

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Suspicious object found on Srinagar-Baramulla highway, traffic suspended

SRINAGAR, Jul 31 (Agencies): A suspicious object was found on the Srinagar-Baramulla highway at Zangam flyover, prompting authorities to suspend traffic on the thoroughfare.

Quoting official sources, Kashmir Scroll reported that some suspicious object, suspected to carry an IED, was found at Zangam flyover in Pattan area. Soon police and Army's 29 RR, CRPF rushed to the spot and subsequently called Bomb Disposal Squad. Traffic from both the sides has been halted.

RPF constable shoots dead four people on Jaipur-Mumbai Express train

MUMBAI, Jul 31 (Agencies): Four persons onboard a moving train from Jaipur to Mumbai were shot dead by a Railway Protection Force (RPF) jawan in Maharashtra on Monday morning, officials said.

According to Western Railways, the constable identified as CT Chetan, opened fire and shot at four passengers, including an RPF assistant sub-inspector (ASI) inside the Jaipur-Mumbai Central Express Train after it crossed Palghar Station in Maharashtra. As per information from Western Railways, the accused constable has been detained along with his weapon.

RPF officials said that the incident took place in the B5 coach of the Jaipur-Mumbai Central Superfast Express (Train number 12956).

According to a statement by the RPF, "It was reported on train no 12956 at 5.23 on 31.7.23 that there had been a firing in B5 coach. It was confirmed that CT Chetan on escort duty, had fired on the escort in charge ASI Tika Ram. The train has arrived at BVI and, as per advance information"

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"LG's Mulaqaat"

Lt Governor interacts with citizens, addresses their grievances

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jul 31: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday interacted with the citizens who had registered their grievances on JKIGRAMS, during "LG's Mulaqaat" at the Civil Secretariat.

The Lt Governor also reviewed action taken by the Deputy Commissioners and concerned officials on the past grievances received from the citizens.

The Lt Governor said, citizens' growing trust in grievance redressal



mechanism is an indicator of effective and efficient system, improved quality of public services, responsiveness and reliability.

"Responsiveness is crucial for the various

administrative departments to ensure quality of life, and socio-economic growth."

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J&K High Court quashes govt order to seal two seminaries in Kishtwar

SRINAGAR, Jul 31 (Agencies): The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh recently delivered a significant verdict by quashing an order issued by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Kishtwar to seal two seminaries (Madarasa).

The Court found that the sealing order was issued without a proper enquiry or sufficient evidence supporting the allegations made against them. The case titled "Raj Ali and others Vs Union of India and others" was presided over by Justice Sanjeev

Kumar, reported Bar and Bench.

The court's decision came after it was brought to light that the decision to seal the two seminaries was taken without granting the management an opportunity to present their side of the case, thus violating the principles of natural justice.

The ADC's order had linked the sealed Madarasas to the Maulana Ali Miyan Educational Trust, Bathindi, which was previously deemed anti-national and anti-social by the Divisional

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Army Jawan shoots self dead with service rifle in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Jul 31 (Agencies): An army jawan on Monday allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service weapon in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said.

S Surendra shot himself while on duty at an army camp in Baramulla town in north Kashmir, they said, adding that he died due to the gunshot injuries.

This is the second such incident in the last two days.

A police constable shot

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Pakistani intruder shot dead in Arnia Sector

JAMMU, Jul 31 (Agencies): A Pakistani intruder was shot dead by Border Security Force personnel along the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday in second such incident in a week, officials said.

The intruder was gunned down by the alert border guards when he ignored the repeated warnings and



tried to flee after managing to cross the border

fence near Jabawal border outpost in Arnia

sector around 1.45 am, they said.

Confirming the incident, a BSF spokesman said, "In the intervening night of July 30-July 31 July, the vigilant troops observed suspicious movement across the International Border (IB) in Arnia border area.

"An intruder was observed approaching towards the BSF fence

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Amarnath Yatra 2023 | Batch of 1550 pilgrims leave from Jammu Base Camp

JAMMU, Jul 31 (Agencies): A fresh batch of 1550 pilgrims amidst the chants of 'Bam Bam Bhole' on Monday left from Bhagwati Nagar Base camp here for Shri Amarnath Cave Shrine in South Kashmir Himalayas.

An official said that 1550 pilgrims left the

base camp in a convoy of 66 vehicles.

A group of 1068 pilgrims (847 males, 196 females, one child, 19 Sadhus and five sadhvis) left for Pahalgam in a convoy of 43 vehicles

For Baltal, 482 pilgrims comprising 158 males and six females left in a

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Pakistani drone, heroin seized near Punjab's Tarn Taran

CHANDIGARH, Jul 31 (Agencies): A suspected Pakistani drone and three kilogrammes of heroin were recovered by a joint team of the BSF and the Punjab Police from a field near the India-Pakistan border in Tarn Taran district on Monday, officials said.

Border Security Force (BSF) troops late on Sunday heard the buzzing sound of the drone near Kalash village in Tarn Taran, a BSF official said.

It is suspected that the unmanned aerial vehicle entered Indian territory from Pakistan at that time.

According to protocol, the troops endeavoured to intercept the drone, he said in a statement.

During a joint search with the Punjab Police on Monday, the drone (hexacopter) and three

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Soaring vegetable prices burn a hole in consumers' pockets



SRINAGAR, Jul 31 (Agencies): Consumers in Kashmir are already feeling the pinch from rising costs, and now surging vegetable prices

are burning a hole in their wallets.

Staple vegetables, which are utilised in every home, have seen a significant spike in

price, with rainfall lashing Kashmir for the past two weeks also affecting local output, fueling further price increases.

Collard green is marketed at Rs 70-80 per kilogramme, gourd is priced at Rs 70, bitter gourd is priced at Rs 120 per kilogramme, peas are priced at Rs 120/kg, and brinjal is priced at Rs 80/kg.

Constant rains in Kashmir over the previous two weeks have hampered local agricultural crop output, putting a

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JK School Education has 2000 KGs, 1700 Smart Classrooms, 1000 ICT Labs

SRINAGAR, Jul 31 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir government has set up 2000 Kindergartens as 3000 more are being set up, Principal Secretary of Education in Jammu and Kashmir, Alok Kumar, revealed

at Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS) 2023. He expressed his confidence in the effective implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, emphasising its role in shaping students as global citizens with 21st-

century skills. He lauded the ongoing efforts to create a vibrant, innovative, and practical education system that caters to diverse learning needs.

Kumar highlighted the Jammu and

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Govt initiates inquiry against Dy Mayor SMC over corruption allegations

JAMMU, Jul 31 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Government has ordered an inquiry into allegations of corruption against Parvez Qadri,

Deputy Mayor, Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

In an order by housing and urban development department, the government said that the inqui-

ry was initiated on the basis of report received from Anti Corruption Bureau, Srinagar.

"In terms of section

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Under BJP Rule, Far-Flung and Backward areas most neglected: JKPC Chief

RINAGAR, Jul 31 (Agencies): Amidst promises that seem more like illusions and hollowness that echoes loud, the poor and down-trodden in far-flung and backward regions of Jammu and Kashmir feel let down by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). As the Congress Party's Vikar Rasool Wani addressed a spirited gathering in Machil, North Kashmir, he minced no words in calling out the BJP Government at the Centre for its betrayal and failure on multiple fronts, leaving the neglected areas



yearning for development, opportunities, and their due privileges.

In the heart of this picturesque yet forsaken landscape, Wani shed light on the hardships faced by the people in the absence of a democratic setup. The once-promising vision of a better future now seems

overshadowed by the reality of bureaucratic control, depriving the masses of their democratic rights and leaving them unheard.

Surrounded by senior party leaders GN Monga (Ex MLC), Mohammad Anwar Bhat, Nazir Ahmad Lone, Mir Ruvais, Abdul Wahab, Dr Ghulam Nabi Lone, Gulsher Khan, Bashir Ahmad Khan, Firdous Wani, Arshid Ahmad Tantray, Showket Ahmad, and other prominent figures from Kupwara district, Vikar sounded the alarm on

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Deodorants!

Body Washes!

Body Mists!

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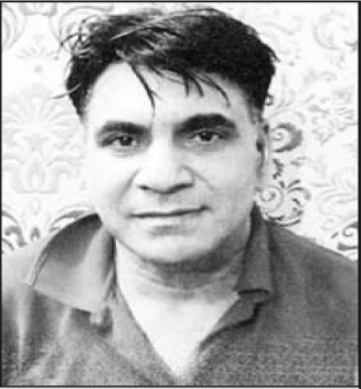
[pahaachanmedics](https://pahaachanmedics.org)

<https://pahaachanmedics.org>

SCAN ME!

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of **Raj Nath Bhat (Dadroo)** S/o Lt. Radha Krishan Dadroo permanent resident of Nazuk Mohalla Anantnag Kashmir at present Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu on 23rd of July 2023. The **10th Day Kriya** will be held on 01-08-2023 (Tuesday) at Muthi Ghat near Directorate School of Education. The **ASSEMBLY** will also be held there at 8:30 AM. The **MOURNING** will be held at Flat No. 08 Block No. 29 Lane No. 06 Jagti Township Nagrota Jammu. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Smt. Muni- Wife Sh. T.N. Bhat - Brother **Sisters-in-law & Brothers** Smt. Soniya & Sh. Roshan Lal Smt Pooja & Sh. Pran Nath **Sisters & Brother-in-laws** (Mamy & Mama) Smt. Phoola Ji & Sh J.N. Koul Smt. Chandra Ji & Sh Moti Lal Zutshi Smt. Bitra Koul & Lt. Rajinder Koul Smt. Jeeta Drabu & Lt. Utesh Drabu



RAJ NATH BHAT (DADROO)

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

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved **Smt. Vijay Bhan Kaul (Tathi)** w/o Puraan Prakash Kaul, originally resident of Karan Nagar, Srinagar/ presently residing at 301, Paloura Top, Lane No. 1, Suraksha Vihar, Jammu, left us for heavenly abode suddenly and untimely on 24-Jul-23 at 07:20 am. Entire family mourns her sad and untimely demise. While grieving the loss, we pray for Sadgatti of the divine departed soul. The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat (Near Directorate of School Education) on 02-Aug-23 at 08:30 AM. **GRIEF STRICKEN:** Puraan Prakash Kaul (Husband) - 9419105235 Sunil Kaul / Girja Kaul (Dewar/Bhabhi) - 8717055082 Akhil Sharma / Monika Sharma (Son-in-law and Daughter) - 9599918737 Rohit Kaul (Son) - 8056268474 **Deeply Remembered By:** Kauls, Tickus, Bhans, Sharmas and All Relatives and Friends



SMT. VIJAY BHAN KAUL (TATHI)

TENTH DAY 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, New Delhi. **10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Rohini, Sector 18, next to Kali Mandir Bawana Road on 01st Aug 2023 at 9AM. **Grief Stricken:** Phoola Kaul - Wife Rohit & Megha Kaul - Son & Daughter-in-law Kamla Kaul W/o Lt. Sh. B.N. Kaul - Sister-in-law Lalita Pattoo W/o Lt. Sh. C.L. Pattoo - Sister Durga Kaul W/o Lt. Sh. P.K. Kaul - 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 & Kaara - Grand Daughters 9810029419 Extended Kaul Parivar, Dhar's, Badshah's, Fotedar's, Trakroo's, Duda's



Sh. Tej Kumar Kaul

MOURNING

With deepest grief and sorrow we inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Shiban Lal Shishoo** S/o Late O. N. Shishoo R/o Sheshyar Habba Kadal Sgr at Pune yesterday. The rest days of **MOURNING** will be held at our residence H No 176 Lane 14 Lower Shiv Nagar Jammu wef 1st August. **GRIEF STRICKEN Shishoo's** **9886520287 6366077676 & +91 99230 89188**



Shri Shiban Lal Shishoo

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved **Manooj Kumar Koul** S/o Late Gopi Nath Koul R/o Vessu presently at H.No. 14, Lane No. 8, Shiv Dass Colony Tomal Anand Nagar Bhoori Near Laxmi Palace. **Tenth Day Kriya** will be held on 2nd August 2023 (Wednesday) at Muthi, Ghat at 8:30 AM. **GRIEF STRICKEN** **Kouls, Panditas, Thaploos, Rainas, Tickoos** **Mob. No.: 9419106652, 7006793102**



Manooj Kumar Koul

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Jyoti Chib** W/o Sh Surjeet Singh Chib R/o Village Jourian Indri Pattan at present Akhnoor Mawa Karora near Radha Swami Ashram. **10th Day** will be performed on 30-07-2023 (Sunday) at our residence at 11:00 AM. **Kriya** will be performed on 2-08-2023 at our residence at 11:00 AM onwards **GRIEF STRICKEN** Surjeet Singh Chib (Husband) (9596124113) Aman Chib (Son) (7986737989) Anshu Chib (Daughter) (9086841482) (9419110675) (9796441064) **Jamwal, Bandral & Sambyal family**



Smt Jyoti Chib

In Loving Memory of Sh. Brij Nath Kher (18 November 1936 - 27 July 2023)

With heavy hearts, we inform that our beloved **Sh. Brij Nath Kher**, left for his heavenly abode on July 27, 2023. He enriched the lives of everyone around him and lived a remarkable life filled with love, joy, and cherished memories. His legacy is etched in our hearts forever. The **Tenth Day Kriya** is planned at Murad Nagar, Ghaziabad on August 5, 2023 at 5:30 AM followed by gathering at residence (C-34, Sector 52, Noida, UP) at 11 AM. Left to mourn his loss, his grief-stricken family members: **Grief Stricken:** Asha & Bansil Lal Kher (9419642651) (Bhabhi & Brother) Renu (9811123977) & Ramesh Kher (9811120307) (Daughter-in-Law and Son) Swati & Hemanshu Kher (Granddaughter-in-law & Grandson) Zoya & Sahil Kher (Granddaughter-in-law & Grandson) Shobha & K.K. Zutshi (Brother-in-law & Sister) Veena & Ramesh Dhar (Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law) **The Kher, Dhar, Bali, and Zutshi families are united in their sorrow.**



Sh. Brij Nath Kher (18 November 1936 - 27 July 2023)

TENTH DAY/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow it is informed that our beloved **Smt Suman Sharma** W/o Sudesh Sharma, R/o Plot No: 222, Rehari Colony Jammu left for heavenly abode on 23rd July 2023. **TENTH DAY** shall be performed on Tuesday 1st August 2023 at Hari Mandir, Rehari Colony, Jammu at 9 AM. **UTHALA** will be performed on Wednesday 2nd August 2023 at Hari Mandir, Rehari Colony Jammu from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. **Grief Stricken:** Sudesh Sharma--(Husband) (Medical Department) (Son & Daughter in law) Umang Sharma & Smt. Shivali Sharma Ashok Sharma & Smt. Mohini Sharma - (Jeth & Jethani) (Devars & Devranis) Parvesh Sharma & Smt. Neelam Sharma Kuldeep Sharma & Smt. Renu Devi Pawan Sharma & Smt. Anita Sharma Harsh Sharma & Smt. Anju Sharma (Sons in law & Daughters) Sunny Khajuria & Smt. Shivali Sharma Nakul Tagotra & Smt. Rupali Sharma **Grand Children - Aarya, Adhiraj, Vian & Candy**



Smt Suman Sharma

10TH DAY & 13TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Permal Kumari** expired on 23-7-2023. **10th Day** on 01/8/2023 (Tuesday) & **13th Day** on 04/08/2023 (Friday) at our residence Ward No. 20, Behind Head Post Office, Near Billion Bowli, Vasampur. **Grief Stricken:** Sh Shanker Singh (Husband) (Sister & Brother-in-law) Smt Nirmal Devi & Sh Kartar Singh Smt Renu (Bhabhi) (Brother & Sister-in-law) Sh Sukhdev Singh and Smt Sreeshta Devi **Daughter and Son-in-law** Smt Anita & Sh Sukhdev Singh Smt Anjana & Sh Jagdev Singh Smt Sapna & Sh Kuldeep Kumar **Son & Daughter-in-law** Sh Rajesh Singh & Smt Veena **Grand Children** Agrim, Aarshi, Bunnu, Bebu, Aadi, Piha, Veeraj, Manasvi, Shanaya, Aaru, Salvi, Cheeki, Vibhu and all **Rasol & Mankotia family members** **Contact No. 9419296872, 9419671846, 9419359539**



Smt Permal Kumari

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With heavy heart we announce the passing away of our beloved **(Babloo Ji) Rakesh Sultan** S/o Late M L Sultan R/o 40-B Karan Nagar Extension, Jammu who left us for the heavenly abode on 24/07/2023 (Monday). **10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 02/08/2023 (Wednesday) at 9:30 AM. **GRIEF STRICKEN:** Asha Sultan - Wife Chandira and Ashok Sultan - Bhabhi and Brother Neelam Kati - Sister Anita and Dinesh Sultan - Bhabhi and Brother Tania and Girish Sharma - Daughter and Son-in-law Aahana Sultan and Biswajit Maitly - Daughter and Son-in-law Amra Sharma - Granddaughter **Nephew and Nieces:** Tipu, Katie, Priyanka, Siddharth, Iit, Shewata, Kuldeep, Heermal, Vikas, Grand Nephew and Nieces - Sean, Zachary, Alexander, Benjamin, Sheen, Sia, Jayvik and Riaan **Mobile Nos: 9419199435, 8448863180**



Rakesh Sultan (Babloo Ji)

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Smt Shanta Wali** W/o Late Brij Lal Wali R/o Chincral Mohalla Habba Kadal, Srinagar at present 51-Subash Nagar, Ext-I, Jammu on 23-07-2023. **10th Day, 11th Day & 12th Day** will be performed on 1st, 2nd & 3rd August 2023 at Haridwar. **Grief Stricken:** Daughter-in-law & Son Sarojine Wali & Satish Kumar Wali **Grand Daughters & Grand Son-in-laws** Ajpa & Abhishek Ananta & Rohit Aarav - Great Grand Son & **SAMAST SAS, PARTAZI, WAGNUE, FOTEDAR, RAJNA, KAUL & KAR PARIVARS** 9419113113, 8825079399



Smt Shanta Wali

OBITUARY AND 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mrs. Sarla Kachroo** W/o. Lt. DySP Sh. Ashimansu Kachroo originally resident of Raj Ghat, Baramulla, presently at Block A, Qtr no: 3, Police Line, Channi Himmat, Jammu left for heavenly abode on 28th July 2023 at Jammu. **10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 5th August 2023 (Saturday) at 9:00 am at Muthi Ghat, near Directorate of School Education, Jammu. **Grief Stricken:** Vasishth Kachroo and Vasumdra Kachroo (Son and Daughter-in-law) Uthala Kachroo and Meenakshi Kachroo (Son and Daughter-in-law) Mrs. Gayatri Mattoo (Sister-in-law) Mr. Kunj Bhan Trisal (Brother) Mrs. Santosh Labroo (Sister) Grand children: Ridhi, Talin, Nitya & Rudra **Contact nos: 7006953904, 7889478928, 8825012941**



Mrs. Sarla Kachroo

Tenth Day/Kriya/Rasam Pagri

With profound grief and sorrow we inform you that the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Rakhi Singh** W/o Shri Atul Baru R/o Extension Basant Nagar Janipur, Jammu on 24th July, 2023 at Mira Road Mumbai. **TENTH DAY** will be performed on Wednesday 02/08/2023 at our residence at 11:00 AM **KRIYA** at our residence on 02/08/2023 at 12:00 noon **UTHALA** at Shiv Shakti Mandir, Janipur Ope. Government Quarter, near Janipur Chowk Jammu on 02/08/2023 **Wednesday** at 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Pawan Baru (Father in Law) Smt. Vijay Baru (Mother in Law) Atul Baru (Husband) Master Armaan (Son) Ambica Baru (Sister in law) Manish Rana (Brother in Law) **Mobile 94191 27648, 97973 00388**



Smt. Rakhi Singh

TENTH DAY KRIYA

"Our Hearts still ache with sadness, and many tears still flow. What it meant to lose you, no one will ever know." With deep grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved angel **Smt. Lalita Wangnoo (Raina)** W/o Sh. Ram Krishen Wangnoo, originally R/o Kheer Bhawani, Tulla Mulla, Ganderbal, presently at H.No. 175, Sector 4, Pamposh Colony, Janipur, Jammu, who merged with eternity on 24 July, 2023. **10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat, Jammu on 2 August, 2023. Prayer meeting will be held at 08:30 a.m. at Muthi Ghat, Jammu. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Ram Krishen Wangnoo - Husband Son & Daughter-in-law Lalit Kumar Wangnoo & Usha Ji Pandita Anita Raina & Uday Raina - Daughter & Son-in-law Granddaughter & Grandson-in-law Emblica Wangnoo & Ieshan Chandra Dr. Areca Wangnoo - Grand Daughter Satiwa Wangnoo - Grand Son Nikhil Raina - Grand Son Nikita Raina - Grand Daughter Wangnoo, Raina, Handoo, Ganjoo, Bhat, Jatoo, Pandita and Chandra Families **Contact Number - 9796604340, 9796604345, 9419822125**



Smt. Lalita Wangnoo (Raina)

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH HEAVY HEART AND PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SHRI BALRAJ DHAR** S/O LATE SHRI AFTAB RAM DHAR, ORIGINALLY FROM SHESHYAR HABBA KADAL, KASHMIR AND PRESENTLY RESIDING AT 105- SAVARKAR APARTMENT PATPARGANJ DELHI. HE ATTAINED NIRVANA ON 26TH JULY 2023. **TENTH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 4TH OF AUG. 2023 (8:00 AM) AT CHHOTA HARIDWAR, MURAD NAGAR. GHAT, GHAZIABAD. **GRIEF STRICKEN** BASANTI DHAR - WIFE SIDDHARTH DHAR - SON MEENAKSHI DHAR - DAUGHTER SHUBNI DHAR(TATHI) W/O LATE JAWAHAR LAL DHAR SAMASTH DHAR, TIKU, WALI AND JINDAL PARIVAR 9312813538 (BASANTI) 7406088866 (MEENAKSHI) 9055002935 (TATHI)



SHRI BALRAJ DHAR

10TH AND 11TH DAY KRIYA

My beloved Mother, you lived a Godly life. Your life was full of love, care, kindness and patience. We strongly believe you didn't die but went home to rest with the Lord Krishna, your Savior. **Smt. Shanta Wali** D/o Late Jaya and Prem Nath Sas R/o Nai Sadak (SRG) W/o Late Brij Lal Wali D-in-Law/o Lt. Janki and Jai Lal Wali R/o Chinkral Mohalla (SRG-Kmr). **10th and 11th Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 1st and 2nd Aug. 2023 at 11.30 am. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Mrs. Santosh Wali - Daughter Dr. Sanjay Wali - Son-in-law Dr. Shashank Wali - Grand Son **M.No: 9682530330**



Smt. Shanta Wali 24-10-1937 to 23-07-2023

13TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Kaka Singh Bandral** S/o Lt Shri Suram Sindh Bandral residing at H No. 30, Lane No. -13, Sec-3 Rajinder Nagar, JDA Colony. **13th Day Kriya** will be performed on 01/August /23 at our residence at 12 am. **Grief Stricken:** Smt Leela Devi - Wife **Sons and Daughters in law** Sudhir Singh Bandral & Natasha Rohan Singh Bandral **Daughters & Son in laws** Priya Katoch & Major Abhay Katoch Shivani Jasrotia & Rameshwar Singh Jasrotia **Brothers & Sister in laws** Chain Singh Bandral & Rano Devi Bushan Singh Bandral & Kamli Devi Balbir Singh Bandral & Rajni Devi **Sister and Brother in law** Darshana Devi & Mohinder Singh



Shri Kaka Singh Bandral (Insp. Retd)

10TH DAY/KRIYA

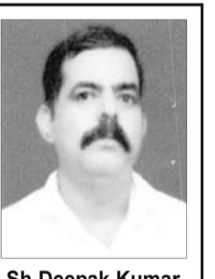
WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT SARLA KAUL** ON 28TH JULY 2023 AT FLAT NO 33, SECTOR 19, POCKET 2, GREEN VIEW APPTT DWARKA, NEW-DELHI. **10TH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED AT GARH-GANGA, MURAD NAGAR (UP) ON AUGUST 6, 2023 (SUNDAY) AT 7 A.M. **GRIEF STRICKEN:** TAPAN KUMAR KAUL -HUSBAND YOGESH KAUL -SON SEEMA KAUL PANDITA -DAUGHTER SOMESH PANDITA -SON-IN-LAW KIRTI KUMAR KAUL -BROTHER-IN-LAW PERMELA KAUL -SISTER-IN-LAW GIRIJA KAUL -SISTER-IN-LAW SHIBAN KRISHAN KAUL -BROTHER-IN-LAW **GRAND CHILDEN: SANCHITA & SHIV**



SMT SARLA KAUL

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Deepak Kumar** S/o Late Shri Kasturi Lal R/o Lane No. 3 H No. 117, Rani Talab Digiana, Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 23rd July, 2023. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 1st August, 2023 at our home held 10:00 AM. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Sharda Devi (Mother) Silky Sharma (Wife) Ridham Sharma (Son)



Sh Deepak Kumar

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Transformation of J&K UT in less than four years has been phenomenal: LG Sinha



TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jul 31: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed a roundtable discussion on development scenario in Jammu Kashmir, organised by India Foundation.

In his address, through video conferencing, the Lt Governor shared the stellar journey of Jammu Kashmir towards peace, prosperity and unprecedented development.

"The transformation of J&K UT in less than four years has been phenomenal. We have decimated discriminato-

ry system prevalent for almost seven-decades and implemented inclusive policies that fostered development and touched the lives of millions. People have freedom to live their life as they desire, rather than dictated by others," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor highlighted the reforms introduced by the government to establish a peaceful and conducive environment empowering the citizens of Jammu Kashmir.

"For the first time after independence, the common citizen of

J&K can think freely and express their feelings without any fear from separatist-terrorist network. It is one of the biggest transformations common man is witnessing under leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji," the Lt Governor said.

He said, apart from fast economic development and unparalleled growth with equity, there is a rapid social change which is reflected in day to day lives of common citizens. There is growing aspiration in the society to excel, he

added.

"Peace is the first step in the journey of development. And, we do not believe in buying peace but in establishing peace. There is no distinction in policy and intent. Discriminatory policies imposed for 70 years are gone and citizens are getting equal opportunities for development," the Lt Governor observed.

He said, the peaceful conduct of the G20 summit, Muharram procession being taken out in Kashmir after 34 years, revival of cinemas, unprecedented

tourists visiting J&K UT has sent the message that J&K is on the move.

Sh Ram Madhav, President India Foundation; Sh B.V.R. Subrahmanyan, CEO, NITI Aayog; Sh Alok Bansal, Director, India Foundation; Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd), eminent personalities, experts, senior functionaries and members of India Foundation shared their views during the roundtable discussion and lauded the steps and initiatives taken by the UT administration for the equal and inclusive development of J&K.

Sociology Deptt organizes 13th Prof S C Dube Memorial Lecture

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 31: The Department of Sociology, University of Jammu, today organized XIIIth Prof S C Dube Memorial lecture in the memory of Prof S.C. Dube, an eminent Sociologist, who was also the Former Vice Chancellor of University of Jammu.

The Lecture was organised in collaboration with Reasi and Ramnagar Campuses on the theme "Modernity, its Rupture and Manifested Reflections".

Prof Ashok Kaul, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, was the key speaker on this occasion and Prof Naresh Padha, Former Dean Academic Affairs, JU, was the chief guest.

The programme began by lighting the lamp and paying floral tribute to Prof S.C. Dube. Prof Vishav Raksha, Head, Department of Sociology introduced the dignitaries to the audience and gave the welcome address. In her address she talked about the Department of Sociology and its achievements and contributions to the society.

Prof S.K. Pandey, Director, Reasi Campus and Prof. Vinod Sharma, Director, Ramnagar Campus shared their views with the audience. Dr. Hema Gandotra, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology spoke about the academic acumen of Professor Shyama Charan Dube and narrated about his life achievements. Dr Sapna Sharma introduced the speaker to the listeners. Prof Kaul in his lecture elaborated that Sociology is a product of modernity and how it was dear to

Prof Dube in his critical contemplation of understanding the evolving Indian society. He paid his tributes to Prof Dube by reviewing the journey of modernity, its rupture and reflections on the lines of discursive discourse of illusions, disillusion and its reflective manifestations, a trajectory already treaded by Prof Dube. He asserted that while Prof Dube's initial thrust was the 'village India', he explored the process of modernization and his work reflect critical indulgence of modernity with Indian society. By highlighting few significant contributions of Prof Dube which discussed the transformation of Indian society, he pressed their relevance till date.

The lecture was followed by closing remarks by Prof. Naresh Padha, former Dean Academic Affairs. Prof. Padha lauded Department of Sociology for organizing lectures on pertinent social topics and encouraged the organisation of more such events in the future to provide learning opportunities to the young minds of University of Jammu. Ms Kajal Kalsi, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology presented vote of thanks on the occasion.

The proceedings of the lecture were conducted by Ms Diksha Nargotra, Lecturer, Department of Sociology. Among others present in the lecture were Prof Jasbir Singh, Prof. Vijaylaxmi Brara, Dr Gopal Sharma, Dr Ravinder Singh, Dr Monica Narang, Dr Saranjit Kour, ms. Kunzang Angmo, faculty members from Ramnagar and Reasi campuses, Research Scholars and students.

Kranti Tirth ensuring lost glory of unsung heroes: Lt Gen Anup Jamwal



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 31: "Kranti Tirth" ensuring the lost glory of unsung heroes and we must worship our Freedom fighters and all those who laid down their lives to ensure freedom of our mother land" said, Lt Gen Anup Singh Jamwal, (Retired) while addressing a function at Gurha Salathian as Chief Guest, in which Family members of local freedom fighters as well as

from the adjoining areas were honoured.

The function was organised at Guda Salathian by Akhil Bhartiya Poorva Sainik Seva Parishad and Center for Advanced Research on development and change, New Delhi. The function started by lighting the traditional lamp and offering flowers to Bharat Mata by Lt Gen Anup Singh Jamwal, Prof Virender Koundal and Capt Sansar Chand,

Maha Vir chakra. A large number of families of freedom fighters, Ex-servicemen and others were present on the occasion.

Lt Gen Anup Singh Jamwal while addressing the gathering said that Ministry of Culture GOI is doing a great service to the country and towards "Unsung heroes" by starting a program like "Kranti Tirath" He further added we must worship our Freedom fighters and all those who laid down

their lives to ensure freedom of our mother land.

Prof Virender Koundal apprised everyone that how some of our heroes were deprived of desired honour and right place in the pages of History.

Earlier, the family members of freedom fighters were honoured by Lt Gen Anup Singh, Prof Virender, Capt Sansar Chand MVC and Bharat Singh JKAS, Secretary Cultural Academy UT OF J&K.

Col Sukhvinder Mankotia, General Secretary, Akhil Bhartiya Poorva Sainik Seva Parishad thanked everyone for taking part in such a patriotic event and added a special thanks to Bharat Singh JKAS because with his help tribute to the Unsung Heroes became complete. During the entire program the atmosphere was charged up with patriotic feelings.

Prize distribution ceremony of UCMAS "National Level Competition" held



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU Jul 31: Prize Distribution Ceremony of UCMAS "National Level Competition" (NLC) as well as UCMAS "International Grading Exam" (IGE) certificate Distribution Ceremony of was held at UCMAS Jammu Kashmir Regional head Office at Trikuta Nagar.

Approx 200+ students along with their parents were present in the event.

Chief Guest of function was Sunaina Sharma Mehta, Joint Director of Tourism and this event was executed under supervision of Academic Director UCMAS Jammu Kashmir Sonia Masson and Regional Director of UCMAS Rupesh Masson.

Rupesh Masson in his opening speech said "International Grading Exam" (IGE) is conducted by UCMAS Malaysia International Headquarter across the globe as a training and quality assessment practice and kids from different countries goes thru this assessment in their respective areas authorised centre.

"IGE holds a international recognition as ucmas is a trusted & recognised brand with presence in more than 80 countries across globe, this certificate can help kids get a edge in admission process internationally as well as in top colleges of India. "he also informed that National Level Competition (NLC)

2023 is being organised in north India biggest university in Punjab at "Lovely Professional University" on 2nd & 3rd September under the guidelines of National office & as this time it is a neighbouring state whole team of trainer, centre heads along with participating students & parents will be going to Jammu Kashmir in this Prestigious National event.

Mrinank Gupta of KC Public School got 5th Position in NLC was awarded a trophy and certificate and Pranavi Sanga of GD Goenka School was awarded 5000 cash prize for her good performance in NLC competition.

UCMAS course instructor and centre head of all authorised centre participated in this event Along Many prominent citizens as well as social activities were present including -Sandhya dhar Social activist and Nari Shakti Puraskar awardee, Mamta Choudhary HOD Management Baba Gulam Shah Badshah, University,Rajouri. Garg Kapoor & Ananya Gupta (Internees) helped with Management & Social media coverage of ceremony. Staff member Reetika Sharma, Mandep Singh, Simerpal Singh, Shivani Gupta helped in overall management of event.

Sunaina Sharma Mehta, who also happens to be a parent of UCMAS students in her closing speech said, "UCMAS is a wonderful program for young kids aged 4-13 years and parents should motivate and encourage kids to participate all state, national and international competitions as it give boost to mathematical ability as well as moral of kids".

Dogra Front & Shiv Sena protest against kidnapping of army soldier in Kulgam

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 31: The recent kidnapping of 25-year-old soldier Javed Ahmad Wani, who was on leave, has sparked concern and outrage among citizens across Jammu and Kashmir. Javed Ahmad Wani, an Indian Army personnel posted in Leh (Ladakh), went missing around 8 pm on Saturday in Kulgam district.

In response to this distressing incident, the workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena, under the leadership of President Ashok Gupta, organized a protest rally in Jammu city. The rally aimed to draw attention to the alarming silence of Kashmiri politicians regarding the kidnapping of a Kashmiri soldier. Despite their vocal stance on various issues related to Kashmir, these politicians have remained conspicuously silent in this unfortunate incident.



Gupta, the party president, expressed deep concern over the lack of response from Kashmiri leaders, who have been known to tweet on every issue concerning Kashmir. He highlighted that the successful conduct of the 8th Muharram mourning procession through the heart of Srinagar on July 27, 2023, with the participation of over 25,000 Shia Muslims of Kashmir, indicates a positive step towards normalcy in the region. However,

despite this significant development, former chief ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti refrained from acknowledging or commenting on the matter.

Gupta further emphasized that the people of Kashmir are beginning to realize the hypocritical behavior of their politicians, who remain active on Twitter and often criticize the Government of India for the abrogation of Article 370. He pointed out that their silence on impor-

tant matters like the kidnapping of a fellow Kashmiri reflects their selective approach to issues.

The protest rally witnessed a strong turnout with party members Abhishek, Rahul, Kishore, Prem, Sushil, Ram, Sampuran, Akshay, Rajkumari, Ankush, and various others present to voice their concerns and demand appropriate action to ensure the safe return of the kidnapped soldier.

Dimple starts Jan Andolan against PDD for pre-paid metering

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 31: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, along with a large number of poor families started a Jan Andolan against the PDD for prepaid metering in Jammu without consent of the poor families.

He demanded from PM Modi to give free 500 units electricity per month to the people and return the Jammu Kashmir power projects.

Addressing the protesters, Dimple said today we are starting UT wise start Jan Andolan today in all districts, against the PDD for prepaid recharging metering system in Jammu and Kashmir,



without consent and consulting the consumers.

Dimple appealed to all the political parties, traders corporators and people not to allow pre-paid metering in their wards, areas and stop paying electricity tariff by

recharge system.

Dimple warned an alleged J&K govt that Jammu region is facing long duration unsheduled power cuts, in spite of imposing huge electricity tariff and installation of the smart meters.

The other present were Rekha Kumari, Sarishta Devi, Chanchla Devi, Jagdev Singh, Baldev Singh, Tarsem, Rajinder Kumar, Ashok Kumar, Balwan kumar, Sunil Kumar, Sohan Lal and Rahul.

EDITORIAL

INDIAN
SUBCONTINENT

You must have ever noticed that, in the map of India, apart from the states and union territories of India, there are many countries also visible. This is not visible in the map of any other country. Nepal and China come in the northern region of India, while Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives and Myanmar countries come in the eastern region. Sri Lanka comes in the south and Afghanistan comes in the east. Altogether our country is surrounded by 9 countries, that's why this whole group is called the Indian subcontinent. The region of South Asia is popularly known as the Indian subcontinent.

This geographical space is made up of many castes, religions and ethnicities. The history of this region has been advanced since ancient times.

And it has occupied a bright spot in the sky of world trade and the development of our civilization. Relations between India and its neighbors are broadly layered through relations between the state and the non-state.

The political relations between states in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) organization are clear. The India-Pakistan border is a result of the partition in 1947 under the Radcliffe Award.

The unnatural boundary created has given rise to several controversies.

According to the terms agreed by India and Pakistan for the partition of the Indian subcontinent, Jammu and Kashmir, the rulers of princely states were given the right to choose either Pakistan or India.

Maharaja Hari Singh of Kashmir was caught in the crossfire of events, in which his a revolution among the Muslim subjects and the intervention of Pashtun tribesmen were involved.

They signed a document of accession to the Indian Union in October 1947. Since 1947, three big and bloody wars have been fought between the two countries over Kashmir.

The Indo-Pakistani War of 1947 resulted from the execution of the Instrument of Accession by Maharaja Hari Singh. The war ended in December 1948, by which time Kashmir's administrative regions had been demarcated. The Line of Control (LoC) was established. The war of 1965 ended with bloodshed on both sides. In this war, the United States and the then The intervention of the Soviet Union became necessary. India won in this war. Later, in 1999, the Kargil War reopened raw wounds. Pakistani soldiers across LoC, infiltrated Kargil district and aided rebels in the area. India retaliated and war ensued. The Indian Army recaptured the Tiger Hills and other strategic heights in Batalik. Overall, the relations between India and Pakistan have been bad in every field, but relations have improved in between. Something or the other happens that again brings bitterness in the relationship. If Pakistan leaves no stone unturned to conduct terrorist activities in India, then India will also give a befitting reply.

India and Pakistan announced in February 2021 that their armed forces would stop firing along their shared border. This is the first such step since 2003 and a step towards reducing the tension between the two rivals a potentially important step. The 2003 ceasefire is an unwritten agreement that brought peace on the LOC for about 3 years till 2006.

BJP springs a surprise: No CM face in MP, Rajasthan, Chandigarh

By: Sunil Gatade

“When in doubt, leave it out” used to be a maxim in journalism, though not always followed in practice by reporters and editors, but it was never a good strategy in the world of politics.

Now, however, the world's largest party, the BJP, seems to have adopted this principle in three election-going states where it is locked in a stiff battle with a re-energised Congress.

Right or wrong, the BJP suddenly seems to be giving political observers the feeling that it is wobbling. Its decision to go to the polls in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan, due by the end of the year, only with the face of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a reflection. This decision came after Union home minister Amit Shah visited all the three states recently and held extensive consultations with the states' leaders.

This move signals that the BJP, which has always batted on the front foot, has suddenly started playing it safe after the Karnataka debacle, and will not project any CM candidate in any of the three states. The Basavaraj Bommai fiasco after the removal of B.S. Yediyurappa in Karnataka is weighing heavily on the mind of the Prime Minister, who has so far not uttered a word on the Karnataka “Waterloo” as if it has not happened.

While leadership means taking calculated risks for bigger benefits, the Modi-Shah duo are in a way following the line of least resistance, which need not necessarily be the best strategy.

Another indication that the BJP is not in the pink of health is reflect-

ed in the NDA meeting convened in New Delhi last week to show that it has a lot of allies and wants to bring in even more.

The buzz in the Opposition camp following the Patna meeting and the one in Bengaluru is making the Modi-Shah duo more cautious, if not actually nervous. So, caution is the new name of the game in the BJP. The floor is wet, and it could get slippery.

Among the three states, the BJP would fight for the first time without projecting a CM face in Chhattisgarh. Raman Singh, who had been a three-time CM in the tribal-dominated state, has been benched following the debacle in the Assembly polls last time. But this was expected. Mr Raman has been in the political doghouse for quite some time.

What has come as a shock is that the BJP's longest-serving CM, Shivraj Singh Chouhan of Madhya Pradesh, and Vasundhara Raje, the tallest woman leader of the party at the national level, who has been twice CM of Rajasthan, will have to battle it out for leadership positions if the party wins in their respective states.

The BJP's decision does not really mean that it is blindly following the “ek Modi sab par bhari” line, but that the ruling party has developed cold feet in projecting chief ministerial candidates in the wake of growing factionalism in all the three units. Interestingly, Mr Chouhan is a veteran CM, who has been at the helm of Madhya Pradesh for more time than Narendra Modi in Gujarat. In fact, Lal Krishna Advani had once hailed him as a possible future PM when the BJP ecosystem was feverishly chanting “Modi... Modi”.

Attempts were made to sideline

Vasundhara Raje since the BJP lost the last Assembly elections. Satish Punia, who was the state BJP chief, was recently removed to mollify Ms Raje. But the joy was short-lived as he was made deputy leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly. All Union ministers from Rajasthan generally keep their distance from Ms Raje. Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat is a known detractor.

The moral of the story: Ms Raje is fighting every inch of the way. Some time back, reports had it that high-profile railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who also holds charge of IT, had emerged as the hot favourite among the BJP's top brass to become the next CM. But after that, Mr Vaishnaw has faced trouble in the wake of the Balasore train accident, in which 300 passengers had perished.

Factionalism is the bane of the BJP in these states, and it has only grown since the emergence of Narendra Modi on the national scene as the high command silently played favourites and tried to cut established leaders down to size.

An example in faraway Maharashtra will suffice. Ajit Pawar looks like he has emerged as the blue-eyed boy since he split the Sharad Pawar-led NCP and has been made deputy chief minister with the coveted finance portfolio. Eight of his colleagues also have key portfolios. It is immaterial that this has made chief minister Eknath Shinde, who heads the Shiv Sena's breakaway faction, uneasy, as well as a section of the state BJP, which is suffering silently. Devendra Fadnis is deputy CM of the BJP, having earlier been chief minister for a full term.

The talk of “inclusive” leader-

ship is a misnomer. It more a “collective” leadership sort of thing. There is no captain, and all are soldiers. It means to go along with the central leadership on the issue of a decision on the state leadership. Not to question who and why.

The BJP's uneasiness is sharply in contrast to the Congress going “slow and steady” in the election-going states. Madhya Pradesh PCC chief Kamal Nath wants to avenge the way his government was toppled by the BJP through “Operation Kamala” by luring away Jyotiraditya Scindia and the 22 MLAs supporting him. Right or wrong, with full support from Digvijaya Singh, Kamal Nath feels that everything is going his way. Mr Scindia himself looks unsettled in the BJP, as he is being looked down on as an outsider.

In Rajasthan, the Congress high command has succeeded at long last in convincing chief minister Ashok Gehlot and his known detractor Sachin Pilot to smoke the peace pipe. Similar is the story in Chhattisgarh, where senior minister T.S. Singh Deo, who was not on the best of terms with chief minister Bhupesh Baghel, has been made the deputy CM.

The next few months will show which way the political winds are blowing in the three states. One thing is clear: the Congress is upbeat in the wake of the Karnataka victory and wants to make a fight of it in the coming polls. The BJP too is battling hard, as it knows that any slip would be problematic for it in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. But self-doubt need not always be a good thing.

Rationality of Indianization of education policy

By: Vijay Garg

Today new definitions and new paradigms are being given to the acquisition of knowledge in the country. Employment-oriented dimensions are also given to it for the goal of the new education policy. The power of 4G, 5G and 6G in the digital world has opened the doors of foreign universities to Indian students. Now they are allowed to earn two degrees at the same time in universities or educational institutions of their country instead of obtaining foreign visa to study. even though multilingual culture It is being asked to welcome but regional linguistic bigotry is coming in the way. Nevertheless, every day there is an effort by the UGC to open new doors for new expansion of knowledge. Today the campuses of educational institutions have become big but there is a lack of enthusiastic and dedicated students. They feel that the courses which are being given to them in the name of new education are not practical even today. But the country is also looking towards its ancient culture. looking for bright spots in its past history and giving Sha's new young generation wants to stand not only in foreign glare but also on the new and

wide ground of Indianness. Which has been empowering the youth of this country for centuries. In this matter, a big initiative has been taken by the controllers of education up to school education and higher education. For a long time, the ancient knowledge which was forgotten considering it impractical, has made up its mind to search for pearls of knowledge and gift it to the youth. It has been decided that in today's changing environment, each subject or The success of Indian knowledge should be mixed in the course which not only explains the meaning of being an Indian to the new generation in the country, gives them pride but also gives them a new fundamental identity in the world of their knowledge. Obviously teachers will play a big role in its return. For this they must have a message to sink into the depths of their reading rooms where this education is ready to communicate to them. UGC has taken an important initiative. He has also designed the curriculum on the Indian knowledge tradition. India's golden bird It was so called because astronomy had clear normative Vedic notions. Differences between plastic surgery and cataract surgery have also been written in Sushruta Samhita. The scholars who

have kept the teachings of that bygone era authentic till today include Charak, Sushruta, Aryabhatta, Varahmihir, Bhaskaracharya. Vidush is like Panini and Patanjali and symbols of women's strength are Maitreyi and Gargi. Study, research, knowledge presented by them will be included in new courses. UGC now universities and The teachers teaching in the colleges are going to be trained under the Indian knowledge tradition. The subjects of the Indian knowledge tradition that can complement today's modern subjects include ancient mathematics, astrology, water management in ancient India, and the fields of education. With this decision, UGC has taken a big leap in making education complete. It should be welcomed. But whatever is old is the best, there should be no such insistence. The one who is the best should be accepted and the one who could not keep up with the times should be allowed to disappear in the pages of a bygone era. Take some examples, even today the knowledge of Gita is so appropriate to live in practical life, if the sutras of Gita guide the path of a person, then humanity will get a new vision to live. Panini's Sutras can become the basis of languages and Kautilya's Arthashastra

can show a new way in the world of complex economy. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam's announcement as a guide for the welfare of all in the era of insensitivity, emergency and selfishness only for the satisfaction of the ego ; Which is also being given the ideal formula for the G-20 conferences being held in India, it is the gift of our ancient knowledge only. What is needed at this time is that research and that exploration which does not negate the old knowledge, but by taking a dip in its sea, it can take out those refined knowledge sources, whose mixing with western knowledge can open the knowledge-ocean of a new solution. Instead of wandering in the dark, if the young generation is adorned with the Indian awareness of this lost knowledge of the past, then definitely those human sensibilities

There can be a return to moral and ethical ideals, which we see disappearing today as western cut-throat competition commercialism dominates India's markets.

(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)

Malik leads protest against missing of army soldier on leave from Kulgam

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 31: LJP (R) activists led by its J&K President Rafiq Malik held strong protest against missing of army soldier on leave Javaid Ahmad Wani, a resident of Achathal area of Kulgam district demanding every possible action to trace him at the earliest who was supposed to join work on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, Malik demanded Govt to take every possible step to trace missing Army soldier and expressed solidarity with the aggrieved family and pray to almighty for his safe return.

Expressing serious concern over earlier abduction of army soldiers and later their killings, Malik said such heinous acts will not weaken our resolve to establish peace and normalcy in the Valley," he said.

Last year in March, Sameer Ahmad Malla, a Territorial Army (TA)



jawan attached with the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry, was abducted and later killed by militants of Lashker-e-Toiba (LeT) outfit in central Kashmir's Budgam district. In August 2020, another off-duty soldier, Shakir Manzoor of 162 Battalion, TA, was abducted from his car and later killed by the militants in the Kulgam district.

Similarly, another soldier, Aurangzeb was killed by militants June 2018 in Pulwama while as army man Muhammad Rafiq Yattoo of Warpora, Sopore of JAKLI

was killed in April 2019. In May 2017, Lieutenant Umar Fayaz, who had gone home in Shopian to attend the marriage ceremony of his relative, was first abducted and then killed by the militants. The same year, BSF constable Mohammad Ramzan Parray was dragged out of his house in north Kashmir's Hajin town and killed, added Malik.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Santosh Singh State Senior Vice President JKUT, Mahraj Krishan Bhat State President

Migrant Cell JKUT, Neha Bhagat President Mahila Wing J&KUT, Deepak Kumar Jammu Province President, Mulkh Raj State President SC Cell JKUT, Parshotam Lal Manyal State President Majdoor Dastkar Union, Nirmal State General Secretary Mahilla Wing, Shahbaz Malik State General Secretary JKUT, Rajiv Gorka State President Legal Cell Chief Advisor JKUT, Showkat Shah State General Secretary JKUT, RP Singh State General Secretary, Sanju Bhagat State Senior Secretary.

'Court extends ED Director Mishra's term till Sept 15 but say's no further extensions'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 31: Sr. AAP leaders Jammu Province, Major General Retd, R.S Jamwal, Farooq Ahmed Bandy, Ram Singh Chauhan, Nirmal Mahna, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Ravinder Singh, Sarpanch, Amit Langer, S.S. Jamwal, Agya Kour, Ram Pal Khajuria, Sandeep Parihar, Romesh Lal Bhagat, Suresh Bhagat, Ashni Mattoo, Ranjodh Singh and Sukhdev Kumar Sangral, in a joint statement issued here on Monday, said that the Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday extended the term of the Director of Directorate of Enforcement (ED) Sanjay Kumar Mishra till September 15 in "larger public interest".

Mishra's term was to end on July 31 as per the July 11 judgment which held the previous extensions given to the officer to be illegal.

The centre government cited the involvement of the outgoing ED Director in the review of India's anti-money launder-

ing mechanisms by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global peer review body.

Central government cannot befool the People of the country now, they very well know that why the central government wants the extension of Mishra up to October 15, 2023? Central government needs extension of Mishra, only for operation Bihar & operation elections & nothing else.

The AAP leaders have expressed great satisfaction over the decision of Supreme Court holding three times extension to Sanjay Kumar Mishra, as ED Director as illegal & that all decisions pronounced by an illegal incumbent shall always be illegal and that BJP cannot, now, befool the countrymen in the name of ED raids over opposition only, because since 2014 more than 6200 cases registered by ED only 25 cases have been charge sheeted. More so, the ED raids start as & when elections are announced in any state, they said and

maintained that bail is being denied to Manish Sisodia & Satyinder Jain, Ministers of Kejriwal government on the pretext of investigation & not on any material fact, which is simply a misuse of legal process, which have now been exposed.

They further strongly held the BJP leaders exposed over the hollow slogan of "Beti Padhao- Beti Bachao" which has now become a joke among the women folk in the entire country because of complete silence of PM over women wrestlers case of sexual assault and manhandling they said and added that electoral gain has been preferred over honour and dignity of our brave women.

The PM breaks his silence after more than 82 days in Manipur gruesome episode and that too after the snub of Apex Court, which has exposed him badly before the whole nation and world, duly highlighted by the viral video played over social media, they maintained

and added that the PM tried to divert attention from the very big governance failures and the humanitarian tragedy in Manipur by equating crimes against women in other states, especially those governed by the opposition like Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, and exclaimed that whole countrymen are shocked over the most shameful barbaric and inhuman episode against women in Manipur and maintained that equally shameful on the part of PM to equate the incident with other states ruled by opposition.

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.

Rtn Sunil Sawhney appointed as District Chair Child Development RID 3070

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 31: Putting another feather on the cap of Rtn Sunil K Sawhney, Rtn Vipin Bhasin District Governor Rotary International District (RID) 3070 appointed Rtn Sawhney as District Chair Child Development RID 3070 for the year 2023-24.

Rotary International District 3070 comprises of whole JK and Ladakh UTs part of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

Rtn Sawhney has been bestowed with the additional duties of District assignment keeping in view his work for Rotary as Service above self.

Rtn Sawhney earlier has served the Rotary as General Secretary of



RC Jammu, Two times President of RC Jammu, Assistant Governor RID 3070, Chief Sergeant at Arms RID 3070 and also have so many Rotary assignments. He has the honor to collect more than Rs. 4.5 lakh during Covid pandemic for Prime Minister Relief fund besides serving the poor and needles during the pandemic.

As Project Director Gift of Sight he has facilitated more than 80 cornea transplantation surgeries of cornea blind persons free of cost in collaboration with RC Hoshiapur Midtown and they are seeing the beautiful world. Besides this he is also working in Gift of Life and Gift of Hearing Projects of the RID.

Rtn Sawhney said he has received a big chunk of Sanitary Pads from Rtn Kamini Mathur Charter President of Rotary Club of Jaipur Vision for further distribution to the Rural Girls schools and Women Colleges.

The project will start from the Govt woman college Bhagwati Nagar Jammu, proposal of

which has already been sent to the College.

In a meeting the members of RC Jammu has congratulated Rtn Sawhney on his achievements and new responsibilities. S/Rtn Harbans Singh, Prem Shankar, Dr Gaurav Vaid, Dr Anil Amla, Dr Navneet Gupta, Dr Puneet Gupta, Sat Pal Verma, D N Sharma and Rtn Rajan Sawhney were present in the meeting.

Rtn Sawhney thanked Rtn Vipin Bhasin District Governor for having faith on him and bestowing the responsibilities for which he has assured that he will do his work with full dedication and loyalty.

Paddar Premier League concludes

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Jul 31: Paddar premier league 2023 organised by Azhar Butt and Mubasher Khateeb which had been inaugurated by DDC Paddar Harikrishan Chouhan and BDC chairman Arpan Rana along with administration Paddar on 29/05/2023 at Chattargarh Stadium Paddar concluded today.

The Paddar Premier League was participated by 54 teams from different parts of district Kishtwar and league was played on league cum knock out basis, among them two best teams Wisden Cricket Club and CG Lions made it to the final match.

In the final match, CG Lions won the toss and choose to bat and scored 114 in 18.1 overs. Wisden Cricket club chased down the target



in 18.2 overs losing 5 wickets.

Asif Butt scored 55 while chasing the target and Suresh Kumar took 4 wickets and was declared man of the match for his magnificent spell.

Manglesh Singh of CG Lions was declared Player of the tournament for his all round performance. Nishat Ahmed of

Wisden Cricket Club was declared best bowler of the tournament and Asif Butt of Wisden Cricket club was declared best batter of the tournament. Danish DK was declared best keeper of the tournament.

The Chief Guest DDC Paddar and BDC Paddar, while interacting with both the teams, said that youth have the

power to bring a change and that they should use their energy in positive activities, which will also spare youth from the menace of drugs.

He also appreciated the efforts of both organisers Azhar Butt and Mubasher Khateeb and the whole team of Wisden Cricket Club for their spectacular performance throughout the tournament.

Bhagat appeals LG to set up a separate office of Public Information Office

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Jul 31: National Conference Senior Leader Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat has appealed to Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Secretary Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Doda, and Ramban Districts

of Chenab Valley Zone to set up Public Information Office PIO's in each Districts to prevent wrong doing.

Bhagat said that the RTI act can be easily implemented, Tactics in Government Department say Government Officials have become accustomed to violating the RTI Act 2009.

Bhagat said the appeal

has been disposed of with the instruction to provide information but no Officer respects the order of the first appealing officer and no action has been initiated against the officers concerned by the appealing Officers under the RTI Act. Not done this is the volume of mismanagement.

"We have only RTI as

a tool to curb corruption if a Public Information Office is set up outside the departments it will be beneficial for general information seekers as they will work keen interest to provide information. It will also report wrong doing to the Central Information Commission Government Officials are doing, Ajeet Bhagat said.

President Nat Manch remembers Martyr Udhham Singh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 31: President Nat Manch, Dr. Tarun Sharma said all those, who sacrificed their lives for the cause of the nation, are always remembered and become immortal and source of inspiration for the coming generations.

The communities, which forget and don't respect their martyrs, cannot make any progress and



their future is not safe.

"Salute to courage, valour and sacrifice of martyr Udhham Singh. Belonging to the Ghadar Party, Udhham Singh was hanged on July 31 in 1940 for assassinating Michael O' Dwyer, the former Lieutenant Governor of Punjab. The assassination was in revenge for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar in 1919," he said.

IZEC Lankerchey commemorates Ashura, Sham-e-Gariban

TOP NEWS REPORT

KARGIL, Jul 31: Imam-E-Zaman Educational Center (IZEC) Lankerchey, Sankoo commemorated the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussain (A.S) the third Shia Imam and the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad.

The mourners took out Azadari procession with Alam-e-Hussain, reciting elegies and beating their chests to mourn the martyrdom of Harzat-e-Imam Hussain.

At Malaging Sheikh Kazim Alam-ul-Huda addressed the mourners said, that Imam Hussain

offered the supreme sacrifice and stood against tyranny against all odds. He further said, Imam Hussain achieved martyrdom because of his devotion to the eternal truth.

The procession's were taken out from Mohalla youkmagatoo through Main road Culminated at imam Bargah IZEC.

Where at Hussaini Chowk Sheikh Sadiq Shahidee stressed upon the teachings of Imam Hussain and said, Ashura symbolised the struggle against cruelty, injustice and tyranny of Yazeed.

At Qatilgah, IZEC Akhooon Mohammad Hussain threw light on the philosophy of Karbala and paid homage to the Imam and his companion who laid their lives for equality, justice, truth and to root out brutality and oppression and to save Islam from clutches of tyranny at Karbala in Iraq in 61st year after Hijra. Special prayed for peace development, prosperity, and communal harmony for the country.

After concluding the Youm-e-Ashura Sham-e-Gariban procession were also taken

out at Imam-e-Zaman Educational Center Lankerchey.

Thousands of mourner's participated with chant reciting Nouha and beating their chest in memory of Harzat-e-Imam Hussain (A.S).

The procession starts from Malaging Youkmagatoo which through main road and assembled at Imam Bargah Qatilgah IZEC.

The procession concluded with prayed for peace, development, health and prosperity of humanity at large were also held in congregational.

Army organizes field trip to Gulmarg for Kupwara women



TOP NEWS REPORT

KUPWARA, Jul 31: As part of the Indian Army's outreach initiatives, Kupwara Terriers organized a field trip to the famous tourist destination Gulmarg for 80 female participants. These women are working at Various Skill Development Centers, where they contribute to the preparation of Indian National flags under the Mission Tiranga in Kupwara.

The participants were enthralled by the awe-inspiring beauty of Gulmarg and thoroughly enjoyed their visit. It is important to note that most of these women come from economically weaker sections of society and would not have had the opportunity to undertake such trips due to financial constraints and other restrictions.

These initiatives play a significant

role in expanding the learning and social horizons of the underprivileged, leaving a lasting impression on their minds and motivating them to pave the way for a better future.

The Indian Army remains committed to engaging, educating, empowering, and guiding the youth of Kupwara in a positive direction, thereby fostering peace and harmony in the region.

Actor-writer Zeishan Quadri, recently seen in OTT film *Bloody Daddy*, says as a writer he likes the crime genre and prefers to stick to it than venture into the unknown

Actor, writer and director Zeishan Quadri was recently seen playing a negative role in Shahid Kapoor-starrer OTT film *Bloody Daddy*. While his role of a corrupt NCB officer was praised by many, it was his writing that stole the hearts of the masses years ago. The writer of *Gangs of Wasseypur* talks about his journey so far.

He shares, "Director Anurag Kashyap was in talks with Viacom. We had thought about part three during the lockdown. We cannot confirm as yet if it's going to happen and who will be directing or producing it. But at the same time, when we made the two parts we always had a basic script in mind, so that we could come back and reignite the *Wasseypur* world."

Ask him the name of an artiste who could be a good addition to the *Wasseypur* cast and pat comes the reply, "Barun Sobti." *Asur* and the recent Netflix release *Kohrra* has done some good to Sobti, who was earlier a star only on television. Quadri adds, "As a writer-producer of *Halahal*, I was convinced about casting Barun Sobti in the role of a cop. Now when I saw *Kohrra*, I



am happy that *Halahal* director-actor jodi has come up with such authentic series. The best part, even though its crime drama, is that it's so much more than that and talks about relationships, and the tragedy of it all. It has redefined crime thrillers all together."

Legal tangle

Like every other famous and successful writer-producers, Quadri has also courted a few controversies. A fraud accusation was made by producer Shalini Chaudhary and an FIR was registered last year. He explains, "I didn't feel it was

important to address it then and the High Court of Mumbai dismissed the case in June."

Lanes of crime

Currently focusing on his acting, he has earlier been a part of films like *Gangs of Wasseypur 2*, *Revolver Rani*, *Halahal* and *Meeruthiya Gangsters*, apart from OTT film *Bloody Daddy*. Not just his acting projects, but also his writing revolves around crime. He says, "As far as acting goes, as an artiste it's always good to try different roles. As for writing, I have grown up in *Wasseypur*, *Dhanbad*, in Bihar, and in my writing I can very well rep-

resent the realities of the area. It is as close to reality as it can get. Thus, I focused on what I do best rather than imitating anybody's style or trying to sell genres that I do not relate to."

While Quadri and mentor Anurag Kashyap get majority of the credit for initiating the new era of crime genre with *Gangs of Wasseypur*, Quadri believes that Indian directors have the means and stories to execute world-class crime stories.

Clear take

Talking of Chandigarh or Punjab, he has no connections or stories to share except that he shot here for *Your Honor 2*, which was an enriching experience. "I enjoyed my time there and at the end of it, could feel like I was a Punjabi."

Although Quadri also ventured into direction and production in 2017, making his directorial debut with the film *Meeruthiya Gangsters*, he has more upcoming projects as an actor. He recalls, "When I came first to Mumbai, like anybody else, I had dreamt of becoming an actor. But it is Mumbai, so you never know what it wants you to do to make a living."

'Do eat biryani'... Sobhita Dhulipala's says after ramp walk at the India Couture Week 2023



Actress Sobhita Dhulipala walked the ramp for designers Rohit Gandhi and Rahul Khanna at

India Couture Week 2023. Decked up in a shimmering ensemble, Sobhita oozed oomph during her walk at the gala. Joining her on the ramp as another showstopper was actor Ishaan Khatter.

After the show, on being asked to share dos and don'ts to follow before hitting the runway, Sobhita said, "Do eat biryani! And one should not go without music. Let there be a beat." Ishaan also shared some ramp walk tips, "Try not to think too much. I just enjoy the vibe of the show, music and everything, and do my best to keep blending with all the elements."

Ishaan walked the ramp in a shiny blazer that he paired with black pants. Meanwhile, on the acting front, Ishaan will next be starring in *Pippa* and *The Perfect Couple*. Fans will see Sobhita in *Made in Heaven* second season.

Diljit Dosanjh starrer *Jaswant Singh Khalra* biopic 'Punjab 95' to premiere at Toronto fest

Makers of the biopic on human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra have unveiled the new poster of the film with a changed title, "Punjab 95".

The poster was shared across social media platforms and actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh, who plays the titular role, also shared it. The film, which was earlier titled "Ghallughara", had hit the roadblock after the Censor Board delayed its clearance with a request to change the title and content.

Now, the makers have released the poster, but have moved the



Bombay High Court against the Censor Board demanding 21 cuts and modification of several dialogues.

Dosanjh stated that the film had been selected to premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

On the birth anniversary of legendary singer Mohammad Rafi, here's a tribute to the great man

There are some names without whom Bollywood music would never have been so popular. One such name is of legendary singer Mohammed Rafi. Born in a rural milieu at Kotla Sultan Singh, then part of Amritsar district (now in Pakistan), he was gifted with a golden voice and was under the spell of Bade Ghulam Ali Khan during his childhood. On his death anniversary today (July 31), here's a look at some of his famous songs.

Recognising his divine gift, his elder brother Hamid encouraged him to develop his talent. Nurtured under the tutelage of Ustad Abdur Waheed Khan of Kirana Gharana, he did a lot of riyaz and obtained mastery over classical music with his sheer dedication and hard work. At the tender age of 16, he



got an opportunity to sing for All-India Radio. Sham Sunder, a music director from Lahore, spotted his talent and offered Rafi a song for his Punjabi film, *Gul Baloch*. Hindi film actor Nazir, who happened to be in Lahore, was so impressed with his talent that he invited Rafi to

Bombay. Rafi's first Hindi film disc was recorded in 1944 when he was only 20 years old. It was named *Gaon Kee Gori*.

One of his hit patriotic songs was in the movie *Saheed* (1948) — *Watan ki raah me watan ke naujawan shaheed ho*. The music was given by late Ghulam

Haider.

The same year brought one more super-hit to his credit from the movie *Pyar ke Jeet* — *Is dil ke tukde hazar hue, koi yahan gira, koi wahan gira*. However, a song most remembered was from the movie *Mela* released in the same year — *Yeh zindgi ke mele, duniya me kam na honge, afsos hum na honge*.

Mohammad Rafi sang for almost every top hero from 1948 to 1980. He was blessed with such a voice that it suited every type of song. Rafi was a very punctual and kind-hearted gentleman. He was so disciplined that he rarely came late for recordings. When somebody asked him to name his favourite song, among the many he had sung, he replied: *Mann re Tu Kahe Na dheer dhare*. It is from the movie *Chitrakha*.

Tom Hardy's *Venom* gets a release date

Makers of the upcoming sci-fi action film 'Venom 3' has now announced the official release date of the film. Starring Tom Hardy 'Venom 3' is all set to hit the theatres on July 12, 2024.

According to Variety, a US-based media outlet, the film is untitled at this time. Hardy's previous two comic book tentpoles, 2018's 'Venom' and 2021's 'Venom: Let There Be Carnage,' both opened at the start of October. Sony's 'Venom 3' release date puts in square in the middle of Disney's 'Mufasa: The Lion King' (July 5, 2024) and Universal's 'Twist-

ers' (July 19, 2024).

Apart from this, Sony Pictures also announced the release of the fourth instalment of the hit franchise 'Bad Boys'. Starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence, the untitled sequel will open over Father's Day weekend on June 14, 2024. That puts the action tentpole up against Disney and Pixar's 'Inside Out 2', as per Variety.

In addition to the revised release dates, Sony made other significant adjustments to their release calendar, including pushing back 'Kraven the Hunter' and a 'Ghostbusters' sequel to 2024 and removing



'Spider-Man: Beyond the Spider-Verse' from the schedule, reported Variety.

The 2003 sequel 'Bad Boys II' grossed USD 273 million worldwide, while the first 'Bad Boys' made USD 141 million.

However, 'Bad Boys for Life' managed to outperform the first and second instalments combined.

Directed by Michael Bay, the original *Bad Boys* introduced viewers to Marcus Burnett (Lawrence) and Mike Lowrey

(Smith), two hip detectives who look to protect a witness to a murder, while investigating a case of stolen heroin from the evidence storage room of their police precinct.

Talking about *Venom 3*, Sony confirmed that a third movie in the Tom Hardy-led franchise was moving forward during CinemaCon in 2022. The first 'Venom' film grossed \$856 million at the worldwide box office. Whereas, 'Let There Be Carnage' took a drop amid the pandemic but still earned \$502 million worldwide, as per Variety.

Taali release date out



Actress Sushmita Sen is all set to showcase her new avatar, as transgender activist Shreegauri Sawant in the upcoming series *Taali*. The teaser was released on social

media recently. Sushmita shared the teaser video along with the caption, "Gaali se Taali tak ke safar ki yeh kahaani. Presenting the story of Shreegauri Sawant's fight for India's

third gender."

Along with a motion poster, Sushmita was heard saying in the background, "Main taali bajati nahi bajwati hoon." Talking about her look, Sushmita says, "A story of struggle, resilience, and indomitable power — that's Shreegauri Sawant for you. Nothing makes me more proud and grateful than to bring this journey that has been rife with challenges to a close and witness a revolution."

Born as Ganesh and raised in Pune, Shreegauri Sawant is a transgender activist from Mumbai. She was one of the petitioners in the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) case of 2013, in connection with which the Supreme Court recognised persons belonging to the transgender community as the third gender.

The landmark verdict was delivered in 2014. The upcoming series will shed light on the life of Shreegauri Sawant — her childhood, transition, and eventual contribution to revolutionising the transgender movement in India. *Taali* will stream on Jio Cinema on August 15. Apart from this project, Sushmita will also be seen in Disney+ Hotstar's *Aarya* Season 3.

The Storyteller, starring Paresh Rawal, is set for a screening at IIFM

Paresh Rawal-starrer *The Storyteller* is set to be screened at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne. Directed by Anant Narayan Mahadevan, the film is based on Satyajit Ray's short story *Golpo Boliye* Tarini Khuro and explores the themes of originality versus plagiarism.

Talking about the film's Australian premiere, Rawal says, "I am delighted to be a part of the film, which will be premiered in



Australia. This kind of story is a rarity and having a bunch of talented actors as my co-artists is fulfilling. I am grateful to my producers and my director, Anant Mahadevan."

Tarini Ranjan Bandhopadhyay, played by Paresh Rawal, is an unconventional narrator who gained a reputation for his tendency to change professions, having transitioned between 32 jobs throughout his working

life. At the age of 60, residing in Kolkata, and widowed, Tarini's sole regret is his inability to fulfil his late wife Anuradha's long-standing wish for a vacation. With retirement now upon him and an abundance of free time, Tarini finds himself distanced from his loved ones.

The 14th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne will run from August 11 to 29, showcasing an array of Indian films across various genres.

Modi govt indifferent to pain, anguish of Manipur people: Congress chief Kharge

He also said, "The Modi government appears clueless and rudderless in handling the Manipur situation, evident in the absence of a comprehensive statement in Parliament."

NEW DELHI, Jul 31 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday alleged that the Narendra Modi government was "indifferent" to the pain and anguish of the people of violence-hit Manipur.

The Congress chief said MPs of the opposition alliance 'INDIA' who visited Manipur to assess the situation in the strife-torn state, heard heart-wrenching stories of pain from the people there.

"While Manipur faced turmoil, the Modi government appeared indif-



ferent," he said on Twitter while asserting that the divide between communities was "deeply concerning."

"Despite time for poll rallies, self-PR train inaugurations, and attending BJP meetings, PM Modi seems to

have no time to address the anguish and suffering of Manipur's people or work towards resolving inter-community issues," Kharge tweeted.

He also said, "The Modi government appears clueless and rudderless

in handling the Manipur situation, evident in the absence of a comprehensive statement in Parliament."

Over 50,000 people, including 10,000 children, are in relief camps. The facilities there are inadequate, especially

for women, and there are shortages of medicines and food, Kharge said.

"Economic activities have come to a halt, with children unable to attend school, farmers ceasing their farming, and people grappling with both financial losses and psychological hardships," Kharge said on Twitter.

A delegation of 21 MPs of the INDIA alliance visited Manipur over the weekend and met many people in relief camps set up for those affected by violence in the state.

'If we call it (Gyanvapi) mosque, then there will be dispute': Yogi Adityanath



NEW DELHI, Jul 31 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday said that Muslim petitioners in the Gyanvapi mosque case should come forward with a proposal to fix what he called a "historical blunder."

Adityanath's remarks came three days ahead of the verdict by the Allahabad High Court, which had stayed the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) survey of the Gyanvapi mosque complex, ordered by a Varanasi court to determine whether the structure was built upon a temple.

In an interview, Adityanath asked what a trishul (trident) was doing on the mosque premises.

es. He said the government wanted to resolve the long-standing issue.

"If we call it a mosque, then it will be a dispute... What is the trident doing there in the mosque? We did not keep it. There is a jyotirling and deities are there," he said.

"I think there should be a proposal from the Muslim side to fix the historical blunder. We want a solution to this mistake," the Chief Minister added.

National President Of Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha, Swami Chakrapani Maharaj, endorsed Adityanath's comments on the Muslim side to bring forward a proposal on the Gyanvapi matter.

He said it was a

good opportunity for the Muslim petitioners to give a message of brotherhood and goodwill.

The Gyanvapi mosque committee moved the Allahabad High Court on July 25 (Tuesday), a day after the Supreme Court halted the ASI survey till 5 pm on Wednesday (July 26), allowing time for the committee to appeal against the lower court's order.

The high court on July 26 extended the stay on the ASI survey of the Gyanvapi mosque premises. During the hearing, a senior ASI official told the court that the ASI team was not going to "destroy the structure (mosque)" in any way.

After hearing the plea by Anjuman Intezamia Masjid, which manages the Gyanvapi mosque, Chief Justice Pritinker Diwaker posted the matter for further hearing on Thursday. The court ordered that the stay on the ASI survey will continue till then.

The next day, the court reserved its order on the matter till August 3.

Former West Bengal CM Buddhadeb Bhattacharya remains critical

KOLKATA, Jul 31 (Agencies): Former West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya remained critical on Monday as he continued to be on mechanical ventilation, doctors treating him said.

Bhattacharya, 79, underwent a CT scan of his thorax in the morning, they said.

"Mr Bhattacharya's health condition is critical but stable. He is still on invasive ventilation. We have conducted a CT scan of his thorax this morning. He is responding to treatment," a senior doctor, who is a part of the multidisciplinary team that is treating him, said.

The veteran CPI(M)

leader is likely to undergo a few tests later in the day, which will help in ascertaining the severity of the infection in his lungs that landed him in the hospital on Saturday afternoon.

The medical team would evaluate their next course of action depending on the test results, the doctor said.

"His blood pressure and oxygen saturation in the blood are at satisfactory levels, but he is still not out of danger. His lungs were badly affected after he was infected by coronavirus. We are trying to evaluate that as well. We have to wait for another 24 hours," he said.

Bhattacharya was rushed to the Wood-



lands Hospital in Alipore with breathing troubles, and he was diagnosed with lower respiratory tract infection and 'Type 2' respiratory failure. He has been suffering from COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), and other age-related ailments.

Bhattacharya took over as the Chief Minister of West Bengal in 2000

from party senior Jyoti Basu. He remained in the post till 2011, handling a tenure marked by agitations over the acquisition of land for industries led by now Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

As Bhattacharya lost the 2011 assembly elections to Banerjee's TMC, the CPI(M)-led Left Front's 34 years of rule

in the state came to an end—a loss from which it is yet to recover.

Over the last few years, Bhattacharya stayed away from the public glare due to his deteriorating health, and remained confined to his Palm Avenue apartment.

He was last seen in public when he surprised party workers by arriving unannounced at the Left's rally at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata, ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, with oxygen support.

Bhattacharya had stepped down from the CPI(M)'s Politburo and Central Committee in 2015, and gave up membership of the party's state secretariat in 2018.

Appeal to opposition not to disturb peace in Manipur, discuss matter in Parliament: Anurag Thakur

NEW DELHI, Jul 31 (Agencies): Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur on Monday appealed to the opposition parties "not to disturb peace in Manipur" and instead discuss the matter in Parliament.

"The government has said from day one that we are ready to discuss Manipur. What is the opposition's compulsion that it is running away?" Thakur said, also wondering whether Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury would show the guts to travel to West Bengal and expose the violence going on there.

"I want to ask Adhir Ranjan which Lok Sabha segment does he represent? Will he ever care to speak up on mindless violence in TMC-ruled Bengal or have the



Congress and Communist parties given up on Bengal on account of the highhandedness of the Mamata Banerjee-led government there? Have they decided not to contest from Bengal again?" asked Thakur.

He said Union Home Minister Amit Shah had spent four days in Manipur and steps required to restore peace were being taken.

"The opposition only seeks to provoke," the minister said as the

monsoon session of Parliament entered the third week on Monday, with the first two weeks disrupted over the Manipur violence.

Thakur said the government would discuss the no-trust motion in Lok Sabha as and when the Speaker lists a discussion.

"In 2018, when they brought a no-trust motion they were decimated. The same thing will happen again," Thakur said.

2 teenage sisters raped in Rajasthan's Alwar

JAIPUR, Jul 31 (Agencies): Two teenage sisters were allegedly raped by two co-workers of their father at a brick kiln in Rajasthan's Alwar district, police said on Monday.

Both girls are pregnant, they said.

The girls' father on Friday lodged a complaint at NEB police station. In the complaint, he alleged that his daughters, aged 15 and 13, were raped by Sappi and Subhan.

The matter came to light when

the elder girl complained of abdominal pain and other health problems. Her parents took her to a doctor, who informed them that she was seven-and-a-half months' pregnant, the police said.

"When her parents questioned her, the girl told them that Sappi and Subhan had raped her. She disclosed that they had raped her younger sister as well," the police added.

The victim alleged that the accused had threatened to kill



them if they told anyone about the incident.

Alwar SP Anand Sharma said an FIR was registered at NEB police station on Friday and the girls' medical examination conducted. The medical test confirmed that both girls are pregnant.

The younger victim is two-and-a-half months' pregnant, the police said.

NEB SHO Anil Jain said the matter is being investigated. No arrests have been made yet.

Odisha: 5, including children, killed as under-construction culvert collapses

RAYAGADA, Jul 31 (Agencies): Five people, most of whom were children, were killed as an under-construction culvert collapsed on them in Odisha's Rayagada district on Monday, police said. The incident happened in Uparsaja village in Kalyansinghpur block when they were bathing under it.

They were bathing in the rainwater that accu-



mulated under the culvert.

Among the deceased were four children, police said.

A rescue team, comprising personnel of the

fire service and police, was working to clear the debris, they said. Police said they suspect that more people might be trapped under the debris.

Students assault cooks at NIT-Silchar alleging mobile phone theft, 3 guards suspended

SILCHAR, Jul 31 (Agencies): Three private security guards of NIT-Silchar were suspended after a group of students beat up the cooks of the college suspecting that they had stolen a mobile phone, officials said on Monday.

A video of the stu-

dents thrashing the three cooks, alleging that they stole a mobile phone, went viral on social media.

Police said they had started an investigation into the incident, and NIT had also ordered an inquiry.

The incident happened on the campus last

week, and the video got viral over the weekend, an NIT official said.

The three security guards were suspended as they failed to stop the assault, he said.

A 15-member committee had been set up by the NIT, and it had been asked to submit a report by August 4, he added.

Women Protest To Demand Removal Of Security Forces From Manipur Town

IMPHAL, Jul 31 (Agencies): Over 1,000 women on Monday staged a protest in Manipur's Churachandpur demanding immediate removal of state police forces from Moreh town.

They have threatened to launch a massive agitation in all the hill districts if their demand is not met.

On July 28, thousands of Kuki-Zo women in Tengenoupal district had blocked the road to Moreh, bordering Myanmar, to stop police forces from entering the town.

A convoy of ten vehicles of security forces including the Indian Reserve Battalion, Manipur Rifles and commandoes were heading towards Moreh town when the womenfolk obstructed them at Tengenoupal.

The protest by the



women of Churachandpur comes a day after the opposition bloc INDIA on Sunday said if the conflict in Manipur is not resolved soon, it may create security problems for the whole nation.

A delegation of the non-BJP coalition, which visited Manipur state for two days from Saturday, slammed Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi for his "silence", showing "brazen indifference" to the ongoing ethnic strife in the northeastern state.

"If the conflict in Manipur is not resolved soon, it may create security problems for the entire country," Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, a member of the

delegation, said.

In a memorandum to Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey, the 21 opposition MPs who signed the document, demanded urgent rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected people to bring peace and harmony to the state.

"From the reports of incessant firing and

arson of houses in the last few days, it is established beyond doubt that the state machinery has completely failed to control the situation for almost three months now," the memorandum read.

More than 160 people lost their lives and several hundreds were injured since ethnic clashes broke out in Manipur on May 3, after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley.

Tribals -- Nagas and Kukis -- constitute little over 40 per cent and reside in the hill districts.

ISIS behind suicide blast at JUI-F political convention that killed 44 in Pakistan: Police

The attack took place on Sunday when more than 400 members of Jamiat Ulema Islam-Fazl had gathered for a meeting

PESHAWAR, Jul 31 (Agencies): Police in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province said on Monday that an initial probe has suggested that the banned terrorist group ISIS is behind the suicide attack on a political convention of a hardline Islamist party that killed at least 44 people and injured over 100.

The attack took place on Sunday when more than 400 members of the conservative Jamiat Ulema Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) party, known for its links to hardline political Islam, had gathered for a meeting under a canopy in the town of Khar, which borders Afghanistan.

"We are still investigating and gathering information on the Bajaur blast. The initial probe shows that banned outfit Daesh (ISIS) was involved," Geo News quoted police officials as saying.

The police said they were gathering details of the suicide bomber, while the bomb disposal squad team was collecting evidence from the site.

District Police Officer Nazir Khan said three suspects have been taken into custody.

Provincial police chief Akhtar Hayat Khan said 10 kilograms of explosives set off by a suicide bomber were used in the blast. He said the bomber was among the attendees seated in the front rows of the convention.

Local police said the attacker detonated explosives near the convention's stage.

According to police and witnesses, the blast occurred as soon as JUI-F District Amir Maulana Abdul Rasheed reached the stage.

The deceased included JUI-F Tehsil Khar Maulana Ziaullah Jan, Navagai Tehsil General Secretary Maulana Hameedullah, District Information Secretary Mujahid Khan and dozens of party workers.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) caretaker health minister Riaz Anwar said on Sunday night that 44 people lost their lives while



more than 100 were injured in the attack.

An emergency has been declared in the hospitals of Bajaur and adjoining areas where most of the injured were taken. The critically injured have been transported from Bajaur to hospitals in the provincial capital Peshawar by military helicopters.

Bajaur District Health Officer Dr Faisal Kamal said more than 150 injured people had been brought to the Bajaur District Headquarters Hospital.

"Over 35 people have been referred to the Timargarh hospital while 15 critically injured persons have been sent to Peshawar via a Pakistan Army helicopter," he was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper.

Rescuers have warned the death toll may rise further, as 15 people are in critical condition.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has strongly condemned the blast and vowed that those responsible will be identified and punished.

"The Pakistani nation, law enforcement agencies and our protectors will never allow such cowardly tactics of the enemy to succeed," he tweeted.

Sharif spoke to JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman to express his condolences.

"We are equal participants in your grief. The criminals will be truly punished and bringing an end to terrorism is the commitment of the entire nation," he said.

He ordered an investigation

into the incident and instructed that the critically injured persons be transferred to other hospitals on a helicopter.

Pakistan President Arif Alvi prayed for eternal peace for the departed souls and commiserated with the bereaved families. He also wished speedy recovery for the injured and emphasised timely medical assistance to them.

In a statement issued on Sunday, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan sought a detailed report on the blast from police.

He also visited the Combined Military Hospital in Peshawar, where he met and inquired about the health of injured persons.

Rahim Shah, a witness, told Dawn.com that more than 500 people were attending the convention when the blast occurred.

"We were listening to a bayan [sermon] when a powerful explosion knocked me unconscious," he said.

Shah narrated that when he regained consciousness, there was blood everywhere.

"People were screaming and even shots were fired," he added.

Sabeehullah, a 24-year-old JUI-F supporter who had his arm fractured by the blast, said the scale of injuries was horrifying.

"There was utter confusion, with human flesh, limbs, and body parts scattered throughout the area, alongside lifeless bodies. I found myself lying next

to someone who had lost their limbs. The air was filled with the smell of human flesh," he was quoted as saying in the report.

The JUI-F chief, in a statement issued by the party's media cell, expressed grief over the incident. He sought an inquiry into the attack from Prime Minister Sharif and the KP government.

"May Allah raise the ranks of martyrs," Fazl said and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

He also appealed to JUI-F workers to immediately reach hospitals and provide blood donations.

In a tweet, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah vowed to bring the perpetrators of today's attack to justice.

"The cowardly acts of terrorists cannot dampen our spirits," he said.

Former prime minister Imran Khan said he was saddened to learn about the blast and extended condolences to the victims' families.

"The rise in terror incidents across Pakistan particularly in KP, calls for an urgent need to reconsider our priorities," he said, adding that the authorities should focus on eliminating terrorism.

Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the Taliban government in Afghanistan, has condemned the attack. TTP spokesman Khalid Khurrasani also condemned the blast.

Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terrorist attacks following the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan in August 2021.

On January 30, a Pakistan Taliban suicide bomber blew himself up during the afternoon prayers in a mosque in Peshawar, killing 101 people and injuring more than 200 others.

In February, heavily-armed TTP militants stormed the Karachi Police chief's office in Pakistan's most populous city, sparking gunfire that killed three rebels and four others, including two police constables.

July sizzling as US' Phoenix hits another 43.3 degrees Celsius day

PHOENIX (US), Jul 31 (Agencies): Phoenix sizzled through its 31st consecutive day of at least 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 Celsius) and other parts of the country grappled with record temperatures after a week that saw significant portions of the US population subject to extreme heat.

The National Weather Service said Phoenix was expected to climb to 112 F (44.4 Celsius) before the day was through.

July has been so steamy thus far that scientists calculate it will be the hottest month ever recorded and likely the warmest human civilisation has seen. The World Meteorological Organisation and the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service on Thursday proclaimed July beyond record-smashing.

The historic heat began blasting the lower Southwest US in late June, stretching from Texas across New Mexico and Arizona and into California's desert.

On Sunday, a massive wildfire burning out of control in California's Mojave National Preserve spread rapidly amid erratic winds, while firefighters reported progress against another major blaze to the south that prompted evacuations.

The York Fire that erupted Friday near the remote Caruthers Canyon area of the preserve sent up a huge plume of smoke visible nearly 100 miles (160 kilometers) away across the state line in Nevada.

Flames 20 feet (6 metres) high in some spots have charred more than 110 square miles (284 square kilometers) of desert scrub, juniper and Joshua tree woodland, according to a Sunday update.

"The dry fuel acts as a ready ignition source, and when paired with those weather conditions it resulted in long-distance fire run and high flames, leading to extreme fire behaviour," authorities said. No structures were threatened, but there was also no containment.

To the southwest, the Bonny Fire was holding steady at about 3.4 square miles (8.8 square kilometers) in rugged hills of Riverside County. More than 1,300 people were ordered to evacuate their homes Saturday near the remote community of Aguanga, California.

Triple-digit heat was expected in parts of the central San Joaquin Valley through Monday, according to

the National Weather Service.

And in Burbank, California, about 10 miles (16 kilometers) north of Los Angeles, the summer heat may have been responsible for some unusual behaviour in the animal kingdom: Police in the city responded to a report of a bear sighting in a residential neighbourhood and found the animal sitting in a Jacuzzi behind one of the homes.

As climate change brings hotter and longer heat waves, record temperatures across the US have killed dozens of people, and the poorest Americans suffer the most. Air conditioning, once a luxury, is now a matter of survival.

Last year, all 86 heat-related deaths indoors were in uncooled environments.

"To explain it fairly simply: Heat kills," said Kristie Ebi, a University of Washington professor who researches heat and health. "Once the heat wave starts, mortality starts in about 24 hours."

It's the poorest and people of colour, from Kansas City to Detroit to New York City and beyond, who are far more likely to face grueling heat without air conditioning, according to a Boston University analysis of 115 US metro areas.

Back in Phoenix, slight relief may be on the way as expected seasonal thunderstorms could drop temperatures Monday and Tuesday.

"It should be around 108 degrees, so we break that 110 streak," meteorologist Tom Frieders said. "Increasing cloud cover will put temperatures in a downward trend." The relief could be short-lived, however. Highs are expected to creep back to 110 F (43.3 C) Wednesday with temperatures reaching 115 F (46.1 C) by the end of the week.

Phoenix has also sweated through a record 16 consecutive nights when the lows temperature didn't dip below 90 F (32.2 C), making it hard for people to cool off after sunset.

Meanwhile, Las Vegas continues to flirt with its hottest July ever. The city is closing in on its 2010 record for the average of the high and low each day for July, which stands at 96.2 F (35.5 C).

The extreme heat is also hitting the eastern US, as soaring temperatures moved from the Midwest into the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, where some places recorded their warmest days so far this year.

National Assembly Will Be Dissolved Before August 12: Pakistan PM

ISLAMABAD, Jul 31 (Agencies): Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reiterated that the National Assembly will be dissolved before August 12 with the consultation of the allied parties, ARY News reported on Monday.

In an interview at a Geo News programme, he said the tenure of the National Assembly will end on August 12 and before that, the assembly will be dissolved.

While the Election Commission will announce a date for the next elections, he added.

Sharif further said the decision about the caretaker PM will be taken in consultation with the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly and before that he would consult all the allied parties and Pakistan Muslim League(N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif, ARY News reported.

Earlier in the day, Shehbaz Sharif had lashed out at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan calling him the "mastermind" behind the events that took place on May 9 which aimed to topple military leadership, reported The News International.



Shehbaz Sharif also said that along with PTI workers, a group of politicians, some military men and their families were also involved in May 9 violence.

Moreover, the military labelled it as a 'Black Day' in the history of Pakistan.

Shehbaz Sharif during an interview on Geo News's programme said, "Those involved in the May 9 incidents wanted to overthrow the military leadership."

He further mentioned that the planners wanted "anarchy" and "war" in the country, according to The News International. As many as 2138 suspects have been arrested in five major cities of Pakistan's Punjab prov-

ince in connection with the May 9 case, ARY News reported.

Whereas the PTI opposes that its members were not involved in the attacks, however, the government and military reject their claims and say they have 'irrefutable evidence' of their involvement, reported The News International.

On May 9, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan was arrested at the Islamabad High Court in the Al Qadir Trust case. After his arrest, protests erupted in Pakistan and military installations including the Lahore corps commander's residence and state properties were attacked in Pakistan.

Embattled Donald Trump shelled out \$40 million in legal fees this year: Report

NEW YORK, Jul 31 (Agencies): Former US President Donald Trump's political action committee is expected to report on Monday that it has spent about \$40 million in legal fees in the first half of 2023 to defend Trump and his advisers, among others, the Washington Post reported.

The New York Times separately reported that the PAC has sought the return of \$60 million it made to another group supporting Trump, a candidate for the 2024

Republican presidential nomination.

Trump's campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump faces dozens of federal charges in Florida over the retention of sensitive government records at his home in the state.

He also faces state charges in New York after a probe into hush money paid to porn star Stormy Daniels.

Citing two unnamed people familiar with the matter, the New York



Times said the Save America PAC, which Trump is using to pay his legal bills, faced such

staggering costs this year that it requested a refund on a \$60 million contribution, signalling

a potential money crisis for Trump.

A spokesperson for Trump's campaign, Steven Cheung, would not comment on the refund request to the Times.

But regarding the overall spending on lawyers, he said, according to the Times, "The weaponised Department of Justice has continued to go after innocent Americans because they worked for President Trump and they know they have no legitimate case."

Typhoon Doksuri: Thousands flee their homes as heavy rain lashes Beijing

Doksuri causes widespread flooding over the weekend in southern province of Fujian, driving hundreds of thousands of people from their homes

BEIJING, Jul 31 (Agencies): Beijing recorded its heaviest rainfall this year as the remnants of Typhoon Doksuri passed through China's capital on Monday, forcing over 31,000 people to evacuate their homes in the city, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

Heavy rain continued to fall in the capital as well as Hebei, Tianjin and eastern Shanxi as Doksuri dissipated over northern China, the China Meteorological Administration said.

Doksuri is one of the strongest storms to hit China in years and caused widespread flooding over the weekend in the southern province of Fujian, driv-



ing hundreds of thousands of people from their homes.

Average rainfall in Beijing overnight reached 140.7 mm (5.5 inches), with the maximum

recorded rainfall in Fangshan area hitting 500.4 mm (19.7 inches), according to the city's observatory. Rains in the southern and western areas were

expected to be heavier early Monday.

There was no reported damage or casualty, state media said.

Work was halted on more than 4,000 construction sites, almost 20,000 buildings were inspected for damage, and scenic spots in the city were closed, media reported.

While Doksuri continues to taper off, forecasters warned that typhoon Khanun was approaching and was set to strike China's densely populated coast this week.

Authorities said Khanun could inflict further damage to corn and other crops that have already been hit by Doksuri.

NDS, HAA Organised Multilingual Kavi Goshti

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 31: As a poetic obeisance to the Senior Citizens, Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) in collaboration with "Home For Aged And Infirms" Ambphalla organised a Multilingual Poetic Meet with the special blessings of I.D.Soni an Eminent Educationist, Philanthropist and a Social Worker.

K.B Jandial former Secretary to J&K Govt and Ex Member JKPCS was Chief Guest on the occasion whereas P.L.Gupta IPS former Inspector General of Police Presided over the Function. Jatinder Kaur Sharma renowned singer was the Special Guest.

The participating poets covered various dimensions of Senior Citizens such as their experience, applied wisdom, duties of family and society towards them, their present status, their contributions, their strengths, their needs, aspirations, rights, privileges and expectations,



their strengths and support they deserve.

The poets who recited their poetry include Dr Sushil Bhola, Bishan Singh Dardi, Randhir Singh Raipuria, Kalpana Gupta Rattan, Dr. Chanchal Sharma, Yash Pal Yash, Sudarshan Kumari Darshi, Rakesh Sharma Tript, Ashok Kumar, Dr. S.K.Jain, Suraj Singh Suraj, Balwinder Singh, Hina Mahajan, Madan Magotra, Sheikh Fiaz, Ashok Kumar, Padam Singh Choudhary, Arun Sharma Banathia, Virinder Mishra, Sunaina Kaila Anand, Capt Lalit Sharma and Yash Pal Yash.

Capt Lalit Sharma in his opening remarks described the Senior

Citizens as a precious national asset who has the traditional responsibility to gracefully hand over the baton of our heritage and glory to the new generation and they have to receive it with pride.

I.D.Soni said that our society should appreciate the potential of the Senior Citizens and the communication between them and the Society should never cease.

The new generation in particular should remain in touch with them to inherit the precious social values. He appreciated NDS for successful conduct of Poetic Meet for the "Vridh Ashram" inmates. The Exclusive Poetic

Meet for them has imbibed renewed zeal and enthusiasm among the inmates apart from entertaining, encouraging and motivating them, he observed. He further expressed that such literary endeavours can go a long way in strengthening bondage between the Elders and the Young Generation for a Strong Society.

K.B Jandial described the Senior Citizens as social Umbrella to save the youngsters from torrents and thunder storms of life with their experience and advise.

Jatinder Kaur Sharma sang a Song lyrics of Yash Pal Yash a Lyricist and Music Composer, in her melodious voice and

enthralled the audience. Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila President NDS said that Senior Citizens have the skills and acumen to infuse vibrancy and zeal in the society and numerically has the potential to elect sincere and visionary public representatives for versatile governments.

Yash Pal Yash General Secretary NDS conducted the proceedings in a lively manner.

About sixty Elders attended the Meeting apart from some eminent persons which included Prof. Anupama Sharma Renowned Singer, B.S Jamwal Former Dy Commissioner, Brig (Retd) Harcharan Singh now a Vibrant Social Worker, Mangal Singh Jamwal Ex IB Officer, Shambu Ram Pyasa ex Bank Manager, O.P Sharma renowned Journalist and many youth.

Proceedings ended with Vote of thanks by Arjun Dev Mohan General Secretary NDS Youth Wing.

Smart meters will put extra burden on common man's pocket: Dr. Rajendra Thapa



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jul 31: Aam Aadmi Party senior leader Dr. Rajendra Thapa has said that the Jammu and Kashmir government is putting additional burden on the people by installing smart electricity meters. Most of the people of Jammu and Kashmir are not able to pay the bills that will be generated after installation of

smart meters.

There is also no guarantee that there will be no power cut after installation of smart meters because every time it is seen that despite the tall claims of the government, the power infrastructure dies completely in summer.

In such a situation, people will neither get smooth electricity nor will they have to pay many times more

money according to the meter. He said that at a time when inflation is on the seventh sky.

Due to the increase in the prices of petrol and diesel, the prices of everything have increased tremendously, taking the example of tomato, it is being sold in the market at the rate of Rs.200 per kg. Everything else has also become expensive. It is becoming difficult for a common man to even get bread for two times. At such a time, the decision taken by the government to install smart electricity meters is totally wrong.

This will spoil the budget of the common man and will directly affect his plate. By taking arbitrary decisions, the general public is being suppressed under the burden of inflation.

The only way to get rid of all these problems is to bring an honest government like the Aam Aadmi Party to power.

FROM PAGE 1

Lt Governor interacts with citizens, addresses their grievances

Implementation of all the welfare schemes, based on the principles of transparency and integrity, is fostering inclusive development," the Lt Governor said.

On the complaints of Manmeet Singh, resident of village Dhangri, Rajouri and Haji Amir Ud Din from Ashtangoo, Bandipora pertaining to Revenue department and implementation of water supply scheme, the Lt Governor directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to personally visit the spot and submit the report to the Lt Governor's Secretariat.

Anayat Parvez from Lohai Malhar, Kathua drew the attention of the Lt Governor to the construction of bridge over Bheni River in his locality, on which the Principal Secretary Public Works (R&B) informed the chair that the work for the construction of the said bridge will start in the coming months.

Responding to the complaints of Jahangir Hassan Sheikh from Baramulla and Aman Hussain from Ramban regarding sanctioning of land compensation, the Lt Governor directed the Divisional Commissioners and concerned departments to take appraisal of the similar matters put forth by the complainants and address the issues on merit.

The Lt Governor directed the Deputy Commissioners to look into the unresolved complaints/cases and submit action taken reports to Lt Governor's secretariat.

Deputy Commissioners should also monitor the Kissan Sampark Abhiyan in the Districts. Swachhta Abhiyan must be the priority of district administrations, he added.

He further impressed on the officials for ensuring operationalization of District-wise help desks for industrial investment proposals.

The Lt Governor also took appraisal of the Power scenario, efforts being put in to end the practice of beggary, saturation of Unique Identity Card, reducing the gap in granting old age pension.

Road accidents due to old and dilapidated vehicles should be looked into seriously to reduce the accidents, he added.

The Lt Governor appreciated the efforts of all officials and stakeholders for the smooth conduct of Muharram and ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

He also reviewed the preparations of District Administrations, all the departments for the Independence Day celebration.

Rehana Batul Commissioner/Secretary, Public Grievances conducted the proceedings of the LG's Mulaqaat.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; R K Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, HoDs and other senior officers were present during the interaction, in person and through virtual mode.

J&K High Court quashes govt order to seal two seminaries in Kishtwar

Commissioner, Jammu, on June 14, 2023.

However, it was later clarified that the two seminaries in question had no connection to this particular Trust. The Court noted that the sealing order was passed without conducting a fair hearing or initiating any enquiry into the matter.

As a result, the Court opined that the ADC's application of the Divisional Commissioner's order to close down or take over these seminaries was not justified unless there was substantial proof of their association with the Maulana Ali Miyan Educational Trust.

Consequently, the Court quashed the sealing order pertaining to the two seminaries, emphasizing that the Divisional Commissioner's order from June 14, 2023, should solely apply to the seminaries operated by the Maulana Ali Miyan Educational Trust in Bathindi and should not be universally applied to all legitimate seminaries in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

However, the Court clarified that if any seminary are found to be operating in violation of the law, authorities are free to take appropriate action after conducting a thorough inquiry or investigation. Nevertheless, the Court reiterated that no adverse orders against the interests of the petitioners should be passed without granting them proper notice and an adequate opportunity for a fair hearing.

Senior advocate Gagan Basotra, along with advocates Sahil Gupta and Nadeem Bhat, represented the individuals running the seminaries, while Senior Additional Advocate General Monika Kohli appeared on behalf of the Central government and other authorities involved in the case.

Army Jawan shoots self dead with service rifle in Baramulla

himself with his service rifle in Rajbagh area of the city on Sunday night.

Pakistani intruder shot dead in Arnia Sector

and the troops neutralised him and thwarted the infiltration attempt," he said. The area was cordoned off immediately after the incident and a search operation is underway, the officials said, adding that the body is being retrieved from the scene.

On July 25, a Pakistani intruder carrying over four kilograms of high-grade heroin was gunned down by the Border Security Force (BSF) in Ramgarh sector of Samba district.

Amarnath Yatra 2023 | Batch of 1550 pilgrims leave from Jammu Base Camp

convoy of 23 vehicles amid tight security arrangements. The yatra started on July 1 will conclude on August 31.

Pakistani drone, heroin seized near border in Punjab's Tarn Taran

kilogrammes of heroin wrapped with yellow tape were recovered from the field

near Khemkaran village, said the official.

"Another Pakistani drone recovered by the joint efforts of BSF and Punjab Police," said the official.

Soaring vegetable prices burn a hole in consumers' pockets

strain on imports to fulfil local demand, and raising vegetable prices on the market. A cross-section of persons in Srinagar complained about dramatic increases in the pricing of vital items, notably vegetables and fruits.

"Saag is being sold at Rs 60-80/kg. It's loot," Ajaz Ahmad, a Srinagar native adding that vegetable prices have skyrocketed.

Customers said that vegetable sellers charged them according to their sweet desires in the absence of an official monitoring mechanism.

"Poor consumers have no choice but to buy things, no matter how expensive they are, because no one cares about their plight," observed Muhammad Shafi, a local resident.

Surprisingly, most consumers complain about retailers failing to post rate lists. "They don't follow government rates," remarked a client outside a shop at Soura. "It appears that authorities have given them (shopkeepers) leeway to fleece ordinary consumers," he continued.

However, wholesaler vegetable and fruit traders blame the Valley rains for the spike in produce costs. "Our local production has been affected by rains, and in other parts of India, there is monsoon, which has impacted vegetable production, as a result of which prices have gone up and people are facing the heat due to rising prices of veggies," said Bashir Ahmad, President, Fruit Mandi Parimpora.

Farmers and dealers in India believe that vegetable prices will remain high for a long time owing to interruptions caused by erratic monsoon rains, which cause delayed planting and crop damage during the ripening stage.

Price increases in key commodities such as onions, beans, carrots, ginger, chillies, and tomatoes are not only generating consumer unhappiness but are also projected to contribute to increased retail inflation. In fact, retail inflation is expected to hit a seven-month high in July as a result of these more expensive necessities. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) ability to decrease interest rates this year is expected to be limited by the rise in inflation.

JK School Education has 2000 KGs, 1700 Smart Classrooms, 1000 ICT Labs

Kashmir School Education Department's focus on the Foundational Stage (ECCE), where they have made significant progress. Currently, almost 2000 Kindergartens have been successfully established, and plans for over 3000 more are underway. This concerted effort aligns with the NEP's vision to provide a strong educational foundation for young learners.

In tune with the NEP-2020's objectives, digital learning has been actively promoted

in the region, he said. Over 1000 ICT labs and 1700 Smart Classrooms are in the process of establishment, offering students enhanced learning experiences through technology integration.

Underlining the state's commitment to ensuring holistic education, the Principal Secretary highlighted several remarkable initiatives. The JK Attendance App has played a crucial role in ensuring the regularity and punctuality of teachers, thereby enhancing overall education quality. Additionally, the SAMIKSHA App serves as a platform for ranking schools based on student feedback, driving continuous improvement.

To foster innovation and skill development, Jammu and Kashmir have introduced the STEER Mentorship Programme for Students and a Coding programme. These initiatives aim to empower students with diverse opportunities to nurture their innovative and IT skills, preparing them for the challenges of the future job market.

Besides, the DIKSHA Platform, a digital learning resource for teachers and students, has been instrumental in disseminating educational content and modern teaching methodologies, bolstering the overall education ecosystem.

In commemoration of the third anniversary of the NEP 2020, the Jammu and Kashmir School Education Department, along with other states and union territories, showcased their remarkable achievements and initiatives at a Stall in the ITPO Exhibition ground. This exhibition served as a testament to the state's commitment to fulfilling the transformative agenda of the NEP.

On this occasion, Project Director Samagra Shiksha, Deep Raj, shared updates on the first phase of the PM SHRI Scheme. Under this scheme, 233 schools have been selected, and the Ministry recently approved Rs. 116.43 Crores for their development. Raj highlighted the adoption of multidisciplinary approaches to make PM SHRI schools unique across J&K, providing students with diverse opportunities to nurture their innovative and IT skills.

Kumar's address at the ABSS 2023 demonstrated Jammu and Kashmir's proactive approach to shaping a comprehensive and holistic education system. Through kindergarten achievements and a strategic NEP-2020 implementation plan, the state aims to equip its students with the skills and knowledge required to thrive in the 21st-century global landscape.

Govt initiates inquiry against Dy Mayor SMC over corruption allegations

34 of the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act 2000, the sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of Mr. Anil Koul, JKAS, Secretary in the Housing and Urban Development Department as the Inquiry Officer to conduct a detailed inquiry into the allegations of corruption against Mr. Parvez Qadri, Deputy Mayor, Srinagar Municipal Corporation on the basis of inputs/report received from Anti Corruption Bureau, J&K Srinagar, " the order, said.

The principles of natural justice shall be

adhered to during the process of inquiry, it said.

Under BJP Rule, Far-Flung and Backward areas most neglected: JKPC Chief

BJP's divisive tactics. He cautioned the people, especially those belonging to Scheduled Tribes (STs), Pahari communities, Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs), about falling into the trap of political exploitation. While the

BJP plays the cards of regionalism, identity, and religious polarisation, the masses must stand vigilant against being used as mere pawns in the political chessboard.

Wani's address accused the Modi Government of orchestrating an assault on the very fabric of J&K since it took the reins of power at the Centre. He made a heartfelt appeal to the people of border and far-flung areas to see through the deceitful policies and false assurances of the ruling party. While the BJP keeps peddling their grand visions of progress, the ground reality reveals a different tale altogether.

Expressing shock over the claims of development, Wani did not mince words in calling them hollow and baseless. The hard work put in by the previous UPA Governments, aimed at uplifting the region, has suffered severe setbacks under the current administration. Mere inauguration of already sanctioned projects doesn't hide the harsh truth - J&K has been pushed to the brink, grappling with economic distress, rampant unemployment, and a lack of progress.

Reassuring the people of Machil and other marginalized areas, JKPC Chief Vikar Rasool Wani affirmed that the Congress Party will continue to fight for their rights and deliver justice. With a staunch belief in the values of service and equality, the party pledges to be the voice of the voiceless and the hope of the neglected.

Monga, a seasoned Congress leader, questioned the delay in holding elections in J&K, where the absence of an elected Government has left the masses feeling isolated and unheard. The restoration of democracy stands as the key to bridging the divide between the people and administration. In a passionate appeal, Senior Congress Leader Anwar Bhat urged the people to join hands with the Congress Party for a brighter future. With the spirit of unity, the Congress stands resolute in its mission to bring forth inclusive development and empower the neglected to rise above the shadows of negligence.

RPF constable shoots dead four people on Jaipur-Mumbai Express train

casualties of 3 civilians have also been reported, in addition to ASI. Sr DSC BCT is on the way to the site."

"The constable has been caught by police and DCP North Government Railway Police has been informed. A detailed report to follow," the RPF statement added.

Equity markets fall in early trade

Falling for the third day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex goes lower by 161.3 points to 65,998.90 in early trade

MUMBAI, Jul 31 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices declined in early trade on Monday as investors remained cautious amid continuous foreign fund outflows.

Falling for the third day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex went lower by 161.3 points to 65,998.90 in early trade. The NSE Nifty declined 48.45 points to 19,597.60.

However, later both the benchmark indices were trading flat bouncing back from the initial decline. The BSE benchmark quoted 10.26 points higher at 66,170.46 while the



Nifty traded 1.40 points up at 19,647.45.

From the Sensex pack, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel, ITC, Hindustan Unilever and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the major laggards.

NTPC, Tata Steel,

JSW Steel, Power Grid, Tata Motors and Tata Consultancy Services were among the gainers.

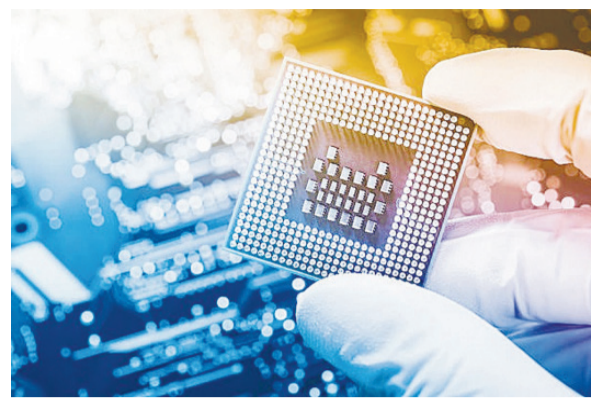
Foreign Institutional Investors offloaded equities worth Rs 1,023.91 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

3 Quad partners go big on chip biz with India

NEW DELHI, Jul 31 (Agencies): India's technology and strategic partners — US, Japan and Australia — were represented on the concluding day of the three-day semiconductor conference at Gandhinagar.

The theme for discussion at opening session of Semicon-2023 today was 'International collaboration for trusted and resilient semiconductor supply chain'. The participants included Mike Hankey, Consul General, US Embassy, Kyoko Hokugo, Minister Economy and Development, Japan, and Georgina Rose Mckay, First Secretary (Economy), Australian High Commission.

The panel was moderated by Anshuman Tripathi, Member, National Security Council



Secretary (NSCS). Tripathi is a US-returned engineer, who has worked on semiconductors.

Incidentally, the three nations along with India form the Quadrilateral of the 'Quad' grouping that looks to dominate the Indo-Pacific. In the past six months, India has announced technology tie-ups for semiconductors with all three countries.

Just 10 days ago, on July 20, India and Japan signed a memorandum of cooperation for development of a semiconductor ecosystem that will promote manufacture, research, design, talent development, and supply chain resilience. Japan is a leader in the semiconductor industry, and lead silicon wafer and ingot manufacturing. In March, India and Australia announced

"India-Australia Critical Minerals Investment Partnership". The two nations are looking at lithium and cobalt. The semiconductor alliance between India and the US showed up in a big way during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington DC in June. US company Micron declared investment of \$825 million, while another \$400 million investment is being made by Applied Materials and LAM Technologies is training 60,000 engineers in India.

Yesterday, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, and Lam Research. They aim to develop

a specialised course for Indian universities, teaching semiconductor fabrication technology using Lam Research's Semiverse Solutions virtual fabrication software and simulator.

An India-US joint statement after a bilateral meeting between Modi and US President Joe Biden stated "technology will play the defining role in deepening our partnership".

The US Semiconductor Industry Association and India Electronics Semiconductor Association have already released an interim readiness assessment to identify near-term industry opportunities and facilitate the strategic development of complementary semiconductor ecosystems.

Scepticism prevails as Chinese leaders promise to back private businesses to spur slowing economy

BEIJING, Jul 31 (Agencies): The Fangbiaogan Real Estate Agency in the southern city of Nanning is still waiting for China's post-COVID rebound.

Home sales are 30-40 per cent below last year's depressed level after the economy barely grew in the latest quarter, according to the owner, who would give only his surname, Cai. He has cut staff by 80 per cent to 40 employees. Their income from sales commissions has fallen as much as 90 per cent.

"People are worried," said Cai. "They feel safer holding onto their savings instead of spending them."

Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government is making ambitious promises to drag the economy out of that crisis of confidence aggravated by tension with Washington, wilting exports, job losses and anxiety among foreign companies about an expanded anti-spying law.

Its most striking pledge: To support entrepreneurs who generate jobs and wealth but have felt under attack over the past decade as the ruling Communist Party built up state-owned industry, tightened control over business and pressured them to pay for its technology and industrial ambitions.

China has an "urgent need" to "boost confidence in the outlook for the private economy," the Cabinet said in a July 19 announcement.

Entrepreneurs and investors are waiting to see what tax, spending or other steps the ruling party might take — and whether it will rein in-state companies that dominate banking, energy and other industries and that economists say are stifling growth.

The ruling party took action after the economy grew by just 0.8 per cent in the three months ending in June from the previous quarter, down from 2.2 per cent growth in January-March. That is equal to a 3.2 per cent annual rate, among China's weakest in decades.

With households anxious about possible job losses, retail sales growth slid to 3.1 per cent in June from the previous month's 12.7

per cent.

"Policymakers have underestimated the difficulty in boosting the confidence of households and private companies," Macquarie economists Larry Hu and Yuxiao Zhang said in a report. China needs a "reset in macro and regulatory policies to make them more pro-growth and pro-business," they said.

The ruling party's Politburo followed up on July 24 with a statement promising to shore up economic growth and support real estate, which has struggled since Beijing clamped down on debt levels in China's biggest industry. Stock markets in Hong Kong and China surged on the news but fell back as investors waited to see what Beijing might do.

"I've seen lots of policies like this, but none were carried out," said Cai, the real estate broker.

China's leaders want the prosperity generated by free enterprise but also are requiring businesses to invest in political initiatives that include developing computer chips and narrowing the wealth gap between China's elite and the poor majority.

Regulators shut down an internet-based tutoring industry and imposed limits on children playing online games. Sceptical businesspeople and economists expect little more than fine-tuning.

"We doubt this marks a fundamental shift in the way that the leadership views the role of private firms," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a report.

The country's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Qiang, and Cabinet ministers spent the first half of this year meeting visiting CEOs including Apple Inc.'s Tim Cook and Elon Musk of Tesla Ltd. in a charm offensive aimed at reviving investor interest.

Despite that, foreign companies are on edge following unexplained raids on two consulting firms and a due diligence firm. The expansion of an anti-spying law and a push for self-reliance in technology also are seen as risks. Foreign investment into China fell 2.7 per cent from a year earlier in the first half of 2023, accord-

ing to official data.

A survey by the British Chamber of Commerce in China found 70 per cent of foreign companies want "greater clarity" before making new investments. The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China said its members are shifting investments to Southeast Asia and other targets.

Exports in June fell 12 per cent from a year earlier after interest rate hikes to cool inflation-dampened US and European consumer demand.

A furniture dealer in the central city of Taiyuan said her sales were down 20-30 per cent compared with during the pandemic. The merchant, who would give only her family name, Ma, said her customers are salaried urban workers who still were recovering from anti-virus measures that shut down companies. "We have lost money so far this year," said Ma, who was unaware of the ruling party's promise of support.

An official survey found unemployment among young people in cities spiked to a record 21.3 per cent in June. A researcher at Peking University, Zhang Dandan, wrote in the business news magazine Caixin the true rate might be almost 50 per cent if young people who are paid by parents to work around the house while they try to find other jobs or have given up looking are included.

The party's decision to reverse one of its signature policies and ease controls imposed in 2020 to rein in surging debt in real estate reflects the urgency of the problem. Those curbs triggered a wave of hundreds of bankruptcies among developers and dragged on business activity.

Still, the property industry's problems persist. Developers have renegotiated payments to banks and bondholders, but financial analysts say they face another cash crunch if sales fail to pick up. The biggest, Evergrande Group, still is trying to resolve more than \$300 billion in debt.

Tech tycoon Ma Huateng, the public-

ity-shy co-founder of games and social media giant Tencent Holding, broke his media silence and issued a statement praising the July 19 announcement as a "clear and in-depth understanding" of challenges for entrepreneurs.

Tencent, operator of the popular WeChat message service, is a target of anti-monopoly and data security crackdowns launched by Beijing in 2020 to tighten control over tech industries. Its share price has fallen by half, wiping out more than \$400 billion in stock market value.

The statement "raised earnest expectations for high-quality development of private enterprises," Ma wrote on a state TV blog.

The party has tried to shift money to the public by pressuring successful companies including e-commerce giant Alibaba Group to raise wages and reduce charges. But the party has avoided giving money straight to households through Western-style social welfare programs.

The chief economist of the state-owned Bank of China International Ltd. suggested a politically sensitive alternative: Hand ownership of state-owned companies that are the core of the ruling party's strategic plans to the Chinese public.

Their dividends would "create wealth effects for residents, stimulating increased income and consumption," Xu Gao wrote in a commentary published by a Beijing think tank, the Center for China and Globalization.

The party has given no sign it might consider that. It has not clarified the status of law and consulting firms and other companies under the anti-spying rules, which have left many uncertain about whether gathering information on business conditions is prohibited.

Another risk factor: More abrupt policy changes as Xi, China's most powerful leader in decades, pursues his economic, social and strategic ambitions.

"There is little to prevent private firms from being targeted again down the road," said Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics.

Physical activity may promote learning, well-being at secondary school

KUOPIO (FINLAND), Jul 31 (Agencies): According to a study by the University of Eastern Finland, adolescents who participate in active school travel and leisure-time physical exercise outperform their inactive peers at secondary school. Regular leisure-time physical activity, even in little amounts, was also linked to a lower risk of school burnout.

The study's findings have been published in the European Journal of Public Health. The relationship of physical activity with learning and academic achievement is complex. However, prior studies have found that especially school-based physical activity, such as physical education, can improve classroom performance—particularly in mathematics.

Despite this, few studies have examined the association between active school transport and educational outcomes. Regarding physical activity and school well-being, most of the previous evidence is focused on university-level students. In the recently published study of over



34,000 adolescents, researchers observed that active school transport was associated with higher odds of high perceived academic performance and self-reported competency in academic skills. The association was even stronger for leisure-time moderate-to-vigorous physical activity. Similar to prior studies, the relationship between leisure-time physical activity and mathematical skills stood out.

"The results regarding active school transport were particularly intriguing as researchers are increasingly interested in the health benefits of travel-related walking and cycling. Being physically active before school could, for example, enhance concentration in classroom, explaining our observations."

However, due to the cross-sectional design, our study cannot establish causality," says Juuso Jussila, a Doctoral Researcher at the University of Eastern Finland.

"There were no surprises regarding the strong association between leisure-time physical activity and perceived academic achievement due to support from prospective and intervention studies. Although we do not know all the explanatory mechanisms, improved coordination and perceptual-motor skills, required in various team sports, for example, can at least partially explain these observations. Leisure-time physical activity is also typically more intense than active school transport, leading to increases in brain-derived neurotrophic

factor in our circulation and, thus, improvements in cognitive performance."

Leisure-time physical activity was also inversely associated with school burnout. As little as 30 minutes of weekly moderate-to-vigorous activity was associated with 24% lower odds of school burnout. Adolescents who engaged in leisure-time physical activity for 4 to 6 hours a week had 46% lower odds of school burnout compared to their physically inactive peers. Both leisure-time physical activity and active school transport were also positively associated with school enjoyment.

"To the best of my knowledge, this was the first large-scale study to examine the association between physical activity and school burnout among adolescents. Leisure-time physical activity can be an effective way to disconnect from schoolwork and the potential stress related to it. If we can increase the amount leisure-time physical activity among youth, both learning and wellbeing benefits can be significant," Jussila summarises.

Short bursts of intense exercise linked to reduced risk of cancer: Study

NEW DELHI, Jul 31 (Agencies): Just 4-5 minutes of vigorous activity that makes people huff and puff during daily tasks is associated with a lower risk of some cancers by up to 32 per cent, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal JAMA Oncology, used data from wearable devices to track the daily activity of over 22,000 'non-exercisers'.

Researchers at the University of Sydney in Australia then followed the group's clinical health records for close to seven years to monitor for cancer.

They found that four to five minutes of vigorous intermittent lifestyle physical activity or 'VILPA' was associated with a substantially lower cancer risk compared to those who undertook no VILPA.

Short bursts of activity -- around one minute each -- includes activities like vigorous housework, carrying heavy

shopping around the grocery store, bursts of power walking or playing high-energy games with the kids.

Adults who don't exercise are at increased risk of developing certain cancers like breast, endometrial or colon, but until recently the impact of less structured forms of vigorous physical activity was unable to be measured, the researchers said.

"We know the majority of middle-aged people don't regularly exercise which puts them at increased cancer risk but it is only through the advent of wearable technology like activity trackers that we are able to look at the impact of short bursts of incidental physical activity done as part of daily living," said lead author Professor Emmanuel Stamatakis.

"It is quite remarkable to see that upping the intensity of daily tasks for as little as four to five minutes a day, done in short bursts of around one minute each, is

linked to an overall reduction in cancer risk by up to 18 per cent, and up to 32 per cent for cancer types linked to physical activity," Stamatakis said.

In a study sample of 22,398 people with an average age of 62 who did not exercise in their leisure time, the researchers found 2,356 new cancer events (1,084 in physical activity related cancer) over an average follow-up of 6.7 years.

A minimum of around 3.5 minutes of daily VILPA was associated with up to 18 per cent reduction in cancer incidence, they said. About 4.5 minutes of daily VILPA was associated with up to 32 per cent reduction in physical activity-related cancer incidence, according to the study.

The steepest gains in cancer risk reduction were seen in people who did small amounts of VILPA compared to those who did none, however, benefits con-

tinued with higher levels of daily VILPA -- particularly for physical activity-related cancers.

The study is observational, meaning it is not designed to directly explore cause and effect.

However, the researchers saw a strong link and refer to previous early-stage trials showing that intermittent vigorous physical activity leads to rapid improvements in cardio-respiratory fitness, which may provide a possible biological explanation for reduced cancer risk.

Other likely contributors include physical activity's role in improving insulin sensitivity and chronic inflammation, they said.

"We need to further investigate this link through robust trials, but it appears that VILPA may be a promising cost-free recommendation for lowering cancer risk in people who find structured exercise difficult or unappealing," Stamatakis added.

“What Happened To Jasprit Bumrah? Kapil Dev Blasts BCCI, Top Stars In Fiery Rant

NEW DELHI, Jul 31 (Agencies): A true legend in Indian cricket, Kapil Dev isn't known to mince his words when it comes to sharing his opinions on raging topics in the Gentlemen's Game. The 1983 World Cup winner isn't a pleased man, having seen how Indian cricket has evolved over the last few years. With injuries to key players hurting the team's performances in mega events, Kapil questioned the commitments of Indian stars, suggesting they would not mind playing the Indian Premier League (IPL) with minor injuries but when it comes to doing the same for the national team, they would prefer to sit out.

In an interview with The Week, Kapil questioned the progression status of marquee pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who has been out of the Indian team for about a year. With the clock for the ODI World Cup already ticking,



Kapil feels it would be a waste of time if Bumrah doesn't recover in time for the mega event.

“What happened to Bumrah? He started working with so much belief, but if he's not there (in World Cup semi-final/final)... we wasted time on him. Rishabh Pant... such a great cricketer.

Had he been there, our Test cricket would've been better,” Kapil said.

While Kapil feels that the IPL is a wonderful thing, he isn't happy to see players putting the T20 league above their international commitments. “God is kind, it's not as if I

never got injured. But today, they are playing 10 months in a year. Give a benefit of doubt to that, but everybody has to look after themselves. IPL is a great thing but IPL can spoil you also. Because, a little bit of injuries and you will play in IPL. A little bit of injuries, you won't play for India. You would take a break. I'm being very open about it,” said the legendary all-rounder.

Kapil didn't even spare the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for its poor management of the players' workload.

“If you have a small injury, you would play in IPL if it's an important game. At this stage, cricket board has to understand how much cricket they should play. That is the bottomline. If today, you have resources, money, but you don't have three or five-year calendars. There's something wrong with cricket board there,” he further added.

Ashes 5th Test: Australia's run chase held up by rain



LONDON, Jul 31 (Agencies): The fourth day's play in the final Ashes Test at The Oval was abandoned due to rain after Australian openers David Warner (58) and Usman Khawaja (69) shared a partnership of 135 as they chase a target of 384 to beat England. The pair withstood a barrage of hostile bowling as they

steamed past 100 on their way to the highest opening partnership in the Ashes in England since 2009.

James Anderson floored Warner with an unintended beamer when Australia were just short of a hundred, the batter managing to fend off the shoulder-height ball with his bat handle. Fast bowler Mark Wood

hit Khawaja on the helmet with a bouncer, leading to a lengthy concussion check before the rain set in.

England's Stuart Broad, who on Saturday announced his retirement from cricket after this match, and Anderson, celebrating his 41st birthday, had opened the bowling after ending England's second innings together in the morning, with Broad smashing the final ball of his batting career for six.

Chris Woakes, Moeen Ali, Joe Root and Wood all joined the attack for spells under the floodlights on an overcast day.

Brief scores: England 283 & 395; Australia 295 & 135/0 (Khawaja 69*, Warner 58).

Minds without fear: The ultimate success of UTT

CHENNAI, Jul 31 (Agencies): With a roaring Pune crowd behind him, Harmeet Desai did something that none one could do in the entire fourth season of Ultimate Table Tennis. He ended the winning streak of the current World No 29, Benedikt Duda, in a comeback victory to help his side, Goa Challengers, beat Chennai Lions.

Two days before the final showdown, Puneri Paltan's Manush Shah stunned World No. 17 Quadri Aruna of U Mumba to see his side reach the semi-final. These are not just the wins on the board for the respective teams, this is a massive win for the UTT and for Indian Table Tennis. Shah admits it was a surreal experience for him. “That result (beating Aruna) gave me a sense that anything is possible. We are getting better and better every single day. That is a good sign for Indian table tennis and the young upcoming players,” Shah told this daily.

19-year-old Payas Jain, the only Indian player to clinch three medals in the Asian Junior and Cadet Table Tennis Championship, was part of the Chennai Lions, who ended up



runners-up of the tournament. Throughout the tournament, he felt like this was his baptism of fire at the most competitive level.

“I have learned a lot from this season. When you are watching it on TV, it's different, but when you are part of that environment with the team, it's a different energy altogether. After the junior level, I want to achieve more at the senior level and the experience of UTT is something that will help me. Our captain, Sharath Kamal has been a great motivator for me. I have seen him play for the longest time. Now he is like my friend,” Jain added.

Commonwealth Games doubles Gold Medalist, Sreeja Akula, believes the awareness about table tennis has increased, which has ultimately helped the financial side of the sport as well. “The government is already doing a lot for the sport,

but there are private sponsors now who are coming forward to sponsor the individual needs of players,” Akula added.

Kamal, who has been the face of Indian Table Tennis over the years, values the importance of the league not just for the young players, but for the experienced players as well. “As a 22-year-old, I went into Europe in search of this very situation. I'm happy for the young players and for the seasoned players. They are getting this kind of opportunity in their own country. At the same time, they can have some amount of financial benefits from the experience that they are having,” Sharath added.

With the Asian Games ahead of them in Hangzhou, the Indian contingent is ready to add more medals to their tally, and the experience of the UTT will definitely come in handy for them.

Lack of consistency and role clarity continue over India's preparations for 2023 World Cup

NEW DELHI, Jul 31 (Agencies): It's that time of the World Cup cycle. The period where every move, tactic and play a team makes goes under the radar, where every game is an opportunity to iron out the wrinkles in the combinations and pool of players before going into the global event. When the Rohit Sharma-led Indian side landed in the Caribbean that is what was expected of them as well.

Two games into the three-match series (they have lost the second after winning the first), it seems like they have made no headway at all. If anything, it almost feels like they have turned the clock back to 2019. After the semi-final defeat against New Zealand, the then captain, Virat Kohli had said that it is hard to admit when “45 minutes of bad cricket put us out of the World Cup.”

However, there was more to it. And the most important of all was the mismanagement of the No. 4 slot in the batting order. Since 2017, they had used 12 players in the position before leaving the one (Ambati Rayudu) who batted the most there for the World Cup.

Now, here is a stat

for you. Since January 2021, India have used the most number of players (9) at No. 4 along with the Netherlands and Sri Lanka (among the ten teams in the 2023 World Cup). They also top the list in the ongoing WC year, using six batters in 11 games. And that is not even the worst. None of it has worked. India's No. 4 average of 16.20 is the lowest among the ten teams. While injuries to KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer — the three who were expected to slot in the middle-order followed by all-rounders Hardik Pandya and Ravindra Jadeja — the Indian management sure hasn't helped themselves in how they have been trying to give opportunities to players.

In the ongoing Windies tour, Ishan Kishan, who is supposedly the backup keeper for Rahul, has been made to open, indicating that he might be the reserve opener. Suryakumar Yadav, struggling to crack the ODI format, batted at No. 3 in the first game before moving to No. 6. Sanju Samson who did not start in the first ODI was made to bat at 3, with Kohli and Sharma resting, when

he is not going to get to bat in the position should he make the cut for the WC. Axar Patel was sent in at 4, which actually comes in handy to take on spinners, with a left-right combination in middle-order but no one knows how long that experiment will last as well.

The Rahul Dravid-coached side has left, not just the followers, but also some former cricketers confused. Take the case of Samson, India cricketer Abhinav Mukund, who is an expert on Jio Cinema, feels that Samson should be given a chance in a position where he will get a longer rope. “I don't understand where the Indian team sees Sanju Samson. I feel he warrants more chances than the chances he has had but if he does, it should be in a position where he is comfortable batting in. Maybe, No. 4 or 5 you can try him out as an option in case Shreyas isn't fit and that is where I thought after the first wicket went I thought they would still send Suryakumar at 3 and maybe send Samson at No. 4 because Shreyas is the man in question. Now, it

feels like they are trying Sanju at 3 or 4 as a top order batter and they want a left-right combination to go in middle overs,” Abhinav said on Jio Cinema.

Former national selector Saba Karim, who is also an expert on the show, agreed. “I feel that No. 4-5, if you want to keep him (Samson) as a back-up middle-order batter in terms of your World Cup campaign then utilize him at that position, here you are confusing everybody,” he said. “It's good to see him (Kishan) getting runs up the order but if KL Rahul comes in the side and if you have him (Kishan) in your squad, will you play him as your opener? You will not because Shubman Gill and Rohit open the innings. Then if KL is not fit that is the time when Kishan will come in the XI, and if that is the case then why can't we have him bat at No. 5 or 4, whatever it may be? You can't have him open the innings, even if he gets runs how does it matter? Because eventually, he is not going to play as an opener in the World Cup.”

However, despite the defeat or the concerns, coach Dravid doesn't

seem to be worried and said that they are looking at the “bigger picture.” “We need to build some of the players, we need to get some answers for specific positions considering some of the situations we are in,” said Dravid after the second ODI. “We are not too worried about the opinion of people. It's just that these are the talented boys we have in the country. They have all performed and it's up to them to take the opportunities.”

This movie isn't new to Indian cricket. It's run and re-run several times in the last decade before every ICC tournament. Taking opportunities might not be as easy as said, especially when you are playing out of the role you'd have to. As a former captain himself, Dravid knows it too. And if he and Sharma do not want to be on the sour end of another “45 minutes of bad cricket” in November, they would have to reflect and reboot immediately.

After all, they just have ten days on the field, at best, their playing XI and back-ups sorted before the big picture gets screened.

Australia Face Must-Win FIFA Women's World Cup Clash, Japan Take On Spain

Co-hosts Australia have to beat Canada on Monday or risk an unthinkable exit from the Women's World Cup in the first round

MELBOURNE, Jul 31 (Agencies): Co-hosts Australia have to beat Canada on Monday or risk an unthinkable exit from the Women's World Cup in the first round, while former champions Japan take on Spain with top spot in their group on the line. Australia are sweating on the fitness of star forward and captain Sam Kerr for the Group B game against Canada in Melbourne which starts at 1000 GMT and where only a win will guarantee them a place in the last 16. Kerr has missed the Matildas' two matches so far, in which they beat the Republic of Ireland 1-0 but then suffered a surprise 3-2 defeat against Nigeria.

She has declared herself available after a calf injury but it is uncertain

how much of a part she will play against the Olympic champions.

“Everyone involved in sport knows that with calf injuries it's one thing that you're available, but there's also risk when you come back from a muscle injury,” said Australia coach Tony Gustavsson ahead of the game.

Australia are a point behind both Canada and Nigeria, and a draw could only be enough for the co-hosts to go through should the Nigerians lose to Ireland in Brisbane at the same time.

Otherwise they will have to win to avoid suffering the same fate as New Zealand and being eliminated from their home World Cup in the first round.

A draw will do for

Canada, whose coach Bev Priestman was not focusing on Kerr's fitness.

“We've spoken about what it takes to beat Australia because Australia is not just Sam Kerr,” she said.

After stunning Australia in their last game, Nigeria's Super Falcons need just a point against the already-eliminated Irish to go through to the knockout phase.

Before those games, the finale to Group C sees already-qualified Japan and Spain battle it out for top spot in Wellington (0700 GMT).

Spain, featuring Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas, lead the group on goal difference from the 2011 World Cup winners, meaning Japan need to win to finish top. Whoever tops Group



C will stay in Wellington for a last-16 tie on Saturday against Norway, while the runners-up will head north to Auckland to face Switzerland the same day. Colombia stun Germany. The Swiss secured

first place in Group A on Sunday with a 0-0 draw against New Zealand as the co-hosts were eliminated on goal difference by Norway, who hammered the Philippines 6-0.

Many of the New Zealand players were dis-

traught at the end. “There are a lot of tears out there, but they should be so proud to finish on four points,” captain Ali Riley said.

A 97th-minute header from Manuela Vane-gas gave Colombia a stunning 2-1 win over

Germany in Sydney in Group H.

Germany smashed Morocco 6-0 in their opener to underline why they were among the pre-tournament favourites, along with Spain and England, to snatch the crown from hosts the United States.

But they came crashing back down to earth at the hands of a Colombia side inspired by 18-year-old Linda Caicedo and roared on by the majority of a rowdy 40,000 crowd.

Caicedo scored a brilliant opener to put Colombia ahead, but Germany thought they had salvaged a point in the 89th minute when skipper Alexandra Popp levelled from the penalty spot.

However, Vanegas popped up to head

home from close range and put Colombia on the verge of the last 16.

“Germany is a world power, that's a reality, but Colombia has been making great strides and today Colombia is a world power,” said the defender Vanegas.

“I dreamed of scoring a goal in a World Cup. I knew it was going to come and I decided to do it for today's game.” Morocco won a Women's World Cup match for the first time after Ibtissam Jraidi struck early to give them a 1-0 victory over South Korea.

Going into the last round of group matches, Colombia are top of Group H on six points, Germany and Morocco have three and South Korea have zero.

Raghubir slams BJP for neglecting basic amenities, people's issues

TOP NEWS REPORT

AKHNOOR Jul 31: Raghubir Singh Manhas, District President Jammu Rural 'A' of J&K National Conference, expressed serious concern over the damages caused by people due to recent flash floods and incessant rains in the Jammu region.

Addressing a meeting of party workers at Akhnoor today, the senior NC leader took stock of the problems being faced by the people of the area as a result of the recent flash floods. He asked the government to immediately constitute teams to assess the damages suffered by the people, as well as the extensive damage to farmers' crops. It is crucial that immediate action is taken to provide relief and support to those affected by these natural disasters.

In a scathing critique of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Raghubir Singh Manhas expressed deep disappointment and concern regarding the ruling party's failure to deliver



basic amenities and adequately address the pressing issues faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted the BJP's inability to provide essential services and infrastructure that are crucial for the development and well-being of the region. Despite numerous promises made during election campaigns, the current administration has failed to fulfill its obligations to the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir, leaving them in a state of distress and deprivation, he added.

The senior NC leader emphasized the funda-

mental importance of basic amenities, such as access to clean drinking water, reliable electricity supply, and efficient healthcare facilities. He emphasized that the lack of these necessities has created immense hardships for the people and has hindered the progress and advancement of the region. He accused the BJP of neglecting the concerns and issues that are of utmost importance to the people. He noted the lack of attention given to unemployment, poverty alleviation, and education reforms, which are vital for the empower-

ment and upliftment of the community.

He asked the government to prioritize the needs of the people residing in rural and far flung areas and allocate necessary resources to improve the living standards and overall quality of life in the region.

The NC leader urged party workers to gear up for the upcoming Panchayat polls and made the public aware of the significant contributions that the National Conference has made to the development of the state. He stressed the importance of conducting door-to-door cam-

Kisan Sampark Abhiyan carried out at Khour



TOP NEWS REPORT

AKHNOOR, Jul 31: Kisan Sampark Abhiyan was carried out under the chairmanship of SDM Khour Anil Kumar Thakur at Panchayat Pallanwalla Lower.

An overwhelming participation of the farmers including females during the programme bears testimony to the fact that farmers are enthusiastic about the newly launched Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HAPD).

SDM Khour asked the

farmers to take advantage of the schemes under HADP as it is a unique initiative first of its kind in the country whereby interventions in all the domains of Agriculture and allied sectors are available.

He expressed confidence that, with implementation of HADP within next five years, J&K UT shall have the distinction of being first to double farm incomes besides having a double-digit growth in the agriculture sector.

During the three day programme a total of

49 short films/videos about HADP and other centrally supported programmes were to be displayed and resource persons VAS Dr Kuldeep, HDO Amit Saraf and AEO Arjun Singh from animal husbandry, horticulture and agriculture department made farmers aware about their departments schemes under HADP.

Present on the occasion were Sarpanch Pallanwalla Lower Geeta Devi along with other PRI members of the Panchayat.

Preservation of Natural Resources must for future generations: Sat



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 31: Bharatiya Janata Party in collaboration with the Forest Department of J&K UT held a massive plantation drive at Baba Kailash Dev Mandir, Banatalab, Jammu. The program was organized by BJP's Employees, Education and Teachers Cell.

Former Minister Sat Sharma (CA) formally launched the drive and graced the occasion with his presence. The

program was organized by Convenor of the Cell Mukherji Sharma and his team. KL Sharma, District Convenor of the Cell and several others also accompanied the BJP leader during the program.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said that this drive is conceptualized in a hope to reduce environmental degradation and evoke awareness towards ecological balance. He said that plants not only provide a green cover but

also create a healthy environment. He further added that it is our collective responsibility to save our Mother Earth and environment through such plantation activities. Sharma also stated that BJP under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi has initiated several efforts towards environment conservation and climate change. He also appealed to all to contribute in protecting the environment and said that we must preserve

our natural resources for our future generations.

Mukherji Sharma said that such drives help in providing numerous ecological benefits such as air purification, soil erosion prevention and many other things. He said that more such drives will be conducted in coming days with a pledge to conserve the environment.

KL Sharma said that it is the moral duty of every citizen to plant a tree. He said by planting trees we are not only protecting our environment but ensuring survival of our present and future generations on planet Earth.

Pawan Kakkur, Suresh Sharma, Sunil Kumar Gupta, Vinod Khajuria, Rakesh Mattoo, Neeraj Sharma, Ravinder Tickoo, Lal Singh, Vijay Kumar Sharma, Kiran Ji, Jagdish Sethi, Ashok Kumar Gupta, Sanchit Sharma, Ravi Kant Sawhney, Sushil Chopra and others were also present.

Five-day All India Painter's Camp concludes



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Jul 31: Five-Day All India Painter's Camp concluded successfully today at K.L. Saigal Hall, JKAACL premises in Jammu.

The Workshop was inaugurated by Sh. Bal Krishna, JKAS, Deputy Commissioner (Judicial), Taxes Department Jammu, in the presence of Sh. T.S. Batra, Former Principal, IMFA, Jammu, O.P. Sharma, Director, JKCCA, Dr. Shah Nawaz, Editor cum Cultural Officer, JKAACL, Sh. Rakesh Sharma, Head of Fine Arts Department, IMFA,

University of Jammu and S. Kulwant Singh prominent artist from Amritsar.

The prominent artists participating in the Camp include Sh. Jitinder Kumar from Delhi, Sh. Kulwant Singh Gill, Amritsar, S. Sukhpal Singh, Amritsar, Mohd. Moin, Dehradun, Dharminder Sharma, Amritsar, Sh. Tariq Saify, Poonch, Sh. Narinder Kumar and Parveen Gupta from Jammu.

In his welcome address Secretary JKAACL Sh. Bharat Singh, JKAS said that painting is a medium to

express your thoughts on canvas. The artists had created their imaginations on the canvas during this 5-Day camp.

Ms. Sunaina Sharma Mehta, JKAS, Joint Director, Tourism, Jammu was the Chief guest on the concluding function. In her speech she thanked Secretary J&K Academy of Art, culture and Languages for giving her opportunity to be a part of this function. She said that, what one cannot express in words a painter can express that feeling through his painting. She further

said that JKAACL and Tourism Department may jointly organise theme based Camps. The Certificates of participation were also distributed among the participants by the Chief Guest.

Many Senior artists like Jung S Verma, K.K. Gandhi, Anil Saraf, Rohit Verma, Kamal Nain Bhan, Akram Kahan, Ashok Mehra besides various art students from IMFA, Jammu and other colleges visited the Camp and were present in the concluding function.

Sh. O.P. Sharma, Director JKCCA presented vote of thanks. He said that visual arts activities has increased since Bharat Singh has taken the charge of Secretary, JKAACL. He said that such Camps are very important for development of art.

The proceedings of the program were conducted by Sh. Anil Tickoo, Asstt. Cultural Officer, JKAACL. He also on behalf of JKAACL.

SpicMacay Calligraphy Training concludes in HAGS Trehgam

TOP NEWS REPORT

KUPWARA, Jul 31: A total of 50 students from AGS Wayne (13 boys & 10 girls) and HAGS Trehgam (12 boys & 15 girls) participated in the Calligraphy Workshop under the aegis of SPICMACAY and Vajr Division.

The training is conducted by Ustad Mohd Mushtaq Ahmad who is affiliated with SPICMACAY. The instructor is well known for numerous exhibitions and is currently the

head instructor of Calligraphy and Graphics Designing in MZQ, New Delhi.

A calligraphy workshop is indeed a wonderful opportunity for students to enhance their creativity and broaden their horizons. They learn the art of beautiful writing and explore different styles and techniques. It will also allow them to understand the cultural significance of calligraphy in different societies. Immers-

ing themselves in this artistic practice fosters patience, precision and attention to details. Not only it improves their handwriting skills, but it also inspires them to explore other artistic endeavors. The workshop was of a duration of 05 days from 26 July to 31 July 23.

On 1st day a comprehensive introduction to calligraphy was given to students, 2nd day included use of all tools and ink. On 3rd day students began

with writing their names in exquisite style of calligraphy and last day was all about writing their imagination, someone beautifully wrote 'Sare Jahan se Acha' while another wrote their schools name.

Adding further to this endeavour, the event will now continue in Dawar for five more days and will culminate into the finale at the inauguration of Sheena Cultural Centre on August 5.

DAK demands NEET-DM/MCh exam center in Kashmir

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Jul 31: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Monday has demanded to set up National Eligibility cum Entrance test (NEET) center for DM/MCh courses in Kashmir.

"That would bring relief to hundreds of aspiring candidates who are appearing for various super speciality courses," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said with

no center in Kashmir, the aspirations of doctors in the valley are under the threat of going down the drain.

While Jammu has been provided with a center, but for majority in Kashmir there is no centre which is unfair.

"This would jeopardize the career of hundreds of aspirants who would not be able to write the examination," he said.

The DAK President said most of the doctors who are appearing

for the test are working in various hospitals and going to Jammu for the test would affect the functioning of the hospitals.

"Going outside Kashmir means lot of expenses on travelling and hotels which for many aspirants becomes financially unviable," he said.

"The increasing travel costs, combined with the uncertainty caused by frequent closures of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway due to

inclement weather has left aspirants in a state of distress," he added.

"NEET-SS is a single window entrance examination for various DM/MCh courses and it has replaced all state level tests," said Dr Nisar.

"The test for the academic session 2023 will be held on September 9 and 10. This online examination will be conducted by the National Board of Examination that has provided 45 test centers across the country," he said.