# TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper

**ENTERTAINMENT** 

|6

Sinéad O'Connor, gifted and provocative Irish singer-songwriter, dies at 56



**NATIONAL** 

**BJP-RSS** only interested in

power, working towards dividing country: Rahul Gandhi **INTERNATIONAL** 

18

**Iranian Chess Player Who Removed Hijab Gets Spain Citizenship** 



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

| 7

Pages-12 Rs.-2/-Vol.-14 Issue-204

#### BRIEFLY

#### 18-year old allegedly committs suicide in Hajin

SRINAGAR, Jul 27 (Agencies): A 18- year old boy allegedly committed suicide in Banyari village of Hajin in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Wednesday evening. Officials said that the deceased was identified as Mudasir Ahmad Dar son of Bilal Ahmad Dar, a resident of

Banayari. They said that his body was found hanging in an open field joutside his home.

After completing legal formalities, the body was handed over to his family for the last rites. Police has taken cognizance of the case and started investigation in the matter.

#### **Youth** electrocuted, **Uncle injured** in South **Kashmir**

SRINAGAR, Jul 27 (Agencies): A youth died, while his uncle was injured, after their bulldozer came into contact with a live transmission line in the Padgampora area of Pulwama district on Thursday.

An official told the news agency KNO that the duo was on the bulldozer when it came in contact with the live transmission wire.

He further stated that they sustained critical injuries and were immediately shifted to a nearby hospital, where the youth succumbed to his injuries.

The deceased has been identified as Sehran Ahmad (18). while his injured uncle has been identified as Abdul Rashid Dar from Larkipora Padgampora. Meanwhile, the police have taken cognizance of the incident.

#### Corporal punishment banned in Kashmir **Schools**

SRINAGAR, Jul 27 (Agencies): In a landmark move to protect the well-being and mental health of students, the Directorate of School Education Kashmir has issued a circular imposing a blanket ban on corporal punishment and other forms of child abuse in all educational institu-

tions within its
Turn to page 9

## **Muharram procession held first time after** 34 years in Srinagar: LG Manoj Sinha



**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Jul 27: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha remembered the sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and the martyrs of Karbala.

In a statement, the Lt Governor said: "I bow to the martyrs of Karbala and recall sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and his ideals. Today is a historic occasion for Shia brethren in Kashmir valley as after 34 years 8th Muharram place on the traditional route, from Guru Bazar to Dalgate". The 8th Muharram pro-

cession used to come out from Guru Bazar and culminate at Imambargah Dalgate before it was banned in 1989.

"For 34 years, Muharram procession was banned on the traditional route. We respect the sentiments of Shia brethren and I assure the community that the administration will always stand by them. It is also the testimony to change and normalcy in J&K UT," the

■Turn to page 9

#### **Chugh welcomes** court summons to Tytler in 84 riots case



CHANDIGARH, Jul 27 (Agencies): All those responsible for carnage against the Sikhs in 1984 would be brought to book howsoever high position they might be holding in public life, said BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh today.

Welcoming the Delhi court summons to veteran Congress leader Jagdish Tytler in the case of alleged killing of three persons and causing arson in a gurudwara, Chugh said justice would surely be done to the victim families by the Modi government which had launched reinvestigation into the cases of violence against the Sikhs.

He said so far the Gandhi family led by Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi had been making extra efforts to protect the Congress leaders involved in anti-Sikh riots, and now AAP has also joined hands

Turn to page 9

#### **Amarnath** Yatra | Fresh batch of 3111 pilgrims leave from Jammu Base Camp

JAMMU, Jul 27 (Agencies): A fresh batch of 3111 pilgrims amidst the chants of 'Bam Bam Bhole' on Thursday left from Bhagwati Nagar Base camp here for Shri Amarnath Cave Shrine in South Kashmir Himalayas.

An official said that 3111 pilgrims left the base camp in a convoy of 124 vehicles.

A group of 2154 pilgrims (1686 males, 424 females, six children

#### Shiv Sena Chief questions BJP's **Governance in Kashmir**

SRINAGAR, Jul 27 (Agencies): Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray launched a scathing attack on the BJPled government at the centre, criticising their handling of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir after the removal of Article 370 of the constitution which gave the former state special status, NDTV reported.

In an interview released

by his party, Shiv Sena



UBT, Thackeray, despite initially supporting the revocation of Article 370, expressed serious concerns about the prevailing conditions in the region.

"Target killing is still

happening there. Kashmiri Pandits cannot return to the Valley. No one can buy land there. Elections are not happening. Kashmir has been divided into pieces. Leh-Ladakh separated. Jammu was separated, then why don't you hold elections now?" he said, as per NDTV.

When questioned about sitting next to Mehbooba Mufti, former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Thackeray Turn to page 9

#### **ACB** arrests **Patwari for** accepting bribe

SRINAGAR, Jul 27 (Agencies): The Anti-Corruption Bureau on Thursday said that it trapped and arrested a revenue official in the Kawarhama area of the Baramulla district for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 5,000 for issuance and processing of revenue

## Kapil Sibal to appear for DPAP during hearings on Article 370 In SC

NEW DELHI, Jul 27 (Agencies): Senior lawyer Kapil Sibal will appear on behalf of the DPAP during hearing on a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 in the Supreme Court, the Ghulam Nabi Azad-led party said on Wednes-



The Supreme Court will commence day-today hearing from August 2 on a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 that bestowed special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud fixed July 27 as

■Turn to page 9

## Omar Abdullah welcomes permission for muharram procession, demands release of Mirwaiz

SRINAGAR, Jul 27 (Agencies): National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Thursday welcomed the government's decision to allow Muharram procession on the traditional route through Lal Chowk after more than three decades and demanded Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's release from house arrest and permission for prayers

at Jamia Masjid.

"We welcome this decision. At the same time, we hope that the government takes other steps as well. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq is a religious leader and he should be released. Prayers should be allowed at Jamia Masjid without any curbs and Red prayer should be allowed at Eidgah," Abdullah said. Abdullah



had to walk from his residence on Gupkar road to his office at Nawa-i-Subah due to massive

traffic snarls in the city caused by the early morning Muharram procession.

"I thought it better to walk to the office as the presence of my security vehicles would have caused more inconvenience to the people," he said.

Asked about elections in Jammu and Kashmir, the former state chief Turn to page 9 "EK SHAM BUZURGON KE NAAM"



Multi-Lingual Kavi Goshti On 29th July, 2023 At Vridh Ashram, Ambphalla Jammu At 5.00 PM Sharp With The Special Blessings Of Shri I.D. Soni

Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS)

as Poetic Obeisance to The Senior Citizens

has organised a

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

The Participating Poets Are Dr Sushil Bhola, Sudershan Kumari Darshi Dr.Chanchal Sharma, Neelam Verma Mehrotra Randhir Singh Raipuria, Capt. Lalit Shrama, Dr. S. K. Jain, Balwinder Singh, Suraj Singh Suraj, Kalpana Gupta Rattan,

## **Beware! Online 'Sextortion'** scams on rise

SEXTORTION (WEBCAM BLACKMAIL) ACCEPTING RANDOM FRIEND REQUEST, VIDEO CALL ON FACEBOOK OR

HATSAPP FROM STRANGERS CAN LAND YOU IN TROUBLE, BLACKMAILERS HAVE DEVISED A MODUS OPERANDI TO BEFRIEND PEOPLE ONLINE AND LATER GET THEIR PHOTOS/VIDEOS THROUGH VIDEO CALL AND MORPH THESE PHOTOS/VIDEOS ON PORNOGRAPHIC PHOTOS OR VIDEOS THEN BLACKMAIL

THESE BLACKMAILERS LURE PEOPLE BY ATTRACTIVE PHOTOS IN THEIR FACEBOOK AND WHATSAPP PROFILE. THEY ENGAGE VICTIM IN A VIDEO CALL. DURING THE CALL THE VICTIM IS SHOWN A PORNOGRAPHIC CLIP AND VIDEO SIMULTANEOUSLY TO BLACKMAIL THE VICTIM

SUBSEQUENTLY. DO'S & DON'T S DON'T PANIC DON'T ACCEPT ANY FRIEND REQUESTS FROM

DON'T SUCCUMB AND NEVER PAY MONEY IMMEDIATELY INFORM YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND RELATIVES ABOUT IT AND REPORT, IT TO LOCAL POLICE OR CYBER POLICE PRESERVE ALL EVIDENCES LIKE SCREENSHOTS FOR HELPING POLICE CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE. YOU CAN GET THROUGH THIS.

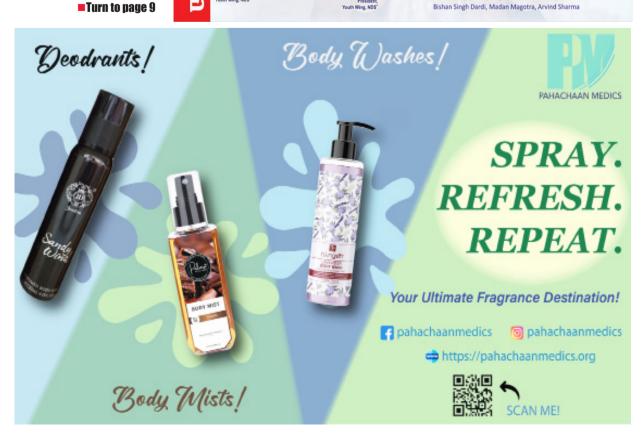
SRINAGAR, Jul 27 (Agencies): There has been manifold increases in the number of online scams while direct "sextortion" to grab money from the people is taking a lead while the Cyber Police has urged people to remain cau-

The way there is an increase in these crimes, it is not the end but a beginning. Many in J&K too have even lost their earnings even as the Cyber Police is chasing the scammers.

People around the world are getting trapped in cases of "sextortion".

Social media platforms like Facebook, Whatsapp, and Twitter are most capable in this regard and have so far proved productive tools for the scammers.

In the latest scams, many people are using webcams for flirting and cybersex but sometimes people meeting online are not who ■Turn to page 9



#### 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 (Gaiansoo)

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-

Rai Kumar - Son

Sudesh Kumari - Daughter Kewal 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



#### **OBITUARY**

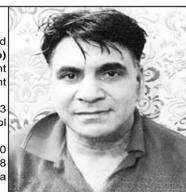
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sac and untimely demise of Raj Nath Bhat ( Dadroo) S/o Lt. Radha Krishan Dadroo permanent resident of Nazuk Mohalla Anantnag Kashmir at present Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu on 23rd of July 2023.

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. Bita Koul & Lt. Raiinder Koul Smt. Jeeta Drabu & Lt. Utesh Drabu



**RAJ NATH BHAT** (DADROO)

(Mamy & Mama) Smt. Tathi Koul & Sh. Bal Krishan Contact No's: 97962-61986, 78893-63681, 7006985291

#### 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 Bhori 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

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to nform 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 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



Manooj Kumar Koul

Smt. Santosh Kumari

Smt. Raj Kumari

(05-04-1948 to 18-07-2023

S. Surinder Singh Bakshi

(RETD TEHSILDAR)

#### TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our mother Smt. Raj Kumari W/o Lt. Sh. Mool Raj Kesar R/o Ward No. 06, Karan Nagar, Udhampur who left for heavenly abode on 18-07-2023 (Tuesday).

Tenth Day shall be performed on 27-07-2023 (Thursday) at our residence Lane No. 03, Ward No.06, Karan Nagar, Udhampur.

Kriya shall be Performed on 28-07-2023 (Friday) at Devika Ghat Udhampur.

Grief stricken :-Son's & Daughter- in- laws Gulshan & Sushma Kesar

Koushal & Uma Kesar Daughter's & Son's - in- law Smt. Anita & Sh. T.C. Sharma

Smt. Babita & Sh. Anil Sharma Siddhant, Prashant, OJas, Paridhi & Garvi (Grand Children)

Deeply Missed By: Samast Kesar and Kerni family

Ph:- 6006956069, 7006523428

#### **BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS**

and untimely demise of our beloved **S. Surinder Singh Bakshi (RETD TEHSILDAR)** S/o Late. Budha Singh R/o Kathi Darwaaza, Chatti Patshahi Rainawari Sgr. at present at Dayal Bagh Colony Bandhu Rakh Kunjwani Jammu on

PROGRAM AT RESIDENCE ARAMBH SRI AKHAND PATH at Residence Bandhu Rakh

BHOG SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB on 30 th July 2023 Sunday 9.30 AM. PROGRAM AT GURUDWARA. SAHIB SINGH SABHA NANAK NAGAR, JAMMU

KIRTAN AND ANTIM ARDAS : 10:30 AM TO - 1.00 PM Followed by Guru Ka Langar GRIEF STRICKEN

Harbhaian Kour -Sister Daughters and Sons in law

Geeta Mehta & Dr Prithipal Singh Mehta Simran Kour & S.Karanjit Singh Bakshi (PARK VIEW TRADERS SRINAGAR)

Sons and Daughters in law S.Tejpal Singh Bakshi (Retd AGM J&K Bank ) and Simi (J&K Bank)

S. Pupinder Pal Singh. MBS College & Supinder Kour. S.Sharanpreet Pal Singh & Anjanpreet Kour

S Nanak Singh Mehta (Brother in law)

GRANDCHILDREN: Pamilla and Harpal

eet and Shruti, Pavi and Harmillan Aman Angad Assis Jessica Gurliv RSVP BAKSHI, FAMILY OF CHATTI PATSHAHI SRINAGAR AND MEHTA FAMILY,

OF GADPORA, TRAL. ALL NEARS AND DEARS
Ph No: 9419196805, 9899277474, 9858602003, 9622016900, 9419012727, 9797311945

#### 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. Bansi 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 Devi Datta

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, 9149442243

**SMT. VAISHNO DEVI** 

**SMT JAI KISHORI RAINA** 

Smt. Shanti Dhar

#### TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regert 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

Dauthers & 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 Vijav Kumar Bhat Smt Sarla Raina W/o Veer Ji Raina Grand Children: Ritik Raina & Priyanka Raina

#### OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Smt. Shanti Dhar W/o Lt. Sh. Keshav Nath Dhar R/o Pinglina, Pulwama, Kashmir A/p Community Hall Muthi Camp, Phase 2nd Near Govt. Higher Secondary School

The TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 31-07-2023 at 8 AM. **GRIEF STRICKEN -**

(Sisters-in-law & Brothers-in-law) Smt. Pyari & Sh Pyare Lal Dhar Smt. Girja & Sh Arjan Nath Dhar

Ankush Dhar (Son) Smt. Sunaina & Sh. Manoj Sharma (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Megha & Mohit (Grand children) Contact Nos. - 7006620069, 9149513008, 9596910236

### 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** 

LATE SMT. CHAMPA DEVI Sh. Harbhushan Bharti- Brother Dr. Amit and Dr. Shalini - Son & Daughter-in-law Rashim Kumar- Son

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

## TENTH DAY/KRIYA Tenth Day Kriya Shri Vikas Gupta S/o Late Shri

Raghubir 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** 

#### **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.

Muthi Ghat (Near Directorate of School Education) on 02 Avr. 20 vise 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



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

Ajay Sharma & Sushma Sharma Lt. Sanjay Sharma & Smt Nisha Sharma Sister & Brother-in-law Sister & Brother-In-law Smt Rani Devi & Lt. Sh Kuldeep Sharma Brother & Sister-in-law Sh Inderjeet 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

#### TENTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW WE REGI
TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELO'S
SMT. RUPAWATI BHAN WO LATE SH. NIRAN
NATH BHAN (R/O BRARIANGAN, UMANAGR
PRESENT NANAK VIHAR, LOWER MUTHI IN
MAHAGANESH MANDIR) WHO LEFT FOR HEAV
LY ABODE ON THURSDAY 20-07-2023.
TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED AT MUTHI GI
ON SATURDAY 29-7-2023 AT 08:00 A.M.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
(SONS & DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW)
TRILOKI NATH BHAN & SHEELA BHAN
ASHOK KUMAR BHAN & SHEKT BHAN
DURGA NATH BHAN & SUMAN BHAN
SUNIK KUMAR BHAN & SUMAN BHAN
(OAUGHTERS & SON-IN-LAW)
PRAN NATH KHAR & PREM LATA
BUSHAN LAL BHAN & SUNITA BHAN
CHAND PATWARI & SHAKUTILAK
CHAMLE BHAN & SUNITA BHAN
CHAND PATWARI & SHAKUTILAK
KAMAL FOTEDAR & VIJAYA KHAR

MMAL FOTEDAR & VIJAYA KHAR RANDSONS & GRAND-DAUGHTERS KAS BHAN & NUPUR ZUTSHI, VIVEK BHAN, VISHAL BHAN, AKASH BHAN, DIKSH. HAN, SHIKSHA BHAN, SAKSHI BHAN, SHIVAM BHAN, SUSHIL PANDITA & PRIYANK RCHANA PANDITA & VIVEK DHAR, RACHANA PANDITA & SHEEBU DHAR, AKSHA IAN, ANUSHIKA BHAN REAT GRANDSON: RUDRA BHAN DNTACT NO. 8717091944, 9797363549, 7051011623, 923301659

#### MOURNING BY DAUGHTER **AND SON -IN-LAW**

With Profound grief and sorrow we inform tha Father / Grand Father (Gasha ji) Sh Bhushar Zutshi resident of H. No 852, Lane No 8, Sul Nagar Jammu , who left for his heavenly abod 19- 07-2023. The **TENTH (10TH) DAY KRIYA** will be performe at Muthi Ghat Jammu on Friday 28-07-2023

B:30 A.M. GRIEF STRICKEN: Daughters and Son-in-laws
Smt Jyoti Dhar (Binny) W/o Sh. Ashish Dhar
Smt Namrata Bhat W/o Sh. Amit Bhat
Sons and Daughter-in-laws
Sh Kuldeep Zutshi and Smt Jyoti Zutshi
Sh Karan Zutshi and Smt Priya Zutshi.
Sh Varun Zutshi (Son)
Grand Children:

Grand Children

Grand Children:

We all miss you Naanu / Daadu
Vidhi Dhar, Vaibhav Dhar , Shradha Zutshi , Sharad Zutshi , Sanvi Bhat, Paloma
Bhat and Master Manik Zutshi.

Also Samast Pariwar of Dhar's ,Raina's , Koul's , Pandita's ,and Waffa
JANE CHALE JATE HAI KAHAN DUNIYA SE JANE WALE. KAISE DOONDE
KOI UNKO NAHIN KADAMO KE BHI NISHAN.

PLEASE KEEP GASHA JI IN YOUR PRAYERS

Contact No's: 9810426990 , 9311022654 ,9899779798 , 9503926764 ,7838906813

#### SHADMOS/MASWAR

Six months have passed since you left us for you iourney to 'Vaikunth Dham'. People say that whatever happens, happens fo the best. But the painful memories of your death

we'll never be able to put to rest. Dad... how heartbroken we are and how much we miss you. We can't explain in words but ou

Shadmos/ Maswar of Sh. Bansi Lal Kaul S/o Lat Sh. Ram Chand Kaul originally from Budhgair Ali Kadal, Srinagar, Kmr/ A.P 3/102, Vikas Nagar Sarwal, Jammu; will be performed on 27th & 28th of July,

DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY:-Mrs. Jaya Kaul - Wife Susheel Kaul & Jyoti Kaul - Son & Daughter-in-law Meenakshi Nagri & Sanjay Nagri - Daughter & Son-in-law Grand Children: Lakshita, Hitesh, Arpita, Rinish Mob: 7780918594; 6006554271; 6005493520; 9086769202

#### SHADMOS/MASWAR-POOJA

**WE MISS YOU DAD** It has been six months since you left for heavenly abode but your essence hasn't left us for a second. You are being missed beyond belief. As you have been giving your whole life to us the great FATHER you have been. A heart of Gold stopped beating with God broke our heart that day proving he took the best in Vaikunth Dham. Never a day goes by that you're

not in our hearts, minds & souls. Pooja will be performed at our residence 128-A Subash Nagar Jammu on 26th & 27th July.

SAMAST RAINA, KAUL, GADROO & BHAT PARIVAR 9419120644

#### 10TH DAY & 11TH DAY (KRIYA)

With profound grief, we regret to inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved Smt Gayetri Devi W/ Capt. Mulkh Raj (Bhadrore Wale) on 19-07-2023. The **10th Day** shall be observed on 28th July 2023 (Friday) and **11th Day (Kriya)** will be held on 29th July 2023 (Saturday) at our residence Lane No.11, 102/C Shi Nagar, Jammu

GRIEF STRICKEN Capt. Mulkh Raj Sharma -Husband Dr S.K Sharma & Dr Anju Sharma -Son & Daughter-in-law lrs Rajni Sharma & Mr Yogesh Khajuria -Daughter & Son-in-law Mr Surai Prakash Sharma & Mrs Shakuntla Sharma -Brother & Bhabi Mrs Geeta Devi & Mr Ratan Lal Khajuria -Sister & Brother-in-law Pranjay, Snigdha, Tania -Grand Children

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA With Profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Tej Kumar Kaul** on 23rd July 2023 at E106, Satisar Apartments, Dwarka, Sector 7

10th Day Kriya will performed at Rohini, Sector 18, next to

10th Day Kriya will performed at Rohini, Sector 18, Kali Mandir Bawana Road on 01st Aug 2023 at 9AM. Grief Stricken: Phoola Kaul - Wife Rohit & Megha Kaul - Son & Daughter-in-law Kamla Kaul Wo Lt. Sh. B.N Kaul - Sister-in-law Lalita Pattoo W/o Lt. Sh. P.K Kaul - Sister Durga Kaul Wio Lt. Sh. P.K Kaul - Sister

Durga Raul W/o L. Srl. P.R. Raul - Sister Ashok Kumar Kaul & Susheela Kaul - Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law Surinder & Rajni Kaul - Brother & Sister-in-law Shivani & Sakshi - Niece Contact No.: 8448894662 / 9419120004 / Ananya & Kiara - Grand Daughters 9810029418 Extended Kaul Parivar, Dhar's, Badshah's, Fotedar's, Trakroo's, Duda's



#### **TENTH DAY/KRIYA** With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of beloved **Sh Narayan Singh** S/o Lt. Sh Balak Ram & Lt. Smt. Koushalya

Devi R/o Village Urkhal, ward no.1, Surinsa who expired on 19th-July-2023.

10th Day will be performed on 28th-July 2023 Friday at our residence at 11:00 AM Kriya will be performed on 31st - July-2023 Monday at 11:30 PM onwards GRIEF STRICKEN Polly Devi - **Wife** Riya - **Daughter** Rudra Pratap Singh - **Son Brother & Bhabhi** 

Rekhi Singh & Kamla Devi Shamsher Singh & Sushma Devi Rishpal Singh & Meena Kumari Sister & Brother-in-law mt. Sudesh Kumari & Sh. Igbal Singh DEEPLY STRICKEN:-SAMAST DEODIALLA PARIVAAR Mobile Numbers: 9622750795, 9906346384, 9906001566

#### DISCLAIMER

"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify



the contents on their own before acting there upon.'





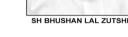




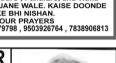










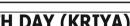




Sh. Bansi Lal Kaul



Karamyogi Sh Badri R/o Habbakadal Srinaga









Sh. Tej Kumar Kaul



Sh Narayan Singh

## Paharis' justified demand is acknowledged: BJP



#### **TOP NEWS REPORT**

JAMMU, Jul 27: Mohd. Igbal Malik, senior BJP leader and DDC Member Darhal (Rajouri) congratulated the Pahari Tribals on induction of Bill in Lok Sabha granting Scheduled Tribe (ST) status, which will include the Pahari ethical group in the desired Schedule.

"A long standing justified demand of Paharis' is acknowledged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi government", BJP leader said.

Mohd. Iqbal Malik, along with Gulzar Ahmad Qureshi, District President Minority Morcha Kazamt Malik, Co-Convenor Pahari Cell Poonch Saleem Manhas, District Spokesperson Rajouri Arsalan Malik was addressing a Press Conference at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

While addressing

the media persons,

Igbal congratulated the Pahari Tribals for inclusion in Schedule of Tribe. Has also congratulated Bakerwals and Gujjar tribe as their quota remaining in fact

on their major demand

fulfilled. Iqbal Malik along with others, thanked the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP National President J.P. Nadda and BJP State President Ravinder Raina for ensuring the

justice to the deserved group.

He, on the occasion, also appealed to all the communities to promote peace and brotherhood among various communities.

He articulated that whole Pahari tribe will remain thankful to the BJP in all the times to come and whole of the tribe will remember the landmark decision taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

### BVP Gandhi Nagar organizes plantation drive, medical camp

#### **TOP NEWS REPORT**

JAMMU, Jul 27: Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP) Gandhi Nagar Branch Jammu organised plantation drive & medical camp under Anemiya Mukt Bharat Abhiyan at Government Degree College Purmandal, Dev Raj Sharma, Regional President, Bharat Bhushan Sharma State President, Shiv Ram Sharma Prant General Secretary, Dr. Santosh Gupta Prantiya Patron, Arun Sharma, Regional Jt. General



Secretary, Amita Sharma Regional Secretary Mahila & Bal Vikas, Sushil Ojha Branch President, Chandra Uday Sharma, Branch Secretary, Gurmeet Singh Branch Treasurer, Jagjeet Singh Isher from environment side, Prof. B.B Sharma, Sewa Parmukh, Aarti Sharma, Mahila Pramukh, and Radhika Sharma, Dr. Raj Shree Shekhar Dhar. Principal of Degree College Purmandal (Mandal) and staff showed full cooperation with the branch in the progrmme.

Dr. A.P. Singh & their Lab Tech from Hardas Hospital conducted Anemia tests, Dr. S.K Sharma also gave the lecture regarding how to prevent "Anemia".

Around 90 students had gone through the Anemia screening tests and 40 students of them found suffering from Anemia.

The Branch distributed medicines amongst the

## EPFO, PHDCCI Jammu, Dogra Law College organise Awareness Program on EPFO Services, EPF & MP Act

#### **TOP NEWS REPORT**

JAMMU, Jul 27: EPFO in association with PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PHDCCI) Jammu and Dogra Law College organized an Interactive Session & Awareness Program on EPFO Services and EPF & MP Act. Rizwan Uddin, PF Commissioner, J & K and Ladakh was the Chief Guest & Rahul Sahai Chair PHDCCI Jammu was the Guest Of Honor of the Session.

While addressing the participants Razwan thanked PHDCCI Jammu Chapter and Dogra Law College for collaborating and organizing this awareness session.

Rizwan briefed the participants about the schemes of EPFO. He shared details about the benefits of Employees Provident Fund (EPF).

Rizwan PF Commissioner, J&K and Ladakh said that EPF is very important for all the employees and all employees should become the members of EPF. This is a source of Social Security for them he added.

Rizwan answered several questions raised by the participants. He also discussed various concerns of the participants and on spot directed his office to get those solved

Rizwan said that we should create more awareness about EPF among the masses which will help them in future if any misfortune event happens. He said that his office is always open for any kind of grievances to be resolved.

Rahul Sahai, Chair PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry was the Guest of Honor of the session.

Sahai in his address said that, this event which is organized by the EPFO, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) & Dogra Educational Trust, reflects our commitment in promoting Indian industry, trade, and Entrepreneurship. He said that, the EPF

and MP Act stand as significant labour legislation in India, crafted with the goal of providing social security and financial stability to employees. Administered by the EPFO under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, the Act ensures a safety net for employees during emergencies and fosters a culture of savings, enabling them to maintain a certain standard of living even after retirement

Sahai Said that EPF is not merely a tax-saving for salaried individuals, assuring security and stability for both the employee and their family in their golden years. The Act mandates a compulsory contributory fund to secure an employee future postretirement or support their dependents in case of untimely demise. He

shared about the bene-

fits of EPF to Employees

like Financial Security,

Long-Term Savings, Tax

instrument; it is a valu-

able benefit scheme

Benefits, Withdrawal Options, Interest Earnings, Social Security. For Employers benefit he said that it helps employer in various ways like Employee Attraction and Retention, Tax Savings, Motivated Workforce, Contributing to Employee

tive Corporate Image. Bipin Kumar, District Nodal Officer, EPFO Jammu, gave a detailed Presentation on EPFO Services and Schemes. Samardev Singh Charak, Co Chair,

**NORTHERN RAILWAY** 

Welfare, Reduced Pay-

roll Burden, Compliance

with Labour Laws, Posi-

PHDCCI Jammu and Secretary, Dogra Educational Trust presented Vote of Thanks and said it's a pleasure to host all and specially Mr Rizwan and I am delighted to see his enthusiasm about sharing knowledge and assured that these kind of programs would be regularly hosted.

He also applauded amongst employees and employers to take maximum benefit of EPF schemes.

He thanked Rizwan & Rahul Sahai hosting the program and assured full support.

The Session was moderated by Parema Bakshi, Lecturer, Dogra Law College. Dr Darshana Sharma. Director Dogra Group of Colleges, Dr Avdhesh Pratap, Principal, Dogra Law College and Amarpreet Singh, Resident Officer PHDCCI Jammu were also present in the Session.

The session was well attended by representatives of various industrial units, law students and faculty of Dogra Law College.

2315/2023

E-Tender Notice

Sr. DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original /revised bids up to closing date and time only. App. Cost. Earnest Mone Name of work (in Rs.) period 251-Elect- Electrical work in c/w Provision of 59,84,798.90 1,19,700.00 17.08.2023 www.ireps.gov.ir waiting area for patients, parking for staff, improvement/modification to staff, improvement/modification to OPD, wards, OT etc. in Divl Rly 15:00 Hrs. Hospital FZR & Electrical work in c/v Provision of Divyangjan Toilets, entry path, 50 mtr COP and Drinking water booth for divyangjans under ADEN-I/FZR & Electrical work in c/w Provision of Divyangjan Toilets, entry path, 50 mtr COP and Drinking water booth for divyangjans under ADEN-II/FZR & Electrical work in c/w Repai to GYM hall at firozpur in the jurisdiction of SSE/W/FZR under ADEN-I/FZR & Electrical sub-estimate in c/w improvement/ repair and augmentation of RPF Barrack including provision of Dining and Recreation Room for RPF staff at

251-Elect/T.Notice No. 10-Elect/2023-24 Dated: - 26.07.2023

## Shiv Sena leaders urges Uddhav Thackeray, "INDIA" Alliance to raise voice on J&K issues

#### **TOP NEWS REPORT**

JAMMU, Jul 27: Leaders of Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir Unit have made an earnest appeal to the Party Chief, Uddhav Thackeray and the united platform 'INDIA' to raise its voice for restoring democracy, reinstating statehood, safeguarding the rights of Kashmiri Hindus, PoJK displaced persons and urged the "INDIA" delegation to visit Jammu and Kashmir to assess the ground realities.

The appeal was made on the occasion of the birthday celebration of Uddhav Thackeray, where a Havan and



Bhandara were organized at the Jammu Party Office and Sidhco Chowk, Bari Brahmana. During his address,

Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena (UBT) J&K urged the "INDIA" delegation through their Party National President Uddhav Thackeray to visit Jammu and Kashmir and know the ground realities and

raised its voice for restoring democracy, statehood, safeguarding the rights of Kashmiri Hindus, PoJK dis-

placed persons, and the

rights of the locals. Sahni said that those who showed the dream of united India and Jammu Kashmir divided Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh into two parts. A conspiracy is being hatched to destroy our culture and identity. The rights of the sons of the land are being continuously violated.

Jammu and Kashmir has been under the President and Lieutenant Governor's rule for more than the last 5 years.

Sahni sarcastically said that President's rule is not being imposed in Manipur and it is not being removed from Jammu and Kash-

Sahni appealed to organize the upcoming INDIA alliance meeting in Jammu and Kashmir after Mumbai, Which will be organized jointly by all the parties of Jammu and Kashmir involved in this alliance.

He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir now place their hopes on the newly formed "INDIA" alliance.

On this occasion, President Women's Wing Meenakshi Chhibber, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Chairman Rakesh Gupta, Vice President Sanjeev Kohli, Balwant Singh, Sandeep Bhagat

President Kamghar Wing Raj Singh, Shashipal. Pawan Singh, Mangu Ram, Kashmir Singh, Rahul, Jagbir Singh, Neelam Rani, Sunny Kumar, Veer Singh and many others were present.

## NO:GCOE/J/2023/ 2073 items /articles on date: 07.08.2023 at 12.00 Noon, in the college campus Govt. College of Education, Canal Road, Jammu. Interested parties if any should reach on the said date for their bid before the committee members terrepla DIP/J-5799/23

#### ENIT NO. 59 OF 2023-24 DATED 24-07-2023

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION UDHAMPUR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT JSPHEM/UDHR/ 59 OF 2023-24 DATED 24-07-2023 Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur, on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT,

invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered firms who have sufficient experience in the relevant field of electro-mechanical/ electrical works (in Rs) Repair to 8000 GPH x 250 01 job Jal Shakti PHE Rs. 200.00 (Non-(Rs. 1600.00) 2% 90 days Mech. Division meter head pump installed at refundable in shape (in case of nonpumping station Khoon of treasury challan registered firms)Or in favour of the (Rs.800.00) 1% (in Executive Enginee case of firms Jal Shakti PHE registered with DIC Mech. Division / SSI / MSME)

Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website http://iktenders.gov.in from 24-07-2023 (18:00 Hrs.) The Bids shall be deposited on the website http://jktenders.gov.in from 24-07-2023 (18:30 Hrs.) to 02-08-2023 (3:00 Hrs.).

Udhampur

- After opening tender only successful bidder shall be asked for submitting the hard copies of documents with CDR and tender The complete bidding process will be online http://jktenders.gov.in
- The technical bid will be opened on line on 03-08-2023 at 11.00 A.M or any other subsequent date in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Udhampur.
- The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Udhampur after evaluation of technical bids. The date shall be communicated separately.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 5 & 6 of the table (and for DIC/SSI/MSME registered firms as per Industrial Policy of J&K govt.) payable at Udhampur pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur.
- Bid security will have to be in form of CDR / FDR / BG of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for one year or more after last date of receipt of Bid. The cost of downloaded tender documents shall be in form of Treasury Challan / e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur payable at Udhampur.

  9. Firms who will fulfill the following parameters are eligible to participate.
  - Average Annual financial turnover during the last 3 years, ending 31 March of the previous financial year, should be at least 30% of this estimated cost.
  - Experience of having successfully completed similar works during last 07 years ending last day of month previous to the one in which applications are invited should be either of the following:-
  - a. Three similar completed works costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of the estimated cost Two similar completed works costing not less than the amount equal to 50% of the estimate cost
- One similar completed work costing not less than the amount equal to 80% of the estimated cost Definition of "similar work" should be clearly defined. 10. The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening bids. If any bidder / tenderer
- earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited 11. The tenderers are advised to visit the site of work before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact site

withdraws his bid / tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the

12. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website http://jktenders.gov.in

NO. JSPHEMUDHR/2023-24/1929-32

DIP/J-5752/23

**Executive Engineer** Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division

## **DPAP Kashmiri Displaced People Wing demands** reservation of Assembly/ Parliamentary seats

**TOP NEWS REPORT** 

JAMMU, Jul 27: The Kashmiri Displaced People Wing J&K of DPAP in a joint statement issued under leadership of its President Sanjay Dhar and Chairman Piaray Lal Pandita, have demanded that Govt. of India and Election Commission of India is requested to announce reservation of four Assembly and three Parliamentry Seats for Kashmiri Displaced People during the coming Elections in J&K State, so that the elected infrastructure will represent the displaced people for getting Constitutional rights, which have been ignored during last thirty three year exile.

The Leaders have categorically rejected the reservation of seats for the displaced people on nomination basis

The Leaders have demanded that three seats in each District of Kashmir be reserved during Coming Panchayet and Local Body Elections for displaced people for introducing a bridge towards Return and Rehabilitation of displaced people back in Kashmir. Besides the Leaders have appealed the Govt of India to introduce System of Panchayats in Displaced Camps, till settlement of Rehabilitation Policy, for ensuring mitigation of 32 year long sufferings in exile, as the percentage of funds through the system as share of displaced people has not been incurred on displaced community but in valley.

The leaders have appealed the Govt of India to work out a comprehensive plan/policy for permanent rehabilitation back

in valley of the displaced people but after taking into confidence the real stake holders of displacement post 1990, who have tasted the sufferings of displacement due to genocide.

The Leaders have rejected the proposal declaration floated in social media that displaced people will be provided land in Valley on subsidised rates which is like joking with more than 7.50 Lac displaced people who had to flee the valley due to failure of Govt. for ensuring security.

The Leaders have appealed that the displaced people require to be provided standards of resettlement compensations, economic packages, employment packages, ex-gratia of 32 year suffered loss, restoration of encroached immovable properties, religious places,

especially pre-ninety harmonial culture, with Constitutional Rights Guarantees. The leaders have appealed that Special Nodel Agencies require to be established for taking care of the displaced people who are true Nationals/intellectual citizens of India, so that the displaced people may not feel disparity as has been experienced during last 33 year exilement.

The Leaders have demanded that each and every Constitutional Right requires to be restored forthwith and have appealed the Civil Society of Valley Majority Community make a request to the Govt of India to get the displaced people repatriated back to Reshiwari Kashmir, for which Kashmiriyet is incomplete without Kashmiri Displaced Hindus.

## **EDITORIAL**

## POLITICS CRIMINALIZATION

rime is such behavior done towards the person and the society, which has been considered punishable by tradition or by law. Punishing the criminals and protecting the gentlemen has been considered as the main Rajdharma.

The entry of people of criminal tendency in politics is criminalization of politics or it can also be called politicization of crimes. Those who behave unethically sit on the heights of politics – crimes have become politicized.

Today, widespread and multifaceted criminalization of politics has taken place. Both cultured and professional criminals wearing the mask of politics have become the fate of the country. Today's politics is to take over the rule by terrorizing the voters, looting the ballot boxes and if this does not work, by hiding the opponents.

Other forms of criminalization: Many disorders or defects have arisen in the politics of India. Some political parties do politics on the basis of religion and caste. This threatens the unity of the country, communal riots take place and casteism increases. India is a huge democracy but in true sense it is dominated by money system. Black money dominates elections.

No true public servant can contest elections due to lack of money. In this era of coalition, MLAs and MPs are bought to run and maintain their government. The very purpose of democracy is being destroyed by this.

How to stop the criminalization of politics? How to make it faultless? Its final and surest solution lies in the hands of the people only. He should not select and send persons with criminal tendencies and criminal history. Judiciary with character should come forward and keep the criminals out of politics. The strong role of the judiciary which is being reflected today should get public support.

The Election Commission should also take steps in this direction and invalidate communal, casteist, money-grubbing parties. The Election Commission has taken steps in this direction. Hundreds of such parties have been de-recognised which have not contested elections for years and are engaged in illegal economic activities.

Criminalization of politics has made democracy a joke. Getting rid of this crisis is not an easy task. Today's public servant becomes a millionaire and a billionaire in five years.

Corruption has been spreading continuously. Ever since the policies of globalization, privatization, liberalisation, marketization were made in India, since then there has been a flood of scams. Commonwealth Games Scam, Adarsh Housing Society Scam, Antrex-ISRO Scam, Illegal Mining Scam, IPL Scam, Note-for-Vote Scam, Mining and '2G' Scams of the previous Central Government remind us of the unbroken tradition of corruption.

Therefore, it is natural for criminals to enter politics through deceit. Politicization of crimes can be stopped only when the laws are more stringent and there is a system of speedy justice.

## Eye to polls, Haryana goes after 'corrupt' govt officers

By: Dilip Cherian

ith about a year Tto go for the 2024 Assembly elections, Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar is seizing the opportunity to convey a strong message against corruption by holding senior officials in the state administration accountable. According to information, as many as 41 senior officers in the state are under investigation by the Anti-Corruption Bureau for their alleged involvement in corrupt practices.

The transformational shift in the fight against corruption began when Mr Khattar renamed the State Vigilance Bureau as the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) earlier this year, headed by a senior IPS officer Shatrujeet Kapur. The move was a reaction to Opposition accusations that the government was soft on corrupt officers. Mr Kapur has reportedly led a sweeping investigation that ensnared several government employees, including 12 IAS officers, two IPS officers, three IFS officers, 20 HCS officers and four HPS officers.

According to the ACB chief, several officials were arrested by his team for accepting bribes, and the bureau is pursuing cases

seeking permission to prosecute them under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Sources have informed DKB that at least two senior IAS officers who are facing corruption charges have approached the state government challenging the ACB's action. Can Mr Khattar succeed in his aim, and will it be enough to tip the electoral balance in the BJP's favour, is something we will have to wait and see.

Amidst murmurs of impending changes in the Central government, there are rumours about finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman being dropped from the Cabinet, though it seems unlikely given that the next Budget is only a vote on account, in practical terms. Such ridiculous talk likely stems from the exit of Vivek Kumar as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the finance minister.

An ABVP stalwart, Mr Kumar's unexpected curtailment of tenure left many puzzled, wondering about the reasons behind it, particularly as it happened at midnight, suggesting a sudden decision. Mr Kumar, a private person, has been at the helm of affairs and his premature departure makes it all the

more surprising. But then, that's to be expected given the nature of this regime where transparency often remains elusive.

What adds to the intrigue is that Mr Kumar was appointed as OSD to Sitharaman in January 2022 for a four-year tenure. While some sources claim that Mr Kumar aspired to play a more active role in the upcoming elections, others assert he may not be interested in running for office. Regardless, it is said that he is expected to take up a new assignment in Jharkhand, coinciding with the election process.

The not-so-civil origin of the Indian babu

It is one of those fascinating historical "doubleengine" ironies that the East India Company, a relentless imperial juggernaut, invented the term "civil servant". The irony lies in the context of the term's origin. The East India Company relentlessly pursued the extension of British influence in India across twoand-a-half centuries. But it needed Indian compradors to maintain control over its dominions. The civil servant was imported from China, the only thing they brought to India, besides tea, in exchange for opium.

The concept of civil servants embodied a notion of impartiality and public service, even though the reality was often tainted by the company's colonial objectives. Over time, the term "civil servant" evolved into a government official who works for the public good and administers state affairs, and in the Indian context, the humble babu! Back in the heyday of the Mughal era, 'babu' was the ticket to respect, the ultimate honorific for an Indian. The British picked up 'babu' along the way and decided it was the perfect way to address their trusty Indian assistants.

Today the 'babu' has quite the reputation, with a mixed bag of accolades and brickbats. It has weathered the ages, transforming from respect to ridicule, from honour to humour, and back. Babus are on a mission to rewrite the narrative. Along with administrative reforms, they are striving to redefine the term, emphasising professionalism, accountability and public service. While the origins of 'civil servant' may be tied to a rapacious private enterprise, the transformation of its meaning reflects our complex history and the evolution of administrative systems.

## Taking care of your feet during monsoon: Shahnaz Husain



aking care of feet during monsoons can be quite tricky as they're exposed to dirt, germs, humid wet climate and Fungal infections than any other body part due to prolonged and constant exposure to standing water and rainwater during a downpour.

Getting drenched in the rains is common during monsoon and it happens to almost everyone .

Monsoons bring along an excess of humidity which causes into wet shoes, sweaty feet, cracked toes, fungal infections, itching, athlete foot and many other allergies,

Your feet bears the real brunt of monsoon. That's precisely why foot care is of extreme importance this season.

Your feet are the most care worn part of the body during rainy season. You can avoid foot and toe infections during rainy season by taking some extra care

The main problem during the Monsoons is high humidity

and sweat. The feet are among the areas where germs accumulate and odour forms. The waste matter, which is secreted with sweat, has to be removed by daily washing, to eliminate odour and feel fresh and clean. Pay special attention to your feet, while bathing. After washing them well, dry them thoroughly and apply talcum powder. If you wear closed shoes, talcum powder can be sprinkled inside the shoes. However, in the hot season, slippers and open sandals are best, as they allow maximum ventilation and help the perspiration evaporate. However, if you have no option but to wear closed footwear, make sure you're using fungal powder to prevent any infections.

But, open footwear also attracts dirt and therefore, foot hygiene becomes all the more important. After a hot day, soak your feet in cold water, to which some salt has been added.

Developing a habit to wash feet right after an outdoor visit does wonders.

Wash your feet with an antibacterial soap/mild shampoo with warm water thoroughly. Pat them dry immediately after without letting them be damp for a prolonged time.

A foot problem called "Athlete's Foot" develops more easily during hot and humid weather, because it thrives on soggy skin. If neglected, it can become a stubborn problem, with an itchy condition. Athlete's foot starts as a fungus infection. So, if there is dry scaling on the feet,

especially between the toes, with some itching, consult a dermatologist without delay. Antifungal preparations are effective in dealing with the problem in the initial stages. However, excessive moisture, caused by excessive sweating, tight shoes and humid weather can lead to bacterial activity and this worsens the condition. Avoid socks and wear open shoes, use talcum powder and keep the feet as dry as possible. If socks are a must, wear cotton ones. In fact, during the hot and humid season, the feet should be exposed to the air as much as possible.

Have a salon pedicure once a week. It keeps the feet in good condition and is also most relaxing!

Here are some home remedies for Monsoon foot care:

Moisturize ---- Moisturising is the golden rule for feet during hot and humid monsoon season.

Massage a moisturizing lotion with a nice fragrance gently on your feet, and wipe it off with a warm towel after a few minutes twice a day, in the morning after shower and at night before going to bed . Invest in a good foot cream that will keep your feet hydrated, prevent allergies, and keep the heels soft and smooth.

Foot Soak: In one-fourth bucket of warm water, add half cup of coarse salt and 10 drops of lemon, or orange essential oil (if you cannot get essential oil, use half cup of lemon or orange juice). If your feet tend to sweat a lot, use a few drops of tea tree oil, as it has germicidal proper-

ties. It helps to deal with bad odour. Soak the feet for 10 to 15 minutes.

Foot Lotion: Mix together 3 tablespoons of rose water, 2 tablespoons of lemon juice and one teaspoon pure glycerin. Apply on feet and leave on for half an hour.

Foot Care for Dryness: In onefourth bucket cold water, put 2 tablespoons honey, one tablespoon herbal shampoo, one tablespoon almond oil. Soak feet in it for 20 minutes.

Cooling foot bath: Add rose water, lemon juice and a splash of eau de cologne in cold water and soak feet in it. Cools, cleans and removes odour.

Toenails -----Keeping your toenails groomed by cutting them to an optimal short length is a way of making sure that an unnecessary amount of dirt doesn't get accumulated in your toenails. Additionally, moisture causes toenails to become brittle so a regular trim keeps it under check.

Cooling Massage Oil: Take 100 ml olive oil and add 2 DROPS eucalyptus oil, 2 DROPS rosemary oil and 3 DROPS khus, or rose oil. Mix together and keep in an airtight glass jar. Use a little of this for foot massage. It cools and protects the skin and keeps it healthy.

(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the Herbal Queen of India)

## DHS Doda launches "Doctor Aapke Gaon Mein" initiative to bring medical services to remote villages



DODA, Jul 27: With the aim of ensuring quality medical care services to the people of District Doda at their door steps, the District Health Society Doda has launched a pioneering initiative called "Doctor Aapke Gaon Mein" aimed at providing comprehensive medical screening services to remote areas in the district.

In this connection, a mega medical camp on the directions of Health Secretary J&K Bhupinder Kumar was held at Village Phagsoo in Medical Block Thathri under the supervision of Chief

Medical Officer Doda Dr Ab Hamid Zargar and guidance of Block Medical Officer Thathri Dr Shafqat Javed Zargar.

On the occasion,

people were examined and screened by a team of expert doctors including Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, ENT, Medicine, Gynecology, General Surgery and in addition to it, the services of RBSK, MMU and RKSK were also utilized in providing a range of different other services to the people of the area.

More than 300 patients swarmed the camp to consult medical spe-

cialists from across the district during which patients suffering from health issues and needed treatment were examined and provided free medicines besides ANC check up of pregnant women's and ultrasound services were

also provided in the

camp.

While giving details about the camp, CMO Doda Dr Zargar said it is necessary to organize such mega health camps to connect the general public with health services and to aware the public about the beneficial schemes of the health departwould be able to take advantage of them.

Dr Fayaz ul Haq Zargar, Dr Ab Gafoor Ahmed, Dr Bishen Singh, Dr Ifra, Dr Mudassir Sufi, Dr Priya Manhas, Dr Muneeza Iqbal, Dr Shazia Shakeel and staff of MMU Doda, RBSK & RKSK teams of Thathri rendered their services to make the camp successful.

Among others the camp was attended by Dr Shakeel Ahmed Kichloo, Jonson Chandail, Health Staff and local PRIs of the area.

The locals of the area thanked the health department particularly Health Secretary Sh Bhupinder Kumar (IAS), Director Health Services Jammu Dr Rajeev Kumar Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Doda Sh Vishesh Paul Mahaian and CMO Doda Dr Ab Hamid Zargar for organizing such a mega camp for the betterment of common people.

## PDD daily wagers seek regularization, strike continues



#### **TOP NEWS REPORT**

JAMMU, Jul 27: The strike by daily wagers of the Power Development Department (PDD) entered the fourth day on Wednesday in the winter capital city in support of their demand for the regularization of more than 12,000 daily wagers currently employed by the department.

Led by the Association's president, Akhil Sharma, the daily wagers gathered at Panama Chowk and fervently shouted slogans

Sharma emphasized that until their demands are accepted by the authorities, no daily wager will resume work. Sharma said that if the government issues a favourable order for

the immediate regu-

larization of all 12,000

daily wagers before the

current strike ends, the

Union will not pursue

compelled to continue

any further agitation. However, if such an order is not forthcoming in time, the Union will be nitely, he said.

It was pointed out that in 2021, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had assured the regularization of all pending daily wagers, totaling 12,000 individuals, with 5,000 from Jammu Province and 7,000 from Kashmir Province.

Despite the passage of one and a half years, the regularization process has not been completed as promised by the government, lamented Sharma.

## Yudhvir listens to public grievances at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan



**TOP NEWS REPORT** 

JAMMU, Jul 27: Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President of BJP, J&K, today listened to the grievances of a large number of people belonging to different areas of Jammu and Kashmir at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan in Kacchi Chawni, Jammu

The camp witnessed overwhelming response from residents across Jammu city, as people flocked to the party office to discuss their concerns with senior BJP leaders. A diverse range of

issues were raised by various deputations, seeking sought resolution on matters related to ration, education, pension, PHE, PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads, development, and personal

issues. Parveen Kerni, President East Mandal, Raman Sahrma, President Amphalla Mandal, Arun Sethi, General Secretary, Anuradha Sharma President East Mandal Mahila Morcha accompanied Yudhvir Sethi during the camp.

Sethi gave a patient hearing to the problems presented by the people, which were immediately taken up with the concerned officials of the departments stressing for early resolution so that the people are not made to suffer. He added that BJP is committed to uphold the treasured mission of Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas by ensuring all segments of society, irrespective of caste, religion and region, on the path of progress and development.

He said, it should be

our endeavor that the

benefits of the schemes

run by the government

should reach the last

beneficiary living in

remote areas. He also

said that people should

be health conscious

and get their tests done

in time and get treated.

'Better health is our

greatest asset', CMO

Doda Dr Zargar added.

BMO Thathri Dr

Shafqat said that orga-

nizing such events, the

general public would

be able to get informa-

tion about the facilities

available in the health

department, so that they

The senior BJP leader asserted that trusting the BJP's commitment in reaching out and solving the issues of the public, people in large number visit the BJP office to present their issues with a strong belief on the party. He added that the party leaders make sincere efforts to sort out the issues presented by the people by taking them up at the appropriate Sethi assured the

public that he will personally follow up on the remaining issues with the concerned authorities to ensure swift resolution. He said BJP remains steadfast in its commitment to serving the people and strives to create an environment where citizens' voices are heard, and their grievances are effectively addressed. He asserted that only BJP can fulfill the dreams and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and address their issues on a priority basis.

## Fearless Knight Team wins 4th Aman **Memorial Cricket Tournament**



without scoring, Sha-

keel Ahmed Mir scor-

ing 19 runs off 11 and

Aqib Zargar got out

without scoring. Sonu

Sharma, scored 4 runs

off 4 balls and got run

out. Salman Shiekh

remained not, scoring

34 runs off 25 balls

outstanding perfor-

mance for team victory.

Musavir Nissar (WK)

contributed 7 runs in 5

balls, after that Sonu

Sharma's outstand-

ing performance with

**TOP NEWS REPORT** 

DODA, Jul 27: The 4th Aman Memorial Cricket Tournament Organized By District Police Kishtwar at Chowgan Ground Kishtwar, the Fearless Knight Team Doda emerged victorious against the North Zone Neeli Bhallessa, marking their 1st win in the 4th Aman Memorial Cricket Tournament

Kishtwar. The toss was won by the North Zone Bhallessa Team captain, and elected to bat first and set a challenging target of 76 runs in 10 overs in front of Fearless Knight Team Doda.

The opening pair for the Fearless Knight Team, consisting of Bowling earned him Captain Vikas Manhas the well-deserved Man and Sandeep Singh, of the Match award and took charge of the Fearless Knight won by innings. Vikas Manhas, 4 wickets. scored 1 and got run When it was their turn out., while Sandeep Singh contributed 1 runs off 9 balls. Wasif Sheikh got out LBW

to bowl, the Fearless Knight Team showcased their bowling prowess. Harjot Singh was unfortunate not to secure any wickets in 2 overs, conceding 9 runs, while Sonu Sharma took hat Trick, giving away 8 runs in 2 overs. Ravi Choudhary took 1 wicket and gave 12 runs in 2 overs. Shakeel Mir took 2 wickets in, conceding 20 runs in 2 overs. Agib Zargar 1 over, giving 12 runs. All the Players of Fearless Knight Team showed their good bowling and all played

Naieem Abdul led the charge for the North Zone Neeli Bhallessa, scoring an impressive 25 runs off 23 balls not out as their opening batsman. Abid Dar contributed 5 runs before being dismissed, while Sajad Dar 21 runs in 18 balls. Sami Zarger managed to score 11 runs off 7 balls for his team North Zone Bhal-

very well in the fielding.

Expressing their delight after the victory, the Fearless Knight Team pledged to continue their excellent performance After winning, the whole team did a small party at Zum Zum Kishtwar. 4th **Aman Memorial Cricket Tournament Organized** By District Police Kishtwar. In the memory of Shaheed DySP Aman Kumar Thakur who got martyred during a gun battle with terrorists. The officer appealed the participants and the public to work for the cause of nation and maintain unity and brotherhood which are basic ingredients for peace, prosperity and development of a coun-

#### **Usman Majid seeks compensation for** hailstorm-affected farmers, orchardists

#### **TOP NEWS REPORT**

SRINAGAR, Jul 27: Apni Party Vice President and former legislator, Usman Majid, on Thursday, urged the administration to undertake urgent relief measures for peasants and orchardists severely affected by the recent heavy rainfall and hailstorms in various parts of the Valley including several villages of north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

In his statement issued here, Usman Majid said, "Given the extensive damages to the crops due to the recent rains and hailstorms in various areas across the Valley, the affected farmers and orchardists must be provided



immediate relief by the administration."

"The affected people are facing significant losses to their crops and apple orchards due to unpredictable weather conditions, leaving them in dire need of support. It is imperative for the government to extend its assistance during this difficult time," he added.

Highlighting the crucial role that farmers and orchardists play in the Union Terri-

tory's economy, Majid stressed that it is the government's responsibility to offer a helping hand during times of crisis. He urged the authorities to promptly assess the damages so that compensation and assistance can be provided to those affected without delay.

Expressing his solidarity with the farmers, Majid pledged to advocate on their behalf and seek justice in terms of compensation and other necessary aid. Recognising the devastating impact on their livelihoods, he vowed to explore every possible avenue to ensure that those who have lost their source of sustenance receive the support that they deserve.

## District Jammu Handball Championship concludes

#### **TOP NEWS REPORT**

JAMMU, Jul 27: Three days 8th District Jammu Handball Championship in Senior, Junior (Boys and Girls) at Playfield Shastri Nager Jammu concluded today .The championship is being organized by Handball Association Jammu in collaboration with J&K Handball Association and Sponsored by J&K Sports Council.

Arun Bangotra Principal Govt. Polytechnic Jammu was the chief guest in the valedictory function of the championship, who interacted with the teams and exhorted them to play the game earnestly with the true sportsmanship. He also distributed prizes among the winners and runners-up



international champion-

ships.

The organizing secretary of the tournament was Ashwani Kumar Raina who welcomed all the guests, officials and participants and presented the welcome address. Others members of JKHA were also

present on the occasion. The final match in Girls section was played between Bahu Club and R.L Pissu in which Bahu Club emerged winner by 8-2 goals..

In the Boys section, the final match was played between STC Jammu and R.L Pissu in which STC Jammu emerged winner by 24-20 goals.

The matches were officiated by Richa Mandela, Kashish Baru, Sulekha and Anu.

## Sinéad O'Connor, gifted and provocative Irish singer-songwriter, dies at 56

'Nothing Compares 2 U' received three Grammy nominations and was the featured track on her acclaimed album

Sinéad O'Connor, the gifted Irish singer-songwriter who became a superstar in her mid-20s and was known as much for her private struggles and provocative actions as for her fierce and expressive music, has died at 56.

"It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Sinéad. Her family and friends are devastated and have requested privacy at this very difficult time," the singer's family said in a statement reported on Wednesday by the BBC and RTE. No cause was disclosed

She was public about her mental illness, saying that she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. O'Connor posted a Facebook video in 2017 from a New Jersey motel where she had been living, saying that she was staying alive for the sake of others and that if it were up to her. she'd be "gone." When her teenage son Shane died by suicide last year, O'Connor tweeted there was "no point living without him" and she was soon hospitalised. Her final tweet, sent on July 17, read: "For all mothers of Suicided children,"

and linked to a Tibetan compassion mantra.

Recognisable by her shaved head and with a multi-octave mezzo soprano of extraordinary emotional range, O'Connor began her career singing on the streets of Dublin and soon rose to international fame

She was a star from her 1987 debut album, 'The Lion and the Cobra', and became a sensation in 1990 with her cover of Prince's ballad 'Nothing Compares 2 U', a seething, shattering performance that topped charts from Europe to Australia and was heightened by a promotional video featuring the gray-eyed O'Connor in intense close-up.

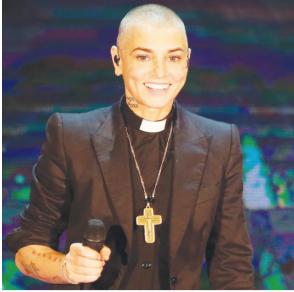
She was a lifelong nonconformist - she said she shaved her head in response to record executives pressuring her to be conventionally glamorous - but her political and cultural stances and troubled private life often overshadowed her music.

A critic of the Roman Catholic Church well before allegations of sexual abuse were widely reported, O'Connor made head-

lines in October 1992 when she tore up a photo of Pope John Paul II while appearing on NBC's 'Saturday Night Live' and denounced the church as the enemy.

The next week, Joe Pesci hosted 'Saturday Night Live', held up a repaired photo of the Pope and said if he had been on the show with O'Connor he "would have gave her such a smack". Days later, she appeared at an all-star tribute for Bob Dylan at Madison Square Garden and was immediately booed. She was supposed to sing Dylan's 'I Believe in You', but switched to a cappella version of Bob Marley's 'War', which she had sung on 'Saturday Night Live'. Although consoled and

encouraged on stage by her friend Kris Kristofferson, she left and broke down, and her performance was kept off the concert CD. (Years later. Kristofferson recorded 'Sister Sinead', for which he wrote, "And maybe she's crazy and maybe she ain't/But so was Picasso and so were the saints.") She also feuded with Frank Sinatra over her refusal to allow the playing of 'The



Star-Spangled Banner' at one of her shows and accused Prince of physically threatening her. In 1989 she declared her support for the Irish Republican Army, a statement she retracted a year later. Around the same time, she skipped the Grammy ceremony, saying it was too commercialised.

In 1999, O'Connor caused uproar in Ireland when she became a priestess of the breakaway Latin Tridentine Church — a position that was not recognised by the mainstream Catholic Church. For many years, she called for a full investigation into the

extent of the church's role in concealing child abuse by clergy. In 2010, when Pope Benedict XVI apologised to Ireland to atone for decades of abuse, O'Connor condemned the apology for not going far enough and called for Catholics to boycott Mass until there was a full investigation into the Vatican's role.

"People assumed I didn't believe in God. That's not the case at all. I'm Catholic by birth and culture and would be the first at the church door if the Vatican offered sincere reconciliation," she wrote in the Washington Post in 2010.

O'Connor announced in 2018 that she had converted to Islam and would be adopting the name Shuhada' Davitt, later Shuhada Sadaqat — although she continued to use Sinéad O'Connor professionally.

"Her music was loved around the world and her talent was unmatched and beyond compare," Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said in a statement on social media.

O'Connor was born on December 8, 1966. She had a difficult childhood, with a mother she alleged was abusive and encouraged her to shoplift. As a teenager she spent time in a churchsponsored institution for girls, where she said she washed priests' clothes for no wages. But a nun gave O'Connor her first guitar, and soon she sang and performed on the streets of Dublin, her influences ranging from Dylan to Siouxsie and the Banshees.

Her performance with a local band caught the eye of a small record label, and, in 1987, O'Connor released, 'The Lion and the Cobra', which sold hundreds of thousands of copies and featured the hit 'Mandinka', driven by

a hard-rock guitar riff and O'Connor's piercing vocals. O'Connor, then 20 and pregnant, co-produced the album.

"I suppose I've got to say that music saved me," she said in an interview with the Independent newspaper in 2013. "I didn't have any other abilities, and there was no learning support for girls like me, not in Ireland at that time. It was either jail or music. I got lucky."

'Nothing Compares 2 U' received three Grammy nominations and was the featured track on her acclaimed album, 'I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got', which helped lead Rolling Stone to name her Artist of the Year in 1991.

"She proved that a recording artist could refuse to compromise and still connect with millions of listeners hungry for music of substance,' the magazine declared.

O'Connor's other musical credits included the albums, 'Universal Mother' and 'Faith and Courage', a cover of Cole Porter's 'You Do Something to Me', from the AIDS fundraising album 'Red Hot + Blue,' and backing vocals on Peter Gabriel's 'Blood of Eden'. She received eight Grammy nominations and in 1991 won for best alternative musical performance.

O'Connor announced she was retiring from music in 2003, but continued to record new material. Her most recent album was 'I'm Not Bossy, I'm the Boss', released in 2014 and she sang the theme song for Season 7 of 'Outlander'.

The singer married four times; her union to drug counsellor Barry Herridge, in 2011, lasted just 16 days. O'Connor had four children: Jake, with her husband John Reynolds; Roisin, with John Waters; Shane, with Donal Lunny; and Yeshua Bonadio, with Frank Bonadio.

In 2014, she said she was joining the Irish nationalist Sinn Fein party and called for its leaders to step aside so that a younger generation of activists could take over. She later withdrew her application.

"Ireland has lost one of our most powerful and successful singersongwriter and female artists," Sinn Fein vice president Michelle O'Neill said.

#### Is Italy banning transgender women from Miss Italy contest a step away from the concept of inclusivity or one towards ensuring a fair contest among 'women from birth'?

A 'dude' winning a 'miss' pageant, or a man masquerading as a woman - the Miss Netherlands crown for Rikkie Valerie Kollé garnered mixed reactions. While the 22-year-old made history by becoming the first transgender model in her country to have won the pageant and is going to represent the country in Miss Universe contest, due to be held in November in El Salvador, not everybody has hailed the move.

As proud Rikkie is of her feat, and stands strong in face of the trolls to be an inspiration for queer community globally, in the other part of the world Italy banned transgenders from participating in Miss Italy pageant. Miss Italy official patron Patrizia Mirigliani clarified that to participate, the contestant must be 'a woman from birth'. In a statement Mirigliani said 'competition would not be jumping on the glittery bandwagon of trans-activism'.

Rikkie follows Angela Ponce, Miss Spain 2018, to be the first 'out-trans' contestant to participate in Miss Universe. This 71-year-old annual competition has allowed transgenders' participation since 2012. Architect Simran, founder, Queeringin CHD (QIC), sees it as progress for the community, "Visibility brings

about so much change

in 'out' society and it

contributes to under-

standing of transgender rights. Rikkie's success serves as a powerful symbol of inclusivity and challenges traditional norms within the beauty pageant industry. Although in my personal opinion, beauty pageants stereotype and promote monotone

She deems inclusive representation in beauty pageants can be a powerful way to challenge social norms, break down stereotypes, and promoting acceptance for the LGBTQ+ community. "With banning 'trans' folks, it undermines the opportunity for them to be seen, heard, and be celebrated for their beauty, talent and accomplishments. It is necessary to base policies on evidence and scientific research while considering the rights and dignity of transgender individuals," adds Simran.

Ignoring diversity? Nanki Dandona, founder of 'Queer Lifafa', sees pageants as anti-feminist programmes that cater to the male gaze. "Though it is extremely validating for transfolks to be able to present themselves and also win a cis/het (someone is both cisgender and heterosexual) dominated arena, it is also vital to remember that as queer people we have already set ourselves apart from heteronormativity (what makes heterosexuality seem coherent, natural and privileged) and we



cannot hox ourselves within rules that take away who we are from

> Italy banning transgender folks from beauty pageants is a political and religious statement, points out Nanki. "Italy is ignoring the diversity they so clearly know exists. Despite my beliefs, everyone deserves a choice. Everyone deserves

equal opportunity to do what they feel is best for them without causing anyone harm." Nanki talks of Caster Semenya, an Olympic level athlete who refused to lower the level of 'natural testosterone': "She is a cis-gendered woman who has now been permitted to participate in the 400-m race. Patricio Manuel, a transman, has begun competing in

the men's category and has a winning streak of three fights. 'What is fair chance? What is advantage?' I too am looking for answers. I sincerely hope that sports' governing bodies make inclusive and just

Separate platforms While I am all for 'trans' people and the society to be inclusive, I would like different platforms for Miss and Trans beauty pageants. Everybody has a right to feel beau tiful. Let's embrace and not discourage 'trans' folks, but let them have their own pageants. As for Miss titles, I go for women naturally born as females. This concern has cropped up in athletics too, and in a world where it's acceptable to identify as you wish, to have men, women, queer competitions in different fields makes sense. — Marc Robinson, supermodel, beauty pageant director

No black and white There is no black and white in gender. It might be aspirational for a transwoman to win a Miss title, but on the other hand some contestants might find it unfair. Kudos to Rikkie to have participated, for Miss Netherlands and Miss Universe pageants to allow it, and all the best to contestants feeling insecure. This is a sure push towards an inclusive world. -Akassh K Aggarwal,

accessory designer

### Kiara Advani shines in Barbie inspired outfit at India Couture Week 2023



Actress Kiara Advani made a bold appearance in a Barbie-inspired outfit from designer duo Falguni and Shane Peacock on the first day of the India Couture Week (ICW) in New Delhi. The designers on Tuesday unveiled their collection Renaissance Reverie, featuring bridal wear for men and women. inspired by their love for art and the treasures they encountered during their travels, according to the collec-

Advani, who is no stranger to the ICW ramp, looked every bit resplendent as she walked the stage in a bold pink ensemble outfit with bead and sequin

The dress featured a top with plunging neckline and a skirt with a high slit and long train at the back, which many dubbed an outfit perfect for a desi Barbie, referring to the iconic Mattel doll that has inspired the Hollywood film, starring Margot Robbie. "As a showstopper, it was the perfect outfit. Turning showstopper for Falguni and Shane Peacock was a no-brainer for her. "I feel absolutely stunning in this outfit and I always feel that way whenever I am dressed by them. Two days ago, my manager asked if I wanted to see the clothes and I said, 'If it's Falguni and Shane, they will give me something stunning'," the actress said.

#### **Ice Spice drops deluxe edition** of viral EP Like..?

Ice Spice released her debut EP, Like..? in January.

Recently, the artiste put a fresh spin on the instant classic with the release of the Deluxe version via 10K Projects/ Capitol Records, which bolsters four new tracks, including Deli, How High?, Butterfly Ku, and bonus track, On The

IceSpice has recently collaborated with Nicki Minaj on several projects, including Barbie World (with Aqua) (From Barbie The Album) and also on Princess Diana.

She also recently showed up on a remix of Taylor Swift's popular track

Radhika Madan's Sanaa to premiere at the



#### Anita Hassanandani returns with Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum

Sony Entertainment Television's Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum is based on the Barots and the Ahluwalias. Shivendra (Jay Bhanushali) and Surilii (Tina Datta) have braved the storm brought by Samar (Karanvir Bohra), as he entered the Barot mansion with malicious



intentions of destroying the family. Shiv and Surilii are now about to embark on a new chapter in their lives, but life brings them face-to-face with an old acquaintance—Roshni, who is Shiv's former girlfriend. Anita says, 'Television has always been my first love, and

despite having stayed away from acting for the last few years, I have followed some shows that have launched in the recent past. Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum is one of those shows that I have found compelling, and I am so excited to return to television with this show"

### **Indian Film Festival of Melbourne** After having been

screened at multiple film festivals, including The Shanghai International Film Festival (SIFF), Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, and Santa Barbara International Film Festival, the film Sanaa is now for an Australian premiere at the Indian Film Festival of Mel-



bourne (IFFM) in 2023. Sanaa tells the story of an ambitious woman

who is fighting an internal battle caused by unresolved trauma. Director Sudhanshu Saria says, "It has been phenomenal taking Sanaa to audiences in all parts of the world, and we are excited to meet our audience in Melbourne. IFFM has a rich history of bringing

path-breaking cinema to Australia, and we're proud Sanaa is included on that list this year." Written and directed by Sudhanshu Saria, Sanaa is an introspective drama starring Radhika Madan in the lead role along with Soham Shah, Shikha Talsania, and Pooja Bhatt.

#### PM Modi tears into Opposition with 'Corrpution Quit India' call ahead of 2024 general election; says UPA has a new name to hide past sins

PM said the opposition will be routed in the upcoming polls for equating itself with India

NEW DELHI, Jul 27 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday set the tone for 2024 Lok Sabha elections from Rajasthan's Shekhawati by giving the call, "Corruption quit India; dynasties quit India, appeasement quit India", in a scathing attack on Congress-led Opposition, whom he accused of taking the new name INDIA to hide UPA's sins.

Recalling Mahatma Gandhi's "British Quit India" slogan, the prime minister said time had come to give a new call in the country -- "Corruption quit India." Accusing the Congress as the

country's "most directionless party", the PM said Congress and its allies were aping the trick fraud companies often adopt to survive fall from grace -- the change of name.

Noting that even in the past "attempts were made to conceal sins behind the name INDIA", the PM said the UPA had taken a new name to befool people and erase past sins.

"To erase the misdeeds of the



UPA, they have changed their name from UPA to INDIA....Their modus operandi is the same as that of India's enemies. Earlier attempts were made to hide sins behind the name INDIA. East India Company had the name INDIA, but its motive was to perpetrate plunder of the nation. **During Congress rule Students**' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) was formed. It also had the name INDIA but its mission was to destroy India with terror attacks. When SIMI's acts were revealed and it was banned it

appeared in a new avatar, the Popular Front of India which also had the name INDIA but same old sinister motives," said the PM, urging people to elect the BJP in the upcoming assembly and later Lok Sabha elections.

The prime minister said just like the Congress was electorally routed for comparing "Indira with India and India with Indira", the opposition will be routed in the upcoming polls for equating itself with India.

"They have again committed

the sin of comparing themselves with INDIA. People will settle their account as they did when 'Indira is India' slogan was peddled," said the PM, adding that had the opposition cared for India it would not have sought foreign intervention in domestic affairs, it would not have doubted air and surgical strikes and the courage of Indian soldiers in Galwan and it would not have snatched the rights of Armed Forces which were deprived 'one rank, one pension' benefits for decades.

The PM earlier gave the slogan: "Jeetega Kalam, Khilega Kamal (the lotus will bloom)" as he attacked Chief minister Ashok Gehlot for the "red diary" which, he said, would expose the corrpution of Congress-ruled state government.

The red diary was recently mentioned by sacked Rajasthan minister Rajendra Gudha, who was suspended from the state assembly this week for the remainder of the monsoon

#### Panchganga river crosses warning mark after heavy rain in Maharashtra's Kolhapur

PUNE, Jul 27 (Agencies): In the wake of heavy rain in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district over the last few days, the water level of the Panchganga river has crossed the warning mark, officials said on Thursday.

Residents of six villages located on the river banks have been asked to shift to safer places, they said.

As per the district disaster cell, the level of the Panchganga river at Rajaram weir was at 40.6 feet at 11 am on Thursday.

The warning mark at the weir is 39 feet and the danger mark is 43 feet. A total of 81 bunds (barrages) in the

district have got submerged due to rain, the district administration said. On Wednesday, five automated

gates of the upstream Radhanagari dam were opened following which the water discharge increased. As a result, the water level of the Panchganga and other rivers started increasing, it said.

"As a precautionary measure and to cope up with a possible flood situation, the district administration appealed to people living along the banks of the river in Fejiwade, Londhewadi, Ghotwade, Gudal, Piral and Padli villages to move to safer areas," an official said.

Out of the five gates of the Radhanagari dam which were opened, one has been closed now. Water is being discharged at 7,112 cusec (cubic foot per second) and the dam is filled up to nearly 99 per cent of its total capacity, an official at the disaster cell control room said.

The total capacity of the Radhanagari dam is 8.3 TMC (thousand million cubic

The Almatti dam, the water of which flows down in Karnataka, currently has 89 TMC stock or 72 per cent of its capacity, the Kolahpur administration said.

"Water is being released from the Almatti dam is at 85,857 cusec. As the water is being released from the Almatti dam, the rise in the Panchaganga river level is almost constant, which is at an average level of 40.5 feet since Wednesday evening. The rain intensity has also reduced today," the official from the disaster cell said.

District collector Rahul Rekhawar said as far as the dam management is concerned, there is close coordination between the officials from Karnataka and Maharashtra's irrigation depart-

### **Engineering student stabbed to** death in Indore; woman student among 4 arrested

INDORE, Jul 27 (Agencies): A 22-year-old B Tech student has been stabbed to death in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city, police said on Thursday.

Four persons, including a 19-year-old woman student, have been arrested in connection with the incident which took place on Wednesday in Vijay Nagar area, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Abhishek Anand said, "B Tech student Prabhas alias Monu was stabbed to death in the early hours of Wednesday when he, along with his four friends, was going to visit the Mahakaleshwar temple in Ujjain in a car."

The accused have been identified as Tanya, Chhotu, Shobhit and Hrithik, he

"Tanya (19) is originally from Khargone. She is in the first year of BBA course in Indore and also works in a

private company," the DCP said. The three other men accused have a past criminal record, according to the

official. Tanya and her three accomplices, who were on a scooter, intercepted the car in which Prabhas was travelling with his friends, allegedly with the intention of fatally attacking two other car occupants, identified as Titu and Rachit, the

"While Titu and Rachit survived the knife attack, Prabhas, who was sitting on the back seat of the car, died due to a severe stab wound near his heart," the DCP said.

official said.

Tanya, the main accused, had a friendship with Titu and Rachit, but they later had a rift due to some reason, he said.

They were attacked due to this dis-

pute, the official said.

## **Odisha Farmer Grows World's Most Expensive Mango**

Miyazaki mango costs 2.5 lakh to 3 lakh per kg in the international market for its unique taste and food value.

KALAHANDI, Jul 27 (Agencies): A farmer and teacher, Rakshyakar Bhoi, in Odisha's Kalahandi district has claimed that he has grown 'Miyazaki', world's most expensive variety of mango, in his orchard.

Miyazaki mango costs 2.5 lakh to 3 lakh per kg in the international market for its unique taste and food value.

According to reports, mango farmer Bhoi, a native of Kandulguda village under the Dharamgarh subdivision has been growing different breeds of mangoes in his farmland. He sowed the 'Miyazaki' variety in his orchard after he sourced its



seed through the state horticulture department.

The Miyazaki variety is originally a Japanese breed. It has reportedly huge demand in foreign countries for its distinctive flavour and medicinal value. "This variety of mango is not ance but also has a unique taste. It is completely different from other mango varieties as it is high in vitamins A and C, as well as antioxidants. It helps protect the body against disease and promotes overall health. It also contains dietary fibre, potassium, and magnesium", said Raksyakar Bhoi.

only very colourful in its appear-

Assistant Director of Horticulture, Kalahandi, Tankadhar Kalo said that more research is needed for these types of man-

'Miyazaki' is also known as 'Red Sun' and in Bengali 'Surja Dim' (Red egg).

## **INDIA block Opposition MPs to visit violence** hit Manipur on July 29-30

NEW DELHI, Jul 27 (Agencies): MPs from the Opposition alliance INDIA will visit Manipur on July 29 and 30 to assess the situation in the north eastern state which is driven with ethnic violence since May 3.

A delegation of over 20 Opposition Members of Parliament will visit Manipur this weekend and will take a first-hand account of the situation



in the state, Congress whip in Lok Sabha Manickam Tagore told agency.

The Opposition leaders have been seeking to visit the violence-hit state for sometime but

were denied permission in view of the situation

Congress leader Rahul

Gandhi, however, had visited a few places in Manipur earlier.

Several MPs of the 26-party alliance INDIA will be part of the delegation.

They have been demanding a discussion in both Houses of Parliament on Manipur, and also a statement from the Prime Minister on the current situation there.

### **Moneylender from Pune** rapes woman as her husband fails to repay loan; arrested

PUNE, Jul 27 (Agencies): A 47-year-old moneylender in Maharashtra's Pune city allegedly raped a woman after her husband failed to repay the loan taken from him,

police said on Thursday. The incident took place in February this year and the accused has been arrested, an official from Hadapsar

**PM Not Speaking In Parliament, But Busy** 

police station said. According to the police, the victim's hus-

money, but could not repay it. The accused allegedly threatened the victim's husband at knifepoint

band had borrowed

and then raped her in his presence, the official said.

The accused recorded the act on a mobile phone and posted the clip on a social media platform, he said.

"We have arrested the accused and further investigation is on," the official said.

A case has been registered against the accused under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Information Technology Act, the police added.

#### **BJP-RSS** only interested in power, working towards dividing country: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI, Jul 27 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi charged on Thursday that the BJP and the RSS are only interested in power and are working towards dividing the country as they do not care about the sorrow and pain of people.

Addressing a Youth Congress programme virtually, Gandhi said, "The BJP-RSS only want power and can do anything to get power. For power, they will burn Manipur, they will burn the entire country. They don't care about the sorrow and pain of the country." Be it Haryana, Punjab or Uttar Pradesh, "they will sell the entire country as they only want power," Gandhi alleged and added that for the Congress, this is the fight.



"On one side, you are sitting and you have love for the country and whenever the country is hurt or its citizens are hurt, you will also get hurt and you will be sad. But they do not have any such feeling in their heart. The RSS-BJP people do not feel any pain. Because they do the work of dividing the country," he told the

**Indian Youth Congress** 

The Congress shared excerpts of Gandhi's speech on its Twitter handle.

The Opposition led by the Congress has been demanding a statement from the Prime Minister on the situation in ethnic strife-torn Manipur, followed by a full-fledged discussion on it.

#### **Talking In Rallies: Congress Chief** NEW DELHI, Jul 27 iustice and a symbol of

(Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge today accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of tarnishing democracy by not speaking in Parliament and instead making political speeches outside.

He said the country has not seen a "darker period than this" in the history of Parliament.

Mr Kharge also dubbed the central government as a "blot on humanity" for its "indifference" towards Manipur, which he said was "burning" since the last 85 days.

now become aware and will fight "this kind of politics".

He said people have

"The Parliament ses-

sion is going on and

instead of speaking on the floor, the Prime Minister is making speeches here and there and by doing so he is tarnishing democracy," Mr Kharge

"The misdeeds of the Modi government cannot be erased by calling names to the opposition parties," Mr Kharge added.

The Congress chief also hit out at the BJP for not allowing him to



opposition members for wearing black clothes as a mark of protest for not allowing them to raised the Manipur issue in Parliament.

"Only those having a mindset against Dalits, tribals and backward people can make fun of black clothes, but for us black is a symbol of protest and strength. Black colour is a symbol of

dignity. The people of Manipur deserve justice, peace and respect," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

Mr Kharge said the BJP cannot run away from its responsibility by plunging the life of Manipur into "black darkness", by adopting a "dictatorial attitude" and by diverting the attention from the issue.

"There has never been a darker period in the history of Parliament than this," he said.

"Today, people have become aware and they will fight and continue to do so...This means you do not want to talk in Parliament - the temple of democracy, and want to give a political speech in Rajasthan while opening new medical colleges," Mr Kharge told reporters outside Parthe prime minister for not speaking in Parliament on the Manipur violence. He said the burning

liament, while attacking

of Manipur is a "black chapter" for the country.

The government which did not take care of the crying people of Manipur in the last 85 days that "government is a blot on humanity", he alleged.

The opposition has been accusing the prime minister of not making a statement in Parliament on the northeastern state, which has seen violence since May 3.

Both Houses of Parliament have not been able to transact any business amid the uproar caused by the opposition, demanding a statement from the prime minister and a discussion on Manipur thereafter.

## North Korea's Kim shows off banned missiles to **Russian minister**

North Korea marks 70th year of 'Victory Day'; Russia, China first prominent visitors since Covid pandemic

SEOUL, Jul 27 (Agencies): Russia's defence minister accompanied North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to a defence exhibition that featured the North's banned ballistic missiles as the neighbours pledged to boost ties, North Korean state media reported on Thursday.

The Russian minister, Sergei Shoigu, and a Chinese delegation led by a Communist Party politburo member arrived in North Korea this week for the 70th anniversary of the end of the Korean War celebrated in North Korea as "Victory Day".

The nuclear-capable missiles were banned under U.N. Security Council resolutions adopted with Russian and Chinese support but this week they provided a striking backdrop for a show of solidarity by three countries united by their rivalry with the U.S. and a revival of what some analysts see as their Cold Warera coalition.

Shoigu is making the first visit by a Russian defence minister to North Korea since the fall of the Soviet Union.

For North Korea, the arrival of the Russian and Chinese delegations marks its first major opening up to the world since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shoigu gave Kim a letter from Russian President Vladimir Putin, North Korean media

Kim thanked Putin for sending the military delegation led by Shoigu, saying the visit had deepened the "strategic and traditional" relations between North Korea and Russia.

"(Kim) expressed his views on the issues of mutual concern in the struggle to safeguard the sovereignty, development and interests of the two countries from the high-handed and arbi-



taries from Russia and China

were in town," said Ankit Panda

of the U.S.-based Carnegie

**Endowment for International** 

Peace, calling the tour "remark-

"The personal tour for Shoigu

- and Shoigu's willingness to be

photographed with Kim in the

course of this tour - is evidence

that Moscow is complacent with

North Korea's ongoing nuclear

Kim also met Chinese Com-

munist Party Politburo member

Li Hongzhong for talks and was

handed a letter from Chinese

President Xi Jinping, North

The visit by Li's delegation

showed Xi's commitment to

"attach great importance to

the DPRK-China friendship,"

Kim was quoted as saying by

the North's KCNA state news

agency, referring to the North

the initial of its official name, the

Democratic People's Republic

State media photographs

showed Kim at a large flashy

performance flanked by Shoigu

and Li, with a backdrop that

included a slogan used by the

Chinese army during the Korean

War vowing to "resist U.S.

of Korea.

modernization," he said.

Korean media reported.

trary practices of the imperialists and to realize international justice and peace," North Korean media said.

"He repeatedly expressed belief that the Russian army and people would achieve big successes in the struggle for building a powerful country," it said.

KCNA did not refer to the war in Ukraine but North Korea's defence minister, Kang Sun Nam, was reported as saying North Korea fully supported Russia's "battle for justice" and to protect its sovereignty.

Kim led Shoigu on a tour of an exhibition of new weapons and military equipment, KCNA said.

State media photographs showed Kim and his guests at a display of some of the North's ballistic missiles in multi-axle transporter launchers. Another image showed what analysts said appeared to be a new drone.

One analyst said Shoigu's inspection of the North Korean missiles visit suggested Russian acceptance of North Korea's nuclear programme.

"We've come a long way from when North Korea would avoid showing off its nuclear capabilities when senior foreign digni-

aggressors."

'NO SECRET'

The Russian visit raises the prospect of more open support for North Korea, especially with Russia isolated by the West over is invasion of Ukraine, analysts said.

Artyom Lukin, a professor at Russia's Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok, said simultaneous visits to Pyongyang of high-ranking officials from Moscow and Beijing is another sign of a revival of the Russian-Chinese-North Korean coalition that originally existed in the late 1940s and 1950s, though now likely to be led from Beijing rather than Moscow.

Shoigu's appearance at the military expo exhibiting the ICBMs is a "very ambivalent gesture" given that Russia stays formally committed to the UNSC resolutions banning North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes, he said.

"It may signify that the current geopolitical circumstances are starting to erode Russia's longstanding interest in preserving the global non-proliferation regime," Lukin added.

Last year, North Korea codified a new, expansive nuclear law declaring its status as a nucleararmed state "irreversible".

This month, it threatened nuclear retaliation over a show of force by the United States, saying the deployment of strategic military assets near the Korean peninsula could meet criteria for its use of nuclear weapons.

South Korea's foreign ministry noted it had been Russia's official position to oppose North Korea's nuclear programme and said it hoped the visit by Shoigu's delegation would help the North return to dialogue.

#### Norwegian woman, Nepali sherpa become world's fastest to climb all 14 highest peaks



KATHMANDU, Jul 27 (Agencies): A Norwegian woman and her sherpa guide climbed Mount K2 in Pakistan on Thursday, their 14th highest mountain in just over three months, becoming the world's fastest climbers to scale all peaks above 8,000 metres (26,246 feet) in the shortest time, an official of their Nepali organising company said.

Kristin Harila, 37; and Nepal's Tenjen (Lama) Sherpa, 35; scaled K2, which is the world's second highest at 8,611 metres (28,251 feet) with eight other guides, Tashi Lakpa Sherpa, managing director of the Seven Summit Treks (SST) company which is providing logistics to the climbers, said in Kathmandu.

"They have become the fastest to climb all 14 peaks," Tashi, told agency, quoting information from the base

Climbing all 14 highest peaks in a few months is a challenging feat, which is normally done by many climbers in

They set the fastest climbing record by beating Nirmal Purja from Nepal who completed all peaks in six months and one week in 2019. But their latest feat, also confirmed by other climbers on the mountain, is yet to be confirmed by the Guinness Book of World Records.

Both climbers topped Shishapangma in Tibet region of China on April 26 and have since scaled Everest, Kanchenjunga, Lhotse, Makalu, Cho Oyu, Dhaulagiri, Manaslu, and Annapurna in Nepal before proceeding to Pakistan, where they climbed Nanga Parbat, Gasherbrum I, Gasherbrum II and the Broad Peak before topping K2, completing all 14 in 92 days.

Garrett Madison, of the US-based Madison Mountaineering company who is also on K2 leading a different expedition, said the climbers took advantage of a narrow weather window and summitted the mountain.

"They have made a summit a short while ago," Madison told Reuters adding that the Norwegian woman was "extremely tough mentally and physically".

One of the sherpas, the 17-year-old Nima Rinjin Sherpa, also becomes the youngest to climb K2, Tashi said.

#### **Iranian Chess Player Who Removed Hijab Gets Spain Citizenship**

MADRID, Jul 27 (Agencies): An Iranian chess player who moved to Spain in January after she competed without a hijab and had an arrest warrant issued against her at home has been granted Spanish

citizenship, Spain said. Sarasadat Khademalsharieh, better known as Sara Khadem, took part in the FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships held in Kazakhstan in

Detained Niger president defiant

after coup bid

Amid fierce condemnation from African and international organisations and Niger's

Western allies, Bazoum has stood his ground.



late December without the headscarf that is mandatory under Iran's strict Islamic dress codes. Laws enforcing mandatory hijab-wearing became a flashpoint during the unrest that swept Iran when a 22-year-old IranianAmini, died in the custody of the morality police in mid-September. The 26-year-old has told agency she had no regrets over her gesture in support of the protest movement against her country's clerical leadership. Spain's official gazette said the cabinet approved granting Khadem citizenship "taking into account the special circumstances" of her case.

Kurdish woman, Mahsa

#### Indian crew member killed, 20 injured as cargo ship with 3,000 cars catches fire off Dutch coast

LONDON, Jul 27 (Agencies): An Indian crew member was killed and 20 others were injured when a major fire broke out on board a cargo vessel carrying nearly 3,000 cars off the Netherlands coast, with Dutch coastguards warning that the blaze could last for several days.

The fire broke out on Tuesday night on the 199-metre Panamaregistered Fremantle Highway, which was en route from Germany to Egypt. Several crew members were forced to iump overboard.

The Indian Embassy in the Netherlands said in a social media post the fire had resulted in the death of an Indian national.

"We are deeply saddened by the incident involving Ship 'Fremantle Highway' in the North Sea, resulting in the death of an Indian seafarer & injuries to the crew," it said in a tweet on Wednesday.

The embassy said it was in touch with the family of the deceased and is assisting in the repatriation of the mortal remains.

"Embassy is also in touch with the remaining 20 injured crew members, who are safe and receiving medical attention. All possible assistance is being extended in coordination with the Dutch authorities and the shipping company,"

Rescue boats and helicopters were used to get



the 23 crew members off the ship after some had jumped in the water, a spokesperson for the Dutch coastguard told agency.

Pictures show grey smoke emitting from the ship amid fears the vessel could sink 27 kilometers north of the Dutch island, Ameland, off the Wadden Sea - a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is considered one of the most important regions for migratory birds in the world, the report said.

The fire may have been started by one of the 25 electric cars on board, according to Dutch national broadcaster NOS.

Dutch firefighters were still struggling to put out the fire on the cargo ship some 16 hours after the blaze started, a Dutch coastquard said.

It could take hours, days, or even weeks to make sure the fire is completely out, a spokesman said, adding that it is currently too dangerous to put firefighters on the ship.

"If you start filling the ship with water, you risk destabilising it and that could tip it over," spokesman Edwin Grammeman told NOS According to the coastquard, a distress call came when the ship was some 30 kilometres off the coast of the Wadden Sea island of Ameland.

The 23 crew members on board the Panamanian-flagged ship attempted to put out the fire themselves, but the blaze spread too fast. Specialised firefighters were brought in from Rotterdam but the situation had already become too dangerous by the time they arrived, the Dutch News reported.

Seven of the crew jumped into the sea and were picked up by nearby ships. The remaining crew members were rescued by helicopters. It is not clear how the person who died was killed, it said.

The authorities are now focusing their efforts on preventing the listing ship from sinking. A tugboat from the Wadden Island water taxi service Rederij Noordgat was able to attach a rope to the Fremantle Highway and prevent it from drifting into shipping lanes.

Other boats are on standby to try to help pull the vessel to safety.

President Mohamed Bazoum on Thursday defiantly vowed to protect "hard-won" democratic gains after he was detained by elite troops who declared they had taken power in the troubled West African nation. Bazoum was confined

NAIMEY, Jul 27

(Agencies): Niger's

in Niamey on Wednesday by members of his presidential guard, who hours later announced that "all institutions" in the country would be suspended, the borders closed and a night-time curfew imposed.

Amid fierce condemnation from African and international organisations and Niger's Western allies, Bazoum has stood his ground.

"The hard-won gains will be safeguarded," Bazoum said on Twitter, which is being rebranded as 'X'.

"All Nigeriens who love democracy and freedom would want this". Niger Foreign Minister Hassoumi Massoudou said the country's "legal and legitimate power" was the one exercised by its elected president.

He told the France24 TV channel that Bazoum was "in good health". There had been a "coup bid" but "the whole

of the army was not

involved," he stressed.

"We ask all the fractious soldiers to return to their ranks," he said.



"Everything can be achieved through dialogue but the institutions of the republic must

function." The president of neighbouring Benin, Patrice Talon, was heading to Niamey Thursday for mediation efforts, the head of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Coup-prone

The landlocked Sahel state is one of the poorest and most unstable countries in the world.

It has experienced four coups since gaining independence from France in 1960, as well as numerous other attempts -- including two previously against

Bazoum, 63, is one of a dwindling group of pro-Western leaders in the Sahel, where a rampaging jihadist insurgency has triggered coups against elected presidents in Mali and Burkina Faso.

Their juntas, taking a nationalist stance, have forced out French troops

and in the case of Mali

have woven a close alli-

ance with Russia.

Disgruntled members of the elite Presidential Guard sealed off access to the president's residence and offices in the capital Niamey on Wednesday morning, and after talks broke down "refused to release the president," a presidential source said. Bazoum's support-

ers hours later tried to approach the official complex, but were dispersed by members of the Presidential Guard who fired warning shots, an agency reporter saw.

One person was hurt, but it was not immediately clear if he was injured by a bullet or from falling as the crowd scattered. The coup leaders

appeared on television overnight, declaring they were suspending "all institutions" and imposing other measures "until further notice."

"We, the defence and security forces... have decided to put an end to the regime" of President Bazoum, said their leader, Colonel-Major Amadou Abdramane, flanked by nine other uniformed soldiers.

"This follows the continued deterioration of the security situation, poor economic and social governance." Condemnation

The parties of Niger's ruling coalition in Niamey denounced "a suicidal and anti-republican madness," and condemnation poured in from regional and global leaders.

ECOWAS and the African Union each lashed what they called an "attempted coup d'etat".

The West African bloc called for Bazoum's immediate and unconditional release and warned all those involved would be held responsible for his safety.

The European Union said it "associates itself" with the ECOWAS statement and attacked "any attempt to destabilise democracy and threaten the stability" of Niger.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he had spoken to Bazoum to offer Washington's support, while UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he "strongly condemns the unconstitutional change in government" in Niger.

Poverty and jihadism Bazoum took office after elections two years ago, in Niger's first-ever peaceful transition since independence.

He was a former interior minister and righthand man to former president Mahamadou Issoufou, who voluntarily stepped down after

two terms. But an attempted coup took place just days before Bazoum's inauguration, according to a security source at the

Several people were arrested, including the suspected ringleader. Five people were jailed in February for 20 years.

A second bid to oust Bazoum occurred last March "while the president... was in Turkey", according to a Niger official, who said an arrest was made. The authorities have never commented publicly on

the incident. The nation of 22 million is two-thirds desert and frequently ranks at the bottom of the UN's Human Development Index, a benchmark of prosperity.

Niger is also struggling with two jihadist campaigns -- one in the southwest, which swept in from Mali in 2015, and the other in the southeast, involving jihadists from northeastern Nige-

Hundreds of thousands of people have fled their homes, stoking a humanitarian crisis and further straining the economy.

## "India A Voice Of Peace And Security": S Jaishankar In Parliament

India's stature, he said, has been rising globally and the country is emerging as "credible and effective" development partner.

NEW DELHI, Jul 27 (Agencies): Amid "unprecedented and complex" geopolitical situation, India is now recognised as a voice that speaks for all and stands for peace, security and prosperity, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in

Parliament on Thursday. Making a suo-motu statement on 'Latest Developments in India's Foreign Policy' in both houses of Parliament, he also said India's G20 presidency has served as a catalyst in invigorating the country's foreign policy and also

realising the vision of 'Atmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat'.

In his statement, Mr Jaishankar highlighted the rising stature of India on the international level, and listed out the overseas engagement by the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister and other Union ministers.

India's stature, he said, has been rising globally and the country is emerging as "credible and effective" development partner.

"... We are now seen as a credible and effective development partner. Our development partnership portfolio now spans 78 countries and the hallmark of these projects is that they are demand-driven, transparent, empowerment oriented, environment friendly and rely on a consultative approach,"

The minister said at a time when international affairs have become "unprecedented and complex", India's people-centric foreign policy is guided by the demands and aspirations of the society.

Highlighting the key "Today, the world recognises that when India foreign policy engagements and initiatives taken by India since the Budget session, which ended on April 6. Mr Jaishankar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official state visit to the US from June 20-23 was only

the second by an Indian prime minister. "He (PM Modi) was

also accorded the rare privilege of addressing the Joint Session of the US Congress for a second time," the minister said.

The minister also gave a detailed account of rescue operation under taken by India to evacuate Indian citizen from Sudan following break out of an armed conflict between Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces.

"During Operation Kaveri, like Operation Ganga, we not only

evacuated thousands of India, but also assisted in the evacuation of citizens from other countries who sought our assistance," he said, adding India will never leave its people behind during a crisis, be it in Ukraine last year, or in Sudan in this one.

Mr Jaishankar further said in 2022, at the beginning of Amrit Kaal, India assumed the landmark G20 presidency. "We will host the Summit in September. Our Presidency has served as a catalyst to invigorate our foreign policy and give more force to realise the Prime Minister's vision of an Atmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat that regains its rightful place in the world," he said.

In both the Houses, MPs belonging to opposition parties were continuously raising slogans demanding statement from the prime minister on Manipur issue.

In the Rajya Sabha, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar also gave opportunity to MPs to ask clarifications on Mr Jaishankar's statement, but it could not happen because of the din.

### AAP highlights deficiency in Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Act 2023

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Jul 27: Aam Admi Party (AAP), Jammu Kashmir highlighted the deficiency noticed in recently passed The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Act 2023 in para 15 (b) wherein provision has been made for nomination of one member from Displaced Persons from Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir to the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly by Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"A total of 41,119 families (Forty one thousand, one hundred and



Ninteen) were displaced during 1947-48, and 10065 families altogether during 1965 and 1971 Indo Pak War, that has been mispresented as total 41844 and the community at present have swelled to more than 2.5 Lakh families with approximately around 14 lakh members spread over all ten districts of Jammu Province," Co Chairman, AAP JK, Om Prakash

Khajuria told reporters. Hence, provision made in the JK Reorganization Act 2019 under para 15 (b) added vide JK Reorganization (Amendment) Act 2023 is highly unjustified, inadequate and grossly under representation of the said community, he

It is appreciated that 1/3 of the population of then Jammu and Kashmir in 1947 was forced

migrate to other side of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. As per JK Reorganization Act 2019, a total of 24 Assembly seats have been reserved for people of POJK out of total 114 seats (as per sub section 4 of Section 14 of the Act) nomination of one Assembly seat to such a large population speaks for itself and the genuine demand of 1/3 seats of total reserved 24 seats be allowed for fair and just representation of Displaced Persons as recommended by Joint Parliamentary Committee. To dispense justice to migrant community after such a long gap of

speaks, it speaks not

only for itself, but for

many others. And that

India speaks as a voice

of peace, security, and

prosperity for all," he

sufferings, Aam Admi Party strongly feels that review of para 15 (b) of JK Reorganization Act 2019 as added vide above quoted Act of 2023 be carried out with due diligence and a visibly fair and transparent method of calculation be adopted to work out genuine number of seat under Nomination Category for enabling political empowerment to the community besides releasing 1/3 of the reserved seats numbering to a total of 8 seats to satisfy genuine demand raised time and again by the Displaced Persons of 1947-48, 1965 and 1971 Indo Pak

## **OBC** holds joint protest at **Hari Singh Park**



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Jul 27: In a joint Protest was held by OBC Mahasabha, All India Backward Classes Federation and All J&K Welfare forum of Srinagar and Presidents of different castes and communities under the banner of OBC Adhikar Tringa Yatra here today at Hari

In this Protest Bansi Lal Choudhary Convener O.B.C Mahasabha criticised the discriminatory behaviour of Narinder Modi, Prime

Singh Park, Jammu.

giving only Lollipop to OBC (Changing of Nomenclature only). During the Protest Kasturi Lal Basotra,

Minister, Amit Shah,

Home Minister of India,

Chairman said that instead of implementing 27% reservation in JK-UT Govt. services as per Supreme of India Judgment dt.16.11.1992 on Mandal Commission Report and in Panchyati Raj system and in Urban Local Bodies ( as of Article 243D-6 and 243T-6) only changing of nomenclature is only a lollipop.

Further during the protest Arjit Kumar, Youth leader of OBC Mahasabha that the Modi Govt. constituted a socially & educationally backward classes commission in March 2020

#### **Muharram procession** held first time after 34 years in Srinagar: LG **Manoj Sinha**

Lt Governor said.

Today the entire world is witnessing commitment and determination of the government to ensure peaceful environment, freedom, love, compassion and harmony in society, he added.

"It is an occasion to reaffirm our commitment to peace and dedicate ourselves to the progress and prosperity of J&K UT. Several historic decisions have seen the light of the day in a few years and a peaceful J&K has emerged on the

horizon. Let's further strengthen our bonds and unity," the Lt Governor said.

#### **Chugh welcomes court** summons to Tytler in 84 riots case

with the Congress to shield the accused Congress leaders.

The anti-Sikh riots was the darkest chapter in the Indian democracy for which the Congress can never be absolved, Chugh

#### **Amarnath Yatra | Fresh** batch of 3111 pilgrims **leave from Jammu Base** Camp

and 47 sadhus) left for Pahalgam in a convoy of 83 vehicles.

For Baltal, 907 pilgrims comprising 616 males, 336 females and five children left in a convoy of 41 vehicles amid tight security arrangements.

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

#### **Shiv Sena Chief** questions BJP's **Governance in Kashmir**

reminded BJP of its previous alliance with her and challenged them to establish a stable government in the region.

Regarding the Uniform Civil Code, Thackeray assured that Shiv Sena would engage in discussions, stressing the need for equal law enforcement for all citizens and accusing the BJP of pursuing political gains rather than genuine concern.

"From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, show it by banning cow slaughter. Bring peace to Manipur and show it. You can't do anything

there, and if you mean Uniform Civil Law only for someone's marriage, then it is a different part," he said.

Responding to the Election Commission's decision to give the Shiv Sena party name and symbol to rival Eknath Shinde, Thackeray, as per NDTV stated, "This name is powerfully given by my grandfather. If someone rises like this and starts becoming Shiv Sena chief, people will hit him with shoes.'

Taking a swipe at the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Thackeray criticised the alliance, claiming it is now reduced to only "three parties"; the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Income Tax, and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

#### **Kapil Sibal to appear for DPAP** during hearings on **Article 370 In SC**

the deadline for filing of written submissions and convenience compilations by different parties.

"We requested senior lawyer Kapil Sibal to appear for the hearings on Article 370 and he has graciously agreed," said Salman Nizami, the chief spokesperson of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party

"Nothing has changed after the revocation of Article 370. Kudos to Ghulam Nabi Azad for his unwavering dedication in raising this important issue," he added.

In 2019, the Centre stripped Jammu and Kashmir of its special status and bifurcated it into Union Territories. Several petitions challenging the action of abrogating the provisions of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, have been filed in the top court.

The DPAP also expressed its resentment against power outages and the installation of smart meters and demanded a reduction in power tariffs.

GM Saroori, the party's vice-president, said the poor have to bear the brunt of anti-people policies.

"Prices of essential commodities are touching the sky, power tariffs are breaking the back of the poor. We have several power projects in Jammu and Kashmir that have the capacity to generate power for other parts of the country. We even have power projects in Ladakh. The country is getting its power supply from Jammu and Kashmir." he said.

"It was promised that consumers in Jammu and Kashmir would get power at lower rates than the rest of the country because of these projects," he said.

Saroori claimed that the monthly power bills have gone up from Rs 1,000 to Rs

Prolonged unscheduled power cuts lasting between eight and 10 hours a day

FROM PAGE 1 are causing suffering for the people.

"We demand that smart meters should not be installed and the tariff be reduced,'

#### Omar Abdullah welcomes permission for muharram procession, demands release of **Mirwaiz**

minister said BJP was scared of facing

"Election commission has itself said that there is a vacuum in Jammu and Kashmir which needs to be filled. We told them if you cannot hold Assembly polls separately, then hold the polls together with Lok Sabha elections," he said.

#### **Beware! Online 'Sextortion'** scams on rīse

they say they are.

People in the age group of 13-18 years have the highest chances of getting into

Even single persons of different age groups are vulnerable to fall prey to this

"Sextortion" is done in many ways like webcam hacking, phishing, and device

Sextortion sends the adolescents into the high level of agony, which gets augmented day by day and compels them to even commit suicide.

Cyber Police officials said that in the "sextortion" cases, criminals befriend victims online by using a fake identity and then persuade them to perform sexual acts in front of their webcam, often by using an attractive woman to entice the victim to participate.

"These women may have been coerced into these actions using financial incentives or threats," they said.

The Cyber Police officials said that criminals record the webcam videos and then threaten to share the images with the victim's friends and family.

"This can make the victims feel extremely ashamed and embarrassed," they said. "Both men and women can be victims of this crime, either by being blackmailed or by being coerced into carrying out sexual acts."

The Cyber Police officials said that the best way to stop oneself from becoming a victim was to be very careful about who one befriends online, especially if one is considering sharing anything intimate with them. They said there was nothing to get panicked about.

Cyber Police Station Kashmir has registered several FIRs in connection with "sextortion".

"Besides, FIRs, we have issued advisory earlier and are making people aware about this scam," Superintendent of Police, Cyber Kashmir, Iftikhar Talib told Greater Kashmir.

Ways to Avoid

People must secure their social media accounts and should not click on the unwanted links in their mailbox sent by

• If someone is a victim of "sextortion", then they should not pay what they are demanded and should instead go to the Police and file a case.

Don't delete anything, explain the

entire story to the Police officer. If ever you receive the video calls from the suspected person, then don't pick

it up, just block. Don't allow the untrustworthy app to access your phone's file managers.

Don't share your OTPs and passwords with anyone, and choose strong passwords to secure your privacy.

Cover the cameras of your devices, including computers and webcams, with the help of tapes, stickers, or with your

thumb. Set all of your social media accounts

to private.

Never log on to online dating sites.

Most of the "sextortion" cases popped up among those who logged in to online

Never ever send compromising images of yourself to anyone.

#### **ACB** arrests Patwari for accepting bribe

A statement issued by ACB reads, "ACB received a complaint from a resident of Magam alleging that Showkat Ali, Patwari Halqa Waripora is demanding bribe of ₹ 9000 from him for issuance and processing of revenue extract for which he has already applied online."

The statement reads that the complainant in his complaint alleged that he and his brother had purchased a piece of land measuring 10 marlas under survey No. 786 situated at Pinjoora from a person.

"The owner of the land has executed an Agreement with the complainant and the land is under the possession of the complainant. He further stated that he approached Patwari for the issuance of revenue extract. The Patwari demanded Rs 10,000 for the issuance of the required documents. The complainant requested the Patwari that he is a poor man and cannot pay this amount but he told him to

pay Rs. 9000 otherwise the work will not be done. He further alleged that Patwari told the complainant to bring Rs. 5000 as the first installment on 26-07-2023."

It added that under these circumstances the complainant approached ACB, stating that he doesn't want to pay a bribe, and requested for legal action against the Patwari concerned.

"As the contents of the complaint prima facie disclosed the commission of an offense punishable U/S 7 of the PC Act 1988 (as amended in 2018) by the accused, a case FIR No. 07/2023 was registered at Police Station Anti Corruption Bureau, Baramulla U/S 7 of the P.C

Act 1988 against him." It further reads that during the course of the investigation trap team was constituted which laid a successful trap and caught the accused red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe amount of Rs. 5,000. "He was arrested on the spot after completing all legal formalities. Further investigation in the case is going on," it reads.

#### **Corporal punishment** banned in Kashmir **Schools**

jurisdiction.

The decision comes after distressing complaints regarding corporal punishment were reported, linking it to mental health issues among school-going children. The reports received from IMHANS-K raised serious concerns about the negative consequences of corporal punishment, which not only hinder the learning and development of affected children but also create an environment of fear and hostility within the educational institutions.

According to an order, Director of School Education Kashmir states that the negative consequences of corporal punishment not only hinder the learning and development of the affected children but also create an environment of fear and hostility within the Educational Institutions. "Corporal punishment has an ill effect on the mental health of the child which is the cause of concern for the parents and the department."

It added that whenever a child is assaulted, abused, exposed or neglected in a manner to cause physical or mental suffering by any person employed by or managing an organisation, which is entrusted with the care and protection of the child, the punishment would be rigorous imprisonment up to three years and fine up to

Rs five lakh. "On account of the cruelty, if the child is physically incapacitated or develops a mental illness or is rendered mentally unfit to perform regular tasks or has risk to life or limb, then imprisonment may extend up

to ten years," it reads.

## Rupee rises seven paise to close at 81.94 against US dollar

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Wednesday as they purchased shares worth Rs 922.84 crore, according to exchange data.

NEW DELHI, Jul 27 (Agencies): The rupee gained seven paise to close at 81.94 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, tracking the weakness of the American currency in the overseas market after the US Fed raised interest rates on expected lines.

However, weak domestic markets and a surge in crude oil prices capped sharp gains.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 81.92 against the US dollar and moved in a range of 81.91 to 82.03 in the day trade.

The rupee finally settled seven paise higher at 81.94 (provisional) against the previous close of 82.01 on Friday.

"The rupee gained on the weak US Dollar and positive Asian and European markets amid stimulus talks from China," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) hiked interest rates by 25 basis points



to the 5.25-5.50 per cent range, the highest in 16 years.

However, the US Federal Reserve kept its options going forward open as it made future cases depending on incoming data, Choudhary said.

The dollar index, which gauges the green-back's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.19 per cent to 100.69.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on expectations of a hawkish tone from key global central banks to tame inflation and rising crude oil prices," Choudhary said.

He added, "Monthend Dollar demand from importers and worries over global economic slowdown may also weigh on the rupee. However, FII inflows may support the rupee at lower levels. We expect the USD/INR spot to trade in the range of 81.50 to 82.30 in the near term."

Meanwhile, Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 1.01 per cent to USD 83.76 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed 440.38 points or 0.66 per cent lower at 66.266.82.

The broader NSE Nifty fell 118.40 points or 0.6 per cent to 19,659.90.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Wednesday as they purchased shares worth Rs 922.84 crore, according to exchange data

## Air India plans to start flights to Los Angeles, Boston

Currently, the airline operates non-stop flights to five American cities--Washington, DC, New York, New Jersey, Chicago and San Francisco

NEW DELHI, Jul 27 (Agencies): Tata Group-owned Air India is planning to operate flights to more US cities, including Los Angeles, and is assessing various metrics, according to sources.

Currently, the airline operates non-stop flights to five American cities -- Washington, DC, New York, New Jersey, Chicago and San Francisco.

Los Angeles and Boston are among the cities being assessed as potential new destinations for long-haul flights from India, the sources said.

At present, Air India has a code share partnership with United Airlines.

"We are planning to expand (our base) in the US and various cities are being assessed for potential new destinations. So, Boston is one of them, and Los Angeles too is among the cities that are being assessed," one of the sources said.

"We are weighing other metrics as well," the source added. Starting a new destination entails examining a lot of factors, including fleet size, pilot strength and traffic volume on

the route, according to aviation industry experts.

The source said current pilot strength, training of cabin crew and ground staff to be deployed at an airport at the new destination are among the factors that need to be considered.

A large number of Indian nationals or people of Indian-origin are living or working in the US, including students in various American universities. The US is also a tourism destination for many Indians.

Air India, which was taken over by the Tata Group in January last year, is on the revival path, according to the airline.

In one of the largest aircraft orders by an airline, Air India in February this year announced it will buy 470 narrow-body and wide-body planes from Airbus and Boeing, with the total deal value estimated to be worth USD 80 billion.

Air India will buy 250 aircraft, including 40 wide-body A350 planes, from European aviation major Airbus, and 220 planes from US aircraft maker Boeing under separate deals.

The Airbus firm order comprises 210 A320/321 Neo/XLR and 40 A350-900/1000. The Boeing firm order comprises 190 737-Max, 20 787s and 10 777s.

Air India will require more than 6,500 pilots to operate 470 aircraft that are to be supplied by Airbus and Boeing in the coming years, industry sources said in February.

Recently, a senior Air India official said the privatisation of Air India has "enabled Indian aviation" to tap a very, very large segment of the market that had hitherto "remained untapped".

"Privatisation has always been a difficult subject in India, more so when it comes to an asset like Air India, national carrier, and a lot of feelings are attached to it," he said.

"... everybody wants Air India to succeed and survive as a national carrier. Secondly, and most importantly it happened because it was Tata, and the kind of trust that the name evokes, made things easier," the official said.

Further, the official said that if there is trust in the brand or even as an individual, "you can go a long way, people will go out of their way to support you, do business with you, work with you".

## Council to review GST on online gaming, casinos

NEW DELHI, Jul 27 (Agencies): The GST Council will meet on August 2 to reconsider its decision of imposing 28% tax on online gaming, horse racing and casinos, as per government sources. The sources said the Council may give some concession to these sectors in terms of not charging 28% on full face value of a gaming transaction. However, the decision will depend

28% on full face value of a gaming transaction. upon consensus among the Council members. "Many trade bodies had made representations before the government to give them some concessions. They have been building pressure on Centre to roll back the decision or give them some concession," a government source said. He stated that Sikkim and Goa had also written applications to the Centre to give them some relaxations on 28% levy on online gaming and casinos, as their revenues will get adversely impacted.

Meanwhile, the Coun-

cil will discuss procedural issues and changes in GST law to bring online gaming and horse racing as taxable actionable claims. After the 50th GST Council meeting, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said effective date for 28% GST levy on online gaming will be announced after amendments to the GST law. She had said the decision of levying 28% wasn't meant to destroy the industry but was made on the ground of 'moral question' that these can't be treated at par with the

essential commodities. Online gaming industry representatives had met Prime Minister Narendra

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently to voice their concerns about the decision, which will bring it to its knees. "Problem doesn't lie in 28% uniform levy of GST - the companies will bear it. It is the change in value from platform fee or commission to full value of every game, which seems unfair.

Levying GST on every game means taxing online gaming industry worse than even casinos where GST is being levied on deposits. The implication of levying tax on every game/ on winnings effectively bumps up cost/ taxes which may likely increase effectively to 50-70%," said Deepali Pant Joshi, former executive director with the RBI.

## Volkswagen profits dip as it struggles in China

FRANKFURT, Jul 27 (Agencies): Volkswagen on Thursday said that its profits slipped in the second quarter as it battles to regain ground in China, the German auto giant's most important market.

From April to June, net profit came in at 3.8 billion euros (USD 4.2 billion), 3.1 per cent below the same quarter a year earlier. The 10-brand group, whose models include Audi, Seat and Skoda, makes a big chunk of its overall sales in China.

But it has faced increased competition in the world's number two economy, particularly in the booming electric car

In the first half of 2023, Volkswagen's deliveries of vehicles in China were down 1.2 per cent compared to the previous year, weighed down by a poor start to the year.

The auto giant nevertheless struck a positive note about its prospects in the major market, saying it was stepping up the pace of "transformation in China". On Wednesday, the carmaker announced it would invest over 600 million euros in Chinese electric vehicle manufacturer XPeng, acquiring a stake of just under five per cent.

The two companies plan to develop two mid-sized VW-branded electric models to be rolled out on the Chinese market in 2026.

VW's premium Audi brand has also signed a memorandum with

the group's existing Chinese partner SAIC to expand their cooperation and work on new high-end electric vehicles.

"The collaborations align with the company's 'in China for China's strategy, which enables it to address market-defining trends in China at an early stage and better leverage the growth momentum of the Chinese market," the group said.

Volkswagen confirmed its financial outlook for the year but slightly reduced its forecast for vehicle deliveries.

Sales revenues in the second quarter rose 15.2 per cent to 80.1 billion euros. In the first half of the year, sales rose in all regions of the world, except for China

Mercedes-Benz, another top German carmaker, had better fortunes in the second quarter. It posted a 14-percent increase in net profit, which came in at 3.6 billion euros, driven by strong sales of premium cars and vans.

On the back of the strong results, the company raised its projection for operating profits in 2023.

But Mercedes is also facing struggles in China, with revenues falling heavily there in the second quarter compared to the same period last year.

same period last year.

In an effort to compete with rivals in the Chinese market, the manufacturer unveiled an electric version of its iconic Maybach car at the Shanghai Auto Show in April.

## Head and neck cancers rising in India: How lifestyle changes can reduce the risk

NEW DELHI, Jul 27 (Agencies): July 27 is being observed as World Head and Neck Cancer Day. Head and neck cancer in India is a major public health issue. Though it is the sixth most common cancer worldwide, 57.5 per cent of these cases are recorded in Asia, especially in India. And according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a 50-60 per cent rise in the number is expected by 2040. These cancers are most common in our male population and are fourth in incidence among females. While people in their 60s and 70s are primarily affected, an estimated rise of 24.2-33.5 per cent has been predicted in the 20-50 years age bracket, predominantly because of changing lifestyles, increased longevity, and addiction to tobacco and alcohol.

The heterogeneous nature and the varied biology of these cancers have been compounded by the anatomical complexities of this region. Being a key area of the human body, vital for many special senses and functions and, above all, appearance, disabilities of different magnitudes, especially with speech and swallowing, are experienced by affected individuals post-treatment.

In India, unfortunately, 60-70 per cent of patients come at an advanced stage, as a consequence of which most receive radical treatment which may be disfiguring to some extent.

The burden of these cancers

can be dramatically reduced if we understand their causative factors. Tobacco (smoked or chewable forms), alcohol, areca nut (pan masala), and dietary malnutrition are common etiological factors which are also important downstream social determinants. Heavy users of

both tobacco and alcohol have a 35-fold higher risk of head and neck cancers. Dietary deficiencies in vitamins A, C, E, iron, selenium, and zinc also factor in. Increased intake of high salt-preserved food, grilled barbecued meat, and frozen and processed foodstuffs are all well-known as etiological factors. Exposure to air pollutants, excessive sunlight, and also certain viruses viz. HPV, EBV, Herpes, and HIV are other causative factors. Though environmental factors play a significant role in these cancers, certain genetic mutations have also been implicated. A risk of 3.5-3.8 is seen in individuals who have a first-degree family history of head and neck cancer, while a risk of eight-fold is seen if there are multiple primaries affecting an individual in the family.

Patients with poor ability to metabolise carcinogens and those with weak immunity are almost at a 500-700-fold higher risk of developing these carcinomas. A classic presentation of these cancers is highly dependent on the anatomical site involved. Non-healing ulcers, abnormal growth, change in voice, and difficulty in swallowing are some symptoms. Ironically, though these areas are amenable to visual inspection, two-thirds of patients present quite late in the disease. Studies have pointed out a diagnostic delay varying from 73 days to 6.5 months. Fear of the disease, ignorance, limited access to healthcare, and financial constraints all explain the cause for delay.

A strong gradient between developed nations and economically deprived countries in the distribution of cancers of the head and neck subsites has been observed. Poor orodental hygiene, oral diseases, and consequent oral cancers are seen more in developing nations. On the other hand, voice box cancers caused by smoking occur more in developed nations.

Facial disfigurement, limitation in speech intelligibility, chronic pain, dietary limitation, low self-esteem, lack of initiative in socialising and competing with peers, and limitation in employment opportunities and professional growth at workplaces remain major setbacks in cancer survivors' stories.

Therefore, emotional, physical, and financial support becomes an essential ingredient in the life of these patients as they continue to battle the side effects of their treatment. With an increasing cancer burden coupled with limited infrastructure for good cancer care, it is important to rationalise our thoughts to streamline treatment and make it more affordable. While highincome nations tend to spend more than US \$100 per person. developing nations like India spend less than US \$10 per individual. This equity gap is further widened between our urban and rural healthcare infrastructure. Geographic location, sociocultural and economic issues have not only impacted accessibility to care but have also influenced the 5- year survival curve of patients suffering from these cancers.

Minimally invasive surgeries, organ preservation techniques, and advances in radiotherapy and medical oncology have added value to the treatment of these cancers with curative intent, thereby reducing morbidity and mortality. In other words, recent advancements have substantially improved treatment outcomes. Despite this, the overall survival of these

patients has not improved in the past decade. The predominant cause behind this is the late presentation of patients. Also, these cancers are known to develop resistance to treatment. Forty per cent of these patients who are locally advanced recur after front line treatment.

front-line treatment.

The majority fail at the local area, while 30 per cent fail at various distant organs. A small proportion, to the tune of 20 per cent develop cancer at a different site during surveillance, especially if they continued their old habits.

The future of cancer therapy for the head and neck lies in the understanding of the molecular and genetic landscape of this disease. Research at the gene level may also help identify head and neck cancer-specific genes, which in turn would help diagnose the disease early and execute treatment accurately and without delay. Of late, targeted therapies and immunotherapeutic drugs have been able to deliver medication with precision and have optimised the success rates of modern therapy. Toxicities and adverse effects have been brought down to some extent with a newer generation of drugs.

To beat this cancer, we all need to work together. More awareness is required. Health education for primary prevention, early detection through screening programs and strengthening treatment facilities with the incorporation of palliative care for the terminally ailing is the need of the hour.

The government, health insurance groups, NGOs, health care professionals, and hospitals, all need to join hands to fight this disease.

# WHO releases list of new medicines for the treatment of multiple infectious diseases NEW DELHI, Jul 27 (Agencies): The recommended for off-label use in treat-

World Health Organisation (WHO) has recently released the 23rd edition of the Model Lists of Essential Medicines (EML) and the 9th edition of the Essential Medicines for Children (EMLc).

These updated lists, published in July 2023, include significant additions of new medicines aimed at treating a variety of health conditions including multiple sclerosis, cancer, infectious diseases, and cardiovascular conditions.

The EML and EMLc are internationally recognised guides that assist countries' health systems in prioritising effective and affordable medications.

The WHO updates these lists every two years, with the latest editions bringing the total number of medications on the EML and EMLc to 502 and 361, respectively. Among the notable additions to the 2023 list are three medications designed to slow the progression of multiple sclerosis, a chronic nervous system disease affecting 2.8 million

people globally.

One of these drugs, rituximab, is typically used to treat certain cancers and autoimmune diseases but has been

ing MS due to its proven efficacy and safety.

For the first time, the guidelines also recommend "polypills" for the treatment of heart disease and other cardiovascular issues. Polypills are a combination of medicines that lower blood pressure, reduce cholesterol, regulate heartbeat, and sometimes include aspirin.

Research indicates that they can reduce the risk of cardiovascular problems by almost 40 per cent.

Despite requests from researchers in the United States, obesity medications were not added to the list. The WHO committee rejected the application, citing the compounds' "uncertain longterm clinical benefit and safety in this patient population."

A total of 32 applications were not recommended. Besides obesity drugs, risdiplam for treating spinal muscular atrophy was also not included. Others like donepezil for the treatment of dementia due to Alzheimer's disease, CAR-T cell therapy for lymphoma and fast-acting oral transmucosal fentanyl for breakthrough cancer pain did not make the cut as well.

## **India vs West Indies: SKY looks to push limits**

Suryakumar seeks course correction in ODIs; Kishan, Samson to battle for keeper's slot

BRIDGETOWN, Jul 27 (Agencies): Suryakumar Yadav will be aiming to improve his 50-over credentials while Ishan Kishan and Sanju Samson are likely to fight for the wicketkeeper's slot when India begin their threematch ODI series against West Indies here today.

India will use the series against West Indies to test out a few players to finalise their combinations ahead of the Asia Cup, which will precede the ODI World Cup at home in October-November.

Like the two Tests, India will be expected to dominate but the series presents a crucial opportunity for the likes of Suryakumar, Kishan, Samson, Yuzvendra Chahal and Umran Malik.

Suryakumar, who has not been able to replicate his blazing T20 form in the ODIs, can stake a claim for the No. 4 spot in the absence of injured Shreyas Iyer. Though he recorded a hat-trick of first-ball ducks in the previous series against Australia, Yadav



is expected to start the series. KL Rahul, who is undergoing rehabilitation after a thigh surgery, will be a strong contender for the No. 1 wicketkeeper's slot when he returns to action. In his absence however, both Kishan and Samson have a chance to grab the second wicketkeeper's slot with Rishabh Pant unlikely

to be fit in time for the World

Samson is used to being in and out of the team but will be hoping to get some game time on his comeback and build on his average of 66 in 11 ODIs.

Kishan, who impressed with the bat and his glovework in the Test series, is likely to be the wicketkeeper for the opening ODI. That leaves Samson and Yadav to battle for the remaining spot in the middle-order.

Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill will open the innings, which means more time on the bench for Ruturaj Gaikwad. Vice-captain Hardik Pandya, who has not played since the IPL, has a hectic schedule ahead of him with the five T20Is following the ODIs, bringing workload management to the forefront.

Considering that he will captain the T20I side, he might get a breather during the ODI series.

In the bowling department, it is an opportunity for tearaway pacer Umran Malik to make an impact. The 23-year-old from J&K has the tendency to leak runs but is a genuine wickettaking option. He has taken 13 wickets in seven ODIs. Mohammed Siraj will lead the pace attack with Jaydev Unadkat, Mukesh Kumar and all-rounder Shardul Thakur being the other options.

### Here we go: Football teams are going to Asian Games



NEW DELHI, Jul 27 (Agencies): The Indian men's and women's football teams are set to participate in the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, after the Sports Ministry decided to relax the existing selection criteria.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had earlier refused to clear the Indian football teams for the Asian Games on the ground that they were not ranked in the top-8 in Asia. The men's team is currently 18th in Asia, while the women's side is ranked 11th.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) then appealed to the Sports Ministry to allow the men's and women's sides to take part in the prestigious event with men's senior team head coach Igor Stimac also seeking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention.

"Keeping in mind their latest performances in recent times, the Ministry decided to grant the relaxation," Sports Minister Anurag Thakur tweeted.

The men's team has returned to the top-100 in the FIFA rankings, having won the SAFF Championship and Intercontinental Cup. The women's team has also done well, beating Kyrgyzstan twice in the Olympics Qualifiers Round 1.

Since 2002, football in the Asian Games has been an under-23 affair with three players above that age being permitted in a team. The AIFF had earlier planned that Stimac would take an under-23 side to the Games after the King's Cup in Thailand. But the AIFF now wants to send its first team, led by skipper Sunil Chhetri, to the Asian Games. The AIFF has prepared a list of 50 U-23 players and forwarded it to the respective clubs. The idea is to raise another pool of U-23 players who could be used for the AFC U-23 Asian Cup qualifiers and the King's Cup.

## Japan open: Sindhu's woes pile up, Satwik-Chirag win

TOKYO, Jul 27 (Agencies): Double Olympics medallist PV Sindhu made yet another firstround exit but Lakshya Sen staved off a spirited challenge from fellow Indian Priyanshu Rajawat to progress to the second round of the Japan Open Super 750

Newly-crowned Korea Open champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty made a positive start to their campaign, extending their unbeaten run to 11 matches, following the wins in South Korea and Indonesia.

Enduring a tough phase in her career, Sindhu lost 12-21 13-21 to Zhang Yi Man of China in her opener



that lasted 32 minutes. It was her seventh firstround exit in 13 BWF World Tour events this year.

Canada Open champion Sen, returning to action after skipping the South Korea event, survived a scare against compatriot Rajawat to prevail 21-15 12-21 24-22 in a 65-minute

However, the in-form doubles pair of Satwiksairaj and Chirag had no such issues as the two

beat the Indonesian duo of Leo Rolly Carnando and Daniel Marthin 21-16 11-21 21-13 to move into the second round. The third-seeded pair will face Denmark's Jeppe Bay and Lasse Molhede in the second

## History beckons Oz as England look to level series

Cook recalled a conversation to throw some light on the thinking process of the England skipper who made his Test debut under him.

LONDON, Jul 27 (Agencies): Australia might have retained The Ashes, but England still has a lot to play for as they take on the visitors at The Oval in the final Test starting Thursday. They still have a chance to level the series as they did in 2019 and are expected to stick to the brand of cricket they have played so far irrespective of the outcome.

Former England captain Alastair Cook believes so as well. The highest run-getter for the country in the format, Cook termed the effect of Bazball i.e the impact coach Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes have had as "extraordinary".

"With the same set of players who won only once in 17 games, England have now won 13 out of 16. It has been the biggest mental and technical



shift that has happened on the cricket field and the way it has freed up the players like Ben Duckett, Joe Root, Zak Crawley is unbelievable. An environment has been created where making mistakes is fine, as long as you are trying to be positive and entertaining," Cook said in

a select media interaction. However, it does not come as a surprise to him, especially the kind of leadership Stokes has shown since taking over from Root. Cook recalled a conversation to throw some light on the thinking process of the England skipper who made his Test

"Stokes once told me, 'What's the difference between trying to defend and nicking to the

debut under him.

'keeper and trying to score runs and getting caught in the outfield? Both are getting out.' That's the way he thinks and he has been able to make his players think on similar lines.

England have retained the same playing XI from the Old Trafford Test going into the final game. James Anderson, who will turn 41 this week, has said that he isn't thinking about retirement and his captain has come out and said that he would want the seamer in his side after this series.

On the other side of the aisle, Pat Cummins-led Australia are keen to put behind their deflating show in the fourth Test and register their first series win in England in 22 years. Whether they will be able to achieve it, only time will tell. What can be said for sure is that it's going to be entertaining.

## India seek right combination as they begin **World Cup preparation**

For they have their own share of questions to find answers to and combinations to figure out.

NEW DELHI, Jul 27 (Agencies): The 2023 ICC Men's ODI World Cup is set to get underway in 30 days. The BCCI is meeting with the state associations on Thursday to finalise things, including the possibility of rescheduling the clash against Pakistan on October 15, the day when the Hindu festival Navratri begins. Halfway around the world, the Indian team begins dress rehearsal of its own in the Caribbean.

In what will be the first of the 12 ODIs (at best, 11 minimum) Rohit Sharma-led side will play in the lead-up to the global event, the Men in Blue would want to hit the floor running against West Indies.

For they have their own share of questions to find answers to and combinations to figure out. At this point, if there are no further injury concerns, India has five spots locked in their first-choice ODI playing XI. The top three — Rohit, Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli — and two all-rounders in Hardik Pandya and Ravindra Jadeja. The No. 4 slot, which

it seemed Shreyas lyer had locked in, is in play with his injury, and Suryakumar Yadav will be looking to make the most of this tour. After his stellar T20I success, the right-hander had three ducks in ODIs earlier this year and there have been questions as to whether he

will be able to replicate a similar performance in the 50-over format. While there is already a problem of plenty for the slots between 4-7 with the two aforementioned all-rounders and a keeper in the mix, Yadav will be under pressure to step up in this series.

Similarly, with KL Rahul injured, the team management is still shopping for the middle-order wicket-keeper batter. The options they have in this series are Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan. While the latter is a white-ball opener in reserves, it should not come as a surprise if they try him in the middle. However, this series could be more crucial for

Samson. He has done

well in whatever international games he got in the last 12 months -284 runs in ten ODIs in 2022 at 71 while striking at 105.57 — but has not lit up the Indian Premier League this season. If there ever was a series and moment to seize. this was it for Samson. To retain his place in the playing XI in the Asia Cup and the Australia series, the 28-year-old will have to put on a show at every chance he gets.

In the bowling department, there are four spinners in the mix, including two wrist spinners and it might all come down to the conditions and combinations. What will be crucial, however, is the pace attack and

the team management would want to see if they could carry forward either Mukesh Kumar or Umran Malik from hereon regularly. Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami are expected to come back and Mohammed Sirai is a sure starter with Shardul Thakur as a luxury, but with a plaque of injuries going around, they will need all the options they can have on the table.

From the outset, it might seem like an inconsequential bilateral against a team that did not qualify for the World Cup. But, there's more. For they have just 12 days out on the field before beginning their quest to end the ICC Trophy drought.

#### 'I've answered this a lot of times': Rohit hits back at question over Kohli's overseas Test form



BRIDGETOWN, Jul 27 (Agencies): An irked Rohit Sharma hit back at queries on Virat Kohli's overseas form in recent years, dubbing them as "outside noises" not concerning the team

Former India captain Kohli recently ended his five-year-long Test overseas century drought in the second match against the West Indies that ended in a draw in Port of Spain, Trinidad. When a scribe asked

if there were concerns about the lack of big knocks from Kohli, the Indian captain said the team doesn't care about "outside noises."

"I've answered this question a lot of times. All the outside talk, who scored how many, took how many wickets... people who say such things don't know what happens inside," Rohit said during a pre-match press conference for the first ODI against the West Indies here on Thursday.

"For us, what happens inside stays inside. We prefer that. For us, the most important thing is to win matches or series. not who's talking about what. It doesn't matter to us. Our priority is the three ODI matches right now, we're focussing on that," he added.

"Inside talks remain inside and we want it to stay inside only. This is something that I have said a number of times and in future as well I will say this only," he added.

Kohli's latest hundred came in his 500th international match. It was his 76th century for India, having last hit an away ton in December 2018. Kohli was dismissed for 76 in the first Test in Dominica.

## 'You got to have thick skin': Australia's skipper Pat Cummins reacts to criticism over his captaincy

LONDON, Jul 27 (Agencies): Australia's captain Pat Cummins remains unfazed by criticism over his captaincy following two tight victories at Edgbaston and Lord's, a defeat at Leeds, and a draw in Manchester.

The fifth and final Test will begin at The Oval from Thursday with the hosts in with a chance to level

Heading into the fifth and final Ashes Test with a 2-1 series lead and having retained the Ashes, the 30-year-old emphasised the need of having a thick skin to deal with everything.

Australia narrowly avoided a loss in Manchester to retain the Ashes and Cummins' tactics were criticised as the tourists played catchup cricket. It all started with their poor batting performance after losing the toss in ideal batting conditions.

"I honestly haven't read anything. A few things have come across my desk from the boys having a laugh.

I've been in this job two years now, and you learn pretty quickly that you've got to have a thick skin," Sydney Morning Herald quoted Cummins as saying.

"It's such a great bunch of players and staff here that we all know what everyone is about and how we are going to go about it, and for me, that's more important than anything else. I'm not going to please everyone and everyone's got opinions, but they aren't facts, they're opinions," Cummins added.

Cummins believes he will step down as captain before retiring as a player, but he has no plans to do so anytime soon. In the fourth Test, the right-arm pacer similarly struggled with the ball, taking only one wicket and allowing 129 runs

"I think it does have a shelf life. I won't put a date on it, I've got to get there first. I feel like every Test match I learn quite a bit, you just get exposed to more things with each game. I'm loving working with

this team and the staff. Enjoying it at the moment, we'll see what the future holds. I feel like with each game I'm getting better and I think there's a fair bit more left in me," Cummins said of captaincy.

Even though Australia has already retained the urn, captain Cummins insisted that his team is still very eager to win the longawaited Ashes series in England.

"I don't think it's shifted too much over the series, to be honest. I think Edgbaston again, was another moment where there wasn't a lot in it (the pitch) for the bowlers. They scored almost 400 on day one and I don't see it as too dissimilar to last week." Cummins said.

"I think you've got to hold your nerve a little bit sometimes, you've got to trust that's your best percentage to get nicks even if they hit a few cover drives. You've got to keep your catchers in, you've got to take wickets. I think we've been pretty consistent this series, he added.

## Present dispensation miserably failed to develop industrial towns: Rattan Lal

**TOP NEWS REPORT** 

JAMMU, July 27: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), Jammu, expressed great disappointment over the deplorable condition of industrial towns in the Jammu region. He highlighted the dire state of industrial towns like Bari Brahmana, Samba, and Kathua districts, which have been neglected badly and left in very poor condition under the present dispensation.

In a statement issued here today, Rattan Lal Gupta stated that the present administration has miserably failed to develop these crucial industrial towns, resulting in their stark contrast to the fully devel-



oped industrial towns found in other states. He lamented the hollow policies adopted by the present dispensation, which have led to the sorry state of affairs in the industrial towns of the Jammu region.

Gupta highlighted that the industrial towns in the Jammu region are deprived of basic amenities, hindering the progress and well-being of the local communities. He emphasized that if the National Conference is voted to power then these industrial towns will be revitalized and developed as modern smart towns with public parks and children play grounds, ensuring the availability of essential amenities for the residents.

The senior NC leader also expressed serious concern over the heavy losses caused by flash floods and incessant rains in border and Kandi belts of Samba district. He pointed out that the government's response to these calamities has been lackluster, showing little concern for the loss of infrastructure, properties and crops. He appealed to the government to assess the extent of the damages and provide immediate compensation to the affected individuals

Meanwhile, in view of the upcoming polls of ULB in Jammu and Kashmir, the National Conference has constitutes committee for Samba, Bari Brahmana, Vijaypur, and Ramgarh municipal areas to gear up their cadre for polls.

The following 17 members committee has been constituted which include Sudagar Gupta as Chairman and Satwant Kour Dogra, Master Noor Hussain, Mrs Sureiya Begum, Mrs Rajni Devi, Mr Mohinder Singh, Mr Chander Udhay Singh, Mr Bharat Bushan, Mr Ashok Kumar Attri, Mr Ajay Sharma, Mr Yashpal, Mr Krishan Dutt, Mr Joginder Kumar, Mr Nar Singh, Mr Satpal, Mr Bua Dita and Mr Sawarn Singh as mem-

## 5-Day All India Painter's Camp inaugurated at JKAACL Jammu

**TOP NEWS REPORT** 

JAMMU, Jul 27: The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL) has successfully begun today with a 5-Day All India Painter's Camp at K.L.saigal Hall, JKAACL premises in Jammu.

The Workshop was inaugurated by Bal Krishan, in the presence of TS Batra, Former Principal, IMFA, Jammu, O.PSharma, Director JKCCA Dr. Shahnawaz, Editor cum Cultural Officer, JKAACL, Rakesh Sharma, Head of Fine arts Department, IMFA, University of Jammu and Kulwant Singh prominent artist from Amritsar by putting up their signature on the cavas.

At the outset, Dr. Shahnawaz, Editor cum Cultural Officer welcomed the guests on



behalf of Bharat Singh, Secretary JKAACL. This 5-Day camp is being organised by the J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages in collaboration with J&K Centre for Creative Arts.

The prominent artists participating in the Camp include Jitinder Kumar from Delhi, Kulwant Singh Gill, Amritsar, Sukhpal Singh, Amritsar, Mohd Moin, Dehradun, Dharminder Sharma, Amritsar, Tariq Saify, Poonch Narinder

Kumar and Parveen

Gupta from Jammu.
The Chief Guest Bal
Krishan in his speech
thanked JKAACL for
inviting him for this
function and providing
opportunity to interact
with prominent artists

from across the Country. He said that what one cannot express with pen a painter expresses that with his art. He appreciated the efforts of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and especially the Secretary, JKAACL Bharat Singh for initiating such

activities in Jammu and Kashmir O.P Sharma, Director JKCCAL in his address told about the importance of these Camps He said that painting is a medium to express your thoughts on canvas. The artists will create their imaginations on the

during this 5-Day camp. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Anil Tickoo, Assistant Cultural Officer, JKAACL. He also presented vote of thanks on behalf of JKAACL.

## VC MRSPTU launches Aryans New Course "Diploma in Nursing Assistant"

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 27: Keeping in view the increasing importance of healthcare workers, Aryans Group of colleges, Rajpura Near Chandigarh today announced the new course "Diploma in Nursing Assistant".

From this academic session 2023-24, the

admission will start & 12th Pass students in medical or equivalent stream will be eligible. The approved intake of this course is 30 seats.

While launching this course, Chief Guest of the occasion Vice Chancellor Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Technical University, Bathinda said that for years, experts

in the healthcare field have sounded the alarm on the high demand for nurses nationwide. They not only play an important role in educating patients about healthy lifestyle choices but also help them to make positive changes to cure themself. Keeping the demand of this course in

mind MRSPTU has allot-

ted 30 seats to Aryans Group.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group while thanking Vice Chancellor & MRSPTU officials said that as entire world is facing shortage of Health care workers so the education sector can help to prepare qualified nurses by strengthening pre-ser-

vice and continuous professional training, which builds up resilient health systems. The nursing profession continues to face shortages due to a lack of potential educators. The students who want to make their career in the healthcare profession can opt this course.

## Rinku Gill congratulates Modi Govt for giving reservation to Valmiki community

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 27: Rashtriya Balmiki Sena J&K State President Rinku Gill Valmiki said that today there is an atmosphere of happiness in Jammu and Kashmir on the inclusion of Valmiki community in the Scheduled Castes list by the Central Government.

For a long time, our National Chairman of Rashtriya Valmiki Sena, Raju Chandel and our entire countrywide organization Valmiki Samaj were demanding the central government to give Scheduled Caste

status to Valmiki Samaj of Jammu and Kashmir, today we have got a big success.

Due to the policies of the Valmiki society of Jammu and Kashmir, it has got the distinction of walking shoulder to shoulder with all the sections of the country.

## Kargil Hero Subedar under irreparable shock: AAP

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 27: Sr. AAP leaders Jammu Province, Major General Retd, R.S. Jamwal, Farooq Ahmed Banday, Ram Singh Chauhan, Nirmal Mahna, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, S. Ravinder Singh, Sarpanch, Amit Langer, Aqva Kour, Ram Pal Khajuria, Sandeep Romesh Parihar Lal Bhagat, Suresh Bhagat, Ashni Mattoo, S. Ranjodh Singh & Sukhdev Kumar Sangral, in a joint statement issued here have expressed great shock and anguish over the barbarism witnessed by world over the brutal sexual assault on women in Manipur even as a Kargil Hero Subedar failed to protect his own wife at the hands of saboteurs in Manipur bringing Himalyan shame over the civilization of BHARAT-India.

After the suo-moto snub of Supreme Court. 83 days later, PM utter few words for just 36 seconds, politicizing & equating the issue over opposition ruled states Rajasthan, Bengal etc irking the anger of 50% population women coupled with brutal treatment meted out to women wrestlers who have vowed to teach them a lesson in 2024, the release said and added as per Hindu mythology,

they will have to reap what sown by them. The press release further wondered as to why PM Modi is silent over Manipur episode since May 4, 2023 and the country men want to know as to why no action against culprits and Manipur Government? Why you don't dismiss the government invoking Art 356 of Indian Constitution when more than 150 persons have lost the lives & 3000 houses burnt in loot, arson & plunder, they asked.

A perpetrator is always a man of sin, whatever be his caste, political affiliation or sect or religion but sad on the part of ruling

dispensation, they have saved all such perpetrators- rapists and criminals be it Brij Bhushan Singh, Kuldeep Singh Sengar, or Ajay Teni who crushed down 8 protesting farmers or a contractor who repaired the bridge where more than 150 pedestrians lost their lives in Morbi Gujarat etc, the AAP leaders maintained and warned that enough is enough and that they will be paid in the same coin in 2024 the release cautioned and added that now the women folk, the un-employed educated youth, the farmers, traders & laborers etc cannot be befooled any longer.

## Councillor Rahul initiates construction of a wall along Nallah to address flooding issues

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, JULY 27: Councillor Ward 20 Rahul Kumar along with Gandhi Nagar Mandal General Secretary, Rachit Khosla started the construction work of a wall along Nallah near SLR laboratory. This long-awaited project aims to address the persistent issue of excessive flooding during the monsoon season, significantly impacting the general public.

general public.

Speaking on the occasion, the Councillor said overflowing of the Nallah has been a perennial problem for the local residents. With the commencement of the wall construction, the prob-



lems caused by Nallah overflow will be effectively resolved once and for all, he added. He hoped that completion of the wall will not only mitigate the flooding issues but will also enhance the overall liveability and sustainability of the area.

of the area.
The Councillor said

that all-round development and welfare of the people of the union territory is the top priority of the Modi government. Highlighting the BJP government's focus on addressing the issues faced by the common people, he said that serving the citizens has

always been the top

priority of the BJP-led government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He stated that the BJP's ideology revolves around serving the people of the nation and ensuring their well-being.

Later, Rahul also

Later, Rahul also shared that several other development works that are currently in the pipeline and the same projects will be executed in a phased manner to ensure that they meet the community's needs and expectations, he added.

Among those who were present include Rajinder Bali, Rajeev Khurana, and Sahil Gupta.

#### **Plantation Drive held at SKUAST-K**



TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jul 27: "Meri Mati Mera Desh" campaign commenced today at faculty of Agriculture SKUAST-K by a plantation drive by hundreds of NSS volunteers to commemorate the nation's unity and the sacrifices of its heroes. Program coincides with Kargil Dewas.

The programme was

held under the overall guidance of Prof MAA Siddiqui, Director Education /Programme coordinator-NSS and Prof Raihana H Kanth Dean Faculty of Agriculture with the support of various students clubs.

This campaign is an integral part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mohotsav, paying homage to the country's soil and commemorates the bravery and sacrifices of its heroes.

Through collective efforts of students and faculty members and unwavering dedication by NSS volunteers, "Meri Mati Mera Desh" campaign will undoubtedly leave an indelible mark on the nation's

history.
Today's event was organised at wadura Campus under the overall supervision of Program Officer NSS Dr Ajaz Qureshi.

## GCW Parade celebrates Kargil Vijay Diwas under Meri Mati Mera Desh Programme

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 27: NSS Units GCW Parade Ground Jammu in collaboration with NCC cadets of the college celebrated Kargil Vijay Diwas under the umbrella programme of Ministry of Youth Affairs Sports, Government of India "Meri Mati Meta Desh".

The event was organized under the guidance of NSS programme officers of the college Dr Gurpreet Kour, Dr Mohd Majeed and ANO Suman Lata. The programmer started with a formal welcome address by the principal of the college Dr S P Saraswat who welcomed the



family members of martyrs and also appreciated their sacrifice in upholding the pride of the motherland.

As a part of this programme, about 50 NSS Volunteers and 50 NCC cadets participated in the programme and pre-

sented their programme. Families of martyrs were invited in the event for felicitation. It was a step taken to spread awareness among the students regarding the sacrifice of the soldiers in Kargil war.

Martyr widows of Sha-

heed Havaldar Dalbir Singh Bhau, Shaheed Hav Nain Singh Jamwal, Shaheed Head Constable Randhir Singh were invited and they were honoured with Shawls, mementos and handmade cards by the students. The outlay of the programme was introduced by Dr Gurpreet Kour, NSS programme officer of the college. Also, Ex-Hav Pradeep Singh Mehta, a living example shared his experience of Kargil war. All the participants took pledge on "Panch Pran" read by NSS volunteer, Kaashvi Chhabra.

After that a mega plan-

attential a friega plantation drive was carried out by the volunteers wherein about 75 saplings of indigenous varieties were planted in the college campus and adopted village. The event concluded with the formal vote of thanks by ANO NCC Suman Lata.

Edited, Printed, Published and Owned by: Rajiv Mahajan, Office: 17- New Rehari Jammu, Published from 17- New Rehari Jammu, and Printed from GK Offset Printing Press situated at Shivalik Puram Janipur, Jammu on behalf of Rajiv Mahajan. Senior Editor: M. K Bangroo, Executive Editor: Anita Gupta, Photo Journalist: Aman Sharma (9906198186), Head Office Jammu. Mobile No: (9906300707, 9086072548), Fax No: 0191-2561688.

e-mail: topnewsjk@gmail.com, editortopnewsjk@gmail.com

(All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Jammu City).