neigh-

bouring country" is one of the reasons behind the spike in recent terrorist attacks, in a veiled reference to the Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.

During the 258th Corps Commanders' Conference presided over by Army chief General Asim Munir, the top generals also vowed to fully support the strategic initiatives of the government for the revival of the economy by providing all possible technical and management assistance for the overall well-being of the people of Pakistan.

"The sanctuaries and liberty of action available to the terrorists of proscribed TTP and other groups of that ilk in a neighbouring country and availability of latest weapons to the terrorists were noted as major reasons impacting the security of Pakistan," the army said in a statement.

Though not named, the neighbouring country was Afghanistan which was blamed by Pakistan last week for tolerating the outlawed TTP on its soil.

## E-Bike Firm 'VanMoof' In Netherlands Declared Bankrupt



THE HAGUE, Jul 18 (Agencies): Dutch electric bike maker VanMoof, whose popularity earned it the name "Tesla of e-bikes" but has faced financial problems, has been declared bankrupt by a court, the company said Tuesday.

The company had raised \$128 million in September 2021 in an effort to expand as it rode a boom in the e-bike sector after the Covid pandemic prompted people to seek alternatives

means of transportation.

But it has struggled since then, with Dutch media saying it was plagued by bad publicity as bikes broke down frequently and repairs took too long.

The Amsterdam firm lost almost 80 million euros (\$90 million) in 2021 and the same figure last year, according to financial daily Het Financieele Dagblad (FD).

An Amsterdam court granted the company a stay of payment last

week after VanMoof filed for protection from creditors.

But the firm said the court withdrew the suspension of payment proceeding of VanMoof's Dutch legal entities on Monday and "declared these entities bankrupt."

VanMoof added that its legal entities outside the Netherlands are not in insolvency proceedings.

Two administrators were appointed as trustees.

The trustees "are investigating the possibilities of a re-start out of bankruptcy by means of an asset sale to a third party, so that the activities of VanMoof can be continued," the company said in a statement.

VanMoof's bikes, which are sold in 20 countries, are known for their sleek, simplistic design with a battery hidden in the frame. Its bikes cost several thousand euros.

## Soaring Summer Temperatures In Europe Sends Tourists To Cooler Climates

LONDON/ROME, Jul 18 (Agencies): Soaring summer temperatures across southern Europe could prompt a lasting shift in tourist habits, with more travellers choosing cooler destinations or taking their holidays in spring or autumn to dodge the extreme heat, tourism bodies and experts predict.

European Travel Commission (ETC) data shows the number of people hoping to travel to the Mediterranean region in June to November has already fallen 10% compared to last year, when scorching weather led to droughts and wildfires. Destinations like the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ireland and Bulgaria have meanwhile seen a spike in interest.

"We anticipate that unpredictable weather conditions in the future will have a greater impact on travellers' choices in Europe," said Miguel Sanz, the head of the ETC.

A report by the trade body also shows 7.6% of travellers now see extreme weather events as a major concern for trips between June and November.

Among them are Anita Elshoy and her husband, who returned home to Norway from their favourite vacation spot of Vasanello, a village north of Rome, a week earlier than planned this month as temperatures reached around 35C.

"(I) got a lot of pain in the head, legs and (my) fingers swelled up and I became more and more dizzy," Elshoy said of her heat-related symptoms. "We were supposed to be there for two weeks, but we couldn't (stay) because of the heat."

**NO CANCELLATIONS YET**

Demand for travel has soared again this summer as tourists leave behind years of pandemic restrictions,

and travel companies say the heat hasn't caused many cancellations - yet.

Britons in particular have booked fewer holidays at home and more in the Mediterranean, often many months in advance, as they continue to crave post-lockdown beach escapes, said Sean Tipton of British travel agent group ABTA.

But that balance could shift as heatwaves are set to become more gruelling. Scientists have long warned that climate change, caused by CO2 emissions from burning fossil fuels, will make weather events more frequent, severe and deadly.

Meteorologists predict that temperatures in the coming week may surpass Europe's current record of 48.8 degrees Celsius (119.84 Fahrenheit), set in Sicily in August 2021, raising fears of a repetition of last year's heat deaths.

Stories of tourists being airlifted off Italian beaches or ferried away in ambulances from Athens' Acropolis have flooded European media in recent weeks.

"Our recent research indicates a decline in the number of people interested in travelling in August, the peak month, while more Europeans are considering autumn trips," Sanz said.

**SHIFTS IN SOUTHERN EUROPE**

Tourists in Rome told agency they would think twice about booking a trip there again in July as they struggled to drink enough water, stay cool and find air-conditioned spots to rest.

"I would come when it's colder. Only June, April," said Dalphna Niebuhr, an American tourist on holiday with her husband in Rome this week, who said the heat was making her visit "miserable."

That's bad news for Italy's economy, which thrives on busy summer

traffic.

Italy's Environment Ministry warned in a report this year that foreign tourists would in future travel more in the spring and autumn and choose cooler destinations.

"The balance will be negative, also because part of the Italian tourists will contribute to the flow of international tourism to less hot countries," the report said.

Some hope that the change will simply be a shift in traffic, not a reduction.

In Greece, where international air arrivals were up 87.5% year-on-year between January and March, overcrowding in the summer has plagued tourist hot spots like the island of Mykonos.

Increased travel in the winter, spring and autumn months could ease that problem and make up for a potential summer slowdown, according to the Greek environment ministry.

Greek authorities closed Athens' ancient Acropolis during the hottest part of the day on Friday to protect tourists.

In Spain, high vacation demand is expected in coastal destinations in the north of the country and on Spanish tourist islands, where summer temperatures tend to be cooler, according to a report from national tourism association Exceltur.

Spaniards Daniel Otero and Rebeca Vazquez, who were visiting Bilbao, said they might move their holiday to June next year, when it would be cooler and more comfortable.

For Elshoy, summers in southern Europe may be a thing of the past. She said she will consider holidaying in her home country of Norway instead, adding: "I don't want to have a holiday where I have a headache and am dizzy again."

## Threads Limits User Activity Due To Spam Attacks, Elon Musk Calls It Copycat

SAN FRANCISCO, Jul 18 (Agencies): The Threads and Twitter drama is far from over. Head honchos of both social media organisations continue to make statements about one another, with Twitter owner Elon Musk not being subtle in his displeasure over the similarities between the two apps. Now, Elon Musk has accused Threads of copying Twitter [once again] after Instagram head Adam Mosseri's announcement about implementing rate limits on Threads was shared online.

Mosseri posted on Threads, "Spam attacks have increased, so we need to tighten things like rate limits, which



may unintentionally limit active users (false positives). If you are affected by these protections, please let us know." Later, when a user tweeted a screenshot of Mosseri's post, Musk responded with "Lmaoo" and "Copy" with a cat emoji. The announcement about

Threads comes just weeks after Twitter made an announcement regarding the implementation of rate limits on its platform. The decision was attributed to data scraping activities by emerging AI startups, according to Elon Musk.

Sharing a screenshot of Adam Mosseri's

announcement, one user said, "It's even more over than previously thought possible."

To this Elon Musk replied, "Lmaoo. Copy [cat emoji]."

Before this, Elon Musk taunted Mark Zuckerberg for his absence on Threads and shared that the Meta CEO "doesn't seem to care about his new product" Threads. In response to Musk's tweet, within 24 hours, Mark Zuckerberg shared a new post on Threads featuring a picture of himself surfing on a lake. The caption accompanying the post read, "Calm morning on the lake before another big week ahead."

When a screenshot of Mark Zuckerberg's

Threads post was shared on Twitter, Elon Musk said, "He's really burning the midnight oil lol."

Meanwhile, initially, Twitter had permitted paid users to access up to 6,000 posts per day, while unverified users had a restriction of 600 posts. However, these limitations were subsequently modified to allow only verified accounts a maximum of 10,000 posts, unverified accounts up to 1,000 posts, and new, unverified accounts limited to 500 posts.

However, now, Elon Musk has announced that verified users will now have a limit of 15,000 viewable posts.

## Post-Covid Childhood Vaccination Rates Rise But At Selective Places: UN

LONDON, Jul 18 (Agencies): Efforts to vaccinate children worldwide against deadly diseases such as measles and diphtheria began to recover in 2022 after a historic backslide caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to new figures from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

But the recovery remains uneven, with strong bounces in large lower-middle income countries such as India and Indonesia masking ongoing problems in many smaller and poorer countries, the agencies said in a statement released on Tuesday.

In 2022, 20.5 million children missed out on one or more routine childhood vaccines, down from 24.4 million children in 2021. Despite the progress, the numbers are still higher than in 2019, when 18.4 million children were not fully protected.

The numbers are estimated from 183 countries, using data based on the take-up of the three-dose diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) jab, and include children who got no vaccines at all as well as those who missed any of the doses necessary for protection.

Globally, coverage rates were at 86% pre-



pandemic, and 84% in 2022.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the numbers were "encouraging", but there were concerns the most vulnerable were being left behind.

"When countries and regions lag, children pay the price," he said.

Of the 73 countries that saw substantial declines in routine coverage during the pandemic, 34 - including countries such as Angola to Syria - have seen no improvement since or even got worse. Fifteen have recovered to pre-pandemic levels, and 24 were on the route to recovery, the WHO and UNICEF said.

The agencies also warned that measles vaccinations have not recovered as quickly, with 21.9 million children globally missing their first dose in 2022 - 2.7 million more than in 2019 - and 13.3 million their second. In low-income countries, coverage rates for measles actually continued to decline last year, to 66% compared with 67% in 2021, said Kate O'Brien, WHO head of immunization. Measles outbreaks are already on the rise.

"When children are not vaccinated, that means they are not immune to life-threatening diseases," O'Brien told Reuters in an interview. "Children are going to die."

Only rates of the HPV vaccination, which prevents cervical cancer, have recovered to pre-pandemic levels. But they remain below the 90% target, at 67% in the high-income countries and 55% in the low and middle-income countries where the shot has been introduced.

Alongside Gavi, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other partners, the WHO and UNICEF launched a push earlier this year to help countries catch-up on childhood vaccination.

## Russia Shoots Down 28 Drones Sent Over Crimea By Ukraine

MOSCOW, Jul 18 (Agencies): Russian forces have downed 28 Ukrainian drones over Crimea overnight, Moscow's defence ministry and a local official said on Tuesday.

Seventeen drones sent by Ukraine's forces overnight were

"destroyed" and another 11 were "suppressed" by electronic means, Russia's defence ministry said in a statement.

It said there were no casualties or damage.

Crimea's Russian-installed governor Sergei Aksyonov said on Telegram that 28 drones

had been downed or destroyed during the night.

"There are no victims," he said.

Drone attacks in Crimea have increased in recent weeks as Ukraine wages a counter-offensive against Russian forces.

Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014, a move not recognised by the international community.

Kyiv has repeatedly said it plans to take back the peninsula.

Waterborne drones struck the sole bridge connecting Russia to

Crimea on Monday, in a deadly attack on a vital supply route claimed by Ukraine's security services. The explosion hit the Kerch bridge, a major conduit for Russia's troops in Ukraine, just hours before a crucial deal to export Ukrainian grain was to expire.



## NDA gears up to start activities under 'Meri Mati Mere Desh' Programme

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 18: Nations Development Association (NDA) affiliated NYKS Jammu and Kashmir Under Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of India has geared up to start a range of activities under Meri Mati Mera Desh Programme, even as in upcoming Tree Plantation Drive 75 Tree will also be planted in Panchayat.

These activities are under the Supervisor of Sushil Singh Charak Chairman Nations Development Association (NDA) and Supported by Nisar Ahmed Butt, State Director, NYKS, J&K and Ladakh.

In this regard, the NDA volunteers and Madhu Dollu Secretary today Online Meeting Panchayat Seela-the adopted village of the College to orga-



nize a preliminary meeting with the people for the implementation of the Meri Mat Mera Desh Programme launched by Min-

istry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.

Sushil Singh Charak Chairman Nations Development Association & convener of the meeting briefed the people about the programme and appealed for their maximum participation. Further, he informed that near about 75 saplings of indigenous nature will be planted as a part of the Programme preferably in a single cluster to be commonly known as "Amrit Vatika".

Speaking on the occasion, Madhu Dollu Secretary Nations Development Association NDA, Tarvinder Singh, Ripu Devi, Deenu Kumari, Neha Bhagat welcomed the Secretary and volunteers from NDA and highlighted the importance of the Meri Mati Mera Desh Programme of the government.

## BJP congratulates Village Defence Gaurd Committee members



Top News Report

DODA, Jul 18: District President Bharatiya Janata Party Doda Vijay Mohan Thakur congratulated Village Defence Gaurd Committee members as their long pending demand of release of monthly remunerations has been fulfilled

today and the remunerations of three months has been deposited in the accounts of all those VDG's who has completed their formalities in concerned department. Thakur also requested to all V1, V2 to complete their formalities and submit in the concerned department as soon as

possible. District President Doda thanked the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Home Minister Amit Shah, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Union Minister Dr. Jatindra Singh, State President Ravinder Raina and State General Secretary Sunil Sharma for historical decision of revival of VDCs by renaming them as VDGs and payment of Rs 4500 and Rs 4000 per month to the V1 and V2. "This was a long pending demand of the Bharatiya Janata Party," Thakur said.

## Principal GDC Udhampur releases book of Advocate Sumer

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Jul 18: In the series of the events during Azadi ka Amrut Kaal, during G20 Presidency of India for Shikshit Bharat and Sangathit Bharat Abhiyaan, The Devika Literary Club of the college organised today a book release function of the book of Adv. Dr. Sumer Khajuria.

The release was done by the Chief Guest and Patron Principal Prof.(Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta in presence of the senior staff of the college. The program was con-

vened by Dr. Pankaj Sharma Coordinator AKAM Cell and Devika Literary Club.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta appreciated the efforts and scholarship of Adv. Dr. Sumer Khajuria for his Book titled Pride of Jammu and Kashmir with Complete Constitution of India, Legal Audit Thereof that has been co-authored by Adv. Anil Khajuria and Adv. Sunil Khajuria.

He said that every word written in the book has a proper evidential and argument based research and



opined that this book will surely go in a long way to bring clarity to the readers and scholars regarding the topics included in the book. Prior to this the programme

started with the formal welcome by Dr. Pankaj Sharma, wherein he also laid a road forward for the discussion on the book.

It was followed by the deliberation on the book by the Author Dr. Sumer Khajuria. Dr. Khajuria talked in detail about his book and also interacted with all present regarding the various aspects of book and the ideas behind its origin.

After his address there was an open house interaction and question answer session, which was responded

very positively and open heartily by Dr. Sumer Khajuria.

The Program was attended by Prof. Babu Lal thakur, Prof. Romesh Kumar Atri, Dr. Naresh Sharma, Prof. Imtiaz Shahid, Prof. Samta Sharma, Dr. Ajay Sharma and Prof. Javed Sarver alongwith a number of other staff of the college.

At the end the vote of thanks was tendered by Prof. Samta Sharma, HOD History and Convener Heritage Club of the College.

FROM PAGE 1

### Ganderbal, Bandipora, Kulgam to get Cinema halls in September: LG Manoj Sinha

"In September this year, Bandipora, Ganderbal and Kulgam districts will get Cinema halls too," he said. Pertinently, in Srinagar a Cinema is already functional.

The LG said that peace was imperative for development and promotion of art. "Nothing can happen without peace. Today, one can see youth enjoying ice-cream at the Jehlum river front and at the same time enjoying playing and listening to music. Art knows no boundaries and can soothe the nerves," he said. "I am happy to see art flourishing on all fronts in Kashmir."

### First batch of hajj pilgrims arrives at Srinagar airport

already made arrangements regarding various issues relating to the arrival of Hajj flights.

This year around 12,067 pilgrims including 6,698 men and 5,369 women had left for the holy pilgrimage. Additionally, 111 women without Mahram also performed the Hajj this year.

### Shopian terrorist attack | J&K Police attaches Shopian SHO to Anantnag's RPNQ

This was the third attack on non-locals and minorities in Kashmir this year.

On February 26, a Kashmiri Pandit working as a security guard at a bank was shot dead by terrorists at Achen in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Over three months later on May 29, Deepu, a resident of Udhampur, who was working at a private circus mela at an amusement park, was shot dead near Jagland Mandi in Anantnag town.

Since the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status in 2019, there have been a series of attacks on minority community members and non locals in the Valley.

### Drug abuse challenge in border areas, significant work done to curb it: SSP Baramulla

lenient, so it would be better for them to refrain from their illegal activities," he told reporters on the sidelines of a free medi-

cal camp organised in Silikote village, a forward area in Uri sector.

The north Kashmir Police Range, headed by Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Vivek Gupta, on Tuesday reached out to the locals of Silikote village and organised a free medical camp for the villagers.

"This medical camp is a part of the Government of India's border outreach program in which officials from various government departments visit different border areas to meet with the locals and discuss their issues and concerns. Today's medical camp was organized under the same program," SSP Baramulla said.

He said the objective of this camp was to deliver an important health message to the people living in the forward area and address the health issues people are facing here.

"Doctors and experts are present at the camp to provide their opinions and immediate treatment if any medical conditions require special attention. In case of severe health issues, referrals will be made accordingly," he said.

The SSP Baramulla said the purpose of holding a medical camp was to provide health-related information to the people and address their health concerns.

"Today's camp has been very successful, and we are pleased that the people actively participated in this program," he said. Meanwhile, speaking about the strategies chalked out to curb the menace of drug abuse, the SSP Baramulla said the first strategy to address this problem was to crack down on the suppliers.

"We have registered 187 FIRs under the NDPS Act in the last six months and have apprehended around 318 drug peddlers. Among them, 34 are hardcore and habitual offenders who have been booked under the NDPS Public Safety Act (PSA)," he said.

The SSP said that the second part of the strategy was to tackle the demand side as well.

"To achieve this, we have implemented an ongoing awareness program to combat the drug menace. We also operate a drug de-addiction centre in Baramulla, and there are other centers in Srinagar and Anantnag," Nagpure said.

He said the goal was to address the demand side while simultaneously reducing the supply as well.

"With the active cooperation of the people, we are optimistic that we will soon achieve success and declare Baramulla a drug-free district," he said.

### Landslide hits construction site in Udhampur six labourers rescued

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and SDRF teams along with police were deployed to trace out the missing

labourer.

"Nine labourers were at the scene when the landslide struck. Out of two missing labourers, one was safely retrieved from under the debris while the search is on for another missing person," he said.

### Fraudster detained under PSA by Crime Branch Jammu

19 unemployed individuals, cheating them out of lakhs of rupees. Some of his associates have already been booked, while others are currently under investigation.

In light of this development, the Crime Headquarters of Jammu and Kashmir has directed its various wings to take similar actions against repeat and habitual offenders. They have also emphasized the need to expedite and conduct professional investigations into these cases to ensure justice is served promptly.

### SIA conducts raids in three districts of south Kashmir in Sanjay Sharma killing case

"The searches are underway in Chakpora and Shirmal area of Shopian, Qaimoh area of Kulgam and main town Anantnag in South Kashmir," he said.

He said these searches are being carried out in connection with investigation in the killing of Sanjay Sharma (Bank ATM guard) who was killed by terrorists in Achan Pulwama in February this year.

### Police arrests 4 Lashkr-E-Taiba Associates in Budgam

Gondipora Beerwah, Azhar Ahmad Mir of Chewdara Beerwah, Irfan Ahmad Sofi and Abrar Ahmad Malik- both residents of Arwah Beerwah.

"They were linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT," police said.

They said incriminating materials have been recovered from their possession.

Police said a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Beerwah and investigation has been taken up.

### Court frames charges against former IAS officers in Roshni land scam

that accused may have committed the offences as mentioned in the charge sheet or no evidence is available to go for trial of the case", adding "the court at this stage cannot decide the reliability of oral or documentary evidence assembled by Investiga-

tion Officer".

"In the case in hand the investigation officer has assembled the evidence & it reveals that the state land was leased in favour of the Ashok Sharma & Bipin Sharma and the lease was extended up to 13.04.2008. The accused is attorney holder of lessee. No revenue record is available to indicate the legal/illegal possession of accused. However, the leasee during the continuation of lease period executed power of attorney in the month of December 2004 in favour of accused and on strength of power of attorney claims the possession of the State land measuring 07 kanals 07 marlas under Khasra No. 216 min, 217 min & 218 min situated at Nursingh Ghar on main road Karan Nagar-Shaheed Gunj Srinagar", the court said.

"The accused applied for bestowing the ownership right as per the provisions of State Land (Vesting of Ownership Right) Act. The price fixation committee headed by Khurshid Ahmad Ganie, the then Divisional Commissioner Kashmir decided that leasee has created the third party interest over the leased property as such the case is not covered for vesting of ownership right. The same committee also sought guidance from the Administrative Department, which directed to proceed for resumption of the land under relevant provisions of law.

After three years the accused again filed a fresh application for vesting ownership rights of land in his favour and at that time the committee headed by Basharat Ahmad Dhar, the then Divisional Commissioner Kashmir in the meeting held on 19.07.2007 and 28.04.2007 relied upon the earlier report and decided to confer the vesting of ownership right of whole land measuring 07 kanal 07 marla at the rate of Rs 45 lakh per kanal and the committee treated the property as commercial property and directed the applicant/accused to pay 60% of adopted amount which comes to Rs 1,98,45,000 minus 25% rebate if payment made within the three months.

The committee did not make any reference to the earlier recommendation of the Govt for resumption of land & deliberately ignored the direction of the Government to give undue advantage to the accused. Moreover, the committee in violation of the provision of the act and decided to bestowed the ownership right to the accused.

The committee also in violation of the Section 4-1(a)(ii) State Land (Vesting of Ownership Rights to Occupants) Act recommended vesting of ownership right of whole land for which the accused was not entitled. As per that provision for interior roads like Shaheed Gunj - Karan Nagar Road 50 feet from the center of road cannot be considered for vesting ownership right and portion of the land is within these parameters.

The price fixation committee headed by Mehboob Iqbal, the then Divisional

Commissioner in the meeting held on 09.08.2007 on the request of accused treated the land as residential category not commercial and assessed the amount payable under category of Rule 13(I)(iii)(a) for 02 kanals of land at the rate of 40% of adopted rate and for remaining 5 kanal 07 marlas under category 13(I)(iii)(b) at the rate of 50% of adopted amount, so the total amount payable as per the committee was Rs 1,56,37,500 instead of Rs 1,98,45,000 (minus rebate of 25% if paid within three months).

The change of the nature of land category from commercial to residential caused loss to the tune of Rs 31,55,625 to the exchequer and corresponding gains to the accused. The same committee deducted more than 11 marlas of land in the case of K K Amila and 16 marlas of land in case of Mustafa Bachcha located at MA Road Srinagar in respect of land falling within ceiling limit— 75 feet from the center road, but the same standard was wilfully ignored in this case to give undue advantage to the accused.

The land of Dhar was treated as commercial category to give undue benefit to the accused whose land was treated as residential category. It shows that accused by abuse of their official position bestowed undue benefit.

"The evidence assembled by the investigation agency on it's face value reveals that the accused officers in league with accused beneficiary abused their official position and bestowed undue benefit by vesting ownership rights of prime State land", the court said, adding "at this stage it cannot be said that there is no sufficient ground for proceeding against the accused persons and discharge is the only remedy".

"Hence, the prima facie case is made out for framing the charge under Section 120-B/RPC read with Section 5(1)(d)/5(2) of J&K PC Act against six accused and they have been charge-sheeted accordingly", the court said.

### Woman killed, husband injured in Pampore road accident

Shahzada (42), wife of Mohammad Altaf and the injured Mohammad Altaf Ganaie (43) resident of Larev Kakapora, Pulwama. Police Khrew has registered a case in this regard.

Meanwhile, Five persons were injured in a road accident at Sub Division Tral in Pulwama district.

Locals told Kashmir Reader that Tata Sumo vehicle on the way to Tral from Doodhmarg, met with an accident near GDC Tral, resulting in injuries to five passengers. All the injured shifted to Sub District Hospital Tral for treatment where one lady referred to Bone and Joint hospital Srinagar for specialized treatment.

## Sensex, Nifty touch record highs

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumps 395.57 points to reach its record intra-day peak of 66,985.50

MUMBAI, Jul 18 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty continued their record-breaking rally on Tuesday, reaching new all-time high levels in early trade, amid fresh foreign fund inflows and buying in banking counters.

A positive trend in the US markets on Monday also contributed to the domestic benchmark indices optimism.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 395.57 points to reach its record intra-day peak of 66,985.50. The NSE Nifty climbed 99.8 points to hit its all-time high of 19,811.25.

From the Sensex pack, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank,



ICICI Bank, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, Maruti and Asian Paints were among the biggest gainers.

Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, Titan, UltraTach Cement, Tata Consultancy Services and Tata Steel were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Tokyo quoted in the

green, while Seoul and Shanghai were trading lower.

The US markets ended in the positive territory on Monday.

Foreign Institutional Investors continued their buying activity as they bought equities worth Rs 73 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

## Adani Enterprises AGM: Hindenburg report an attempt to damage reputation, says Gautam Adani

Speaking at the Adani Enterprises annual general meeting, Gautam Adani refuted allegations made by US short-seller Hindenburg Research.

NEW DELHI, Jul 18 (Agencies): Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani on Tuesday addressed shareholders at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Adani Enterprises, firmly dismissing allegations of fraud made against the ports-to-power conglomerate by US short-seller Hindenburg Research.

Gautam Adani strongly refuted the claims made in the Hindenburg report and said it was an attempt to tarnish the reputation of the group.

He said the Hindenburg report, which raised concerns over Adani Group's business practices and suggested regulatory failures, has been thoroughly investigated by an expert committee. The committee's findings revealed no evidence of regulatory misconduct or any wrong-



doing on the part of the Adani Group, said the billionaire while addressing shareholders.

"The report was a combination of targeted misinformation and discredited allegations. The majority of them dating from 2004 to 2015. They were all settled by the authorities at that

time. This report was a deliberate and malicious attempt aimed at damaging our reputation," Gautam Adani said.

Adani expressed confidence in the company's operations and highlighted the comprehensive compliance measures in place to ensure adherence

to all regulatory requirements. He emphasised that the Hindenburg report's allegations were baseless and driven by malicious intent.

He added that the expert committee's review validated the Adani Group's commitment to transparency, integrity, and ethical business practices. It showcased that the allegations lacked substance and failed to provide any substantial evidence to support their claims.

During the AGM, Gautam Adani assured shareholders that the Adani Group remains dedicated to sustainable growth, value creation, and contributing to the nation's development.

He reiterated the company's focus on expanding its portfolio across diverse sectors while upholding the highest standards of corporate governance.

## Foxconn subsidiary proposes to invest Rs 8,800 crore for new Karnataka manufacturing plant

NEW DELHI, Jul 18 (Agencies): Foxconn Industrial Internet (FI), a subsidiary of iPhone maker Foxconn, has proposed an investment of Rs 8,800 crore to establish a supplementary manufacturing plant in Karnataka, according to the state's Minister for Large and Medium Industries, M B Patil.

In a tweet, Patil said, Karnataka Welcomes Foxconn Industrial Internet (FI) Company's Mega Investment (Rs 8,800 crore), Boosting Tech Sector and Job Opportunities (14000-plus)."

During a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Foxconn's delegates, led by CEO Brand Cheng, presented their investment proposal, said Patil.

The plan entails creating an impressive 14,000 job opportunities and requires approximately 100 acres of land. To assess the available land, the FI delegates will visit Tumakuru, particularly the Japan Industrial Township near the district headquarters town.

Expressing enthusiasm for the investment, Patil affirmed that



the Karnataka government is fully supportive and prepared to provide the necessary land for setting up the manufacturing unit.

The 100 acres of land available in the Japanese Industrial Park near Tumakuru has been earmarked for this purpose. The FI, a global leader in network devices for IIoT-based smart manufacturing, aims to revolutionise the tech industry by developing high-quality outer covers for iPhones, he added.

Information Technology Minister Priyank Kharge also attended the meeting, emphasizing the scope of FI's operations. The FI's supplementary plant will engage in manufacturing screens, outer coverings, and

mechanical components essential for phones. It will complement the existing 'end assembly' unit located in Devanahalli (ITIR).

The process of providing land to Foxconn for its mobile devices manufacturing unit in Devanahalli ITIR is nearing completion, according to Minister Patil's statement last week.

The Taiwanese electronics manufacturing giant will be establishing its presence across approximately 300 acres, marking a significant milestone. Patil reiterated the importance of this venture, considering Foxconn's prestigious reputation as an Apple phone manufacturer.

The initial phase of this project will attract an investment of \$1

billion (approximately Rs 8,400 crore) and generate 50,000 employment opportunities.

Foxconn's recent decision to withdraw from a semiconductor joint venture with Vedanta made headlines. The company clarified that the project, initiated in September of the previous year, was progressing too slowly.

Both sides recognised the challenges and gaps that hindered smooth progress, along with external issues unrelated to the project, prompting the decision to part ways.

In subsequent discussions with the government, Foxconn expressed its interest in establishing multiple semiconductor fabrication lines in India. Further reports suggested that the company was exploring partnership deals with Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co (TSMC) and Japan's TMH Group to acquire technology for setting up semiconductor fabrication units in India.

These potential collaborations are poised to bring advanced as well as legacy node chip manufacturing capabilities to the country.

## India's poverty shrinks by 10% in 5 years; UP, Bihar see highest drop

NEW DELHI, Jul 18 (Agencies): India has witnessed a sharp reduction in poverty, with nearly 135 million people – approximately 10 per cent of the country's population – escaping poverty in the five-year period leading up to March 2021, according to a recent government report.

The report highlighted that Uttar Pradesh witnessed the highest number of people moving out of poverty, with 343 million individuals, followed by the states of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

The study, which utilised the United Nations' Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), revealed that rural areas experienced the most substantial decline in poverty levels.

The MPI is based on 12 key indicators including malnutrition, education, and sanitation, with individuals deprived in three or more areas classified as "MPI poor."

Suman Bery, the vice-chairman of NITI Aayog, the government think-tank responsible for releasing the report, highlighted the significant role played by improvements in nutrition, years of schooling, sanitation and cooking fuel in combating poverty.

Sharp drop in poverty

Based on the 2019-21 National Family Health Survey, the report indicated a decline in the percentage of the population living in poverty from 25 per cent in 2015/16 to 15 per cent in 2019-21.

The findings align with a recent report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which stated that the number of people living in multidimensional poverty decreased to 16.4 per cent of India's population in 2021, a substantial drop from 55 per cent in 2005.

The UNDP estimates also highlighted that the number of people living below the \$2.15 per day poverty line had decreased to 10 per cent in India in 2021.

Government's role

The central government has implemented measures to support the impoverished population, offering free food grain to approximately 800 million people, which accounts for around 57 per cent of the country's 1.4 billion population.

Moreover, states have allocated significant funds for subsidizing education, healthcare, electricity, and other essential services.

## Parents who talk to infants more boost their brain development: Research

TEXAS, Jul 18 (Agencies): A team led by a neurodevelopment researcher from the University of Texas at Dallas has uncovered some of the most compelling evidence to date showing parents who talk to their newborns more boost their brain development.

Using MRI and audio recordings, the researchers demonstrated how caregiver speech is related to newborn brain development in ways that support long-term language development. The work was published in *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience's* print issue in June and online on April 11. Dr Meghan Swanson, an assistant professor of psychology in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, is the report's principal author.

"This paper is a step toward understanding why children who hear more words go on to have better language skills and what process facilitates that mechanism," Swanson said. "Ours is one of two new papers that are the first to show links between caregiver speech and how the brain's white matter develops."

White matter in the brain facilitates communication between various gray matter regions, where information processing takes place in the brain.

The research included 52 infants from the Infant Brain Imaging Study (IBIS), a National Institutes of Health-funded Autism Center of Excellence project involving eight universities in the U.S. and Canada and clinical sites in Seattle, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Minneapolis, and Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Home language recordings were collected when children were 9 months old and again six months later, and MRIs were performed at 3 months old and 6 months old, and at ages 1 and 2.

"This timing of home recordings was chosen because it straddles the emergence of words," Swanson said. "We wanted to capture both this prelinguistic, babbling time frame, as well as a point after or near the emergence of talking."

It's long been known that an infant's home environment—especially the quality of caregiver speech—directly influences language acquisition, but the mechanisms behind this are unclear. Swanson's team imaged several areas of the brain's white matter, focusing on developing neurological pathways.

"The arcuate fasciculus is the fiber tract that everyone in neurobiology courses learns is essential to producing and understanding language, but that finding is based on adult brains," Swanson said. "In these children, we looked at other potentially meaningful fiber tracts as well, including the uncinate fasciculus, which has been linked to learning and memory." The researchers used the images to measure fractional anisotropy (FA). This metric for the freedom or restriction of water movement in the brain is used as a proxy for the progress of white matter development.

"As a fiber track matures, water movement becomes more restricted, and the brain's structure becomes more coherent," Swanson said. "Because babies aren't born with highly specialized brains, one might expect that networks that support a given cognitive skill start out more diffuse and then become more specialized." Swanson's team found that infants who heard more words had lower FA values, indicating that the structure of their white matter was slower to develop. The children went on to have better linguistic performance when they began to talk.

The study's results align with other recent research showing that slower maturation of white matter confers a cognitive advantage.

"As a brain matures, it becomes less plastic—networks get set in place. But from a neurobiological standpoint, infancy is unlike any other time. An infant brain seems to rely on a prolonged period of plasticity to learn certain skills," Swanson said. "The results show a clear, striking negative association between FA and child vocalization."

## Experimental drug donanemab works best for Alzheimer's patients treated as early as possible: Researchers

NEW YORK, Jul 18 (Agencies): An experimental drug from Eli Lilly works best if Alzheimer's patients are treated as early as possible, ideally before they develop symptoms of the brain-wasting disease, researchers said, in the latest promising development for treating the most common form of dementia.

The drug, donanemab, has been shown to slow progression of memory and thinking problems by about a third, but that rate doubles to 60% if the drug is started when patients are only mildly impaired, according to new trial data presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in Amsterdam.

The full analysis from the study involving more than 1,700 patients showed that results were less robust for older, later-stage patients as well as those with higher levels of a protein called tau that has been linked to Alzheimer's disease progression.

The findings underscore that "earlier detection and diagnosis can really change the trajectory of this disease," said Anne White, president of neuroscience at Lilly.

Lilly expects the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to decide by the end of this year whether to approve donanemab. It said submissions to other global regulators are underway, and most will be completed by

year end.

Donanemab, like the recently approved leqembi from Eisai and Biogen, is an intravenous antibody designed to remove deposits of a protein called beta amyloid from the brains of Alzheimer's patients.

Referring to Lilly's data released on Monday, Dr. Susan Kohlhaas, executive director of research & partnerships at Alzheimer's Research UK, said, "These results provide further confirmation that removing amyloid from the brain can change the course of Alzheimer's, and may help people affected by this devastating disease if they're treated at the right time."

Side effects

Lilly's study showed that brain swelling, a known side effect of amyloid-clearing antibodies, occurred in more than 40% of patients with a genetic predisposition to develop Alzheimer's.

The company had previously reported that 24% of the overall donanemab treatment group had brain swelling. Brain bleeding occurred in 31% of the donanemab group and about 14% of the placebo group.

The deaths of three trial patients were linked to the treatment, researchers reported.

"These side effects should not be taken lightly," but most cases were manageable by monitoring with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or stopping the drug, said study investigator Dr.

Liana Apostolova, professor in Alzheimer's Disease research at Indiana University School of Medicine.

Doctors are likely to use "very stringent MRI safety screening while we treat these patients," she said.

Lilly said donanemab's treatment effect continued to increase relative to placebo over the course of the 18-month trial, even for participants who had been taken off the drug after their levels of amyloid deposits fell significantly.

"At the end of the trial, the average patient had been without drug for seven months and yet they continued to benefit," White said.

She said the findings support the idea that donanemab can be stopped once amyloid is cleared from the brain.

"Some patients did not worsen significantly during the trial and on average progression of disease was slowed 4.4-7.5 months over 18 months," said Dr. Liz Coulthard, associate professor in dementia neurology at the University of Bristol.

Lilly said in May that the study had met all of its goals, showing that donanemab slowed cognitive decline by 29% compared to a placebo in people with mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia whose brains had deposits of two key Alzheimer's proteins, beta amyloid and tau.

For high tau patients, donanemab was shown to slow

disease progression by about 17%, while the benefit was 35% for those with low-to-intermediate tau levels.

The full study results were also published in *JAMA*.

"Whether the harms of these drugs are balanced by their modest clinical benefits will ultimately require more data," an editorial in *JAMA* alongside the study said.

The FDA this month granted standard approval to leqembi, the first Alzheimer's disease-modifying treatment to achieve that goal, clearing the way for wider insurance coverage of the drug.

Both medications are also being studied in large trials to see if they have an impact on delaying onset of Alzheimer's disease symptoms.

The latest study "gives me great hope" for the outcomes of those prevention trials, said Dr. Reisa Sperling, who directs the Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, according to the Alzheimer's Association. More than 55 million people worldwide have Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia, according to the U.N. World Health Organization.

Shares of Lilly, which reached an all-time high near \$469 in June, were nearly unchanged at \$449.98 in midday trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

## Australia's Victoria withdraws as host of 2026 Commonwealth Games

*Victoria state Premier Dan Andrews said the cost of the Games, which were to have been held in four regional hubs, could blow out to more than A\$7 billion (\$4.8 billion) from a budgeted A\$2.6 billion if they went ahead*

MELBOURNE, Jul 18 (Agencies): Australia's state of Victoria will not host the 2026 Commonwealth Games due to projected cost overruns, placing the future of the quadrennial multi-sport gathering in doubt.

Victoria state Premier Dan Andrews said the cost of the Games, which were to have been held in four regional hubs, could blow out to more than A\$7 billion (\$4.8 billion) from a budgeted A\$2.6 billion if they went ahead.

"Frankly A\$6-A\$7 billion for a 12-day sporting event, we're not doing that," Andrews said at a media conference.

"I will not take money out of hospitals and schools to fund an event that is three times the cost as estimated and budgeted for last year."

Andrews said Victoria had already informed the global governing body Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) in "amicable meetings" but the cost of breaking the 2026 con-



tract was yet to be decided.

The CGF and local governing body Commonwealth Games Australia did not provide immediate comment.

The sporting event for mostly former British colonies has struggled to remain relevant, with four of the last five editions held in Australia or Britain.

English city Birmingham stepped in to host the 2022 Games after South Africa were stripped of them in 2017 over a lack of progress in preparations.

Victoria stepped in to bid for the 2026 Games when no other countries showed interest.

Officials had talked up the legacy benefits from new infrastructure in the regional hubs of Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Gippsland, and an economic boost of more than A\$3 billion from tourism and thousands of new jobs.

"As a state, of course we were willing to help out, but of course not at any price and only if there were lasting benefits for Victo-

rian communities and benefit for the whole state," Andrews said.

The government would instead spend more than A\$2 billion on a "regional package" which would include building all permanent sporting facilities intended for the Games, along with A\$1 billion earmarked for social and affordable housing.

Soon after the announcement, Australian sport officials were touting the country's largest state of New South Wales as an alternative host for 2026.

NSW state capital Sydney hosted the 2000 Olympics.

"There's no question we've got the venues... and March would be a good time to host it," John Coates, an International Olympic Committee Vice-President and former Australian Olympic Committee boss, said in comments published by Sydney's Daily Telegraph.

"I'd love to see it come here... The sports have the ability to organise it."

## Smriti Mandhana Turns 27: Here's A Look At Star Opener's Achievements, Records



NEW DELHI, Jul 18 (Agencies): India's ace cricketer Smriti Mandhana, who made her international debut at the age of 16 against Bangladesh in 2013, celebrates her 27th birthday on Tuesday. The vice captain is preparing for the second ODI against Bangladesh to be played on Wednesday, which shows her commitment and love towards cricket. The elegant opener has not taken her foot off the gas since then and has represented India in 4 Tests, 78 ODIs, and 119 T20Is. She took centre stage after demonstrating her batting skills in the 2017 ICC World Cup. The teenager was instrumental in taking India to the World Cup finals, where they were defeated by England by 9 runs.

Mandhana is now a senior member of the squad and has established herself as a pillar of the Indian women's cricket team.

As the star opener Mandhana celebrates her 27th birthday, here is a look

at her records and achievements.

Mandhana became the third-quietest Indian to score 1000 runs in T20Is. She was also the tenth-fastest batter in women's cricket history to achieve this feat. The Mumbai batter took just 49 innings to break the 1000-run mark. In February 2019, the Mumbai batter set the record for the fastest T20I fifty by an Indian player. Mandhana achieved her half-century against New Zealand in just 24 balls.

Mandhana became the first player in ODI history to score ten consecutive fifty or more while chasing. Her remarkable run began in 2018 when she batted second and hit 67 runs off 53 deliveries against Australia Women.

The opener was named the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year in 2018 and 2021.

Mandhana also got a half-century on her Test debut in India's historic Test victory over England.

In 2021, again in a Test match against England Mandhana along with her opening partner Shafali Verma put up a partnership of 167 which is the fourth-highest in the history of women's Test cricket.

She and Australia's Elyse Perry are the only players to have won the 'Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award' twice. Mandhana was also named the ICC's ODI Player of the Year in 2018 after amassing the highest points in the calendar year.

## Struggling West Indies replace Reifer with Sinclair for second Test against India

PORT OF SPAIN, Jul 18 (Agencies): The West Indies have included spin bowling all-rounder Kevin Sinclair in place of batting all-rounder Ramon Reifer in the squad for the second Test against India beginning here on Thursday.

Sinclair, who has featured in seven ODIs and six T20Is, is yet to play a Test match. The 23-year-old replacing Reifer is the only change in the squad for the hosts after an innings defeat against India in Dominica.

However, Reifer will remain with the team as an injury cover.

Sinclair had finished as the leading wicket taker for West Indies A in a three-match series against Bangladesh A earlier this year.

He was also part of



West Indies squad in the ICC World Cup Qualifier in Zimbabwe, where the Caribbean unit failed to qualify for the 50-over showpiece in India.

Another off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall, who struggled with chest infection during the series opener, has been retained.

It remains to be seen what kind of pitch is prepared for the final Test of the series after a turning track was laid out for the opener.

Ravichandran Ashwin wreaked havoc on that surface ending with a match haul of 12 wickets while Ravindra Jadeja took five in the game that got over in three days.

The West Indies batters will be under immense pressure going into the game as they looked clueless against high quality Indian spinners. The game will also mark the 100th Test between India and West Indies.

## Protest brewing up as ad-hoc panel continues to play waiting game

NEW DELHI, Jul 18 (Agencies): After an intense training session at the Raipur Akhada in Sonapat (Haryana), wrestler Sujeet Kalkal, the 2022 national champion in 65kg, was catching his breath when a few fellow wrestlers joined him for a quick chat. As was expected, the conversation quickly veered towards Asian Games selection trials.

With the 20-year-old Sujeet being one of the prime contenders to book a slot in the team for the quadrennial event, his fellow wrestlers asked him about the possibility of the ad-hoc committee, currently running the sport in the country, booking the place for his more famed counterpart Bajrang Punia.

The informal discussion made Sujeet nervous as he left the venue pondering over possible scenarios. "This talk of fixing quota in a few weight categories has been affecting him a lot. We try to motivate him but wrestlers from his centre keep reminding him of it, making him tense and restless," Dayanand Kalkal, Sujeet's father and coach, told

this daily.

Sujeet skipped the 2023 U-23 Asian Championships and the Budapest Ranking Series to ensure he does not miss the selection trials. He also decided to not go to Russia for a month-long training camp despite obtaining a visa for the same last month expecting trials in the near future. Unfortunately, the sacrifices he made have seemingly failed to bear fruit at least so far with the ad-hoc panel not announcing the criteria even as only four days are left for the trials. The men's Greco-Roman and women wrestling trials are scheduled on July 22 while the men's freestyle trials are proposed to be held the next day.

"On July 12, panel member Bhupender Singh Bajwa announced the trial dates. But so far no clarity on the criteria to participate in the trials. I tried to contact Bajwa and even left text messages but he didn't respond. This uncertainty has not only demotivated Sujeet to a great extent but also affected us," added the father. Dayanand plans to meet law-

yers on Tuesday if the criteria is not made public. "I will speak to lawyers tomorrow (Tuesday) and even move the court requesting it to direct the panel to release the criteria. We are also planning to hold a protest if preferential treatment is given to a few select wrestlers. We are also trying to obtain permission to stage a sit-in at Jantar Mantar where the top wrestlers protested," he said.

Sujeet had won bronze in the U-20 World Championships last year apart from clinching gold in the Tunisia Ranking Series. He also finished on top of the podium in the 2022 U23 and Junior Asian Championships.

"He competed against Bajrang in the Commonwealth Games selection trials last year and lost narrowly. We will not mind losing once again during the Asiad trial but reserving the seat without bouts is not acceptable," insisted Dayanand.

Notably, 24 women wrestlers from Chhotu Ram Stadium in Rohtak had already written to the Prime Minister, Indian Olympic Association and ad-hoc

panel demanding fair selection trials for the Asian Games.

A coach from one of the most reputed wrestling training centres of the country echoed the sentiment when questioned about the uncertainty over trial criteria and undue favours the panel reportedly wanted to give to a few top wrestlers.

"More than 10 wrestlers from our centres have been preparing for the trials for months now. This uncertainty has made them tizzy. Reports of some wrestlers getting direct quota have left these wrestlers in a state of despair. This should not happen as all of them have spent months preparing for this trial. It will be highly unfair on them if they are not given a chance to prove their mettle. If injustice is done then even we will follow the path once taken by the top wrestlers," the chief coach of the famous academy told this daily.

The waiting game by the panel is certainly making wrestlers and their coaches anxious and it would be no surprise if they take the streets to vent out their anger.

## Ajit Agarkar, New Chief Selector, To Hold Crucial World Cup Talks With Rohit Sharma, Rahul Dravid: Report

NEW DELHI, Jul 18 (Agencies): Chairman of senior selection committee Ajit Agarkar is all set to travel to West Indies to meet head coach Rahul Dravid and skipper Rohit Sharma to discuss the road map for 50 over World Cup starting October 5 in Ahmedabad.

India will play Australia in Chennai on October 8 and marquee clash against Pakistan is slated for October 15 in Ahmedabad. "Currently

Saiil Ankola is in the West Indies but he will be back after the Test series gets over. Ajit will be joining the team before start of the white ball leg," a BCCI source in know of things told agency on conditions of anonymity.

It is understood that Agarkar after being appointed the chairman of selection committee hasn't had a chance to meet the team management in person and this will be an opportunity to

sit a draw an elaborate blueprint on what will be India's strategy going forward in 50 over World Cup.

The team management and selection committee needs to be in sync about the core 20 players that they are looking ahead for the World Cup apart from dealing with fitness issues and workload management.

Both chairman of selectors as well team management will also discuss the transition

plan.

It is understood that there will be elaborate discussions on Jasprit Bumrah's fitness status and whether he will be able to go to Ireland for three match T20 series or not.

It can be confirmed that National Cricket Academy's Sport Science and Medical Unit is yet to issue an RTP (Return to Play) certificate to the Ahmedabad based speedster. Meanwhile, VVS

Laxman will once again take the second string

team to Ireland as it has been the norm for short tours where Dravid is rested as the turnaround between West Indies and Ireland tour is short.

There aren't any rules but convention in BCCI is that for second string tours or A series, NCA head doubles up as coach.

Dravid used to do that earlier and now Laxman does it.

## Asian Champions Trophy hockey: Pakistan may arrive in city on July 30



NEW DELHI, Jul 18 (Agencies): The International Hockey Federation (FIH) officials have been closely monitoring the refurbishment activities currently underway at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in the city. The stadium, which last hosted international hockey in January 2008, is getting primed to host the Asian Champions Trophy. Both turfs have been changed — the turf inspection officials have been in the city over the last few days and will continue to be in the city till the new playing surface is completely rolled out.

The turf itself is environment friendly, something the FIH have been conscious about as they want to be build towards a sustainable future for the sport (approximately 10,000 litres per match,

down by 35% or so). An important point to note is that this is the first time the Indian team will get to play on a turf that will be in use at the Paris Games.

As far as the visiting teams are concerned, the first batch of four teams, including Pakistan, are expected to land on July 30. Their hockey teams have been regular visitors to the country in the recent past. While their senior team came to Bhubaneswar for the 2018 World Cup, the juniors had come for an age-group World Cup in 2021.

The hosts, who finish an assignment in Spain on July 30, may join a day later. It's not yet known how many players involved in the four-nations invitational end up taking part in the event in Chennai.

There could be a scenario where the team management could well decide to field a few inexperienced faces as they build up for the Asian Games, an Olympic qualifier.

Hockey India officials, some of whom have already shifted base to Chennai till the completion of the event, have, at least so far, given positive feedback to the Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu (HUTN), who are the host association. HUTN are hopeful that the remaining i's and t's will be dotted and crossed respectively within the end of this week.

Practice matches between local teams on the agenda

To test out the the integrity of the surface, it's likely that HUTN will host a few practice games between local sides at the end of the month. While they are still finalising details and the how, it's something they want to do before the teams land. The six-team competition begins on August 3 and finishes on August 12.

## "Don't Have Friends, Scared To Share My Thoughts": Prithvi Shaw On Mental Struggles After Getting Dropped

NEW DELHI, Jul 18 (Agencies): Regarded as one of the most talented batters of his generation, Prithvi Shaw has seen his stocks incur a dramatic fall over the last couple of years.

From being regarded as the 'next big thing' in Indian cricket, Shaw has gone on to become a fringe player who is not a certainty in either of the three formats.

Having signed for Northamptonshire in the County Championship, the U19 World Cup-winning star is hopeful of the stint helping him turn things around in his career. But, as far as the

current situation with his international career is concerned, Shaw is scared to even share his thoughts.

In an interview with Cricbuzz, the Delhi Capitals' opening batter Opened up on his absence from the Indian team, saying he passed all fitness tests and scored runs in domestic cricket to earn a comeback but hasn't been getting opportunities to perform.

"When I was dropped, I didn't get to know the reason. Someone was saying it could be fitness. But of course, I came here (in Bengaluru) and cleared all

the tests at the NCA, again scored runs, and again came back to the T20 team. But again didn't get a chance in the West Indies. I'm disappointed but you just have to move forward. I can't do anything, I can't fight with anyone," said the opening batter.

The Delhi Capitals star also opened up on the mental battle he has to fight, especially as he doesn't have many friends to share his thoughts with.

"As a person, I just like to be in my own zone. People say a lot of things about me. But those

who know me, know how I am. I don't have friends, I don't like to make friends.

This is what's happening with this generation. You can't share your thoughts with anyone else. If you ask me personally, it's very scary. Darr lagta hai aajkal to share my thoughts. Agle din social media mein aa jaata hai (I'm scared to share my thoughts. Somehow all of it comes up on social media). I've very less friends, only a couple of friends, and even with them I don't share everything, only a few things," he further said.

# NC, PDP, Cong lost touch: MP Khatana

## Top News Report

**RAMBAN, Jul 18:** BJP MP Rajya Sabha Gulam Ali Khatana said that certain elements are hell bent to derail the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bring back peace, tranquility and development in Jammu and Kashmir by encouraging and supporting divisive tendencies among the people. He said that PDP, NC, Congress have lost touch with the ground and people have rejected them lock, stock, barrel. Now these parties are trying to incite people in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir to again unleash violence and terrorism.

Addressing a massive public gathering at Sanasar in district Ramban MP Gulam Ali said that unprecedented measures have been initiated by the PM



Narendra Modi on both political and economic front so that the poor and economically deprived people of UT could reap the benefits. He said that PM Modi led government provided political reservation to STs and reserved 9 seats for ST population.

Besides Govt provided reservation to people living on LoC, International border, Rs 5 Lakh

to POJK refugees, he added. He said that Home Minister Amit Shah announced during public rallies in Jammu and Rajouri that Paharis will be provided ST status but share of Gujjar Bakkarwals won't be lowered and very shortly a Bill will be introduced in the Parliament to that effect. MP Gulam Ali said that Govt of

India has implemented Forest Rights Act and recently also framed policy for allotment of 5 Marla plots to landless to construct houses under MPAY scheme. But some anti-poor parties are spreading canards by claiming that outsiders will be settled in UT which is totally false. People also highlighted their demands.

District president BJP Ramban Rajeshwar Kumar, Minority Morcha President Tariq Lone, ST Morcha President Uttam Singh, Sarpanch Jiya Lal, Haji Mohd Yousuf, Haji Mohd Zakir, Haji Salam Din, Ex. Sarpanch Choudhary Bashir Ahmed Khatana, Waseem Choudhary, Razaq Ali Chairman, ADDC, Rajinder Kumar Sharma, ASP Ramban Gourav Mahajan and others were present.

# Renault announces nationwide monsoon camp for customers across India

## Top News Report

**JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Jul 18:** Continuing its commitment to enhance customer satisfaction along with providing an enriched brand ownership experience, Renault India, the leading European brand in India, announced the commencement of a nationwide after-sales service initiative, 'Renault Monsoon Camp'. The Monsoon Camp will be held at all Renault dealership facilities across India from July 17th till July 23rd, 2023.

The primary objective of organising the Monsoon Camp is to ensure optimal performance of the vehicles which is imperative during the monsoon season. The camp will offer Renault owners a complementary car check-up as per the guidelines stipulated by Renault India, enabling a detailed examination of all key functions of the car. Vehicles will be checked by skilled and well-qualified service technicians for safe and problem-free driving during monsoon season. Such periodic checks ensure necessary actions for enhanced performance of the car and provide customers a satisfying ownership experience.

Talking about the initiative, Sudhir Malhotra, Vice President of Sales & Marketing, Renault India, "We are delighted to announce the nationwide launch

of the 'Renault Monsoon Camp' for our valued customers across India. At Renault, our priority is to ensure customer satisfaction and provide an exceptional brand ownership experience. With the Monsoon Camp, we aim to optimize the performance and safety of Renault vehicles during the challenging monsoon season. Through complimentary car check-ups conducted by our skilled technicians, attractive offers, and engaging activities, we strive to create an unforgettable experience for our customers."

During the week-long initiative, customers visiting the dealerships can also avail of attractive offers including 10% discount on Select Parts, upto 50% discount on Selected Accessories, along with 15% discount on labour charges. In addition, My Renault Customers (MYR) will also get additional 5% discount Selected Parts & Accessories, special offers on select tyre brands and complimentary car top wash. Renault India will also be offering 10% discount 'Renault Secure' and "Renault Assist" which offers Extended Warranty and Roadside Assistance. In addition to the comprehensive car check-up facilities and special offers, several fun-filled activities will be organised for the customers with assured gifts, making it an exciting and memorable experience for them.

# Kishtwar: DDMA discusses plan for restoration of damaged bridges

## Top News Report

**KISHTWAR, Jul 18:** Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kishtwar Sham Lal on Tuesday chaired a meeting of District Disaster Mismanagement Authority here in his office chamber to discuss the action plan for taking up restoration works of bridges under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

Threadbare discussions were held regarding the restoration work of 8 damaged bridges which were washed away due

to recent flash floods in Tehsil Bunjwah of District Kishtwar.

The ADDC directed executing agencies to submit the estimates of all cases (works) at an earliest to his office for grant of necessary approval/clearance.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Indrajeet Singh Parihar; ACR, Varunjeet Singh Charak; DFO Kishtwar, Sagar Singh; AO DC Office, Imran Ahmed Kitchloo; Tehsildar Bunjwah Irshad Ahmed, besides other concerned officers.

# 9yrs of Modi Govt are unmatched: Keshav Chopra

## Top News Report

**JAMMU, Jul 18:** On its ongoing Mahajansampark Abhiyaan of public outreach campaign on Tuesday BJP Talab Tillo Mandal President Keshav Chopra accompanied BJP J&K UT Secretary Ayodhya Gupta, BJP J&K UT Health and Medical Cell Convenor Puneet Mahajan and other leaders started door to door campaign at booth No 81 of Ward No 30.

The BJP Leaders went around many houses interacted with locals given them pamphlets, books, having information about the achievements of 9yrs of Modi government.

While interacting with people, Keshav Chopra said that Narendra Modi



government during its 9yrs tenure has done commendable work, many big projects of developments have been started across J&K UT, Modi Govt has written new chapters of development which are totally unmatched. Ayodhya Gupta and Puneet Mahajan apprised the locals about various achievements of Modi Govt, they also asked the

people to read the material and also educate the others about the works done by Modi Govt during its 9yrs tenure.

Mandal General Secretary Munish Gupta, Mandal Secretaries Bhupinder Gupta, Kusum Gupta, Booth President Ajay Gupta, Sanjeev Gupta, Manoj Tandon, Ritesh Peer, Sahil Verma and others were also participated.

# Vibodh inaugurates Bhandara at Sabzi Mandi

## Top News Report

**JAMMU, Jul 18:** A mass Bhandara and Puja were organized at Sabzi Mandi, Narwal, Jammu today, bringing together a large number of people, including the shopkeepers of Sabzi Mandi to participate in the event.

The Bhandara was inaugurated by Vibodh Gupta, BJP J&K General Secretary and former MLC, in the presence of Surinder Singh Kala, President, Sabzi Mandi Association, Narwal, Jammu, Vishal Kohli, Vice President, Ankur Anand, General Secretary, Rajinder Kumar, Jr. Vice President,

Anil Kumar, Secretary, Tarsem Gupta, Treasurer, Ashok Kumar, Media Secretary, and Madhav Gupta.

During the event, Surinder Singh Kala, President of Sabzi Mandi Association, Narwal, Jammu, highlighted the various welfare activities organised by the association for the betterment of the poor and marginalised sections of society. He also highlighted the issues faced by the shopkeepers of Sabzi Mandi, drawing attention to their challenges and concerns.

In his address, Vibodh Gupta commended the

Sabzi Mandi Association, Narwal, Jammu, for their commendable efforts in organizing various welfare activities for the welfare of the underprivileged. He emphasized the significance of Sabzi Mandi as a source of employment for numerous individuals, enabling them to earn their livelihoods. Additionally, he acknowledged the substantial contribution of Sabzi Mandi to the economy of Jammu.

Vibodh Gupta patiently listened to the problems and issues raised by the shopkeepers and assured them that he would personally take up their concerns with the relevant authorities to ensure swift resolutions. He reiterated the unwavering support of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for the shopkeepers of the Sabzi Mandi, emphasising their commitment to standing shoulder-to-shoulder with them both now and in the future.

# DCDC discusses implementation of "World's Largest Grain Storage Plan" in Samba

## Top News Report

**SAMBA, Jul 18:** The District Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC), which met on Tuesday here under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma, discussed revival of the Cooperative sector and action plan for the implementation of the prestigious "World's Largest Grain Storage Plan" in the Cooperative Department.

The concerned departments were directed to identify land for a modern Grain storage unit in District Samba. The chosen site will align with the "World's Largest Decentralized Grain Storage Project" initiated by the Ministry of Cooperative.

The meeting stressed on putting in extra efforts to establish new Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and raise awareness

among farmers and the public in collaboration with NABARD.

The DC informed that the PACs will now be eligible for operating retail Petrol and LPG outlets for which a process has been initiated to identify eligible PACs.

Five PACs from District Samba were nominated for Jan Aushadi Kendras to improve access to generic medicines in rural areas. The Deputy Commissioner expressed gratitude to all participants and emphasized the DCDC's commitment to foster cooperative growth and uplift the agricultural landscape in District Samba.

ADDC, ACD, ACR, CAO, CHO, CSO, CAHO, DDM NABARD, Lead Bank Manager, AD Fisheries, Dy Registrar Cooperatives, Assistant Registrars Samba district and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

# Sandhya Gupta, others serve Langar among Shiva devotees



## Top News Report

**JAMMU, Jul 18:** Rajkumar Goyal, National Executive President, Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society said today many great devo-

tees of Lord Shiva have come to Baba's Bhandara to serve themselves, among whom were Sandhya Gupta (President WCMP), Jyoti Devi, Sunita Kaul, Nidhi Mangotra and

Gaurav Chopra. He said that today only Sanatan Dharma can establish peace in the whole world. Like Baba Shri Barfani Amarnath ji did in our Jammu today, done in Kashmir. Shiv devotees are coming from country and abroad on the yatra and it seems that today there is Mahakumbh Mela of Shiv devotees in Jammu, in which Shiv devotees are coming like before, this time the number of devotees will cross one million.

# Rajesh Gupta reiterates demand for statehood, assembly polls

## Top News Report

**JAMMU, Jul 18:** National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) on Tuesday observed that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are enduring immense agonies on account of an unnecessary delay in their political empowerment.

Addressing a workers meeting at the Party office Janipur NDPI Chief Rajesh Gupta said that there is no substitute to an elected government and a bureaucratic regime can never address the aspirations of the people. "People give vent to their day-to-day based sufferings when they meet us. I think the sense of accountability is missing in our bureaucratic set-up. But it happens when you have no elected government in place," he said, while

underlining the need for early restoration of the Statehood.

NDPI leader said that NDPI has been repeatedly urging the government of India not to delay the restoration of statehood to J&K. "And we are of the firm belief that the Statehood alone can prove panacea to the people's sufferings," he remarked.

"In this summer season the authorities have not been able to ensure 24X7 electricity to the people which shows their inability to work without an elected government," he said.

He demanded 24X7 electricity for Jammuites in the summer season.

"NDPI wants resolution to the problems faced by the people at large. It has become imperative at this point of time that the right to elect an accountable govern-

ment is given back to the people," Gupta said. He further said that NDPI adheres to the principle of 'politics of truth' which demands sincerity and efforts at grass root levels.

NDPI president said his party will not allow non-locals to settle in the Union Territory. He appealed to people to maintain peace and promised to reverse all "anti-people" decisions of the administration once his party comes to power.

"We will not allow the non-locals to settle in Jammu and Kashmir. The land in J&K belongs to the people of the erstwhile state of J&K," Gupta said.

Others who addressed the meeting were Umesh Manhas, Kuljeet Singh, Tilakraj, Sandeep Anand, Rajiv Luthra and others.

# BVP Trikuta Nagar Branch conducts 'No to Polythene' drive



## Top News Report

**JAMMU, Jul 18:** Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP) Trikuta Nagar Branch Conducted "No to Polythene" drive. The paper bags from old news

papers distributed to the vendor AND shopkeepers and told them not to use Polythene bags.

Approximately 20 children from Govt schools along with members of BVP Trikuta Nagar

Branch participated in the project and distributed paper bags to the vendors. The executive women members participated including its President Vanita Kohli and others.

# Director Horticulture launches Plantation Drive in Dansal

## Top News Report

**JAMMU, Jul 18:** The Department of Horticulture Jammu is conducting a series of plantation drives in the Sub-tropical areas of Jammu Division to promote plantation of fruit plants in the farmers' fields amid the Rainy season.

In this context, the Director Horticulture Jammu, Ram Savak, on Tuesday started the plantation drive at three different farmers' fields located at Bajalta, Chak-Rakhwala and Ban area of Dansal block. By planting saplings, the director initiated the compact plantation over an area of 50 kanals. Chief Horticulture Officer Jammu, Ashwani Sharma, DLSMS Jammu, Sandeep Gupta, Horticulture Development Officer, Sandeep Sharma and a large number of farmers of the area were present.

During the programme, the Director stressed the need to encourage High Density Plantation in the area. He said that the rainy season is very suitable for new plantations especially in the kandi area and the farmers should adopt a cluster approach to establish new orchards and take benefit of

all the departmental schemes. Awareness cum interaction programme was also conducted at Ban, where a large gathering of farmers including women and Sarpanch of the panchayat Ban, Rajinder Singh were present. During the interaction with the farmers, the Director briefed them about the recently launched Holistic Agriculture Development Programme providing incentives / assistance to the farming community to enhance their income. He discussed in detail the scope of HADP and sensitized the gathering about the main components of the programme viz: DAKSH- Learning Management System related to skill development, SATHI- Dashboard to apply online for different Government schemes, etc.

The Director urged the farmers to come forward, associate with the horticulture department and avail the benefits of protected cultivation, Water harvesting tanks, Drip irrigation, Custom Hiring Centres, Vermicompost units, Strawberry plantation, Tools / implements etc. for upliftment of their socio-economic status.