

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Popular Punjabi singer Surinder Shinda dies at 64



NATIONAL | 7

"ED, CBI, Income Tax Only 3 Strong Parties In NDA": Uddhav Thackeray

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Hunter Biden's guilty plea over Tax offences is on the horizon, and so are a fresh set of challenges



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BRIEFLY

MeT predicts thundershowers in J&K

SRINAGAR, Jul 26 (Agencies): Weather department on Wednesday forecast partly to generally cloudy weather during daytime with possibility of light to moderate thundershowers at many places till July 28.

Quoting a meteorological departmental official, GNS reported that "isolated heavy rainfall" was expected over Jammu region especially during late night and early morning period.

From July 29-31, he said, partly to generally cloudy is expected.

"There is risk of flash flood, mudslide, landslides during the period," he warned. He advised people to remain cautious and stay away from streams, rivers and other vulnerable spots during the period.

Two detained under PSA in Rajouri, Samba

JAMMU, Jul 26 (Agencies): Two alleged criminals were detained under the stringent Public Safety Act in Rajouri and Samba districts of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Wednesday.

Mohammad Shakeel, a resident of Muradpur village in Rajouri, and Balwinder Singh alias "Goru Jatt" of Rahya Ranjari in Samba were detained under the PSA for their repeated involvement in criminal activities for the past several years, a police spokesman said.

The PSA is an administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases.

The spokesman said the order for detention of the duo was issued by concerned deputy commissioners on the recommendations of the police.

"Shakeel was found involved in multiple cases of bovine smuggling, while Singh was accused in several cases related to attempt to murder, firing and heroin trafficking. They have been posing a grave threat to public peace and tranquility," he said.

Meanwhile, four drug peddlers, including a woman, were arrested

Turn to page 9

Bow to Memory of Fighters who paved way for victory by sacrificing their Lives: Prez Murmu On Kargil Diwas

NEW DELHI, Jul 26 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said all the countrymen remember the victory achieved by the extraordinary valour of the country's armed forces on the glorious occasion of 'Kargil Vijay Diwas'.

The Indian Army had launched a fierce counter assault to push back Pakistani forces that had stealthily occupied



important heights in Ladakh in 1999. Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed to mark India's win over its neighbour. "Today, on the glorious occasion of Kargil

Vijay Diwas, all the countrymen remember the victory achieved by the extraordinary valor of our armed forces. On behalf of a grateful nation, I pay tribute and bow to the memory of the fighters who paved the way for victory by sacrificing their lives to protect the country. Their heroic stories will always inspire generations to come. Jai Hind!" Murmu tweeted in Hindi.

"Nation will never forget Supreme Sacrifice of Jawans": Army Chief on Kargil Vijay Divas



DRASS (Ladakh), Jul 26: Paying rich tributes to the valour of the

Indian armed forces on the 24th Kargil Vijay Divas, Army Chief Gen-

eral Manoj Pande on Wednesday said the jawans, who made the supreme sacrifice in the 1999 conflict with Pakistan, will forever live on in the hearts and minds of the people.

Addressing a sombre commemoration event after laying a wreath at the Kargil War Memorial in memory of the fallen soldiers in the icy heights of Kargil, on

Turn to page 9

PM Modi pays tributes to fallen Soldiers on Kargil Vijay Diwas

NEW DELHI, Jul 26 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday paid tributes to soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice for India's victory over Pakistan in the 1999 Kargil war.

Kargil Vijay Diwas brings to the fore the bravery of India's unparalleled warriors who will always remain a source



of inspiration to the people of the country, the prime minister said in a tweet in Hindi.

"Jai Hind," Modi said. On July 26, 1999, the Indian Army announced the successful culmination of "Operation Vijay", declaring victory after a nearly three-month-long battle at the icy heights of Kargil, including super-high-altitude locations, such as Tololing and Tiger Hill.

Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed to mark India's win over its neighbour.

Indian Army can Cross LoC for Honour of Nation: Rajnath Singh



DRASS (Kargil), Jul 26 (Agencies): On Vijay Diwas, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the Indian Army can cross the Line of Control (LoC) for the honour of the country.

Addressing soldiers after laying a wreath at

the Kargil War Memorial in Drass and paying tribute to soldiers who lost their lives in the 1999 Kargil War, the Defence Minister said. Singh arrived in Drass, in the Kargil district of Ladakh, on Wednesday for the 24th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas. The day is marked every

"At the time of the Kargil War, if we did not cross the LoC, it did not mean that we could not cross the LoC. We can cross the LoC and will cross the LoC in the future if need be", he added.

"As long as you (soldiers) are protecting us on the borders, no one can even have the courage to raise their eyes towards India," the Defence Minister said.

Singh arrived in Drass, in the Kargil district of Ladakh, on Wednesday for the 24th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas. The day is marked every

Turn to page 9

Centre to introduce four bills on quota and electoral reservation in J&K

JAMMU, Jul 26 (Agencies): The Union Government will introduce four key bills on quota and electoral reservation in Jammu & Kashmir in Parliament on Wednesday (July 26).

As per Lok Sabha's revised list of business, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will introduce a bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

The bill is meant to reserve three seats—two for Kashmiri Pandits and one for refugees from Pakistan occupied

Jammu & Kashmir—in J&K Assembly.

The Union Home Minister, will also introduce a bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004.

The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004 is a state law. It is being amended in the Parliament to rechristen "Other Social Castes" as "Other Backward Classes"

According to the schedule, Union Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda will introduce a bill further to amend the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir)

Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989.

The Constitution (Jammu & Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023, seeks inclusion of Paharis, Paddaris, Gadda Braman and Koli tribes.

Union Minister for Social Justice Dr. Virendra Kumar will introduce The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which seeks inclusion of the Valmiki community in the list of Scheduled Castes of Jammu and Kashmir.

30,000 vacancies filled in J&K after Article 370 abrogated: Govt In RS

NEW DELHI, Jul 26 (Agencies): Nearly 30,000 vacancies were filled in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. Rai said the government of Jammu and Kashmir has carried out several governance reforms, including in the area of recruitment.

"After abrogation of Article 370, large scale recruitment drive has been carried out and the government of Jammu and Kashmir has filled 29,295 vacancies.



Recruiting agencies have advertised 7,924 vacancies and examinations in respect of 2,504 vacancies have been conducted," he said in response to a written question.

The minister said the identification of vacancies in the government

and recruitment is a continuous and ongoing process and taken up under an accelerated recruitment drive.

According to him, the government of Jammu and Kashmir has taken various initiatives to bring down

Turn to page 9

"EK SHAM BUZURGON KE NAAM"

The Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) as Poetic Obedience to The Senior Citizens has organised a **Multi-Lingual Kavi Goshthi** On 29th July, 2023 At Vriddh Ashram, Ambphalla Jammu At 5.00 PM Sharp

With The Special Blessings Of **Shri I.D. Soni** Educationist, Philanthropist and President Home For Aged And Infirms.

Shri K. B. Jandial IAS Former Secretary to Govt Of J&K and Ex Hon'ble Member PSC Shall Be The Chief Guest

Shri Prem Gupta IPS Former Inspector General Of Police Shall Preside Over The Function

Smt. Jatinder Kaur Sharma Renowned Singer Shall Be Special Guest.

The Participating Poets Are :
Dr Sushil Bhole, Sudershan Kumari Darshi, Dr Chanchal Sharma, Neelam Verma Mehrotra, Ashok Kumar, Rakesh Sharma Tript, Yash Paul Yash, Randhir Singh Raipuri, Capt. Lalit Sharma, Dr. S. K. Jain, Balwinder Singh, Suraj Singh Suraj, Kalpana Gupta Rattan, Bishan Singh Dardi, Madan Magotra, Arvind Sharma

AMIT GUPTA Vice President NDS
ARJUN DEY MOHAN ADVOCATE General Secretary Youth Wing, NDS
ADVOCATE DOGRA HARISH KAILA President, Nami Dogri Sanstha (Regd.) # 5419124098
PROF. ANUPAMA SHARMA Patron, Youth Wing, Nami Dogri Sanstha (Regd.)
ADVOCATE NIDHI KAILA President, Youth Wing, NDS

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SCAN ME!

TENTH DAY/KRIYA KARAM/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Smt Tara Wanti** W/o Lt Shri Bishamber Dass R/o Naibasti (Gajansoo) Marh Jammu.

Tenth Day will be performed on 25 Jul 23 at 11.00 hrs at Naibasti Gajansoo

Karam Kriya will be performed on 26 Jul 23 from 1200 Hrs onwards at Naibasti Gajansoo.

Uthala will be performed on 28 Jul 23 from 4 PM to 5 PM at Naibasti Gajansoo.

Grief Stricken:

Rajinder Parshad & Suresta Kumari- **Son & Daughter in law**
Varinder Kumar & Anu Sharma- **-do-**

Raj Kumar - **Son**

Sudesh Kumari - **Daughter**

Keval Sharma & Kirna Devi- **Son in law & Daughter**

Sushma Devi - **Daughter**

Grand Son & Daughter

Vikas, Rose, Shivalee, Varun, Vishali, Ritesh, Ritika, Vishal, Diksha, Paranav
Amit & Priyanka

Mob No. 9469213081, 8803792719



Smt Tara Wanti

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you that the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Vaishno Devi** W/o Late Sh. Bansil Lal R/o 213/7 EWS Colony, Lower Roop Nagar Jammu left for heavenly abode on 15-07-2023.

10TH DAY will be performed on 24-07-2023 (Monday) at our residence 213/7 EWS Colony, Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu at 11:00 AM.

KRIYA on 27-07-2023 (Thursday) at our residence at 12:00 PM and **UTHALA** on 28-07-2023 (Friday) at Shiv Mandir, Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu near our residence at 04:00PM

GRIEF STRICKEN

Daughter-in-Law & Son

Mrs Sonika Datta & Late Shri Rajinder Kumar

Daughter and Son-in-law

Mrs Kiran Bala & Late Shri Rajinder Kumar

Grandsons and Granddaughter

Aniket Bhardwaj, Anirudh Bhardwaj, Wamika Bhardwaj, Rajan Kumar

MOB NO.- 8494022626, 9194442243



SMT. VAISHNO DEVI

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Harbans Lal Sharma** S/o Lt. Sh. Badri Nath Sharma R/o F-34, Jawahar Nagar, New Plot Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 16-07-2023.

10th Day will be performed on 25-07-2023 at our residence at 10.30 AM.

Kriya will be performed on 26-07-2023 at our residence at 9.00 AM onwards.

Uthala will be performed on 28-07-2023 at Shiv Mandir Jawahar Nagar from 5.00 PM to 6.00 PM.

Grief Stricken

Sons & Daughter-in-law

Ajay Sharma & Sushma Sharma

Lt. Sanjay Sharma & Smt Nisha Sharma

Sister & Brother-in-law

Smt Rani Devi & Lt. Sh. Kuldeep Sharma

Brother & Sister-in-law

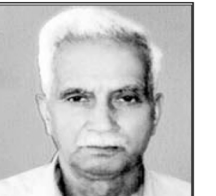
Sh. Indeept Sharma & Lt. Smt Sharda Sharma

Nephew & Niece-in-law

Sh. Narinder Kumar Sharma & Smt Indu and others

And All Members of Panotra and Magotra Family

Mob. 9682370719, 9682317007, 9419190464



Sh Harbans Lal Sharma
(Retd. Superintendent
State Archives Jammu)

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform about sad demise of our beloved Mummy Ji **Smt. Raj Dulari Tikku**, W/o Lt. Jagan Nath Tikku, originally resident of K.K.Sokhta, Nawa Kadal, Srinagar presently residing at M-701, Antriksh Forest, Sector-77, Noida on 18th July 2023.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Chhotta Haridwar, Muradnagar Ghat on 27th July 23 at 8:30 AM.

Assembly at Antriksh Forest Club, Sector-77, Noida.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Sons and Daughters-in-law:

Vinod & Neelam

King & Kiran

Daughters and Sons-in-law:

Renu & Hirak

Sema & Rajinder

Grand Children: Vimarsh & Amita,

Nikhil & Tanima, Ankit & Shivani,

Dikshant & Natasha, Kavya

Great Grandchildren : Viaan, Triyansh,

Nitara & Aavyaan

Tickoos, Matoos, Rainas, Balis,

Panditas, Razdans, Ahujas, Bags,

Nehrus, Kous, Misris & Moitras

9811122204, 9985092385



Smt. Raj Dulari Tikku

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform that **Smt. Jai Kishori Raina** W/o Late Jai Krishan Raina of Pethbugh, Anantnag at present Block 164, flat 03 Lane 26 Jagti Jammu left for the vaikunth Dam on 19-07-2023. The **Mourning** is being observed at community Hall, Lane No 23 Opposite Block No 148.

The **10TH DAY KRIYA** Shall be performed at Muthi Gath on 28-07-2023 at 8.30 AM and there after assembly will be held at community Hall lane No 23.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Tosha & T. N Raina -Brother in Law & Sister in Law

Daughter in Law

Smt Meena Ji Raina W/o Late Ramesh Raina

Dauhters & Sons in Law

Smt Kiran Koul w/o Late Rattan Lal Koul

Smt Usha Raina W/o Ashok Raina

Smt Rita Raina W/o Ravinder Raina

Smt Sumukhi Bhat W/o Vijay Kumar Bhat

Smt Sarla Raina W/o Veer Ji Raina

Grand Children: Ritik Raina & Priyanka Raina



SMT JAI KISHORI RAINA

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of **Raj Nath Bhat (Dadroo)** S/o Lt. Radha Krishan Dadroo permanent resident of Nazuk Mohalla Anantnag Kashmir at present Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu on 23rd of July 2023.

The **10th Day Kriya** will be held on 01-08-2023 (Tuesday) at Muthi Ghat near Directorate School of Education.

The **ASSEMBLY** will also be held there at 8:30 AM. The **MOURNING** will be held at Flat No. 08 Block No. 29 Lane No. 06 Jagti Township Nagrota Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Muni- Wife

Sh. T.N. Bhat - Brother

Sisters-in-law & Brothers

Smt. Soniya & Sh. Roshan Lal

Smt Pooja & Sh. Pran Nath

Sisters & Brother-in-laws

Smt. Phoola Ji & Sh J.N. Koul

Smt. Chandra Ji & Sh Moti Lal Zutshi

Smt. Bitra Koul & Lt. Rajinder Koul

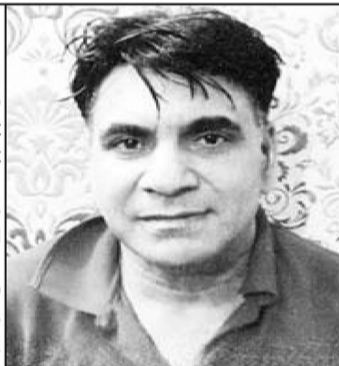
Smt. Jeeta Drabu & Lt. Utesh Drabu

(Mamy & Mama)

Smt. Tathi Koul & Sh. Bal Krishan

Contact No's: 97962-61986,

78893-63681, 7006985291



RAJ NATH BHAT
(DADROO)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

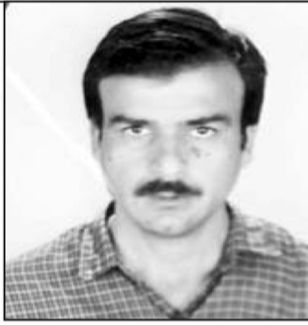
With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved **Manooj Kumar Koul** S/o Late Gopi Nath Koul R/o Vessu presently at H.No. 14, Lane No. 8, Shiv Dass Colony Tomal Anand Nagar Bhoori Near Laxmi Palace.

Tenth Day Kriya will be held on 2nd August 2023 (Wednesday) at Muthi, Ghat at 8:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Kouls, Panditas, Thaploos, Rainas, Tickoos

Mob. No.: 9419106652, 7006793102



Manooj Kumar Koul

TENTH DAY (KRIYA)

With profound grief, we wish to inform that **Nancy Pandita Khazanchi** passed away on 18th July, 2023 at Mumbai. The **10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 27th July, 2023 at Gorai Creek (Mumbai) Thursday at 6.00 am.

Condolence at residence H.No. 47, Lane No. 6, Gopi Nath Vihar, Udheywala, Jammu will be held on 27/7/2023.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Khazanchis, Pandits, Tikoos, Patwaris, Saprus,

Kotrus, Chrungoos

M) 9716499901, 9867324027, 9653634877,

9796216246



Nancy Pandita
Khazanchi

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Late Smt. Champa Devi** who expired on 19-07-2023.

10TH DAY KRIYA of Late Smt. Champa Devi W/o Sh Puran Chand , 72/2, Ward No.1 Narwal Pain Satwari, Jammu on 28-07-2023.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh Puran Chand- Husband

Sh. Harbhushan Bharti- Brother

Dr. Amit and Dr. Shalini - Son & Daughter-in-law

Rashim Kumar- Son

Smt. Sunamika & Sh Brijmohan - Daughter & Son-in-law



LATE SMT. CHAMPA DEVI

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

Tenth Day Kriya **Shri Vikas Gupta** S/o Late Shri Raghuraj Chander Gupta who left for his heavenly abode on 19 July 2023

10TH DAY will be performed on 26 July at 12 Noon

VENUE: Shiv Mandir, Sarwal Last Morh, Jammu.

KRIYA will be performed on 29 July at 3 PM.

VENUE : our residence.

IN GRIEF

Meenu Gupta- Wife

Sumit Gupta- Brother (+919858050909)

Ritu Gupta - Sister-in-law

Late Sh. Raman Satti- Jija Ji

Reena Satti - Sister

Sanjay Gupta- Jijaji

Late Smt. Sonu Gupta - Sister



SHRI VIKAS GUPTA

TENTH DAY KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Santosh Kumari** who left for heavenly abode on 18-07-2023. W/o Yash Paul, R/o ward no.6, house no.45, main bazar Katra.

The **TENTH DAY** will be performed on 27-07-2023 (Thursday) at Raghunath mandir from 11:00am onwards.

KRIYA will be performed on 28-07-2023 (Friday) at Raghunath mandir from 11:00am onwards.

RASAM PAGRI will be performed on 28-07-2023 (Friday) at Raghunath mandir from 4:00pm onwards.

GRIEF STRICKEN

SONS & DAUGHTER IN LAWS

Pawan Kumar & Sunita Sharma

Anil Kumar(Neelu Bir)& Raj Mohani

Tilak Raj & Rekha Devi

Manohar Lal & Komal Sharma

Sanjeev Kumar & Shivali Sharma

And All Members of the Sanmotra Family

Mob.No.- 9419264689, 9419174051



Smt. Santosh Kumari

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved **Smt. Vijay Bhan Kaul (Tathi)** w/o Puran Prakash Kaul, originally resident of Karan Nagar, Srinagar, presently residing at 301, Paloura Top, Lane No. 1, Suraksha Vihar, Jammu, left us for heavenly abode suddenly and untimely on 24-Jul-23 at 07:20 am. Entire family mourns her sad and untimely demise. While grieving the loss, we pray for Sadgatti of the divine departed soul.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat (Near Directorate of School Education) on 02-Aug-23 at 08:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Puran Prakash Kaul (Husband) - 9419105235

Sunil Kaul / Girja Kaul (Dewar/Bhabhi) - 8717055082

Akhil Sharma / Monika Sharma (Son-in-law and Daughter) - 9599918737

Rohit Kaul (Son) - 8056268474

Deeply Remembered By:

Kauls, Tickus, Bhans, Sharmas and All Relatives and Friends



SMT. VIJAY BHAN KAUL
(TATHI)

TENTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT. RUPAWATI BHAN** W/O LATE SH. NIRANJAN NATH BHAN (R/O BHARIANGAN, UMANAGRIAT PRESENT NANAK VIHAR, LOWER MUTHI NEAR MAHAGANESH MANDIR) WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON THURSDAY 20-07-2023.

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED AT MUTHI GHAT ON SATURDAY 25-07-2023 AT 08.00 A.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

(SONS & DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW)

TRILOKI NATH BHAN & SHEELA BHAN

ASHOK KUMAR BHAN & SHAKTI BHAN

DURGAL NATH BHAN & BABY BHAN

SUNIL KUMAR BHAN & SUSHMA BHAN

(DAUGHTERS & SON-IN-LAW)

PRAN NATH KHAR & PREM LATA

RUSHAN LAL BHAN & SUNITA BHAN

CHAND PATWARI & SHAKUNTALA KHAR

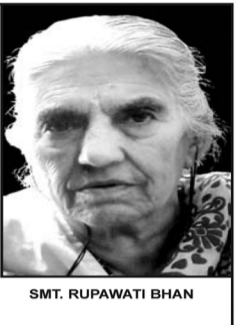
KAMAL FOTEDAR & VIJAYA KHAR

GRANDSONS & GRAND-DAUGHTERS

VIKAS BHAN & NUPUR ZUTSHI, VIVEK BHAN, VISHAL BHAN, AKASH BHAN, DIKSHA BHAN, SHIKSHA BHAN, SAKSHI BHAN, SHIVAM BHAN, SUSHIL PANDITA & PRIYANKA, ARCHANA PANDITA, VIVEK DHAR, RACHANA PANDITA & SHEEBU DHAR, AKSHAY BHAN, ANUSHIKA BHAN

GREAT GRANDSON: RUDRA BHAN

CONTACT NO. 8717091944, 9787363549, 7061011623, 9233016591



SMT. RUPAWATI BHAN

MOURNING BY DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW

With Profound grief and sorrow we inform that our Father / Grand Father (Gasha Ji) **Sh. Bhushan Lal Zutshi** resident of H. No 852, Lane No 8, Subash Nagar Jammu, who left for his heavenly abode on 19-07-2023.

The **TENTH (10TH) DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Muthi Ghat Jammu on Friday 28-07-2023 at 8:30 A.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

Daughters and Sons-in-laws

Smt. Jyoti Dhar (Sunny) W/o Sh. Ashish Dhar

Smt. Namrata Bhat W/o Sh. Amit Bhat

S

FFMA pays tributes to Kargil Martyrs on Vijay Divas



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 26: To commemorate the victory of Indian Army in Kargil in the 1999 War with Pakistan, the Freedom Fighters' Memorial Association (FFMA) on Wednesday organized a meeting at Dogra Shaurya Sthal, Ampbhalla under the chairmanship of Rajiv Mahajan. Floral tributes were paid to the martyrs and candles were lit in their honour.

A two minutes silence was also observed. Speaking on the occasion, the members remembered all the martyrs and said that the Indian Army was the best army in the world. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of FFMA, Rajiv Mahajan saluted the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the beloved nation. The Indian army fought very bravely along with the Indian Air Forces who played the major role during the war and the Indian Battalion regained its position. Indian

Army has always safeguarded the nation from alien forces and made us proud every time with their work and sacrifices for the Motherland. "Indian army is like a mother who does work selflessly and never asks for in return. This heroic sacrifice of our army won't be forgotten, and it will always inspire us," Mahajan added. Others were present on the occasion includes Ved Gandotra (Chief Patron) of FFMA, Ravi

Chander Puri (Former President of Association), Prof. S.S Balwal (President of Association), Th. Karnail Chand (Genral Secretary of Association), Pritam Sharma (Vice President), Ravinder Mittal (Organiser), Brij Mehra (Vice President), Prof. O.P Sharma (Vice President), Kulbir Singh Slathia (Vice President), Garu Ram (Vice President), Raj Rattan Raina (Vice President), Guddu, Surinder Chouhan, Ramesh Singh, Prabhhat Kapahi and others.

Samvedna pays tribute to Kargil War Heroes



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 26: Samvedna Society Chairman Keshav Chopra along with his team on Wednesday paid tribute to heroes of Kargil war who fought in 1999 and Laid down their Lives for the Country, On July 26, 1999, the Indian Army had announced the successful culmination of "Operation Vijay", declaring victory after a

nearly three-month-long battle on the icy heights of Kargil in Ladakh. Keshav Chopra while highlighting the importance of the day said that this day remind us of the courage bravery and dedication of our soldiers, my humble tribute to those mighty warriors who made supreme sacrifice for India's Victory over Pakistan, we are always

indebted to our martyrs and their family members, Kargil Vijay Divas is a symbol of pride and glory of Bharat Mata keshav further added. Manoj Tandon, Shailu Arora, Parshotam Lal, Ritesh Peer, Gurbachan Dogra, Rahul Gupta, Naresh Gupta, Suresh Kumar Ghai, Sourav Gupta, Sushil Gupta and others also paid their tribute.

DGPC expresses concern over exclusion of Sikhs from Assembly Seats

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 26: The District Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (DGPC) Jammu expressed concern over exclusion of Sikhs from Assembly Seats.

Addressing the press conference here today, S Balvinder Singh, Vice President DGPC Jammu stated that the media reports suggest that the Government of India is introducing the J&K Reorganization (Amendment) Bill 2023 in the Lok Sabha, which aims to reserve two assembly seats for Kashmiri Migrants and one for displaced persons from Pakistan occupied Kashmir (POJK). While this move is commendable, the Sikh minority community in J&K, including those residing in both the Kashmir valley and Jammu province, is being met with grave injustice under the current regime, he added.

"It is the belief of DGPC Jammu that two seats should have been allocated for Sikhs, one each for the Sikhs of



the valley and Jammu. The Jammu province, with an equal population as that of Kashmiri Pandits, has faced significant hardships since 1947, yet its representation in the assembly has not been adequately addressed," he added.

He said approximately 3 lakh Sikhs settled in Jammu are primarily Displaced Persons from 1947 from POJK, and even POJK Displaced Persons (DPS) comprising of Hindus and Sikhs are not being given representation in the Assembly based on the population displaced from POJK. While the POJK assembly seats

are already counted in the total assembly seats, the government seems unconcerned about the representation of POJK DPS and intends to allocate these vacant seats to people currently residing in POJK. This will create an imbalance in assembly seats based on the population and goes against the spirit behind granting 2 assembly seats to Kashmiri Pandits, he added.

DGPC Jammu emphasized that allocating 8-10 seats for POJK DPS settled in the Jammu province will help establish a fair representation for the region. The organi-

zation urges the central government to do justice not only to the 3.5 lakh Sikhs and 12 to 14 lakh POJK DPS but also in the interest of the nation's future, he added.

Furthermore, the Parliamentary panel on Home Affairs has previously recommended 8 Assembly seats for POJK DPS in its report no. 183 dated 22 Dec 2014, which the DGPC supports.

Surjit Singh, the Secretary, highlighted that POJK DPs have been the first saviors of J&K state, bravely defending the State against Pak Army/Tribal raid-

ers, and sacrificing more than 40,000 lives for the cause. Despite their immense contributions, the community has faced neglect and step-motherly treatment from successive governments. It is essential to recognize the significant impact this community can have with a population of 3.5 lakhs, which could effectively affect 10 assembly seats.

In conclusion, DGPC Jammu strongly demands that the proposed bill be modified to grant at least two assembly seats to Sikhs of both the valley and Jammu province from the migrant quota, as well as a fair share of seats from the 8 seats reserved for POJK DPs of 1947, as mentioned above. Other prominent personalities who were present at the Press Conference include S Manjit Singh, S Tejinder Singh, S Rajinder Singh Sudan, S Surinder Singh Wazir STP Singh, S Manmohan Singh, S Jasbir Singh, S Balwan Singh, S Daryodan Singh, S Onkar Singh, etc.

Mahant Rohit Shastri meets Didi Maa Sadhvi Ritambhara

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 26: Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sanathan Trust President Mahant Rohit Shastri met Didi Maa Sadhvi Ritambhara presented a self-written book and statue of Kamdhenu Gau Mata to Didi Maa Sadhvi Ritambhara, Vatsalya Gram, Vrindavan and requested her to establish a Sanskrit Gurukul in Jammu and Kashmir.

On this occasion, Mahant Rohit Shastri said that the land of Jammu and Kashmir has been the eternal center of Shaivism. Acharya Abhinavagupta, the great poet Kalhana, the great poet Vilhana and many ancient Sanskrit sages have originated on this holy land.

The Acharyas who had paved the way for uniting not only India but



the whole world in the thread of unity with their penance, the same Punyasalila Jammu-Kashmir Vasundhara was becoming extinct from Sanskrit today, but Devvani Sanskrit has got a boost with the arrival of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha ji in Jammu and Kashmir.

At present, due to the lack of Sanskrit Gurukulas in Jammu and Kashmir, the students who want to study Sanskrit are worried.

Shastri urged Didi Maa Sadhvi Ritambhara that if you establish a Sanskrit Gurukul in Jammu and Kashmir, then it is possible to revive the extinct Sanskrit religious philosophy in the state.

On this occasion, Didi Maa Sadhvi Ritambhara ji congratulated Mahant Rohit Shastri for promoting Devvani Sanskrit through the trust and agreed to open Jammu Kashmir Sanskrit Gurukul.

Shurveer Jammu Sangathan celebrates Kargil Vijay Divas

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 26: In remembrance of supreme sacrifices of soldiers during the Kargil War, Shurveer Jammu Sangathan on Wednesday organised 'Kargil Vijay Divas' celebrations at Jammu.

SJS said that the Kargil Vijay Divas is observed on 26 July to commemorate the victory of the Indian soldiers over the infiltrating Pakistani troops.

Activists of SJS paid tributes to the bravehearts soldiers and express gratitude to the gallant and bravehearts soldiers who laid down their lives during the 'Operation Vijay'.

SJS said that The Indian Armed Forces defeated Pakistan on July 26, 1999. Since

then, the day is celebrated as 'Kargil Vijay Divas' to rekindle the pride and valour of the soldiers who took part in Operation Vijay.

SJS said that the Braving unprecedented hardships, overcoming the hazards of near impossible terrain and severe climatic conditions, brave gallant soldiers launched valiant attacks on well-fortified defended localities with relentless valour and enthusiasm, thus attaining an astounding victory.

Arun Seekey (Gen. Secy. SJS), Adv. Bhanu Partap Rakwal, Partap Singh Jamwal, Deepan, Sajan, Devkaran Singh Jamwal, Ashok Choudhary, Rakesh Kumar, Ravi, Ayush Verma, Shubam Gorla and others.

Catch the Rain: NYK Poonch organises pledge, wall painting, distributes E-posters

TOP NEWS REPORT

MANDI, Jul 26: Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Poonch under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Govt of India organised pledge, wall painting and distributes E-posters on theme "Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls".

Number youth from across the Poonch district participated in the event with full zeal and enthusiasm. They also shared their experiences towards water conservation.

Resource person Mohd Tariq Malik 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.

While addressing the youth, Adil stressed on sustainable and judicious use of water resources.

He also appealed the people to Turn off the tap and shower, when not in use, Fix leaking pipes, Unclean water can be

used for cleaning, watering plants and washing cars. Use mug instead of tap while brushing teeth, Use a bucket to clean the floors, he added.

Refreshment was also served by Nehru Yuva Kendra Poonch. At the end of the event vote of thanks was presented by Mohd Adil Ex NYV and President Hamdani Youth club Mandi, President Rahul Dravid cricket Academy Poonch Pervaiz Malik Afridi was also present on this occasion.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu

e-mail: xenorth@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No. 141 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/Sole Prop. for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of document/ tender fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Repair / replacement of damaged components of LT control panel of HC pumping unit no. 04 of CPS Parade along with replacement of 400 Amprs. MCCB at Tube well Kabir Basti.	200/-	02% of the Quoted amount	180 days	180 days

Date of Publishing : 24-07-2023 02.00 pm.

1. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 24-07-2023 (02.00 pm).

2. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 24-07-2023 (02.00 pm) to 04-08-2023 (02.00 pm).

3. The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

4. The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 05-08-2023 (02.00 pm) or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.

5. The Financial bid of the bidders shall be opened online after scrutinizing the technical bid in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

6. Cost of bidding document in shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu/tender fee receipt through online payment through the JMC link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html>

7. The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L₁ bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L₁ bidder opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.

8. The date and time of opening of financial bids will be notified on website <http://jktenders.gov.in> and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.

9. The original documents when submitted by L₁ bidder for the cost of tender documents, specified in the tender document should be same as uploaded on line (Scanned copies) otherwise allotment will not be issued, the tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.

10. Bid security of successful tenderer will have to be in form of CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for 180 days after last date of receipt of Bid.

11. Only such firms should submit tender, who have requisite infrastructure and workshop facility for carrying out similar type of job which may be inspected by the competent authority before awarding the job contract so as to access the working capacity of the tenderer. The workmanship and material used should be of high quality and as per the specifications of the job order / tender.

12. The bid for the execution of work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited.

13. The tenderers are advised to visit the site of work / inspect the parts to be fabricated before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact measurement and site conditions.

JSM/DN/2145-47
Dated: 22-07-2023

DIP/J-5724/23

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Mech. Division North
Jammu

EDITORIAL

CONSUMERS
RIGHTS

Man uses and consumes various things to make his life comfortable. He has started feeling that consumption is happiness. He is being affected by western consumerism, taking advantage of this the producers present their goods in front of him in an exaggerated manner. This is called advertisement. Nowadays its promotion has become so much that the present is being called the era of advertisement.

Advertisement has deeply affected our lives. It is becoming our nature to ask for the same brands of goods at the shops which we see in the advertisements given in the newspapers, television or magazines. We hear enticing language about the benefits of a soap or toothpaste in an advertisement and we become eager to buy it.

The deceptive and tempting language of advertisements has the greatest impact on children. Children want to use the same products which are being sold and advertised by Shah Rukh Khan, Amitabh Bachchan or Priyanka Chopra. In fact, the soft mind and brain of the children do not know that they have taken lakhs of rupees in advance only for telling the truth and falsehood of these things.

It is the effect of advertisements that we are buying low quality but multi-advertised items indiscriminately. Shopkeepers are also spending major part of their product cost on advertisements and selling sub-standard quality items while earning high profit. The producers are getting rich and the pockets of the consumers are getting cut knowingly or unknowingly.

The advantage of advertising is that it gives us a choice of choice. The monopoly of a particular producer ends in the market. Consumers buy essential items after doing a comparative study of their price and quality, but for this there is a need to avoid their tempting language.

Advertisement is not beneficial for Indian culture. Today, any advertisement or advertisement of any age group, advertisement of male utility items, advertisement of children's or women's use items, is not complete without the naked body of a woman. Many advertisements cannot be viewed with family members.

On the one hand, the prices of goods are increasing due to advertisements, on the other hand, the soft mind of the children is getting distorted and they are becoming stubborn. Seeing the clothes of heroes and heroines getting smaller in the advertisements, the youth are also getting half-naked. The budget of poor and middle class is deteriorating due to advertisements. We should trust advertisements very carefully.

Student life gives flight to Dreams

By: Vijay Garg

It will not be wrong to call student life the golden age of human life. The hard work done during this period has to determine the course of the future life of a person. People who work hard during their student life succeed in reaching a successful stage in life, while students who are careless remain trapped in life-long wanderings. The success of a student's life does not depend only on the hard work of the student, but the guidance and opportunities received during this period are also very important. Those students who get competent teachers, those students automatically become hard workers. The teacher's inspiration and guidance becomes a guide for them. In the same way, the opportunity to take flight of dreams during student life also directly affects the student's personality. Book knowledge alone is not enough. If you work for hours on the laptop then you may have the problem of dry eye syndrome, eat these things to avoid Book knowledge alone is not enough for success in student life. Experiment on practical during this period. The opportunities for knowledge accelerate the student's learning

process many times and positively affect his personality development. Knowledge taught in book form is like incomplete knowledge for the student. If the student gets an opportunity to apply that knowledge in practical form and see it directly, then the student's knowledge becomes permanent. A student's imagination turns into reality. The student is shocked to see what he could only imagine in reality. It seems to him that his All the information recorded in the books is also real. Efforts have been started by the government. Students of government schools are often left behind in terms of educational journeys because the decisions of government schools are taken by the government at the state level and not at the local level. Private institutions are free to take their own decisions and they often make such efforts for their students. Many initiatives have been started by the state government with the aim of providing constructive knowledge to the students of government schools. Department of Education. The opportunities being provided to the students of government schools are becoming an example. The department is providing realistic knowledge to the students

by taking them to those places, which their teachers may not have had the opportunity to. The students are taught only the information contained in the books about the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, but the present government took an effort to improve their knowledge by taking the students of the government schools to the Vidhan Sabha during the ongoing session of the Vidhan Sabha. of Chandrayaan-3A chance to see the launch up close. The interest of school students in science subject is decreasing day by day. The difference in admissions for science and other subjects in senior secondary classes is enough to prove this fact. With the aim of increasing the interest of students in the subject of science and showing the knowledge of the subject of science to the students in a realistic form, the education department provided an opportunity to the students of government schools to see the launch of India's Chandrayaan-3 up close. Science field to government school students. It provided to enjoy and know the proud moments of the country. This occasion has become a golden page in the history of the School Education Department. After seeing the launch of Chandrayaan-3, these students

were welcomed by the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann himself and he also got to know the experiences of the students. By meeting the top scientists there, the desire to go into the science field will inevitably arise in the minds of the students. Importance of educational trips. Educational trips are very important to convert the student's book form into theoretical knowledge. This In view of its importance, educational trips to religious and historical places are organized for students by educational institutions. During educational trips, it is very important to give detailed information about the place or event to the students before the start of the trip as well as at the place. In the field of knowledge and science, things will be hit. These attempts to give flight to the dreams of the students of government schools will inevitably become the cause of creating a bright future. Book in fictional form by students. The knowledge being acquired will always remain in their memories. The youth of the state will definitely excel in the field of knowledge and science.

*(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)*

What IAF needs to transform into to develop as an aerospace power

By: Kamal Davar

For the Indian Air Force to truly live up to its motto of "Touching the Skies with Glory", some critical transformational imperatives are needed. While the IAF is sincerely trying to move from air power to being an aerospace power, these imperatives have to be implemented with vision and alacrity. Faced with China's rapidly growing military assertiveness and its unbridled ambitions, supplanted by a traditionally hostile Pakistan, the challenge to the IAF by both nations, individually and collusively, in the aerospace domain are indeed formidable. Aerospace is unquestionably the domain of the future.

To successfully confront a two-front threat, the IAF needs a frugal 42-fighter squadron strength, if not more. Successive Air Chiefs have publicly lamented that they are down to a strength of 31-32 squadrons, which is woefully inadequate to meet the emerging challenges from the Chinese PLAAF (Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force) and the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). India's strategic area of interest spans the entire region from the Malacca Strait to Strait of Hormuz, where China is gradually expanding its naval footprint.

The Chinese, in recent years are threatening our territorial integrity in Arunachal Pradesh, in areas adjoining Bhutan and Sikkim, in the central sector and in the eastern Ladakh region. They are also endeavouring to link the Xinjiang region in western China with Gwadar port in Pakistan, near the Strait of Hormuz via the overly

ambitious China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Meanwhile, Pakistan retains the ability to indulge in terrorist activities or provoke incidents, especially along the Line of Control in J&K.

Importantly, Pakistan has also enunciated a "first-use" nuclear option against India, that cannot be taken lightly. Meanwhile, the vast Indo-Pacific region is emerging as a major arena for military and economic contestation between the United States and China, where India will have a vital role to play, and apart from its maritime muscle, India's air power will come into reckoning in furtherance of its strategic interests.

The global geopolitical trajectory in recent years has shown an intense competition between the US and China. The US desires a "unipolar world but a bipolar Asia", whereas China is striving for a "bipolar world but a unipolar Asia". Invariably, India is a principal player in this rivalry. India therefore has to ensure that its overall military preparedness at the desired levels is ensured across the entire spectrum of warfare, including in its air power. Also, it is well-known that aerospace systems comprising manned aircraft, micro-satellites, diverse forms of spacecraft, unmanned aerial vehicles and ballistic and cruise missiles are evolving at a rapid pace.

Technology applying stealth, Artificial Intelligence, hypersonic aerial systems, direct energy weapons, improving genres of platforms assuming very long range and lethal, accurate, non-detectable dimensions which any modern military would like to induct in

its arsenals. China's advances in its aerospace capabilities is mind-boggling.

All governments are aware that the primacy, flexibility in and the speed of unleashing one's air power, whenever faced with a conflict or emergency situation, cannot be substituted. Barring nuclear exchanges, the effective employment of air power has become not only the dominant form of military power projection but in the restoration of an adverse situation for any country.

The IAF's retaliation at Balakot immediately after Pakistan's terror strike in Pulwama in February 2019 did send an appropriate message to Pakistan, besides scoffing at their propaganda of nuclear retaliation. The IAF, a battle-hardened force, is gradually transforming itself from being a continental air power to one with a global reach.

The PLAAF has been working feverishly to augment its air power and aerospace capabilities, besides mentoring the PAF too. Currently enabling its fifth-generation fighter, the stealth capable Chengdu J-20, it is also developing the H-20 stealth bomber and the more modern J-31, besides a Chinese hybrid space plane and a variety of platforms. China, often dubbed as the "Walmart of UAVs", is producing a fair variety of reconnaissance and armed drones while also assisting Pakistan in this field. Nevertheless, the US Air Force still remains miles ahead, both in overall capabilities and numbers of its modern aircraft like the F-22 Raptor/F-35A/ B 21 Raider (under induction). However, the race between these two nations is bound to get sharper by the day.

For India, faced with a formidable challenge from China, the yawning gap between the PLAAF and IAF needs to be bridged swiftly. The indigenisation in defence production is sine qua non to accord requisite numbers to the IAF, yet additional budgetary support for the acquisition of ultra-modern platforms from abroad is also essential. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visits to the United States and France are a step in this direction and hopefully the nations we are purchasing equipment from will readily agree to the transfer of technologies like manufacture of engines and critical avionics.

The IAF, besides getting requisite numbers of 4.5/5th generation aircraft, have to make up their minds for selection, ensuring cost-effectiveness, of the most suitable aircraft -- to choose from either the F-35A/Rafale/ Gripen /F-22/ Russia's Su-35 or Su-57. Our own Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas, may be a stopgap arrangement but is being also steadily improved which augurs well. The IAF's planners should be absolutely clear on their specific requirements for the impending Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) project, and then leave their clinically professional recommendations to the government to follow up.

As is well known, Comprehensive National Power and its multiple military constituents takes inordinately long to fructify. Thus, it will only be prudent for the nation to accord the necessary budgetary support and prioritisation in defence acquisitions to the IAF for enhancing its overall air power capabilities.

Barwala Sadar Sabha denounces illegitimate meeting, election

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 26: The Barwala Sadar Sabha condemned and disapproved the illegitimate general meeting organized by a group of individuals belonging to the Barwala Biradari in Aizawl Malal Block, Khour. The Sabha clarified that this meeting was not endorsed by the elected office bearers and is in strong opposition to it.

Addressing media persons here today, Biru Ram, President, Barwala Community, J&K said



that only a few people from the Khour block participated in the gathering, contrary to claims of representation from

various parts of Jammu division. "The gathering was attended by approximately one hundred individuals, most of

whom were close relatives of the elected office bearers. It has come to light that the event was orchestrated by a politi-

cal leader, who, driven by personal motives, has caused division within the fraternity," he added.

The Barwala Sadar Sabha firmly rejected and boycotted the illegally conducted elections, and those who were elected without participating in the unauthorized meeting are not recognized by the Sabha. He appealed to all political leaders to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of the Sabha and the community at large.

Rich Harvest celebrates Kargil Vijay Diwas

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 26: Rich tributes were paid to the martyrs of the Kargil War of 1999 by the Rich Harvest Staff and Scholars. In a special assembly, a model of the famous Tiger Hill was displayed to capture the patriotic feeling. Captain Vikram Batra, Lt. Manoj Pandey, Subedar Balwant Singh

and Grenadier Yoginder Kumar Yadav amongst others were paid homage by the NCC cadets for their valour and sacrifice for the safety of our great nation.

Medley of patriotic songs were sung which filled the air with an emotion of pride, joy and admiration.

Through speeches

and patriotic poems the students were made aware about the historical background of the Kargil Vijay Diwas. The head of Institute Anita Bhatia apprised the students to always remember the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces for reclaiming our captured territory and by defeating the Pak intruders.

ANTHE 2023: Aakash BYJU'S Launches National Talent Hunt Exam with Exciting Scholarships and Cash Awards for Class VII-XII Students

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 26: Aakash BYJU'S, the national leader in test preparatory services, today unveiled the 14th edition of its popular and widely sought-after ANTHE (Aakash National Talent Hunt Exam) 2023. The flagship annual scholarship exam presents the chance for Class VII-XII students to unleash their potential with up to 100% scholarships and remarkable cash awards. Empowering young minds to soar towards their dreams of a promising future in medicine or engineering, ANTHE 2023 promises to be an extraordinary gateway to success. ANTHE scholarship recipients can enroll in Aakash and receive expert guidance and mentorship to prepare for various exams, including NEET, JEE, state CETs, School/Board exams, and competitive scholarships like NTSE and Olympiads. An exciting addition for students this year is the chance for 100 students



from various classes to win a 5-day all-expenses paid trip to a National Science Expedition. Over the years, ANTHE has produced notable achievers, with several students from Aakash BYJU'S emerging as top rankers in exams like NEET (UG) and JEE (Advanced). A number of Aakashians who started their educational journey at Aakash with ANTHE, including Kaustav Bauri (AIR 3), Dhruv Advani (AIR 5), and Surya Siddharth N (AIR 6), became Champions in NEET (UG) 2023. Similarly, Aditya Neeraje (AIR 27) and Aakash Gupta (AIR 28), who also commenced their journey with ANTHE, attained com-

mendable positions in JEE (Advanced) 2023. Commenting on ANTHE 2023, Mr Abhishek Maheshwari, CEO, Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), said, "ANTHE has been the catalyst in fulfilling the aspirations of lakhs of students by bridging the gap between dreams and capabilities. Since its inception in 2010, we have strived to extend our coaching opportunities to deserving students nationwide, breaking barriers of location. ANTHE opens doors for students to prepare for NEET and IIT-JEE exams at their own pace, wherever they may be. We anticipate strong participa-

tion in ANTHE 2023 and remain steadfast in our mission of propelling students closer to a promising future." ANTHE 2023 will take place from October 7-15, 2023, in both online and offline modes across 26 states and union territories in India. In addition to scholarships of up to 100%, top scorers will also receive cash awards. ANTHE online will be held between 10:00 AM - 09:00 PM during all exam days, while the offline exams will be conducted on October 8 and 15, 2023 in two shifts: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM and 04:00 PM - 05:00 PM at all 315+ centers of Aakash BYJU'S across the country. Students can choose a one-hour slot convenient to them. ANTHE will be a one-hour test carrying a total of 90 marks and comprising 40 multiple-choice questions based on the grade and stream aspirations of students. For Class VII-IX students, the questions will cover subjects such as Physics, Chemistry,

Biology, Mathematics and Mental Ability. For Class X students aspiring for medical education, the questions will cover Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mental Ability, while for engineering aspirants of the same class, the questions will cover Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Mental Ability. Similarly, for Class XI-XII students who aim for NEET, questions will cover Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology, while for engineering aspirants they will cover Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. The last date for submitting the enrolment form for ANTHE 2023 is three days before the commencement of the online exam and seven days before the offline exam. The exam fee is INR 100 for offline mode and free for online mode. Results for ANTHE 2023 will be declared on October 27, 2023, for Class X students, November 03, 2023, for Class VII to IX, and November 08, 2023, for Class XI and XII students.

Modi Govt contained infiltration to the hilt in 2023: Purnima

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 26: Adv Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson of BJP Jammu and Kashmir and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, today lauded the efforts of the Modi government in effectively containing infiltration in 2023.

She referenced the statement made by Union Minister of State for Home, Nityanand Rai, in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, revealing that no terrorists could infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir until June 30 this year.

Adv Purnima highlighted that the strong approach adopted by the Government of India to tackle cross-border infiltration has resulted in a significant decline in infiltration attempts. The commitment to bolster border security and the implementation of a robust system equipped with modern gadgetry have played a pivotal role in curbing infiltration effectively, she said.

"The Modi government's unwavering determination and proactive measures have led to a noticeable improvement in the security situation



in Jammu and Kashmir," stated Purnima. "The stringent border management strategies have successfully deterred terrorists from infiltrating into our Union Territory, thereby contributing to the maintenance of peace and stability in

the region."

She said that the focused efforts on enhancing border security have not only safeguarded the lives of citizens but also provided a conducive environment for overall socio-economic development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Purnima expressed her appreciation for the security forces for their tireless efforts in safeguarding the nation's borders and ensuring the safety of its citizens. Their dedication and commitment have played a vital role in maintaining the sanctity

of the nation's borders, she added. She urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to continue supporting the government's initiatives and to remain vigilant against any subversive elements that may try to disrupt peace and harmony in the region.

The BJP J&K spokesperson emphasized that under the present regime of the Modi government, there is a palpable sense of peace prevailing on the borders of Jammu and Kashmir, paving the way for progress and prosperity in the region.

Modi Govt spurs industrial revolution in J&K, attracts billions in private investments: Sham

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 26: Sham Lal Langar, Convenor of BJP Trade Cell in Jammu and Kashmir, hailed the Modi government for spearheading an industrial revolution in the region, culminating in a momentous achievement of inviting private investments worth billions of rupees.

Pertinent to mention that the Union Territory Administration's has received 5,973 proposals totaling Rs 80,122 crore from domestic and international industrial houses stands as a testament to the resounding success of the gov-

ernment's initiatives.

Sham Langar said that the surge in private investments marks a major boost to industrial development in Jammu and Kashmir, positioning the region as a promising destination for economic growth and job creation. The proactive approach of the Modi government has paved the way for this remarkable influx of proposals from diverse sectors, highlighting the immense potential and investor confidence in the region, he added.

"The Modi government's vision and relentless efforts have ushered in an era of unprecedented devel-



opment in Jammu and Kashmir," stated Sham Langar. "The significant response from industrial houses, both from India and abroad, showcases the success of the government's policies in fostering a conducive business environment and promoting economic prosperity," he added.

The senior BJP leader said that the substantial number of approved proposals amounting to Rs 24,729 crore exemplifies the tangible outcomes of the government's focus on industrialization. With 130 industrial units already operational, the region is witnessing tangible progress on the ground, bolstering the aspirations of the people and driving economic growth.

Sham Langar further emphasized that the industrial revolution in Jammu and Kashmir has not only provided a strong impetus to job creation but also opened avenues for technologi-

cal advancements and skill development for the local populace. He commended the unwavering support of industry leaders from various states within India and overseas, who have recognized the region's potential and enthusiastically contributed to the growth story.

Sham Langar hoped optimism about the future prospects of Jammu and Kashmir's industrial landscape under the Modi government's able leadership, with the expectation that the region will continue to flourish and unlock its true potential as a hub of growth and prosperity.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, REW POONCH TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No 135 of REW POONCH 2023-24 Dated:- 22-07-2023 1st Call

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch, as his representative invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt/CPWD/MES for the following work under:

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Position of Funds				
Under BDC Grant													
1	C/Wall Ziarat Kote W.No 10 Pyl. Azmabad Block Mandi Under BDC Grant Year 2023-24	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	2.50	200	5000	30 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 04-08-2023 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded				
2	R/Wall Mohalla Duch W.No 01 Pyl. Chella Block Mandi Under BDC Grant Year 2023-24		2.50	200	5000	30 days							
3	Construction of L/Drain R/Wall/C/Wall Near L/o Ahmed Faraz and others Pyl. Fazalabad Lower B Block Buffiaz Under BDC Grant Year 2023-24		1.50	200	3000	30 days							
4	Construction of B/Path/P/WWork Near L/o Sheraz Ahmed Pyl. Fazalabad Upper Block Buffiaz Under BDC Grant Year 2023-24		1.50	200	3000	30 days							
5	Construction of L/Drain/P/WWork Near L/o Wassem Khan Mohalla Tandi Pyl. Fazalabad Upper Block Buffiaz Under BDC Grant Year 2023-24		1.50	200	3000	30 days							
6	Construction of B/Path/R/Wall P/WWork at Mohi Near L/o Rayasat Khan and Others Pyl. Fazalabad Upper Block Buffiaz Under BDC Grant Year 2023-24		1.50	200	3000	30 days							
Under DDC Grant													
7	B/Path Near H/o Said Mohd Pyl. Behrangalla Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24		1.00	200	2000	30 days							
8	Construction of Water Tank Near Waseem Shahzad Fazalabad Lower B Pyl. Fazalabad Lower B Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24		2.00	200	4000	30 days							
9	Construction of Water Tank Near Iram Sabha Fazalabad B Pyl. Fazalabad B Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24		2.00	200	4000	30 days							
10	Water Tanki Near H/o Mohd Farooq Pyl. Chandimarh Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24		1.20	200	2400	30 days							
11	RCC-Circular GSR 10,000 GLN Capacity Near the House of Late Ch. Mohd Hafiz Lower Devta W.No. 09 Panchayat Dharpoon Upper Block Balakote Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24		5.00	300	10000	45 days							
12	Construction of Meeting Hall at Tarakote Panchayat Naka Manjharhi Middle Block Balakote Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24	4.50	300	9000	45 days								
13	Construction of Road Kaslyian to Batwari Karmara Panchayat Karmara Block Poonch Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	3.00	200	6000	30 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 04-08-2023 in the office	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded				
14	Construction of Gate at H/S Khanetar Panchayat Khanetar Bela Chowana Block Poonch Under DDC Grant Year		0.50	200	1000	30 days							
2023-24													
15	R/Wall Near the H/o Mohd Bashir Lower Lonti Harh Pyl. Poshana Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24	2.00	200	4000	30 days	of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch							
16	R/Wall Near H/o Sakander Hussain Pyl. Chandimarh Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24	1.80	200	3600	30 days								
17	Construction of Drain Near the H/o Aftab Charak Pyl. Chandimarh Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24	1.30	200	2600	30 days								
18	P/WWork Near H/o Mukhtar Majaz Pyl. Taranarwall Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24	1.80	200	3600	30 days								
19	R/Wall Near the H/o Shokat Mehmood Pyl. Behrangalla Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24	1.50	200	3000	30 days								
20	Construction of Road Mohalla Panila to Mohalla Mughlain Pyl. Fazalabad Lower A Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24	1.00	200	2000	30 days								
21	Construction of Road from Haji Tanvir to Nissar Ahmed Fazalabad Lower B Pyl. Fazalabad Lower B Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24	1.00	200	2000	30 days								
22	Construction of Road Near Shahjahan Fazalabad Lower A Pyl. Fazalabad Lower A Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24	2.00	200	4000	30 days								
23	B/Path from Link Road Pateen to H/o Aftab Pyl. Behrangalla Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24	1.50	200	3000	30 days								
24	B/Path Near House of Jhangir Khan Pyl. Behrangalla Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24	1.23	200	2460	30 days								
25	Construction of Road Near Master Alam Manhas Fazalabad lower B Pyl. Fazalabad Lower B Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24	1.00	200	2000	30 days								

NOTE: The Contractors registered with DDC, Poonch in reference to GOVT. Order No: 238-F of 2021. Dated 07-09-2021 can participate upto an amount of Rs 3.00 Lacs. In local Panchayat works.

NOTE: No PRI member shall be allowed to take part in Tendering process

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22-07-2023.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 22-07-2023 to 03-08-2023, 1855 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	22-07-2023 from 1855 Hrs onwards
4	Bid Submission End Date	03-08-2023 up to 1855 Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) (In case of holiday, the bid shall be opened on next day)	04-08-2023 on or after 1000 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer REW, Poonch
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (of only successful technical bidders)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. **Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**
2. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website <https://www.jktenders.gov.in/> to acquaint bid submission process. **NO: XEN/REW/P/1923-33**
Dated:- 22-07-2023

DIP/J-5716/23

Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Wing
Poonch

Even as Censor Board goes into a tizzy after I&B Minister Anurag Thakur seeks explanation on Oppenheimer's Bhagavad Gita-intimate scene, and netizens bay for Nolan's blood, the movie continues to draw

In the two Hollywood releases last Friday, a phenomenon hailed as 'Barbenheimer' (Barbie and Oppenheimer), Christopher Nolan's Oppenheimer outperformed the other in India, as its collections crossed Rs 50 crore on Day 4.

However, Nolan including passages from the Bhagavad Gita in an explicit scene between Cillian Murphy (Oppenheimer) and Florence Pugh (Jean Tatlock) has not gone down well with a section of the audience. While many have objected to the scene, others are defending the acclaimed director. We trace the controversy.

The crux of it

The dialogue 'I am become death, the destroyer of the world', inspired by the Bhagavad Gita, has been used twice in the film and the first time after a love-making scene, where Florence brings the Bhagavad Gita and tells Oppenheimer to read it.

This has led to an outrage, especially from those who hold the Bhagavad Gita in high esteem. Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur has sought an explanation from the Censor Board of Film Certification (CBFC), as to how such a scene was cleared. The min-



ister, while replying to the open letter posted by Information Commissioner and author Uday Mahurkar on Twitter, wrote, "We do not know the motivation and logic behind this unnecessary scene on the life of a scientist. But this is a direct assault on religious beliefs of a billion tolerant Hindus, rather it amounts to waging a war on the Hindu community and almost appears to be part of a larger conspiracy by anti-Hindu forces."

In his open letter, Mahurkar was 'perplexed how CBFC could approve the movie with the controversial scene'. On the other hand, Thakur has asked for fixing accountability of person(s) responsible for

clearing the film with U/A certificate, which means it is suitable for viewers above 13 years, whereas in the US the movie is rated 'R', meaning under 17 (it's the first of Nolan's films to be rated R).

However, it's not that CBFC didn't make amends to give a U/A certificate. Even Warner Bros had no problems with that. The studio happily draped a black dress over Florence's naked body with the help of CGI technology to please CBFC. They also removed offensive words from the dialogues as well as subtitles, and introduced anti-smoking banners in between scenes.

All for creativity

On the other hand, there is a section of people who have praised Nolan for the masterpiece. Nitish Bharadwaj, who is hailed by the Indian audience for playing Lord Krishna in BR Chopra's Mahabharata, while extending support to Nolan, urged everyone to understand it from the late scientist's point of view. He had invented something which held the power to destroy the world, was regretting his action and yet it was his life's work.

Filmmaker Ram Gopal Verma wrote on Monday, "Irony is that an American nuclear scientist Oppenheimer read the Bhagavad Gita, which I doubt even 0.0000001 % of Indians read." His comment got mixed reactions. While some affirmed his words, a user vehemently opposed it, "Oh, look at you making assumptions and underestimating the intellectual curiosity of an entire nation. You might want to check facts before making such bold claims." Celebs like Sidharth Malhotra, without addressing the controversy, have simply stated that the film is a 'masterpiece'.

Meanwhile, Oppenheimer continues to mint money at the box-office despite the protests!

Palak Muchhal to perform at the Royal Albert Hall in London



Palak Muchhal will be performing live at the Royal Albert Hall in London, UK. This is her third time in London and she will be paying a tribute to her idol, legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar. On July 28, Palak will be per-

forming along with the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra at the prestigious venue.

She says, "It is fascinating to be performing there for the third time. It is such a matter of honour and respect for any artist. I was six

years old when I performed there for the first time. Then, in 2015, I did the same. This time around, it is a tribute to Lata ji."

She adds, "I had gone there with Anandji (of Kalyanji-Anandji fame). I remember singing Lag Ja Gale, along with a few other songs. This time, I am going to sing Yara Seeli Seeli, Aayega Aanevala, Aye Mere Watan Ke Logo, and Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham. I have tried to mix songs from different decades because Lata ji has sung so many hit numbers over the years. Each and every song by her got so much love from people across the world."

It has been three months since Palak began her preparations. "I have designed this concert from a scratch. I had several sessions over video calls with the orchestra members. It is a 120-member orchestra team. Most of the players are of British origin, and so it is an honour for them to be performing on songs made by some of the most legendary music directors of our country."

Richa Chadha begins shooting her first international project in London



Richa Chadha is all set to make her international debut this year with a film titled Aaina, which

is set in the UK. Richa flew to London last week to commence shooting. It's an Indo-British proj-

ect where Richa will be seen playing the lead character, alongside Chronicles of Narnia-fame William Moseley. The movie is based on real-life events. After its London schedule, it will be shot in different locations of India.

Richa says, "I had read a couple of scripts for international projects, but nothing was fitting well. When Aaina came my way, I knew this was the one and now, as it is finally happening, I am extremely thrilled. The movie has a very interesting storyline. I wanted a strong script for my international debut and Aaina is just perfect." Meanwhile, the actress has wrapped up the shoot for Fukrey 3, where she continues to play the role of Bholi Punjaban.

Popular Punjabi singer Surinder Shinda dies at 64



Popular Punjabi singer Surinder Shinda passed away on Wednesday.

Shinda, who had been receiving treatment at DMCH, Ludhiana, died on Wednesday morning, as confirmed by a hospital official. He was 64. Had been on ventilator for the past many days. He had numerous hot songs like 'Jatt Jeona Morh', 'Putt Jattan de' and 'Truck Billiya'. He had also appeared in Punjabi films like 'Putt Jattan De' and 'Ucha Dar Babe Nanak Da'.

His real name was Surinder Pal Dhammi. He is survived by son Maninder Shinda and hailed from Choti Ayali village in Ludhiana.

Ayushi Khurana reunites with family

Ayushi Khurana, best known for her role in the show Ajooni, embarked on a heartwarming journey to her hometown, Burhanpur, after a hiatus of one-and-a-half years.

Talking about the impromptu trip, she says, "As soon as I found out that I had a three to four day off, I immediately booked train tickets. Fortunately, I got the tickets, and after one-and-a-half years, I got the opportunity to visit my hometown, Burhanpur. My hometown is located between Maharashtra and MP, and there is no airport nearby. Indore airport is approximately four hours away, and the route from there is not safe during the monsoon, which is why I thought it was best to travel by train."

She adds, "It was a



surprise for my family. When my mother saw me, she was shocked. She touched me first, then hugged me, and became happy because I was standing in front of her. After a long time, I ate food cooked by

my mother. What was special was that it was my little sister's birthday, and I celebrated her birthday in advance before returning. We had a great time together, and I will never forget this day."

Bryan Cranston, Jessica Chastain join star-studded Times Square rally of striking actors and writers

Actors say streaming revolution altered pay in entertainment, stripping them of residuals and remaking working conditions

SAG-AFTRA held its largest and most star-studded rally yet in Times Square in a picket sign-waving show of solidarity 12 days into the actors strike.

A day after a Variety report questioned the lack of A-listers that have hit picket lines thus far, the rally Tuesday boasted more star wattage than perhaps any single strike action yet.

Among those joining throngs of demonstrators were Jessica Chastain, Bryan Cranston, Brendan Fraser, Ellen Burstyn, Wendell Pierce, Steve Buscemi, Rachel Zegler, Michael Shannon, Jane Curtin, Christian Slater and Chloe Grace Moretz.

Taking up a full city block, actors and representatives from the actors union took turns giving fiery speeches on a stage in the heart

of Times Square while tourists gawked and passing trucks honked in support.

At times, the actors took aim at the corporate lights and billboards around them, including the Walt Disney-owned ESPN and ABC studios that sat alongside the rally.

"We've got a message to Mr Iger," said Cranston, directing his comments at Disney CEO Bob Iger. "I know, sir, that you look through things from a different lens. We don't expect you to understand who we are but we ask you to hear us, and beyond that, to listen to us when we tell you we will not be having our jobs taken away and given to robots. We will not have you take away our right to work and earn a decent living."

The rally took place a stone's throw from

Broadway theatres and, given the talent involved, featured a higher degree of show business than your usual labour rally.

"Avatar" actor Stephen Lang quoted Frederick Douglass. Wendell Pierce recited Samuel Beckett. Tituss Burgess didn't speak; he sang Stephen Sondheim.

Arian Moayed, who played the investor Stewy Hosseini in "Succession", compared the characters of the HBO series to the studio executives the actors are negotiating with.

"It's like these people haven't seen (expletive) 'Succession'," Moayed exclaimed. "It's about you!"

Christine Baranski of "The Good Wife" and "The Good Fight" likewise drew from her own credits. "We will not live under corporate feudalism. It is time, it is just



simply time to make things right. Our contribution will not be undervalued, and we will not be robbed," said Baranski before concluding: "Let's fight the good fight!"

Earlier this month, actors joined striking screenwriters who walked out in May. It's the first time both unions have been on strike at the same time since 1960. The stoppage has shuttered nearly all film and television produc-

tion.

Actors say the streaming revolution has altered pay in entertainment, stripping them of residuals and remaking working conditions. They are also seeking guardrails against the use of artificial intelligence, along with increases to the union's health care and pension programs.

"Our industry has changed exponentially," said Cranston. "We are not in the same business model that we were in

even 10 years ago. And yet, even though they admit that that's the truth in today's economy, they are fighting us tooth and nail to stick to the same economic system that is outmoded, outdated. They want us to step back in time."

The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), which is negotiating on behalf of studios, has said it presented actors with a generous deal that included the biggest bump in minimum pay in 35 years among other benefits.

Since talks broke off and Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) commenced the strike, the sides have not negotiated and no talks are scheduled.

"We may be on strike but I said to them on July 12 we are ready to continue talking tomorrow and every day after until we reach a deal," said Duncan Crabtree-Ireland, chief negotiator for SAG-AFTRA.

"And I've said that every day since to the media, to them, to anyone who would listen. SAG-AFTRA is ready, willing and able to return to the bargaining table.

"The only reason we aren't there now is because those companies said that they didn't want to deal with people who were uncivilized and because those companies said they wouldn't be ready to talk for quite some time," added Crabtree-Ireland.

Many actors Tuesday cast the strike in

personal terms. Slater said the union's health care helped sustain his father's life. Slater's father, the actor Michael Hawkins, died last November.

Liza Colon-Zayas, the 51-year-old Bronx-born actor of the Hulu hit series "The Bear", said her lifetime of hard work isn't paying off.

"I have struggled 35 years to get here only to find residuals have dwindled exponentially," said Colon-Zayas. "If you can announce the highest-viewed this and the highest profits in that, then you can track our residuals. So we need to come to the table but we need to come to the table in good faith that there will be transparency in how we are being paid by streaming. We need you to open the books."

Redeveloped ITPO complex: PM Modi performs 'puja' ahead of inauguration

Level 3 of convention centre can seat 7,000 participants, making it even larger than iconic Sydney Opera House in Australia

NEW DELHI, Jul 26 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday performed 'puja' and 'havan' before the inauguration of the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) complex here at Pragati Maidan, along with the redeveloped India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) complex.

The inauguration of the complex, which is set to host the G20 Leaders' Summit in September, will take place this evening, where PM Modi will also release a commemorative G20 coin.

According to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the IECC will be among the leading exhibition and convention complexes in the world.

In an official statement it is said that the IECC has been developed as the centrepiece of the Pragati Maidan complex.

"PM Modi has performed a lokarpan puja in the complex ahead of its inauguration. A cul-



tural event is also scheduled in the evening in the presence of hundreds of guests, dignitaries and other invitees," it added. After the puja, the Prime Minister has also felicitated the 'shramjeevis' (those who were involved in the construction of the complex).

The facility has been developed in an area of nearly 123 acres and it has been built after an overhaul of the old and out-

dated structures in the complex and was developed at a cost of Rs 2,700 crore.

It has been developed as India's largest meeting, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) destinations, it said.

The PMO in the statement said, in terms of the covered space available for events, the IECC complex is the place among the top exhibitions and

convention complexes in the world. It went on to add that it is established in line with PM Modi's vision of having a world-class infrastructure for hosting meetings.

The facility competes with the Hannover Exhibition Centre in Germany and the National Exhibition and Convention Centre (NECC) in Shanghai in all aspects, as it has several state-of-the-art facilities such as the convention centre, exhibition halls and amphitheatres.

"It is a grand architectural marvel, designed to host large-scale international exhibitions, trade fairs, conventions, conferences and other prestigious events," the PMO said in the statement.

The Level 3 of the convention centre can seat 7,000 participants, making it even larger than the iconic Sydney Opera House in Australia, which can accommodate approximately 5,500 people.

Congress Pays Tribute To Soldiers On Kargil Vijay Diwas



NEW DELHI, Jul 26 (Agencies): The Congress on Wednesday paid tributes to soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice for India's victory over Pakistan in the 1999 Kargil war with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge saying their unflinching courage and valour shall inspire generations.

On the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas, Mr Kharge greeted the valiant soldiers of the armed forces, their families and all the fellow Indians.

"Salutations to the martyrdom of our bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice defending our motherland in

the Kargil War. We are proud of them. Their unflinching courage and valour shall inspire generations," Mr Kharge said in a tweet.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi also paid tributes to the Kargil heroes.

"On Kargil Vijay Diwas, salutations to all the brave soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice while protecting India's border. The country will always be indebted to them," Mr Gandhi tweeted in Hindi.

The Congress said Kargil Vijay Diwas is a symbol of the amazing valour and determination of the brave sons of the country.

"It was on this day that the bravehearts of Mother India had hoisted the tricolour after driving the enemies out of Kargil on the strength of their indomitable courage," the party said in a tweet in Hindi.

"The whole country is proud of the heroes dedicated to protecting the motherland," the Congress said.

Weather likely to worsen in Himachal Pradesh, Delhi; IMD issues orange alert

CHANDIGARH, Jul 26 (Agencies): The local meteorological office in Himachal Pradesh has issued an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places in eight of the 12 districts on July 26 and 27 and cautioned against landslides, flash floods and mudslides.

The weather office also issued a yellow warning of heavy rain on July 28 and predicted a wet spell in the state till July 31. It cautioned of moderate to high risk of flash floods in Chamba, Kangra, Sirmour, Shimla, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kullu, Mandi and Kinnaur districts.

According to the state emergency

response centre, 168 people have died in rain-related incidents and road accidents since the onset of the monsoon and the state has suffered losses of Rs 5,350 crore. A total of 566 roads are closed in the state for vehicular traffic, the data showed.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has also issued an orange alert for Delhi, indicating the weather in the capital could worsen. As most places of Delhi recorded moderate to heavy rain on Wednesday morning, it led to water-logging and disruption in road traffic.

The IMD has issued a warning of moderate rain during the day. A yellow alert has been issued for Thursday.

NHAI bans two-wheelers, autos on Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway from Aug 1

BENGALURU, Jul 26 (Agencies): The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has banned plying of two-wheelers, autos, tractors, non-motorised vehicles, multi-axle hydraulic trailer vehicles, and quadri cycles on the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway from August 1 onwards.

The decision was taken by the authorities amid rise in number of accidents reported on the expressway.

The state-owned NHAI had also constituted a committee of road safety experts to carry out safety inspection along the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway after a number of accidents were reported

along the stretch since it was opened in March this year, raising concerns about safety of commuters.

According to the notification issued by the NHAI on July 12, the movement of high-speed vehicles may pose risk to the safety of certain classes of comparatively slow-moving vehicles such as two wheelers, three wheelers and other slow-moving vehicles like non-motorised vehicles, agricultural tractors (with or without trailers) due to vulnerability and associated speed differentials and compromise the road safety aspects.

"Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred under section 35



of The Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002, it is hereby ordered that the following classes of vehicles are prohibited from using the Bangalore-Mysuru Access Controlled Highway (NH-275).

Motor Cycles (including scooters and other wheelers), Three wheelers (including e-carts

and e-rickshaws); non-motorized vehicles; tractors special with or without trailers; multiaxle hydraulic trailer vehicles and quadri-cycles," the notification said.

The NHAI further said the notification will be enforced from August 1 and that there are alternative routes and roads available for commutation for such classes of

vehicles.

According to the NHAI, this Access Controlled Highway has been developed as a high-speed corridor and the maximum speed limits for motor vehicles of various descriptions for the Access Controlled Highway have been notified varying between 80km/hour.

The 118 Km long Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway project was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March this year.

The Rs 8,480 crore project involves six-laning of the Bengaluru-Nidaghatta-Mysuru section of NH-275 and acts as a catalyst for socio-economic development in the region.

When PM silent on Manipur till SC remarks, how can INDIA have confidence in him: Sibal

NEW DELHI, Jul 26 (Agencies): Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Wednesday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying that when he "lacks" the confidence to make a statement in Parliament, how can INDIA have confidence in him.

Sibal's remarks came just ahead of his former party Congress filing a notice for a no-confidence motion against the government over the Manipur issue.

In a tweet, Sibal said, "No Confidence Motion. When PM lacks confidence to make statement in Parliament; keeps 'maun' on the crimes against women in Manipur till the Supreme Court comments; keeps 'maun' on Brij Bhushan; Says no territory is occupied by China. How can I.N.D.I.A have confidence in him?" The decision for the motion was taken in a meeting attended by opposition alliance INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance)

MPs in Parliament on Tuesday.

At the meeting of the opposition leaders, it was decided after weighing various options that this would be an effective way to compel the government to initiate a discussion on the issue, one of the alliance leaders said.

Prime Minister Modi last Thursday said the incident of women being paraded naked in Manipur has shamed 140 crore Indians, asserting that the law would act with its full might and no guilty would be spared.



Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge targets Amit Shah over Manipur issue

NEW DELHI, Jul 26 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday attacked Union Home Minister Amit Shah and alleged that there was a world of difference between his words and his actions on the Manipur issue.

Kharge said this while replying to Shah's letter in which the latter sought cooperation from the Congress and all Opposition parties in Parliament to discuss the Manipur issue.

Kharge wrote that the day Prime Minister compared the opposition alliance with terrorist organisations, the same day Home Minister writes a letter seeking cooperation from the opposition parties.

Kharge wrote the difference between the government and the opposition have always existed, but now one can see differences within the government



as well. He added that calling the INDIA alliance directionless by PM Modi is unfortunate.

Referring to the suspension of AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, Kharge said the government has been blowing up things out of all proportions to target opposition MPs.

"We have been noticing this tendency during recent Parliament sessions", Kharge wrote.

It may be noted that Congress Rajya Sabha MP Rajani Patil was suspended during the Budget session of Parliament earlier this year.

Her suspension was extended beyond the session by Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar.

Amit Shah had written in the letter that while the opposition is demanding a statement from the Prime Minister on Manipur, the government is ready for a full-fledged discussion. But this will need the cooperation of all parties.

Shah wrote that he would appeal to all opposition parties to come forward for a discussion in a good environment.

Manipur violence: Abandoned houses belonging to Meiteis torched at India-Myanmar border town

GUWAHATI, Jul 26 (Agencies): In fresh violence in strife-torn Manipur, a mob of around 2,000 people torched some 30 abandoned houses and demolished four others in the India-Myanmar border town of Moreh on Wednesday morning.

It was learnt the mob, which had a lot of women, launched the attack at the Moreh Bazaar area at around 10 am. The attack was still in spate when reports last came in.

Security personnel were at the site but they allegedly remained mute spectators.

The houses belonged to Meiteis who left the place after the violence in the state broke out on May 3.

Moreh has a mixed population of various communities - Kukis, Meiteis, Tamils, Gorkhas, Bengalis, Punjabis



etc. The non-tribals here are mostly traders and they largely depend on customers from Myanmar. However, their entry is now restricted and this has severely hit business.

The incident of arson comes a day after two persons, reportedly farmers, were injured when the miscreants opened fire at a place near the border of Bishnupur-Churachandpur districts.

"ED, CBI, Income Tax Only 3 Strong Parties In NDA": Uddhav Thackeray

MUMBAI, Jul 26 (Agencies): Taking a dig at the Bharatiya Janata Party, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray has claimed the Enforcement Directorate, Income Tax department and the CBI are the "only three strong parties" in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

In an interview to Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut, who is the executive editor of Shiv Sena (UBT) mouthpiece 'Saamana', Mr Thackeray also slammed the Centre over the violence in Manipur and alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not even ready to visit the north-eastern state.

Taking an aim at a recent meeting of the BJP-led NDA, Mr Thackeray claimed when elections approach, for the BJP its government is the NDA government. After the polls are over, it becomes the Modi-government,

he added.

Leaders of 38 parties, part of the NDA, met in Delhi last week.

On the same day, 26 opposition parties, including the Shiv Sena (UBT), met in Bengaluru and a proposal was adopted unanimously to name their coalition as Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA).

The opposition parties have been accusing the ruling BJP of misusing central agencies to target the opponents.

"There are 36 parties in the NDA. The ED, CBI and Income Tax are the only three strong parties in the NDA. Where are the other parties? Some parties do not even have a single MP," Mr Thackeray said in the interview, the first part of which was published in 'Saamana' today.

On the issue of Uniform Civil Code, Mr Thackeray said the



BJP should first bring a law for a ban on cow slaughter from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

If everyone is equal before law, then those who are corrupt in the BJP should also be punished, the former Maharashtra Chief Minister said.

Mr Thackeray also said those who engineered a split in the Shiv Sena thought Team Thackeray would perish, but it is rising again.

It is also a blessing in disguise because many veterans who rebelled had occupied their seats for a long time, and now new people can get a chance in their place, he said.

In June last year, MLA Eknath Shinde and 39 other legislators revolted against the Shiv Sena leadership, leading to a split in the party and collapse of the Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government.

Mr Shinde later became the Chief Minister with the BJP's support.

On the petitions seeking disqualification of 16 Shiv Sena MLAs including Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Mr Thackeray said if state assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar does not do justice, then doors of the Supreme Court are open for his party.

Hunter Biden's guilty plea over Tax offences is on the horizon, and so are a fresh set of challenges

US District Judge Maryellen Noreika, who was also appointed by Trump, will consider whether to accept the plea agreement.

WASHINGTON, Jul 26 (Agencies): President Joe Biden's son, Hunter Biden, faced new challenges on the eve of a scheduled court appearance Wednesday in which he's set to plead guilty in a deal with prosecutors on tax and gun charges.

On Capitol Hill, where Republicans are ramping up their investigations of the president and his son, the GOP chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee took the unusual step of filing court documents urging the judge in Hunter Biden's case to consider testimony from IRS whistleblowers.

The whistleblowers alleged the Justice Department interfered with investigations into Biden, a charge that has been denied by the lead prosecutor in the case, who was appointed by former President Donald Trump.

US District Judge Maryellen Noreika, who was also appointed by Trump, will consider whether to accept the plea agreement.

Judges rarely throw out plea bargains, but the effort to intervene by Ways and Means Chairman Jason Smith of Missouri amounted to a high-profile



push to raise questions about the deal, which is expected to spare the president's son from jail time.

The dynamics of the case became even more complicated hours after the lawmakers filed their motion.

A court clerk received a call requesting that "sensitive grand jury, taxpayer and social security information" it contained be kept under seal, according to an oral order from Noreika.

The lawyer gave her name and said she worked with an attorney from the Ways and Means Committee but was in fact a lawyer with the defence team, a clerk wrote in an email to Theodore Kittila, an attorney

representing Smith.

When Noreika learned of the situation, she demanded the defence show why she should not consider sanctioning them for "misrepresentations to the court."

Defence attorneys answered that their lawyer had represented herself truthfully from the start, and called from a phone number that typically displays the firm's name, Latham & Watkins, on the caller ID.

Jessica Bengels said in court documents that he did speak to two different clerk's office employees, which could have contributed to the misunderstanding. The second employee emailed Kittila.

Biden's attorneys are still seeking to keep information deemed private out of the public court record.

Kittila, though, said he had only filed materials that the committee had already released publicly online.

The judge agreed to keep the information sealed for a day to consider the issue.

The dustup came hours before Biden is expected to plead guilty to misdemeanor tax charges in an agreement that allows him to avoid prosecution on a gun charge if he means certain conditions.

Republicans have decried the agreement as a "sweetheart deal" and heard from two IRS agents who claimed the long-running investigation was "slow-walked" and the prosecutor overseeing it was refused broader special counsel powers.

Delaware US Attorney David Weiss, a Trump appointee, denied that in a letter to Congress, saying he had "full authority" over the probe and never requested special counsel status.

A spokeswoman for Weiss directed queries back to the court clerk's office.

US House Republicans plan to hold Meta's Mark Zuckerberg in contempt of Congress



WASHINGTON, Jul 26 (Agencies): The Republican chairman of the House Judiciary Committee is threatening to hold Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg in contempt of Congress for failing to supply documents related to an investigation into supposed censorship by tech companies of conservatives.

Rep. Jim Jordan, chair of the Judiciary Committee, said the panel plans to hold a hearing Thursday to vote on a contempt report detailing how Zuckerberg has "willfully refused" to comply with a February subpoena. The measure is likely to pass the GOP-controlled committee.

It would then be up to House Speaker Kevin McCarthy to hold a full House vote on the contempt resolution as early as this fall, after the August recess. If the House were to hold Zuckerberg in contempt, the Justice Department would decide whether to prosecute him.

Andy Stone, a spokesperson for Meta, said the company has delivered more than 50,000 pages of both internal and external documents to the committee since February. He added that they also have made current and former employees available for interviews with law-

makers. "For many months, Meta has operated in good faith with this committee's sweeping requests for information," Stone said in a statement.

Jordan, R-Ohio, issued the subpoenas to the chief executives of the five largest tech companies, including Zuckerberg, shortly after Republicans took over the House in January — looking to make good on a campaign promise to investigate Big Tech's content moderation, particularly over COVID-19.

The letters were also sent to Sundar Pichai of Alphabet; Satya Nadella of Microsoft; Tim Cook of Apple; and Andy Jassy of Amazon.com. All were asked to turn over any documents related to what they assert is widespread corporate censorship of conservative voices.

Twitter was notably absent from the list of companies subpoenaed. Its owner, Tesla founder Elon Musk, has proven to be more sympathetic to conservatives than Twitter's previous management, and Republicans in Congress have gone to bat for him.

Republicans held hearings in February with former Twitter executives where GOP lawmakers grilled the witnesses about the company's decision to initially block a New York Post article in October 2020 about the contents of a laptop belonging to Hunter Biden.

Since then, Jordan has put pressure on Meta specifically, even sending a letter last week to Zuckerberg asking for the platform to produce a whole new series of documents related to content moderation on its new app, Threads, a new rival to Twitter.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visits Chinese military cemetery ahead of Victory Day

SEOUL, Jul 26 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited a cemetery for Chinese soldiers who fought in the Korean War, state media KCNA reported on Wednesday.

His visit, accompanied by his powerful sister, Kim Yo Jong, comes ahead of the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Korean War truce on Thursday, which is celebrated as "Victory Day" in North Korea,

often with a grandiose military parade.

The move came as the nuclear-armed, reclusive state has been gearing up for the upcoming ceremony, inviting Chinese and Russian delegations as the first such public visitors since the start of the pandemic.

South Korean and US intelligence authorities were "closely monitoring" the situation and there had been an increase in manpower

and equipment, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff told a briefing when asked about the ceremony.

Kim also visited the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery on Monday, KCNA reported, as he touted the soldiers as "inflicting defeat" on US imperialism.

The Great Fatherland Liberation War is a name used by Pyongyang to refer to the Korean War.

China's Qin Gang Scrubbed From Foreign Ministry Site After Dramatic Removal

BEIJING, Jul 26 (Agencies): China offered no explanation for the sacking of foreign minister Qin Gang on Wednesday, while scrubbing mentions of him from a government website.

Qin -- who has not been seen in public for over a month -- was removed from office by Beijing's top lawmaking body on Tuesday after just 207 days in the job.

That followed weeks of speculation that the former Chinese ambassador to the United States and one-time confidant of President Xi Jinping had suddenly fallen out of favour.

As of Wednesday morning, any reference to the 57-year-old had been removed from the website of China's foreign ministry.

A search for his name yielded no results and previous articles about his diplomatic appearances showed a message saying the page "does not exist or has been deleted".

But his name did appear on other Chinese government websites, including of the State Council, the Ministry of Commerce and state media outlets.

The foreign ministry had for weeks refused to give any updates on Qin despite repeat-



ed questioning, after previously saying "health reasons" were to blame for his absence.

State media gave no reason for his dismissal, but one expert said the "digital erasure" of Qin suggested he had fallen from grace.

"If he were a comrade in good standing who had fallen ill I am not sure that would be happening," China analyst Bill Bishop wrote in his Sinocism newsletter.

"Evidence is emerging suggesting this is indeed a political purge," Neil Thomas, a fellow on Chinese politics at the Asia Society Policy Institute, a US think tank, said on Twitter, which

is being rebranded as "X".

"Totally in the dark"

China had remained tight-lipped for weeks about the fate of Qin, who has not been seen in public since June 25, when he met Russia's deputy foreign minister Andrey Rudenko in Beijing.

But that did little to stem an explosion of rumours online, some of which claimed the diplomat's alleged affair with a prominent television anchor had landed him in hot water.

"People from the outside are totally in the dark and the episode illustrates that Chinese politics is becoming increasingly unpredictable and volatile,

though under a calm surface," Ho-fung Hung, an expert in Chinese politics at Johns Hopkins University, told agency.

Originally from the northeastern city of Tianjin, Qin frequently rubbed shoulders with President Xi in an earlier role as chief of the foreign ministry's protocol department.

Qin's promotion over more experienced candidates, first to US ambassador and then China's number two diplomat, was attributed to the trust placed in him by Xi directly.

And the sudden fall of the so-called "Wolf Warrior" diplomat shows that no official is immune to the vicissitudes of Chinese politics -- no matter how close they are to the leader, one expert said.

"I think the main implication would be for Chinese officialdom, with the message being that no one is safe, however high they may have risen or however strongly they have been supported by Xi Jinping," China law expert Neysun Mahboubi told agency.

Qin has been replaced as foreign minister by top diplomat Wang Yi.

1 dead, several hurt as cargo ship catches fire off Netherlands coast

AMSTERDAM, Jul 26 (Agencies): One person died and several others were hurt after a fire broke out on Panama-registered cargo ship the Fremantle Highway off the northern coast of the Netherlands, the Dutch coast guard said on Wednesday.

The ship was sailing 27 km (17 miles) north of the island of Ameland, about 180 km from the capital Amsterdam when the fire started, a statement said.

A spokesperson told Reuters an electric car was the source of the blaze. The cargo ship was transporting 2,857 cars from Germany to Egypt, 25 of them electric. There were 23 crew members on board when the fire began. All crew were evacuated to the nearby Dutch port of Lauwersoog after failing to extinguish the blaze, the statement said.

Emergency services are still present near the blazing ship.

Typhoon Doksuri hits Philippines, over 12,000 displaced as floods ravage villages

MANILA, Jul 26 (Agencies): Typhoon Doksuri slammed ashore on an island and lashed northern Philippine provinces with ferocious wind and rain on Wednesday, displacing more than 12,000 villagers as it blew tin roofs off rural houses, flooded low-lying villages and knocked out power, officials said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties after the typhoon slammed into Fuga island off Aparri town in Cagayan province, where some 12,100 people were evacuated from high-risk coastal villages, and schools and workplaces were shut down as a precaution as Doksuri approached. Thousands of people in other northern provinces were also displaced by the typhoon, which has a 700-kilometre-wide (435-mile-wide) band of wind and rain.

Doksuri weakened slightly but remained dangerous and lethal with sustained winds of 175 kph (109 mph) and gusts

of up to 240 kph (149 mph). It was blowing over the coastal waters of the Babuyan Islands in Luzon Strait off Aparri town on Wednesday morning, forecasters said.

"Our northern coastal towns are being battered," Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba told The Associated Press by telephone. "I'm receiving reports of tin roofs being blown away and flooding that could not drain out probably because of tidal surges coming in from the sea."

A damage assessment would be done after the typhoon passes, but Mamba said he feared there could be extensive damage to Cagayan valley's corn and rice farms, which have already been battered by a monthslong dry spell before Doksuri hit.

"Violent, life-threatening conditions are expected to continue" on Wednesday over northwestern Cagayan and the outlying Babuyan Islands as well as the northern mountainous regions of Apayao and Ilocos Norte

provinces, according to an advisory from the country's weather bureau.

Coast guard personnel used rubber boats and ropes to evacuate villagers, who were trapped by brownish, waist-level high floodwaters in their houses in a village in Bacarra town in Ilocos Norte, said the coast guard.

Disaster-response officials said they were verifying reports of a woman drowning in a swollen creek amid heavy rains on Monday in Cardona town south-east of Manila as the typhoon approached from the Pacific.

The typhoon has been enhancing seasonal monsoon rains in central and northern provinces, including in the densely populated capital region of metropolitan Manila. It was forecast to move away from the northern Philippines on Thursday and barrel northwestward toward the south of Taiwan and hit southeastern China later this week.

More than 3,700 inter-island ferry passengers and cargo

truck drivers, along with nearly 100 passenger and cargo vessels and motor bancas, were stranded in several ports where a no-sail order was imposed, the Philippine coast guard said.

In Taiwan, part of the annual Han Kuang military exercises were cancelled on Tuesday.

An exercise meant to simulate the use of a civilian airport if military runways were bombed out was cancelled because it was located on the southeastern coast of Taiwan, where waves were already rising. At Taiwan's southernmost point, waves had already risen to as much as 2.5 metres (8 feet), according to Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau.

The Han Kuang exercises are the largest annual exercises aimed at displaying the Taiwan military's defence capabilities in case of an attack from China, which claims the self-ruled territory as its own. Land-based exercises for the Han Kuang drills are still ongoing in other parts of Taiwan.

Elon Musk slams 'Barbie' movie, here's why



LOS ANGELES, Jul 26 (Agencies): While Greta Gerwig's 'Barbie' film set several box office records, it faced scrutiny from some who believed that it portrays anti-man feminism.

Seems like Tesla CEO Elon Musk also did not like the film.

He recently took to Twitter and slammed the film, "If you take a shot every time Barbie says the word 'patriarchy', you will pass out before the movie ends."

Musk was responding to a Barbenheimer meme that compared Twitter to Barbie and his new X name for his social network to Oppenheimer.

Indian TV actor Juhi Parmar also recently took a dig at the Barbie movie.

In an Instagram post, the 'Kumkum' star talked about how shocked she was by the film's 'inappropriate language and sexual connotations' and had to walk out after 10-15 minutes.

As per Juhi, a lot of parents followed suit as she accused the makers of misleading the audience.

"10 minutes into the movie, inappropriate language, sexual connotations, and I was anxiously running out of the theatre wondering what had I just exposed my child to.... The language and content in your film Barbie is inappropriate even for children 13 and above.

I want to ask, why make a movie that is such an essential part of a child's life and then have content in it which is so inappropriate for them? Why did you break the perfect illusions of Barbie? I wish I could erase the memory of this film and continue believing in a picture-perfect Barbie for my child, who has a collection of yours and love you so much. I so wish -- A concerned and disappointed parent," she wrote.

The Greta Gerwig-directed film stars Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling in the lead roles, as Barbie and Ken, respectively.

It was released in theatres on July 21.

Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrates by NSS, NCC units of GDCW Kathua



TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Jul 26: Kargil Vijay Diwas was celebrated by NSS & NCC Units of the College.

The function was started with the welcome address by Dr. Arun Dev Singh, NSS Programme Officer followed by lightning ceremony by Dr. Savi Behl, Principal of the College, Kargil War Heroes and the guests.

On this occasion, Dr Savi Behl felicitated Kargil War Heroes who fought bravely in the war. She said that this day is important for

every Indian and we must salute to those who contributed in that war and had shown their valour and Prowess during the War.

She also added that many of the soldiers lost their precious life for the sake of Nation and we must pay homage to them and help their families.

On this occasion, Parveen Singh, Retired Subedar from 18 Grenadiers PVC Paltan, and Kabil Singh, Retired NK from 13 Jak Rifle PVC Paltan also shared their experiences of War and motivated the NSS Vol-

unteers, NCC Cadets and the Students.

Dr Savi Behl honoured and presented mementoes to both retired army personal who worked in war and received injuries and bullets during the war.

Besides this, the Principal, army personal and the faculty members planted saplings of different varieties in the college campus.

Dr. Arun Dev Singh presented formal vote of thanks to all the invited guests, the Principal, the staff members and the media persons.

He especially extend-

ed his special thanks to Parveen Singh and Kabil Singh, Kargil war heroes who consented to be the special guests on the occasion of the Kargil Vijay Diwas.

The faculty were present on the occasion Prof Ashwani Khajuria, Prof. Raj Kumari, Prof Som Raj, Dr. Usha Bhagat, Prof Pallavi, Dr Rajni Khajuria, Dr. Poonam Sambyal, Prof. Vijay, Dr. Vaishno Devi, Dr. Ajay Sanotra, Prof Satish Khajuria Dr. Varchaskam, Dr. Mukesh, Dr. Dipti and Dr. Usha Kiran.

BJP District Jammu South marks 24th Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 26: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Jammu South under the Presidentship of District President Rekha Mahajan marked the event on the 24th Anniversary of the "Kargil Vijay Diwas" and the martyrdom of 559 soldiers during the 1999 Kargil War began in Ladakh's Dras.

On the Kargil Vijay Diwas, tributes were laid by Senior BJP leaders namely Ex Dy CM Kavinder Gupta, District President Rekha Mahajan, Dy Mayor Baldev Singh Billowaria, Prabhari Jammu South Ayodhya Gupta, Former MLC Vikram Randhawa, Ex District President HS Pammi, District General Secretary Akash Chopra, State Spokesperson Tahir Choudhary, Naresh Singh, Mandal Presidents Bharat Bhushan and Neeraj Puri including Councillors Narinder Singh Bunty, Sharda



Devi, Anil Kumar, Monika Khosla, and BJP unit paid tribute to the fallen soldiers during the 1999 Kargil war here at party office Trikuta Nagar Jammu. On the occasion of "Kargil Vijay Diwas", a motivational lecture cum presentation was conducted by Senior BJP leaders in memory of who will always remain a source of inspiration to the people of the country.

Kavinder Gupta added that Kargil Vijay Diwas is commemorated on July 26 every year to pay tribute to the bravery and valour of the Kargil War Heroes who spearheaded Operation Vijay which culminated in the triumph of the Indian Armed Forces.

Baldev Billowaria said the Indian Army had launched a fierce counter-assault to push back

Pakistani forces that had stealthily occupied important heights in Ladakh in 1999.

Vikram Randhawa, Ayodhya Gupta and HS Pammi educates that the Kargil War and saw soldiers of the Indian Armed Forces fight in the most challenging terrain under harsh weather conditions leading to the defeat of the enemy in Dras, Kargil, and Batalik Sectors.

Akash Chopra conducted the proceedings of the program.

Major irregularity in billing sector of power department: Narinder

TOP NEWS REPORT

RS PURA, JUL 26: Several prominent persons including Dr Preeti Bhagat today joined hunger strike by Social Activist and PDP Jammu District Media Cordinator Narinder Sharma on day-2 of hunger strike over grim power scenario in Jammu District putting life of every citizen in trouble as government has completely failed augment power infrastructure despite hefty bills being served to consumers.

Speaking on the occasion, Sharma said that hefty electricity bills to poor is a serious cause of concern as it directly and badly impacts life of people who face immense hardships due to erratic electricity and frequent power curtailments which is increasing with each passing day in winter season. He said Govt has failed to bring necessary upgradation and augmentation of power sector and the power infrastructure on ground is still outdated with wooden poles

being used instead of proper poles, loose and hanging electrical wiring, technically snagged transformers.

Sharma further said while people are not getting proper electricity, hefty bills are being served to them for no purpose that shows a major irregularity in the billing sector of the power department. He called for a proper audit in this irregular billing by the department calling for a need to make

things proper and to ensure that bills are served to people as per consumption of electricity and not in an illogical manner. On one hand, the government has whimsically increased power tariff renewing old agreements, while on the other electricity continued to play hide and seek with the consumers.

Despite tall claims of improvement in the power scenario by the administration, nothing

has changed on the ground. This summer, the power consumers have faced a double whammy - increased power tariff and unscheduled power curtailments. Recalling that the UT administration had promised 24-hour power supply at least in the areas where smart meters are installed, Sharma noted that the areas with smart meters too are witnessing long power cuts.

SDM Padder inaugurates 3-Day Multi-Media Exhibition

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Jul 26: The Central Bureau for Communication, Government of India, organises an informative Multimedia Exhibition at Gulabgarh mini stadium Ground Padder, shedding light on the significant milestones achieved during the 9 years of Governance, along with the Seva Susashan and Garib Kalyan initiatives, Mission IIFE, and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) program. amid Machil Yatra 2023.

The event inaugurated by SDM Padder Arun Kumar Badyal (JKAS) in presence of DDC member Padder Hari Krishan Chauhan.

The exhibition witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), ASHAs, prominent personalities, local Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), and staff members from various departments and education institutions along with common masses.

The program commenced with a warm

welcome address by the Incharge CBC, Doda Circle, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing knowledge and enlightenment.

Various media engagement programs were conducted, offering insightful presentations on the central and Union Territory government's rolled-out schemes. Knowledgeable officials from various departments passionately shared the information and achievements with the attendees.

The occasion was made vibrant with cultural performances by talented artists from Jammu, who mesmerized the audience with their artistic presentations. A special message on the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan was also conveyed through these cultural performances.

Participants were treated to an exclusive video clip, enlightening them about the glorious history of Padder, the revered Machail Mata pilgrimage, and the triumphant trek of Gen-

eral Zorawar Singh.

An interactive open quiz competition added excitement to the event, encouraging participants to showcase their knowledge. The winners were rewarded with gift awards in recognition of their correct answers.

Addressing the gathering, SDM Padder extended heartfelt gratitude to the Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, for organizing this exhibition, which effectively highlighted the remarkable achievements of the 9 years of Government and the various welfare schemes implemented at the grassroots level. He encouraged the local residents to make the most of this golden opportunity and attend the multimedia exhibition from 26th to 28th July 2023, gaining awareness and embracing the pro-people initiatives of the government.

DDC Padder, among others, also shared their thoughts and appreciation for the event during

the proceedings and demanded more such events for the welfare of people in near future.

On conclusion of day one, Vikram Uppal I/c CBC Doda Circle thanked the district administration headed by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav and local administration under SDM Padder for their coordination and cooperation in making the day a successful and also paid gratitude to the participants and locals residents participating the programme.

Udhampur Police recovers huge quantity of Poppy straw, Narco Smuggler arrested, vehicle seized

TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Jul 26: Continuing its campaign against Drugs and Narcotics, Udhampur Police under the overall supervision of SSP Udhampur Dr. Vinod Kumar-IPS achieved a success by recovering 165 kilograms of Contraband Poppy straw at Jakhani (NHW) under the jurisdiction of Police Station Udhampur.

Police team of Police Station Udhampur led by Insp. Raghuraj Singh SHO PS Udhampur under the supervision of Addl. SP Udhampur Anwaar UI Haq and DySP Hqrs. S. Gurmeet Singh was conducting routine vehicle checking at

Jakhani area, NHW and a vehicle bearing registration No. PB35Q-9459 was made to stop which was coming from Kashmir valley towards Udhampur.

During checking of said vehicle, Police team recovered 165 kgs of poppy straw and arrested one interstate Narco smuggler who was smuggling the above contraband in the said vehicle.

The arrested person (driver) was identified as Mohd Shafi, son of Mohd Fathya, resident of Doraha, Ludhiana.

In this connection, case FIR No. 380/2022 under Sections 8/15 NDPS Act stands registered at Police Station Udhampur and further investigation of the case has been taken up.

FROM PAGE 1

"Nation will never forget Supreme Sacrifice of Jawans": Army Chief on Kargil Vijay Divas

Wednesday, Pandey said, "The country will never forget the supreme sacrifice of our soldiers in the 1999 Kargil war."

Recalling 'Operation Vijay', the Army chief said it was a difficult and a high-intensity military operation in the icy and unforgiving heights of Kargil.

"Operation Vijay was a difficult and a high-intensity military operation. It was a difficult terrain, which was under the possession of the enemy. It was a challenge that our soldiers accomplished. I also want to commend our Air warriors for their contribution to achieving the final objective," Gen. Pande added.

Addressing the kin of the Kargil heroes, the Army chief said, "The country will not forget your sacrifices will also be grateful to you."

Besides Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the Army chief, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar and Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan, too, paid their tributes to the fallen Kargil heroes at the memorial.

Earlier, on Wednesday, the Defence Min-

ister, in his address at the commemoration event, saluted the brave sons of the soil, who put the nation first and did not hesitate to make the ultimate sacrifice in the Kargil conflict with Pakistan in 1999.

After the wreath-laying ceremony, the Raksha Mantri met with the family members of the soldiers and handed them mementoes and shawls as a mark of respect to the fallen Kargil heroes.

Later, he paid a visit to the 'Hut of Remembrance' museum in Drass, which holds memorabilia testifying to the valour and sacrifice of the Indian Army in the Kargil conflict.

In the conflict, which lasted over two months, the Army managed to push back the Pakistani intruders, who had been occupying certain vantage points in Kargil, raising the Tricolour on the territory wrested from the enemy.

The conflict played out on the frontlines in the Dras, Kargil and Batalik sectors of the Kargil district.

Indian Army can Cross LoC for Honour of Nation: Rajnath Singh

year to pay homage to the fallen soldiers of the Kargil War.

"I salute those brave sons, who sacrificed

everything for the protection of the motherland. I salute those brave sons who put the nation first and did not hesitate to sacrifice their lives for it", the Defence Minister said while paying homage at the Kargil War memorial.

"Not only in Kargil, but many times since independence till today, your bravery has made the nation proud from time to time," Singh said.

"I want to assure the families and well-wishers of all the brave soldiers who were martyred in the Kargil war that we will never let their sacrifice or their memory fade away. The National War Memorial is a symbol of our commitment", the Defence Minister added.

He said, On this day in 1999, even after winning the war, our forces did not cross the LoC. It is because we are peace-loving, we believe in Indian values, and we have a commitment to international laws."

"Today, on Kargil Vijay Diwas, I would like to say one thing to our countrymen: the honour and dignity of the nation are above everything for us, and for this we can go to any extent," he said.

The Defence Minister said, "In recent times, the way the wars are getting prolonged, in the coming times, the public should be ready to participate in the war not only indirectly, but also directly."

"I believe that the public has to be mentally prepared for the fact that whenever the

nation needs them, they should be ready to help the army", he said, adding "that's why I want to say this to the people of the country, that just as every soldier is an Indian, in the same way every Indian should always be ready to play the role of a soldier".

Amarnath Yatra | Fresh batch of 2372 pilgrims leave from Jammu Base Camp

Himalayas. An official said that 2372 pilgrims left the base camp in a convoy of 103 vehicles.

A group of 1701 pilgrims (1442 males, 200 females, five children, 51 sadhus and three sadhvis) left for Pahalgam in a convoy of 70 vehicles.

For Baital, 671 pilgrims comprising 513 males, 157 females and one child left in a convoy of 33 vehicles amid tight security arrangements.

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

30,000 vacancies filled in J&K after Article 370 abrogated: Govt In RS

unemployment by implementing various

self employment schemes through different departments. These include providing subsidised loans for the establishment of sustainable income generation units.

From the results of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), estimates of unemployment rate are not available specifically for educated youth in Jammu and Kashmir for the period April-June 2021, he said.

However, the minister said, from the PLFS conducted during July 2020-June 2021, estimate of unemployment rate among those in the 15-29 age group for Jammu and Kashmir was 18.3 per cent.

Two detained under PSA in Rajouri, Samba

along with suspected heroin from Kathua and Jammu districts.

Vishavdeep Singh and Ranjeet Singh were arrested along with 8.30 gram of heroin during vehicle checking at Hatli Morh in Kathua, while Arun Kumar of Qasim Nagar area was apprehended with about 20 gram of heroin in Jammu, the spokesman said.

He said a suspected woman was also arrested after six gram of heroin and 200 gram of ganja was recovered from her possession in Bahu Fort area of Jammu.

Market benchmarks climb in early trade on foreign fund inflows, rally in US equities

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were trading lower

MUMBAI, Jul 26 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty climbed in early trade on Wednesday helped by fresh foreign fund inflows and rally in the US markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 270.39 points to 66,626.10. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 69 points to 19,748.85.

From the Sensex pack, Larsen & Toubro jumped 4 per cent and Tata Motors climbed nearly 2 per cent. ITC, Sun Pharma, Reliance Industries and Power Grid were the other major gainers.

Infrastructure major Larsen and Toubro (L&T) on Tuesday posted a 36 per cent rise in net profit to Rs 3,116.12 crore for the June quarter, mainly aided by execution of a healthy order book in its projects and manufacturing portfolio.

Tata Motors reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 3,300.65 crore for the quarter, riding on sharp improvements in performance of its British arm Jaguar Land



Rover and commercial vehicles business. From the 30-share club, HDFC Bank and Asian Paints were the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were trading lower. The US markets ended in the positive territory on Tuesday.

"Globally, market participants will be closely watching the Fed chief Jerome Powell's comments about the disinflation process in the US and the likely trend in interest rates. A 25 basis points rate hike, already discounted by the market, will not trigger any market move.

"But if the Fed chief indicates that inflation is coming under control and, therefore, no further rate hikes are needed, that will be a

big trigger for markets to move up.

But such an outcome is highly unlikely since the Fed will play it safe even if inflation is coming under control," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.42 per cent lower at USD 83.29 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were buyers on Tuesday as they bought equities worth Rs 1,088.76 crore, according to exchange data.

The Sensex had slipped 29.07 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 66,355.71 on Tuesday. The Nifty inched up by 8.25 points or 0.04 per cent to end at 19,680.60.

Omron starts construction of Rs 124 crore plant to manufacture blood pressure monitors in Chennai



CHENNAI, Jul 26 (Agencies): Two months after signing the memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu government, Japan's Omron, which owns half of the global market for blood pressure monitors, has started construction of its new plant.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held last week at 'Origins by Mahindra', an industrial cluster in Chennai developed by Mahindra Industrial Park Chennai Ltd (MIPCL). It was attended by officials from SMCC Construction India, the Indian subsidiary of Sumitomo Mitsui Construction, a leading Japanese general contractor supporting Omron for the construction of the facility.

Guidance Tamil Nadu, the State government's investment promotion agency, had recently signed an MoU with Omron Healthcare, the Japanese medical equipment maker, for establishing a manufacturing unit in the state at an investment of Rs 128 crore. The MoU was signed in the presence of Chief Minister MK Stalin in Tokyo.

"Immediately after signing the memorandum of understanding, Guidance Tamil Nadu worked with Tamil Nadu government departments to ensure that the construction starts on the ground," said V Vishnu, the managing director of Guidance. He said that the focus of Guidance is now more on the realisation of the

MoU as more investments are likely to come from Japan.

The Kyoto-based manufacturer will build a factory for blood pressure monitors in India so that it can sell locally-made devices in a growing market.

This state-of-the-art facility will mark the company's debut in the healthcare manufacturing space in India and will further strengthen its presence in the home healthcare device industry in the country. It will be an addition to its global network of production facilities located in Japan, China, Vietnam, Italy and Brazil.

The new manufacturing plant in Chennai will not only generate employment opportunities but will also contribute to the overall economic development of the region.

According to reports, Omron's healthcare business suffered a 14% drop in operating profit in the fiscal 2022 after supply chain disruptions in China.

US Federal Reserve likely to lift interest rates to 22-year high

Since the June decision to pause rate hikes, inflation has continued to fall, although it remains above the Fed's long-term target of two per cent.

WASHINGTON, Jul 26 (Agencies): The US Federal Reserve is poised to announce a fresh quarter-percentage-point hike to its benchmark lending rate on Wednesday to tackle inflation while keeping the option open for more such moves in the coming months.

The Fed last month halted its aggressive campaign of monetary tightening after 10 consecutive rate increases to give policymakers more time to assess the health of the world's largest economy.

At the June meeting, members of the rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) nevertheless indicated they see possibly two additional interest rate hikes this year.

"The forecast is for the Federal Open Market Committee to hike the target range for the fed funds rate by 25bps but maintain a bias toward additional rate hikes if needed," Oxford Economics' chief US economist Ryan Sweet wrote in a note to clients.

A rate hike on Wednesday, the 11th since the US central bank launched its cycle of monetary tightening in March last year, would raise the Fed's benchmark lending rate to a range between 5.25 and 5.5 per cent -- its highest level in 22 years.



Futures traders see a probability of close to 99 per cent that the Fed will proceed with a quarter-percentage-point hike, according to data from CME Group.

September skip? Since the June decision to pause rate hikes, inflation has continued to fall, although it remains above the Fed's long-term target of two per cent.

Meanwhile, unemployment has remained close to historic lows, while economic growth for the first quarter has been revised up sharply on resilient consumer spending data.

The more positive economic news has increased the chances of a so-called "soft landing," in which the Fed succeeds in bringing down inflation by raising interest rates while avoiding a recession and a surge in

unemployment.

Given the near-unanimity of expectations for a hike on Wednesday, analysts and traders will be closely scrutinizing Fed Chair Jerome Powell for signs of what the central bank might do next.

"They will probably signal that they want to see the impact of the current tightening cycle and that they will probably skip raising rates in September," OANDA's senior Americas market analyst, Edward Moya, wrote in a recent note.

"They will likely be clear in suggesting that more tightening could very well happen," he added.

Sweet agreed, saying: "Odds are that Powell will signal additional rate hikes are not off the table, but the Fed will take a more cautious approach, con-

veying it will skip a hike in September."

Fed officials back hikes Many FOMC members have publicly backed additional hikes this year -- especially if last month's positive inflation data proves to be a one-off.

"Given how far we've come, it may make sense to move rates higher but to do so at a more moderate pace," Powell told a Congressional hearing after last month's decision.

But he told a banking conference in Portugal a few days later: "I wouldn't take, you know, moving to consecutive meetings off the table at all."

"I see two more 25-basis-point hikes in the target range over the four remaining meetings this year as necessary to keep inflation moving toward our target," Fed governor Christopher Waller told a banking conference in mid-July.

While markets have more-or-less priced in a hike on Wednesday, they are less confident about the chances of another hike at the next meeting in September.

Futures traders currently assign a probability of just over 20 per cent that the FOMC will raise rates further in September, according to CME Group.

IMF 'encourages' India to remove export restrictions on non-basmati white rice

WASHINGTON, Jul 26 (Agencies): The International Monetary Fund has said it would "encourage" India to remove restrictions on the export of a certain category of rice, which, it said, would have an impact on global inflation.

The Indian government on July 20 had banned the export of non-basmati white rice to boost domestic supply and keep retail prices under check during the upcoming festive season. This type of rice constitutes about 25 per cent of total rice exported from the country.

There would be no change in the export policy of par-boiled non-basmati rice and basmati rice, which forms the bulk of exports, the food ministry had said in a statement.

In the current environment, these types of restrictions are likely to exacerbate volatility in food prices in the rest of the world. They can also lead to retaliatory measures, Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, Chief Economist, International Monetary Fund (IMF), told a press conference here.

"So, they are cer-

tainly something that we would encourage the removal of these types of export restrictions because they can be harmful globally," he said in response to a question.

The total exports of non-basmati white rice from India was USD 4.2 million in 2022-23 as against USD 2.62 million in the preceding year. Major destinations of India's non-basmati white rice exports include the US, Thailand, Italy, Spain and Sri Lanka.

In order to ensure adequate availability of non-basmati white rice in the domestic market and to allay the rise in local prices, the government has amended the export policy from 'Free with export duty of 20 per cent' to 'Prohibited' with immediate effect.

The IMF in its latest economic update released here on Tuesday projected India's growth rate to be 6.1 per cent for fiscal year 2024, which is slightly up from the 5.9 per cent estimated projection for the same period in April.

"India remains an economy that is growing quite strongly. I mean, it's coming down from really a very strong year

in 2022, at 7.2 per cent. That was also revised upwards, by the way -- but still slow down, but still fairly strong growth and fairly strong momentum," Gourinchas said.

Later in an interview, when asked about India's rice export ban, Daniel Leigh, Division Chief, IMF Research Department, told PTI that the context is clearly, an environment of declining inflation around the world.

"That's important because then it allows monetary policy to ease up and not to start increasing interest rates, which means currencies move around," he said.

"We see it in the interest of the overall global community to keep that food and energy inflation trend down. Now the challenge is that if we see restrictions in other countries as well as India, we've been very clear that in our view we understand the domestic consideration, but if you see that global impact, then that would go against the reduction in inflation. So our perspective is that such restrictions should be phased out as soon as feasible," Leigh said.

He also said that

India's digital public infrastructure is really world-class and it is enabling efficiency gains for businesses.

"Really what is great to see is India sharing its experience with the other members of the G20. Under its presidency of the G20, India is helping to spread the understanding and the opportunities and the risks that we need to talk about when it digitises more generally," he said.

The Indian economy, Leigh said, has already been very robust.

"But the reforms when it comes to female labour force participation to make it easier for women to stay in the workforce, for the youth to find the kind of training that they need. This is a very dynamic economy. The question is how to maximize the potential," he said.

"India's economy is growing strongly and also inflation is in the range of the central bank target. So those are positive things and the growth forecast itself is for growth of 6.1 per cent this year. This means that basically 16 per cent of the world economy, one in six of the world's economic

growth is coming from India," he said.

Referring to the upward revision of the Indian growth projections, Leigh said this is mainly because of what happened at the end of last year. More government investment, more private investment, give it the economy boost and that has a knock-on effect for this year, he said.

"Now we do see growth continuing to be above six next year as well, 6.3 per cent and in the medium term about six per cent. This is the kind of above-average growth for the region that is really going to help economic well-being," Leigh said.

Noting that the IMF expects India's inflation to be at 4.9 per cent and then 4.5 per cent next year, he said the monetary policy action really deserves a lot of the credit for this 250 basis point increase in the interest rate since May of last year.

"There's also though the fortunate decline that all of the countries are benefiting from in food and energy prices globally. This is also driving inflation down," Leigh said.

How does cancer spread in the body? Study finds a hidden secret

Researchers have uncovered the role of a protein in cancer metastasis, revealing its migration to the nucleus and alteration of gene activities.

NEW DELHI, Jul 26 (Agencies): Researchers from the University of Southern California (USC) have unveiled crucial insights into how cancer cells metastasize, offering potential new strategies to stop their spread.

The research, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, focuses on a cellular chaperone protein known as GRP78, which regulates the folding of other proteins within

cells. The team at the Keck School of Medicine of USC had previously found that when cells are under stress, GRP78 is commandeered, enabling viral invaders to replicate and cancers to grow and resist treatment.

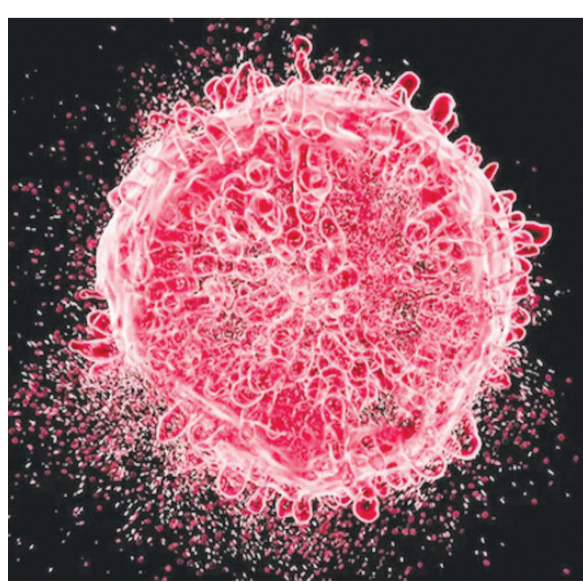
However, their latest findings reveal an unexpected twist in the tale of this protein's role in cancer progression.

Typically, GRP78 resides in the endoplasmic reticulum, a part

of the cell. But under stress, it migrates to the cell's nucleus, altering gene activities and changing the cell's behaviour, thereby enabling cancer cells to become more mobile and invasive.

This surprising observation of GRP78 controlling gene expression in the nucleus was described by Dr Amy S Lee as a novel phenomenon in the basic mechanisms of cancer cells.

This discovery began



incidentally when Ze Liu, a postdoctoral researcher in Lee's lab, was analysing how GRP78 regulates a gene known as EGFR, long associated with cancer.

He noticed that GRP78 controls the gene activity of EGFR, suggesting that GRP78 may have entered the nucleus and assumed a new role.

To confirm this, the team used high-resolution imaging techniques to directly observe GRP78 in the nucleus

of lung cancer cells and normal cells under stress.

Further investigation revealed that key genes regulated by GRP78 in the nucleus are mainly involved with cell migration and invasion. The team found that GRP78 binds to ID2, another cellular protein that typically suppresses genes allowing cells to migrate.

When bound to GRP78, ID2 can no longer suppress these genes, leading to

increased invasiveness of cancer cells.

These findings suggest potential new approaches for cancer treatment, such as down-regulating the activity of GRP78 to suppress EGFR in lung cancer or preventing it from binding to ID2.

The discovery also opens up a new line of research in cancer biology, as GRP78 plays a similar role in various types of cancers, including pancreatic, breast, and colon cancer.

ICC World Cup 2023: India vs Pakistan match on October 15 likely to be rescheduled due to Navratri

NEW DELHI, Jul 26 (Agencies): The highly-anticipated Cricket World Cup 2023 match between India and Pakistan is likely to get a new date amid the Navratri festival. The fixture was originally scheduled for October 15 in Ahmedabad.

The ICC scheduled the match on the first day of Navratri, a significant festival celebrated with garba nights across Gujarat. Due to security concerns, the BCCI has been advised to reconsider the itinerary. Changing the date of the game could create a logistical nightmare for fans who have already made travel plans and booked tickets, as matches between India and Pakistan sell out within hours and generate sky-high television ratings.

The sources told news agency: "The India vs Pakistan World Cup match date might be changed as security agencies have alerted BCCI to change the date because of the Navratri festival. A source said agencies have told us about it and we are in discussion soon will take decision. It's not an easy task, there are so many things involved behind any match so will have to look after each and every thing. Let's have a final discussion, then only can respond. But yes, if required to change the date keeping in mind security will do it if the situation comes."



The Narendra Modi Stadium, with a capacity of nearly 1 lakh, will host four marquee games of the World Cup, including the tournament opener between New Zealand and England, India vs Pakistan, England vs Australia, and the final. The World Cup will be spread across 10 cities, with the semifinals scheduled for Mumbai and Kolkata. Ahmedabad is already facing a hotel accommodation crunch for mid-October, with homestay options exhausted as well. As a consequence, airfares are expected to surge. If a new date for the India vs Pakistan match is announced, there might be mass cancellations and a frenzy of rebooking by fans aiming to be part of this historic clash.

The rivalry between India and Pakistan has always been

intense, not just politically, but also on the cricket pitch. The history of India vs Pakistan One Day International (ODI) World Cup matches is a testament to some of the most adrenaline-pumped cricketing events.

India and Pakistan first locked horns in a World Cup match in 1992 at the Sydney Cricket Ground, Australia. The match ended in favour of India as they recorded a comprehensive win over Pakistan. This match laid the foundation of India's dominance over Pakistan in World Cup cricket.

Their next encounter was on March 9, 1996, in Bangalore, where Navjot Singh Sidhu's ravishing 93 runs and Ajay Jadeja's quickfire 45 saw India post a formidable total of 287/8. Despite a glittering century from

Pakistan's Aamir Sohail, India clinched victory by 39 runs, continuing their winning streak.

In 1999, the two rivals met at Old Trafford, Manchester where once again India emerged victorious. Their fourth clash was in 2003 at Centurion, South Africa. The iconic battle is remembered for Sachin Tendulkar's memorable 98 off 75 balls that guided India to a convincing victory.

The 2007 World Cup did not see an India-Pakistan match. However, in 2011, the teams faced each other in the semifinal at Mohali, India. The match kept audiences on the edge of their seats, with India prevailing and entering into the finals, which they ultimately won.

In 2015, once again, India tasted victory over Pakistan in a group stage match held at Adelaide, Australia. In the latest World Cup in 2019, India continued their undefeated streak against Pakistan in World Cup matches by clinching a win in a rain-affected match.

India vs Pakistan match, often referred to as the 'mother of all cricket matches', garners the attention of millions worldwide. Given its high viewership and the emotions it stirs, its movement from a popular weekend slot is seen as an unexpected decision.

ICC hands Harmanpreet Kaur two-match suspension for outburst in Dhaka

DUBAI, Jul 26 (Agencies): The International Cricket Council (ICC) handed a two-match suspension to India women's team skipper Harmanpreet Kaur for her boorish behaviour during the third ODI against Bangladesh.

Harmanpreet was penalised for her outburst in Dhaka last week when she shattered the stumps after being adjudged leg before and publicly criticised the match officials.

"Harmanpreet Kaur has been suspended for the next two international matches following two separate breaches of the ICC Code of Conduct," said the ICC in a statement.

The suspension could see Harmanpreet missing two crucial games of India's campaign at the Asian Games in September-October in Hangzhou, China.

Harmanpreet was adjudged leg before off a Nahida Akter delivery while trying to sweep but she claimed that she got a bottom edge and in a fit of rage shattered

the stumps before walking back to the pavilion.

Later at the post match presentation ceremony, she termed the level of umpiring as "pathetic" and also sarcastically mentioned the umpires too should be called to join the teams for the trophy handing-over ceremony.

Her rude behaviour had prompted Bangladesh skipper Nigar Sultana to walk away with her team and urge her Indian counterpart to learn some "manners".

Kaur was also fined 50 percent of her match fee for expressing dissent at an umpire's decision, a level 2 offence, and 25 percent match fee, which is a level 1 offence, for openly criticising the umpires.

"Kaur was fined 50 percent of her match fee for the Level 2 offence and received three demerit points on her disciplinary record.

"She was found guilty of breaching article 2.8 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, relating to "showing

dissent at an umpire's decision," the statement read.

The Indian captain admitted the offences and agreed to the sanctions proposed by Akhtar Ahmed of the ICC International Panel of Match Referees. Hence, there was no need for a formal hearing, and the penalties were implemented promptly.

A Level 2 breach typically carries a penalty ranging from 50 to 100 percent of the player's match fee, and three or four demerit points, while a Level 1 breach entails a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, up to a maximum penalty of 50 percent of the player's match fee, and one or two demerit points.

"In Kaur's instance, the accumulation of four demerit points converted to two suspension points, leading to her suspension from either one Test match or two ODIs or two T20Is, whichever comes first for the team," the CC added.

Indian men's hockey team loses 1-2 to hosts Spain

TERRASSA (SPAIN), Jul 26 (Agencies): The Indian men's hockey team put up a spirited fight before going down 1-2 against Spain in its opening game of the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation international tournament here.

Captain Harmanpreet Singh (59th minute) netted a goal for India after Pau Cunill (11th) and Joaquin Menini (33rd) had put the hosts in front.

India started the match on an aggressive note with high pressing in the first quarter but were unable to score.

Spain began to gain momentum as the first quarter progressed and Pau Cunill found the back of the net to put the hosts ahead.

With the scoreline stacked against them, India looked to control possession and launch a counterattack

in the second quarter in search of an equaliser, but Spain's defence held strong to prevent the visitors from bouncing back.

The second quarter ended goalless, with Spain leading 1-0 at half-time.

The third quarter began with the Indian team on attacking mode and repeatedly testing Spain's defence.

However, the hosts not only kept India at bay but also doubled their lead through Joaquin Menini, who found himself in an ideal position to deflect in a lighting shot by Jose Basterra three minutes after half time resumption.

Trailing by two goals, India shifted gears to put relentless pressure on Spain and even won a penalty corner, but were unable to capitalise on it.

Also, Spain goalkeeper saved Harmanpreet's

fiery shot from a distance towards the end of the third quarter to make sure that the home team enters the final 15 minutes of the game with the two-goal cushion.

India came out all guns blazing in the fourth quarter and created some good scoring opportunities, but they still struggled to find their first goal of the game.

Spain switched to counter-attacking mode and won back-to-back penalty corners, but were unable to convert.

India continued to put pressure on the home team's defence, which paid off when Harmanpreet converted a penalty corner in the dying minutes of the game.

Spain, however, prevented India from scoring another goal. The Indian team will next take on the Netherlands on Wednesday.

2023-24 Home season: India to play 3 ODIs, 8 T20s and 5 Tests

NEW DELHI, Jul 26 (Agencies): India will get to fine tune their World Cup preparations with a three-match ODI series against Australia besides playing eight T20 Internationals and five Tests against England during the 2023-2024 home season.

The first ODI against Australia will be in Mohali on September 22 with Indore and Rajkot hosting the remaining two on September 24 and 27 respectively. The BCCI announced the home season schedule.

As BCCI secretary Jay Shah had indicated, venues like Mohali, Nagpur, Rajkot, Indore, Thiruvananthapuram, all of which have missed out on hosting World Cup games, have been compensated during the home season with minimum two games each.

With the BCCI set to announce the media rights tender during the course of this week, it was a necessary to announce the calendar and one of the striking feature is absence of any ODI game after the World Cup at home in October-November. With India playing the T20



World Cup in the USA and West Indies next year, the Hardik Pandya led team will get eight T20 games at home including five against Australian a week after the ODI showpiece and three more against Afghanistan in January 2024.

Afghanistan had played a Test match in India in 2018 but the white ball team will play its maiden series in India.

Visakhapatnam (November 23), Thiruvananthapuram (November 26), Guwahati (November 28), Nagpur (December 1) and Hyderabad

(December 3) will host the T20s against Australia, while Mohali (January 11), Indore (January 14) and Bengaluru (January 17) will stage matches against Afghanistan.

The big-ticket event during the home series is the Anthony De Mello Trophy between India and England.

Hyderabad (January 25-29), Visakhapatnam (February 2-6), Rajkot (February 15-19), Ranchi (February 23-27) and Dharamsala (March 7-11) will get to host the games in the five Test series.

Dharamsala got a game because it missed out during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy earlier this year as the ground couldn't be prepared on time. After England series, there will be a three-week gap before the start of Indian Premier League.

Fixtures
Australia series
1st ODI: Sep 22 (Mohali)
2nd ODI: Sep 24 (Indore)
3rd ODI: Sep 27 (Rajkot)
1st T20: Nov 23 (Visakhapatnam)
2nd T20: Nov 26 (Thiruvananthapuram)
3rd T20: Nov 28 (Guwahati)
4th T20: Dec 1 (Nagpur)
5th T20: Dec 3 (Hyderabad)
Afghanistan series
1st T20: Jan 11 (Mohali)
2nd T20: Jan 14 (Indore)
3rd T20: Jan 17 (Bengaluru)
England series
1st Test: Jan 25-29 (Hyderabad)
2nd Test: Feb 2-6 (Visakhapatnam)
3rd Test: Feb 15-19 (Rajkot)
4th Test: Feb 23-27 (Ranchi)
5th Test: Mar 3-7 (Dharamsala).

"It's Important We Play Asian Games": Sunil Chhetri Tells In Exclusive Interview

NEW DELHI, Jul 26 (Agencies): A true sporting ambassador, Indian football icon Sunil Chhetri has made millions of countrymen a reason to believe that there's a future for the 'Beautiful Game' in our nation. Even at the age of 39, Chhetri remains as fit and firing as ever. In fact, many believe that he is still India's finest footballer. But, at such an age, even Chhetri knows that he can't continue going forever. While the subject of 'retirement' does cross his mind, Chhetri is more 'hopeful' than scared about the day he has to call time on his career. Having been central to India's triumphs at the Intercontinental Cup and the SAFF Championship recently, Chhetri also highlighted how important it is for him and the Indian football team to play at the forthcoming

Asian Games.

In an exclusive interview, Chhetri spoke about his role as a leader in the team, his thoughts on his retirement, India's participation in the upcoming Asian Games, and coach Igor Stimac's impact on the team. Chhetri also recollected fans singing the popular song 'Maa Tujhe Salaam' with fans after winning the SAFF Championship at Kanteerava Stadium.

Chhetri Talks About His Role As A Leader

"My job is to be a great example for the team. What I do or say & how I behave matters."

Chhetri Opens Up On His Debut Against Pakistan

"I'll never forget my debut against Pakistan. I'll take that to my grave. I never dreamt of playing for India, in fact, I just wanted a certificate to get admission in St. Stephens college. From



there to play for India was unbelievable."

Chhetri Talks About His Longevity

"I have to thank my parents for my genetics. I have been fortunate to be surrounded by extraordinary people in my life. Many sports persons have done well because of their longevity. Athletes like Leander Paes, Mary Kom & Virat

Kohli achieved so much because they kept on going."

Chhetri On His Retirement

"The thought of retirement crosses my mind, but I am more hopeful than scared. I am in fact scared for myself because I won't be able to play football."

Chhetri On Asian Games Participation

Sunil Chhetri On Asian Games Participation

"It's important to play in the Asian Games. The more tournaments we play, the better we get."

Chhetri On Igor Stimac's Impact

"Stimac is a great man manager. His doors are always open for players. He genuinely wants India to do well."

Chhetri On Singing 'Maa Tujhe Salaam' With Fans

"Sunil Chhetri On Singing 'Maa Tujhe Salaam' With Fans

"I haven't felt like that in my 22-year career. I hope to experience many such moments."

Chhetri Can't Wait To Become A Father

"I am not carrying the baby, I am just a substitute here so I'll carry the boots and give my wife a massage. Watching someone you love go through pregnancy is unbelievable."

Steven Gerrard's former teammate on Liverpool legend's move to Saudi: It is surprising



LONDON, Jul 26 (Agencies): Former Liverpool player Ryan Babel expressed his thoughts on Steven Gerrard's surprising move to manage Saudi Pro League side Al-Ettifaq.

Babel, who was once Gerrard's teammate at Liverpool, believes that there is a trend of young managers and former players entering the managerial world, which may have influenced Gerrard's decision. Babel stated that while it may initially be surprising for an English manager like Gerrard to move to Saudi Arabia, the landscape of football management is changing with a new generation of young and former players taking up managerial roles.

He speculated that Gerrard might have chosen to take on the opportunity at Al-Ettifaq to remain active and further his managerial career. Babel suggested that staying out of the managerial picture for too long might lead to missed opportunities, and Gerrard, being rela-

tively young, may have seen the Saudi Arabian venture as a chance to stay engaged in the game.

"Initially of course, it is surprising [that he went to manage there]. Overall if you look at especially English managers, they tend to stay in England, but at the same time, I feel like we are entering in a new wave of new managers, right? Young managers, former players," Babel said.

"Look, at the end of the day we don't know if Steven Gerrard had a lot of possibilities at this very moment, but I feel like as a manager if you're out of the picture for too long maybe the door is slowly getting shut on you for these types of opportunities. Maybe it was one of those things he felt like 'Hey, I want to stay busy, I'm still young, this is right now the opportunity I've got so let's grab it.'"

Gerrard's move to Saudi Arabia has indeed raised eyebrows, considering that many English managers prefer to stay in their home country. However, the emergence of this new wave of managers, including former players like Gerrard, could be a contributing factor to such unconventional choices.

As Gerrard begins his new managerial journey in Saudi Arabia, fans and football enthusiasts will undoubtedly be keeping a close eye on both Gerrard's progress.

NEP empowering India's developmental imperatives through holistic learning: Prof. Sahay

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 26: Director Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu, Professor B.S. Sahay today said, National Education Policy 2020 aims at addressing many growing developmental imperatives of India and is emphasising on creating a holistic learning environment. Professor Sahay said this while addressing media on 'Strategic Action Plan for Implementing NEP 2020' at IIM old campus, Jammu.

The event was also attended by Director Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jammu, Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Assistant Commissioner KV Jammu, Sh. Anil Kumar, Joint Director PIB & CBC J&K, Ladakh, Sh. Gh. Abbas, Assistant Director DD, Sh. Vivek Pathak and Media & Communications Officer, PIB Jammu, Sh. Sheikh Mudasir Amin. Prof. Sahay said,



under NEP 2020, students are given increased flexibility and choice of subjects to study, creating a holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with the 21st century skills. NEP 2020 will create a new system aligned with the aspirational goals of 21st century education and is laying a particular emphasis on the development of the creative potential of each individual, Prof. Sahay added.

Prof. Sahay further said, Jammu is the only region in India having three prestigious institutions located here

which have been able the start inter-institutional connect in different fields with the inception of NEP 2020 like the Dual Degree Program (B.Tech. and MBA) with IIT Jammu, MBA in Healthcare and Health Administration with AIIMS Jammu and IIT Jammu and Executive MBA in Corporate Affairs and Management with Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, Gurugram.

Sh. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu while interacting with media said, NEP 2020 is a

path breaking & a comprehensive document making education holistic, affordable, accessible and equitable for all. With the inception of NEP 2020 and the flexibilities provided by it, any B.Tech student who has completed his 6 semesters, can join IIT Jammu for final two semesters after meeting the requisite qualification criteria. This will take place through NCRF's [National Credit Framework] Academic Bank Criteria of Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) which is a digital or virtual or online store-house of academic credit data base of Higher Education Institution promoting Learner-Centric Education via Seamless Mobility of Learners., Prof. Gaur added.

demographic credit data base of Higher Education Institution promoting Learner-Centric Education via Seamless Mobility of Learners., Prof. Gaur added.

Prof. Gaur further said, the Centre for Essential Skills (CES) at IIT Jammu keep on training people from outside IIT Jammu with essential skills like Finance, Technology, Soft-skills, and Language and Life skills and so far, CES has benefited 1000+ individuals from and across the region.

Prof. Gaur informed, the latest development is the establishment of Sharad Saraf Centre for Ayurved and Indic Studies that is in line with the NEP 2020's vision for promoting Indian Knowledge System via Teaching, Training, Research, Collaboration, and Awareness Programs. This will also help in generation of a repository of the Indian Knowledge System as well, he added.

Phaco Cataract surgeries by Tilganga doctors under Free Mega Eye Camp commences at SNM Hospital Leh

TOP NEWS REPORT

LEH, July 26: After the successful eye screening camps conducted at far-off places to diagnose cataract patients, under the Free Mega Eye Camp, the Phaco Cataract surgeries of the diagnosed patients led by renowned Dr Sanduk Ruit of Tilganga and his team assisted by SNM Hospital doctors commenced from today at SNM Hospital Leh.

The Free Mega Eye Camp is organised by LAHDC Leh and Phande Lekchin Welfare Trust, Leh in collaboration with Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology, Nepal to provide world-class eye care services to a wider population at their doorsteps.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Chairman/CEC Adv Tashi Gyalson expressed heartfelt gratitude to Guinness World Record holder, Dr Sanduk Ruit of Tilganga Hospital and his dedicated team, on

behalf of LAHDC and the people of Ladakh, for providing their charitable and selfless services to the people of Ladakh.

He emphasised that the vision of Hill Council to conduct a mass outreach programme in health and eye care services for its people has become a reality with the handholding support provided by Tilganga Hospital and charitable services of Phande Lekchin Welfare Trust, Leh. Acknowledging the commendable charitable services of Tilganga Hospital towards people of Ladakh in the past, CEC Gyalson expressed hope to carry forward such legacy in the future too.

Additionally, CEC Gyalson appreciated the SNM team headed by Director Health Services, CMO Leh and MS, SNM Hospital Leh along with all the doctors, paramedical staff and volunteers, Councillors and village repre-

sentatives for their active support in organising these mega eye camp.

6000 plus patients were screened during the successful Advanced Screening Camp conducted at near and far-flung areas of the district and around 250 patients were diagnosed with cataract and recommended surgery, which will be performed at SNM Hospital from July 26-28.

Executive Councillor, Rural, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee; Director Health Services, Dr Motup Dorjey; Chief Medical Officer, Leh, Dr Nurzin Angmo; Medical Superintendent, Leh, Dr Tsewang Chhorol; Tilganga Hospital team; SNM Hospital doctors and paramedical staff; representatives of Phande Lekchin Welfare Trust, Leh and volunteers from Ratna Shree Cultural and Welfare Association, Ladakh were present.

Dr. Jindal of SMVDU conducts a session at NITTTR Chandigarh

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, Jul 26: Dr. Bharat Bhushan Jindal, Faculty, School of Civil Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University conducted an expert session on "Scope of Research in Geopolymer Concrete utilizing Industrial Waste and Recycled Aggregates for Environmental friendly Construction" in the Online Faculty Development Program on "Innovation and Latest trends in Construction Materials and Techniques."

The programme was organized by the National Institutes of Technical Teachers' Training & Research (NITTTR), Chandigarh, and took place from 17th -28th July 2023 in ICT mode.

The Faculty Development Program aimed to provide up-to-date



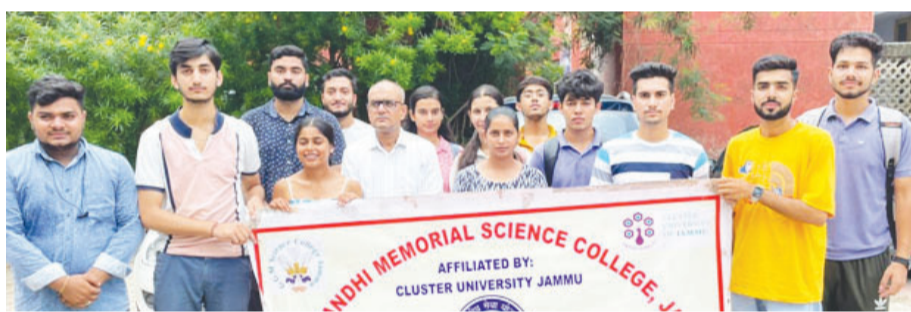
knowledge on developments in the field of construction materials to teachers from Polytechnics, Engineering Colleges, Industry personnel, and PhD scholars from all over India.

During the session, Dr. Jindal focused on the impact of population growth leading to increased demand for infrastructure development and its effect on cement manufacturing, which contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. He highlighted the alarming issues of

global warming caused by the release of greenhouse gases during cement production. Additionally, Dr. Jindal emphasized the importance of utilizing various agricultural and industrial waste materials and demolition wastes in the development of Geopolymer Concrete. He informed the faculty members about the latest advancements in geopolymer concrete technology and its applications in construction, pavements, and tunnel repairs.

Furthermore, Dr. Jindal provided guidance to research scholars on identifying research gaps in the field of sustainable building materials. The talk was well-received by participants and research aspirants attending the program.

GGM Science College organizes a plantation drive



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 26: NSS of GGMSC. College in collaboration with NGO Live for others organizes a plantation drive in the college campus under the aegis of Meri Meti Mera Desh. Over 60 saplings of traditional, medicinal and wild plants were planted during the drive. This drive was conducted under the guidance of worthy principal of the college Prof. Rajesh Gupta, supervision of NSSPO Dr. Narinder Kumar.

Principal of the College, Prof. Rajesh Gupta said that the aim of this drive is to make students and volunteers aware about the importance of plants and to enhance the 'participation of public in planting trees so that everyone can realize their responsibilities towards plant-

ing trees.

NSSPO Dr. Narinder Kumar emphasized that plantation contribute to the production of food resources, climate amelioration, maintain ecological balance, improve air quality conserves water, preserves soil, supports wildlife, reduces drought and prevents soil erosion and pollution.

He added that plantation reduce global warming and beautify the area by planting ornamental, fruit-bearing plants and medicinal plants.

Director of NGO Vivek Parihar stressed upon the gathering to develop a habit of planting more and more trees particularly during raining season. Large no. of volunteers of NSS and NGO Live for Others and made the event successful.

Plant Adoption drive organised at JU

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 26: Gandhian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Jammu organised Plant Adoption Drive in the lawns of University of Jammu. The drive was organised in collaboration with the Arboriculture and Landscaping Unit, Department of Environmental Sciences, Green Campus Task Force and NSS Unit III of the University of Jammu. The purpose of the plantation drive was to give experiential learning and develop a sense of belongingness and sensitivity among students towards nature.

The saplings planted and adopted by the students included Amrapali Mango, Amla, Loquat

and hybrid Jamun. Around thirty-five student volunteers participated in the drive and thereafter took a pledge of Panchpran.

Among those who were present during the adoption drive included Prof Piyush Malaviya convener of Arboriculture and Landscaping Unit and Head Department of Environmental Sciences, Dr. Seema Rohmetra, Incharge Director, Gandhian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Dr. Deepika Sathia Member Secretary GCTF-JU

Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Dr. Monika Bhardwaj, PO NSS, Dr. Meghna Dhar, PO NSS, Dr. Sapna Sangra, Dr. Rajneesh Khajuria, Dr. Nitin Sharma, Ajmer Singh, Land Development officer and his team.

Kisna opens its 9th exclusive Jewellery showroom in Jammu

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 26: Kisna, from Hari Krishna Group is on its way to make its mark in northern India as it launches its first franchise showroom in the city of Jammu.

With this new showroom launch, Kisna continues to take a progressive step towards a shift in its distribution strategy as it aims to fulfill its promise and vision of making diamond jewellery accessible to all modern Indian women. With the mines to market set up by Hari Krishna Group, Kisna caters to the ever-evolving consumer preferences for all occasions and budgets. Kisna's newest showroom at Aquaf Market, Jammu is designed to offer the best and most preferred collections and designs for each age group.

With tastes and



designs curated as per local preferences, this new showroom offers an extensive range of high-quality and trendsetting designs perfect for everyday wear as well as the festive season.

The showroom's grand opening witnessed renowned actress Jasmin Bhasin, along with Ghanshyam Dholakia, Founder & Managing Director & Parag Shah, Director, Kisna. Established in 2005, Kisna pioneered its distribution driven model - with a current footprint of 3500+ show-

rooms across the country making it the largest distributed diamond jewellery brand in India.

Kisna launched 8 showrooms till date in various cities which includes Siliguri, Hyderabad, Hisar, Ayodhya, Bareilly, Raipur, Delhi, Mumbai and Jammu.

Expressing his thoughts on the new showroom launch, Ghanshyam Dholakia said, "We are elated to establish Kisna's first showroom in Jammu and bring some of our newest designs. We are working towards making

diamonds accessible to all women in the country and with our expansion plans we aim to fulfill every woman's aspiration of owning diamond jewellery as we aim to reach each household across the country.

At the new showroom, we want consumers to experience the expertise of the Hari Krishna Group and provide them with a variety of diamond and gold jewellery options that they can wear for any occasion." Parag Shah added, "Launching our store in the state of J&K

is our way forward in the next phase towards growth and expansion. As this city is known for its unique designs in jewellery with the launch of the KISNA showroom in the city, we aim to curate jewellery as per local tastes and cater to the growing demand of the state. On our roadmap to make diamonds accessible to all women across the country, we are also looking at intensifying our bond with local consumers and bringing them the highest standards of customer service."

Attending the launch, Jasmin Bhasin said, "Kisna Diamond Jewellery is the First choice of people " It feels great to be part of the launch of Kisna's new showroom in Jammu as they strive one step further to making diamonds accessible to women across the country.

Rajesh quits NDPI takes 'SANYAS' from politics

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 26: National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) J&K UT Chief Rajesh Gupta on Wednesday quit NDPI and said he is taking solitude. He said he is in a very confused situation and can't make any decision which is the reason he is taking "Sanyas" from politics for a while.

NDPI president said he is going to some undisclosed place for meditation and prayers for the people of INDIA and particularly for J&K. He said the politics nowadays is very dirty and even our senior leaders of India and J&K are busy mudslinging on each other nobody is serious about the common people and our great country India.

NDPI leader while



addressing the media said he always wanted the betterment of the poor and common man but seeing the system my heart goes out why everyone is after money and power? Nobody is fair and true, the lust for power and position they can go to any extent and they want to divide the people on religion and ethnic basis. Women are not at all safe in India see the example of Manipur. What the past and present governments taught us to fight with each other and kill the weak and rape

atrocities on women.

Rajesh Gupta said he is very upset about current issues happening in India and in J&K. He said I quit NDPI from my primary membership without any charges on throat.

Gupta said if all political parties do healthy politics and keep secular thinking our India will be heaven but some scoundrels enjoying in divisive politics. Gupta said he is contended person he has not to have any greed for power or position. He has only passion to serve the people of Jammu and he may start his further political journey under the banner of 'Jammu Warriors Front' which was established in 2008 to raise the voice of Jammu.