

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, AUGUST 01, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-14 Issue-209 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Overground worker of terror outfits detained under PSA in Rajouri, Second in a Week

JAMMU, Aug 1 (Agencies): An overground worker of terror outfits has been detained under the stringent Public Safety Act in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, police said on Tuesday.

Mohammad Shabir, a resident of Draj village in Kotranka tehsil, is the second overground worker to be detained under the Public Safety Act in the border district within a week. On July 26, Akbar Hussain of Marutha-Kanthol village was detained under the administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases. "Shabir is a notorious overground worker and has been detained under the Public Safety Act for his involvement in unlawful activities," a police spokesperson said. He said Shabir's detention order was issued by the Rajouri district magistrate and executed by a police team on Monday.

The spokesperson said many overground workers in the district have already been detained under preventive sections of the law to check their unlawful activities.

Soldier dies after falling unconscious in Budgam

SRINAGAR, Aug 1 (Agencies): A soldier died after he became unconscious in Pandit transit camp of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Monday night.

Quoting an army official, news agency Kashmir Scroll reported that an army personnel named Mahesh posted in 256 Transit Camp fell unconscious last night. He was shifted to nearby hospital where he was declared brought-dead. Meanwhile, police has started investigation in the case.

SIU attaches property of Pakistan based terrorist in Kupwara

KUPWARA, Aug 1 (Agencies): The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday attached property of a terrorist, operating from Pakistan, in Kupwara district of north Kashmir.

Quoting a statement, news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reported that the land measuring 6 Kanals and 3 Marla belonging to one Adul Rashid Qureshi

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Maharashtra | 17 workers killed as crane falls on bridge slab during samruddhi expressway construction

MUMBAI, Aug 1 (Agencies): Seventeen workers were killed and three injured as a crane fell on a bridge slab during construction of the third phase of Samruddhi Expressway in Maharashtra's Thane district on Tuesday, an official said.

"A few persons are still feared trapped and efforts are on to rescue them," an NDRF official said.

Three persons were injured in the incident



and they were being treated at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital at Kalva in Thane, he said.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis in a tweet said he has ordered a probe into the incident by experts.

He expressed grief over the death of workers in the accident.

It was a special-purpose mobile gantry crane used in bridge

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Indian Army implements common uniform for Brigadier and above ranks



NEW DELHI, Aug 1 (Agencies): The Indian Army has implemented a new common uniform regulation for senior officers with Brigadier and

above ranks irrespective of the parent cadre and initial appointment, Army officials said.

They said the move will reinforce common iden-

tity and Indian Army's character as a fair and equitable organisation. The decision was taken after detailed deliberations during the recently-concluded Army Commanders Conference and extensive consultations with all stakeholders.

Officials said that headgear, shoulder rank badges, gorget patches, belt and shoes of senior officers of flag rank (Brigadier and above) will now be common and standardised. The

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J&K registers 1.27 crore tourist arrivals this year so far: LG Manoj Sinha



SRINAGAR, Aug 1 (Agencies): Charar-e-Shareef, Aug 01: Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday said that this year so far 1.27 Crore tourists have

visited the UT and the number is all set to cross previous year's record.

Addressing a gathering at Charar-e-Shareef in Central Kashmir's Budgam district, the LG, as reported by

news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), showered praises on the revered saint Sheikh-ul-Alam Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA) and said that the whole world knows Sheikh-ul-Alam.

"The saint doesn't need to be introduced to anyone in the world as he is Sheikh-ul-Alam not Sheikh-ul Kashmir. The saint was an epitome of sufism," the LG said.

He said that a peaceful atmosphere is prevailing in Kashmir as business remains on throughout the year and schools and colleges are functioning normally. "I keep on saying always that nothing is possible without peace. No development is possible unless peace is established. There was a time when a shikara owner, a hotel owner and a common auto-rikshaw owner

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NIA, CIK raid multiple locations in Kashmir in terror recruitment case

SRINAGAR, Aug 1 (Agencies): Sleuths of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and counter intelligence Kashmir (CIK) of J&K Police raided multiple locations separately on Tuesday in the Valley.

The CIK raids are being conducted at 11 locations in districts of Bandipora, Srinagar, Shopian, Anantnag, Awantipora and Pulwama. "These raids are part of the investigation of a terror recruitment case (FIR No. 06/2023 registered recently in Police Station CIK (Jaish-e-Mohammad —

JeM — Module being handled from across the border) being investigated by CID CIK.

"CIK sleuths carried out searches simultaneously at these locations to maintain surprise. "More locations are being searched. It is expected that incriminating material in hard and soft form will be recovered besides arrests," sources said.

Meanwhile, NIA raided places in Pulwama district, including Rohmoo, Rajpora, Kakapora and Karimabad and the residence of

Turn to page 9

1,006 Pilgrims leave Jammu for Amarnath Yatra, Total crosses 3.97 Lakh

JAMMU, Aug 1 (Agencies): Over 1,000 Amarnath pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar camp here on Tuesday for the twin base camps in Kashmir to undertake the onward journey to the 3,880-metre-high Amarnath cave shrine.

As many as 3.97 lakh pilgrims have so far paid obeisance at the shrine since the beginning of the 62-day-long annual pilgrimage on July 1. The yatra will conclude on August 31.

Of the 1,006 pilgrims in this smallest batch to leave the Bhagwati Nagar camp, 642 are performing the yatra through the traditional 48-km Pahalgam track in the Anantnag district while 382 are heading for the 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district, officials said.

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam and Baltal on July 1.

Terrorism down in Kashmir but not out yet: DGP Singh

SRINAGAR, Aug 1 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh Tuesday said that terrorism in Valley was down but not out fully yet as some elements continue to try and disturb the peaceful atmosphere in the region.

Talking to reporters at the culmination of J&K Police Martyr's 19th Football Tournament final in Srinagar, DGP Singh, as reported by news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that the "terrorism in Kashmir was down but



not out fully yet."

He said some elements are trying to disrupt the peaceful environment in Kashmir and the missing case of soldier in Kulgam is one such attempt. "We have got some vital leads in the case and are hopeful to crack the case soon. We will reach out to the

bottom of the case shortly. It would be premature to comment further on the matter as investigations are in full swing," the DGP said.

About Article 370 roll back's 5th anniversary on August 5, how he sees the ground situation in Kashmir, the DGP said that change is visible as areas where one would not even dream of visiting are being explored by tourists. "There are hardly any law and order incidents. Terrorist numbers are at an all time low. Tourists are visiting downtown

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After eight years in Jail, Kashmir man cleared of murder charges

SRINAGAR, Aug 1 (Agencies): After spending eight years in jail on charges of murdering a senior citizen in 2016, a watchman from Jammu & Kashmir was acquitted by a sessions court on Monday, Indian Express reported.

The man was initially arrested by Oshiwara

police in 2016 and has been in custody since then.

During the trial, the accused's lawyer, Wahab Khan, as per Indian Express, presented a compelling case, arguing that there had been manipulation and evidence planting to falsely implicate his

client, who was a poor worker.

The incident occurred on February 11, 2016, when the victim was found murdered in her home by her grandson. The police arrested the watchman, alleging his involvement in the crime. They claimed

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CBK produces chargesheet against two for using fake documents to obtain loan

SRINAGAR, Aug 1: Economic Offences Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir (CBK) on Tuesday produced the chargesheet in Anti-Corruption Court (ACC) Srinagar against two accused for fraudulently obtaining a loan from a bank on forged documents.

The brief facts of the case are that Crime Branch Kashmir (now Economic Offences Wing, Srinagar) had received a communication from the Tehsildar (South) Srinagar, which, inter alia, revealed that these accused individuals, in a criminal conspiracy, have dis-

honestly and fraudulently prepared fake and forged revenue extracts and have produced them before J&K Bank, Branch Unit Hari Singh High Street, Srinagar, for obtaining a loan.

The Bank authorities had referred the revenue extracts to the

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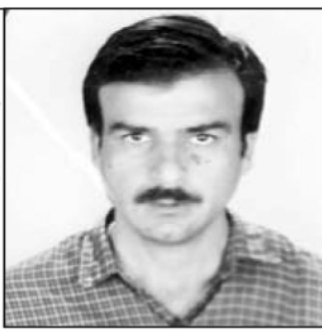
TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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 & Bansilal 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 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 Krishna Wangnoo, originally R/o Kheer Bhawani, Tulla Mulla, Ganderal, 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 Krishna Wangnoo - Husband
Son & Daughter-in-law
Lalit Kumar Wangnoo & Usha Ji Pandita
Anita Raina & Uday Raina - Daughter & Son-in-law
Granddaughter & Grandson-in-law
Embluca Wangnoo & Leshan Chandra
Dr. Areca Wangnoo - Grand Daughter
Sativa Wangnoo - Grand Son
Wangnoo, Raina, Handoo, Ganjoo, Bhat, Jatoo, Pandita and Chandra Families
Contact Number - 9796604340, 9796604345, 9419822125



Smt. Lalita Wangnoo (Raina)

Nikhil Raina - Grand Son
Nikita Raina - Grand Daughter

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 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 AM.

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 CHILDREN: SANCHITA & SHIV



SMT SARLA KAUL

FIFTH DAY/5TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Rohit Gupta (Rinku)** Husband of Smt. Meenu Gupta Resident of Kathua who left us on Sunday 30th of July 2023. The **Fifth Day/5th Day** will be performed on 2nd of August 2023. Day (Wednesday) At 10.00 A.M.

It will be performed at Laxmipuram B-1 Shiv Mandir Near Park, Near May Fair International School Laxmipuram, Chinor, Bantlab.

IN GRIEF-

(Sh. Ram Charan Gupta) - Father-in-Law
Mobile Number. (9906429145)
Smt. Vijay Lakshmi - Mother-in-Law
Vikas Gupta - Brother-in-Law
Chacha and Chachi-in-Law
Smt. and Sh. Vijay Kumar Mobile No. (8716830600)
Smt. and Sh. Tilak Raj Gupta (9858520880)



SH. ROHIT GUPTA (RINKU)

KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Sanjeev Khajuria (S.S.P)** S/o Late Sh. Hari Krishan Khajuria R/o H.No. 152, Wazir Lane, Talab Tillo, Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 23rd July, 2023.

Kriya will be performed on 1-08-2023 (Tuesday) at our residence at 12.30 PM **Uthala** will be performed on 2-08-2023 (Wednesday) at 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Brahman Sabha Parade Road Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Monica Khajuria (Wife)
Aditaya Khajuria (Son)
Samast Khajuria Pariwar



Sh. Sanjeev Khajuria (S.S.P)

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)

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

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, Uthampur.

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

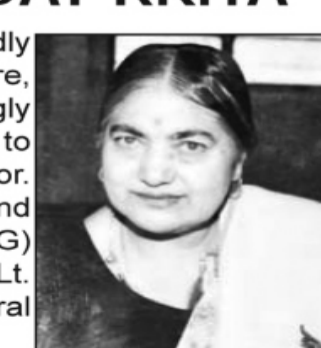
10TH AND 11TH DAY KRIYA

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

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
Chandra and Ashok Sultan - Bhabhi and Brother
Neelam Kak - Sister
Anita and Dinesh Sultan - Bhabhi and Brother
Tania and Girish Sharma - Daughter and Son-in-law
Aahana Sultan and Biswajit Maity - Daughter and Son-in-law
Amrta Sharma - Granddaughter
Nephew and Nieces:
Tipu, Katie, Priyanka, Siddharth, Iiti, Shewata, Kuldeep, Heemal, 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 our beloved **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
Sarjone Wali & Satish Kumar Wali
Grand Daughters & Grand Son-in-laws
Apsa & Ashish
Ananta & Rohit
Aaru - Great Grand Son
& **SAMAST SAS, PARTAZI, WAGUNE, FOTEDAR, RAJNA, KAUL & KAK PARIVARS**
9419113131, 8825078939



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. Dy.SP. Sh. Abhinav Kachroo originally resident of Raj Ghat, Baramulla, presently at Block-A, Ctr 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 Vasudhra Kachroo (Son and Daughter-in-law)
Vishal Kachroo and Meenakshi Kachroo (Son and Daughter-in-law)
Mrs. Gayatri Mattoo (Sister-in-law)
Mr. Kunj Bhan Tseal (Brother)
Mrs. Santosh Labroo (Sister)
Grand children: Rishi, Talti, Nitya & Rudra
Contact no: 700653904, 788947828, 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 Opp. 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 Anyman (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 Krishna Wangnoo, originally R/o Kheer Bhawani, Tulla Mulla, Ganderal, 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 Krishna Wangnoo - Husband
Son & Daughter-in-law
Lalit Kumar Wangnoo & Usha Ji Pandita
Anita Raina & Uday Raina - Daughter & Son-in-law
Granddaughter & Grandson-in-law
Embluca Wangnoo & Leshan Chandra
Dr. Areca Wangnoo - Grand Daughter
Sativa Wangnoo - Grand Son
Wangnoo, Raina, Handoo, Ganjoo, Bhat, Jatoo, Pandita and Chandra Families
Contact Number - 9796604340, 9796604345, 9419822125



Smt. Lalita Wangnoo (Raina)

Nikhil Raina - Grand Son
Nikita Raina - Grand Daughter

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sdn. Sheel Kour** W/o Late S. Dalip Singh (Headmaster) R/o Dabhar left for her heavenly abode on 26th July 2023. The last earthy rites of the departed soul.

Arambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence on 01/08/2023 (Tuesday) at 9 AM.
BHOG Sri Akhand Path Sahib on 3/8/23 (Thursday) at 10AM followed by **KIRTAN & ANTIM ARDAS** at Gurudwara Pehli Patnahani Dabhar on 03/08/2023 from 11AM to 1 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Master S. Kulwant Singh (Kiprid) - Brother
Sons and Daughters-in-law
Yaah Paul Singh and Bhajan Kour
Kulbir Singh and Prithpal Kour
Balbir Singh and Kamal Kour
Daughters and Sons-in-law
Savir Kour and Jeet Singh
Joginder Kour and Mohinder Singh
Bias Kour and Manjit Singh
Grand Sons and Daughters
Great-Grand Children



Sdn. Sheel Kour

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Tara Chand Gupta** S/o Late. Sh. Bell Ram Gupta R/o Dinga Amb, Distt. Kathua, who left for heavenly abode on 27th July, 2023.

Tenth Day will be performed on 5th August, 2023 at our home Dinga Amb at 11:00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Padma Gupta - Wife
Sons & Daughter-in-laws
Sh. Raman Kumar & Smt. Ritu Gupta
Sh. Sanjeet Kumar & Smt. Rashmi Gupta
Sh. Rakesh Kumar & Smt. Neha Mahajan
Smt. Saroj & Sh. Darshan Gupta - Daughter & Son-in-law
Grand children: Sahil, Rishav, Ridhima, Vanshika, Rishita, Anurudh, Krishi, Anandita
Contact No. 7807813588, 9419821789, 9697239869, 6005610586



Sh. Tara Chand Gupta

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved sister **Smt Vidya Devi** W/o Late Sh Gian Chand Dogra R/o 133/3 Nanak Nagar Jammu.

5th Day will be performed at Backside of Laxmi Narayan Mandir Gandhi Nagar on 02-08-2023 (Wednesday) at 10:00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

(Bhabhis & Brothers)
Late Smt Kusum & Late Sh D.D Mishra
Smt Usha & Sh V.P Mishra
(Sisters & Brother-in-Laws)
Smt Tripta & Late Sh K.L Sharma
Smt Santosh & Col B.D Sharma
(Daughter-in-Laws & Nephews)
Gautam Mishra
Chetan Mishra
Roshi & Lt Col Deepak Mishra
Manju & Vimal Mishra
(Grandson)
Master Prayan Mishra
Contact No: 9419215361, 899946726



Smt Vidya Devi

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AJKPC demands inclusion of Left Out Families in PMAY Scheme

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 1: All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference(AJKPC), a registered organization working for strengthening the democracy institutions of J & K today organized a Panchayat convention in Banihal town of district Ramban wherein a large number of elected Panches and Sarpanches of the district Ramban attended the convention presided by Anil Sharma, the president of the organization. The participants put forth their valuable suggestions to intensify struggle of PRIs to make this institutions more vibrant and autonomous. During the program,



the local PRI members asked the AJKPC President to take up the issue of including left out but deserving families of district Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna(PMAY) Scheme. The PRIs said due to the negligence of the local officers of the

revenue department many deserving people could not be included in the PMAY list and now this portal is being closed which is nothing short of injustice. The issue of bifurcation of ration cards was also discussed and irregular supply of ration through PDS was also

discussed.

AJKPC President assured the participants that all their genuine grievances would be taken with the government through concerned officers and departments for redressal. He also urged the National Highway Authority of

India(NHAI) to ensure that local people are provided jobs in all the projects funded by NHAI.

The issue of delimitation and rationalization of voters of Panchayats before the elections was also deliberated. The AJKPC also reiterated its demand of extending the term of existing Panchayats till 2025.

The prominent people who attended the program include Abdul Jabbar, Gh Rasool Mattu, Shabir Ahmed Naik, Rayees Ahmed Khandy, smt Skinna Begum Chanjloo, Mukther Ahmed Asher, Bashir Amed kaskoot, smt Nisarrah Begum Tahachai, Ab Jabbar.

Anti Crime Bureau team meets SSP Samba



TOP NEWS REPORT

SAMBA, Aug 1: NGO, Anti Crime Bureau (Regd), (a Social Service Organization formed for the public welfare of the society), led by Chairman Sham Lal Gupta met SSP Samba Benam Tosh and ASP Samba Surinder Choudhary.

Gupta welcomed SSP Samba Benam Tosh and ASP Surinder Choudhary by giving them bouquets and gifted Mata ki Chunri to him.

Gupta told that as soon as SSP Benam Tosh came to work, he has created an atmosphere of fear among the criminals and the shops of

drug contractors are constantly being closed, and the police department is raiding every nook and corner.

Gupta appreciated efforts of SSP Benam Tosh.

In the meeting, Gupta told about ASP Surinder Choudhary that during SDPO Rspura he broke the backbone of the criminals and the criminals surrendered before him, Choudhary made a huge impact on the criminals and worked tirelessly day and night for the public, the drug peddlers knelt down before him and He was praised by every community during his post-

ing. Gupta told Police Department and general Public are Proud of him.

SSP Benam Tosh also appreciated the efforts of NGO Anti Crime Bureau (Regd) for helping marriage of daughters of poor and needy families and motivated them to work for public in future also.

Gupta along with Councillor MC Bishnah Sahil Gupta and Team Members Vijay Kumar, Rattan Lal, Ravi Kumar, Sudhir Arora, Happy Vaid, Abishek Sharma, Tushar Digra, Rohit Kumar and others were present during the meeting.

Jugal calls on Railway Minister, discusses development projects



TOP NEWS REPORT

NEW DELHI, Aug 1: Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament representing Lok Sabha Jammu, met with Ashwini Vaishnav, the Union Minister for Railways, today at New Delhi. During the meeting, they engaged in fruitful discussions concerning various development projects within Jugal's Parliamentary constitu-

ency. One of the primary topics brought to the attention of the Railway Minister was the urgent need for the construction of a Rail over Bridge at the Gurha Salathia Railway line. Jugal Kishore Sharma highlighted that this project holds immense significance as a large densely populated area is currently connected via a railway line that

passes through Gurha Salathia village. Due to increasing train services and subsequent heavy traffic on the railway line, people from the area face long waiting times, leading to inconvenience and hardship for patients, senior citizens, and students. Jugal emphasized that constructing a Rail over Bridge at the Gurha Salathia Railway Line is a burning demand from

the community.

Furthermore, Jugal Kishore Sharma highlighted the dire necessity of constructing a Rail Over Bridge at Kalibari in Samba District. The absence of such a bridge has been causing significant inconvenience to the local residents, and its construction would undoubtedly alleviate the situation.

During the meeting, Jugal Kishore Sharma also expressed his gratitude to the Minister for the ongoing development initiatives at Jammu Railway Station. He acknowledged that projects are underway to elevate the station to Class-A Category, but urged the authorities to expedite these efforts to ensure that people can avail of the benefits at the earliest.

Additionally, Jugal raised concerns regarding the deplorable con-

dition of the approach road from the Main National Highway to Manwal Railway Station. He stressed the immediate need for funding to widen and repair the road to prevent any further hardships for the residents of the area.

Jugal Kishore Sharma also requested the consideration of adding stoppage/short halt points for the Uttar Sampark Kranti and Hemkunt Express at Manwal Railway Station, aiming to improve accessibility for passengers in the region.

In response, the Union Minister of Railways attentively listened to the demands put forth by Jugal Kishore Sharma and assured the Member of Parliament that these matters would be thoroughly addressed and resolved promptly.

YSCC Doda welcomes new Tehsildar Doda

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Aug 1: A delegation of members of Young Star Cricket Club (YSCC)Doda- a Regd NGO and Social Organization headed by its Chief Advisor Prof Zaheer Abass Hashmi on July 31, 2023 welcomed Afsha Afreen as the new Tehsildar Doda.

The YSCC members expressed immense pleasure while welcoming the local daughter of the District Afsha Afreen as the new Tehsildar Doda and hoped that with her posting

the revenue department will witness new era of development in all aspects besides in addressing the grievances of general public.

They added that being the local officer, an individual of such caliber will help the department to enter into a new era of success and prosperity besides will prioritize the aspirations of the people of the Doda Tehsil.

Further, the members also suggest the chair to build momentum on key milestones and adopt unbiased approach and commit-

ment to public services while addressing their grievances.

After listening patiently to the delegation, the new Tehsildar Afsha Afreen thanked the delegation for such a grand welcome in her honor and assured that she will work to the expectations and aspirations of the people of Doda Tehsil and would surely uplift her sector.

Manzoor Ahmed Batt (Patron YSCC), Ishtiaq Ahmed Dev, Mohd Iqbal Balwan, Faizan A Trambo and Syed Nasir were the part of the delegation.

Police attaches under construction house of drug smuggler in Baramulla

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Aug 1: Police have attached an under construction house of a drug smuggler and seized a vehicle of another in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said on Tuesday.

Police said on June 27, 2023, Baramulla Police attached an under construction house on land measuring 10 marlas at Main Mohalla Pattan belonging to a drug Smuggler identified as Barkat Ali Main after obtaining legal sanction from competent authorities.

The said house was linked to case FIR No. 84/2023 u/s 8/22 NDPS Act of Police Station Pattan.

Similarly, Baramulla Police also attached vehicle Hyundai I10 bearing registration belonging to one Abdul Rehman Malik of Kalantra Payeen after obtaining legal sanction from the competent authorities.

The said vehicle was linked to case FIR No 33/2023 u/s 8/20, 29 NDPS Act of Police Station Kreeri.

The investigations proved that the said movable/ immovable

properties was raised from Illicit Trafficking by the drug Smugglers.

Simultaneously, these attachment of property (Illegally acquired property by Drug Smugglers) orders of Baramulla Police was referred to Competent Authority & Administrator Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property Act, 1976 and Narcotics Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 & Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act 1988 New Delhi who approved in terms of

clause (g) of section 68B of the NDPS Act.

The confirmation order regarding attachment of properties from SAFEM (FOP) A & NDPSA, New Delhi has boosted the morale of officers of Baramulla Police who are acting tough against the drug smugglers and drug trafficking in the district.

Moreover, orders regarding attachment of other properties which have been issued by our officers shall be forwarded to SAFEM (FOP) A & NDPSA, New Delhi for confirmation in near future, police said.

Sargam Club Samba organizes musical programme

TOP NEWS REPORT

SAMBA, Aug 1: Sargam Club Samba organised a musical programme on 43th death anniversary of legend singer Mohd Rafi at Chandan Family Restaurant, Samba.

The club management has been celebrating Rafi night continuously since 14 years.

On this occasion Thakur Narayan Singh was the Chief Guest whereas Pawan Kohli Chairman Municipal Council Samba was Guest of Honour.

G.R Bharadwaj, DySP Samba, Yashpal Kundal (ex Minister), Ashok Rajada (Brick Kilan owner), Rakesh Kumar Thappa owner (City pride restaurant) Samba Sunita Attri (renowned



singer) and Prem Lal (social activist) were the special guests.

All the dignitaries were warmly welcomed by club founder members Ravi Dutta, Ajit Pal Sharma and offered bouquets flowers and shawals as token of respect.

The program stated with light-

ing of lamp by chief guest along with other dignitaries and paid floral tribute to Rafi Sahab.

The singers who gave performances and sang Rafi Sahab collection were Kuldeep Kumar, Ajit Pal Sharma, Rakesh Choudhary, GR Bharadwaj, Rakesh

Thapa, Rajinder Kumar, Mohit Kumar, Tilak Raj Tikka, Sunita Attri, Ashok Rajada, Rampaul Dogra.

Thakur Narayan Singh said that our town is full talent and this club is trying hard to engage youths for promotion of culture which is quite appreciable job.

He congratulated to whole team for conducting musical night. He said that Rafi Sahab was not only a singer but he was also a nice human being who spread message of mankind. The program was anchored by Rampaul Dogra.

Ravi Dutta on behalf of Sargam Club thanked all guests for sparing time & made event successful.

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Office of the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Akhnoor

FRSH SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 13 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tenders (in two cover system) Cover-Ist containing CDR and prequalification and Cover-IInd containing price Bid are invited on percentage basis per specifications in BOQ from approved PWD contractors having upto date GST Clearance certificate.

S. No.	Name of work	Advertised Estimated Cost (In Lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Position of funds
1	Tipping at Sitriwala along Right Side Bank of River Chenab between RD 18000-18200m.	18.44	36880.00	1000.00	25 days	A/B/C	Available as per Budget Provision

- 1) Date of Publishing of Tender Notice : 27-07-2023 (05:00 pm)
- 2) Document Download Start Date : 28-07-2023 (06:00 am)
- 3) Document Download End Date : 03-08-2023 (04:00 pm)
- 4) Bid submission start date : 28-07-2023 (10:00 am)
- 5) Bid submission end date : 03-08-2023 (04:00 pm)
- 6) Date and time of Bid opening : 04-08-2023 (12:00 pm)

1) The tender shall be received on-line or before 02-08-2023 upto 04:00 PM. The Bids will be opened online on the same website www.jktenders.gov.in at above mentioned time and date at the office of the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Akhnoor on 03-08-2023 or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority.

2) Bids must be accompanied by bid cost of documents as mentioned in the above table in the form as specified in the bidding documents. The Cost of Tender should be paid through Challan simply remitting into Treasury under MH: 0702 and uploading treasury Challan receipt along with Tender shall be pledged to Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Akhnoor payable at Akhnoor. (Note:- The fee on account of downloaded bidding documents shall be acceptable in form of Treasury Challan under MH: 0702. Further, bidders are requested to mention name of the work/ NIT No. on the particular Challan. The Treasury Challan before date of publishing of e-NIT shall not be accepted).

3) The bids of the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids and the tender shall be applicable for the financial year 2023-24.

4) Quantities of work may increase or decrease. The contractor will have to execute the work as per site conditions / specifications as per the directions of the site Engineer. Any item not covered in the BOQ shall be paid as per SSR 2022 according to his quoted rates i.e. overall appreciation/ depreciation for the said work.

5) If Contractor abandons the work during execution period, he shall be penalized under rule as the work is to be completed in stipulated period as mentioned in the table.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Flood Control Division
Akhnoor.

No: FCDA/ 1054-67
Dated: 27-07-2023

:DIP/J-6000/23

EDITORIAL

TAX SYSTEM
IN INDIA

The roots of the tax system in India are very old. The mention of tax or tax is also found in the ancient text 'Manusmriti' and 'Arthashastra' written by Chanakya. It is mentioned in various texts that the ultimate objective of the tax system should be maximum social welfare. This is also the aim of the public welfare state.

To fulfill this objective, Goods and Service Tax (GST), which is the new indirect tax system of the Government of India, was implemented on the entire territory of the country from July 01, 2017. With this the largest tax reform in the nation's history became a reality. In the 1920s, Wilhelm von Siemens, a German businessman, gave the idea of GST. Today more than 160 countries of the world have adopted this tax system.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST), India's biggest tax reform since independence, was launched on the midnight of June 30, 2017 in a ceremony held in the Central Hall of Parliament. Most of the dignitaries including President Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were present in it. President Pranab Mukherjee said this historic moment is a happy culmination of a long journey that began in December 2002.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi described GST as a good and simple tax. He said that at the time of the country's independence, Sardar Patel had integrated the nation by uniting more than 500 princely states. Similarly, economic integration of the country is taking place through GST. Now from Ganganagar (Rajasthan) to Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh). Till then the slogan of 'One Tax-One Country' will echo.

After 70 years of independence of the country, 14 taxes have been abolished and one tax has been converted into GST. With the implementation of GST, now any goods will have the same price across the country; Because it is being taxed uniformly across the country. This will benefit industry, government and customers alike. This will also accelerate the 'Make in India' program of the government.

This single arrangement will bring down the prices of most of the items of common consumption. Goods and Services Tax (GST) has been kept in four categories. The rate of GST has been kept at zero on most of the items used by the lower and middle class. Certain goods and services have been kept out of the purview of GST.

Central GST (CGST) is implemented by the central government while State GST (SGST) is implemented by the states. State GST will also be applicable in union territories having legislature. Union Territory GST (UGST) will be applicable in union territories without legislature.

Thus it should be expected that GST will bring a gift to every family and the nation will emerge as economically stronger and more progressive. Initially, there may be some difficulties during its implementation, but 'one country one tax system' will prove to be a milestone in the development of the country. The business world will also benefit from this simple tax system.

In fact, the impact of GST will be visible beyond the borders of the country as well. Under the rules of the World Trade Organization, the concerned countries can take advantage of this by giving concession in indirect taxes to the goods exported from their country and linking them to imports. Keeping in mind the long-term vision of the country's development, the tax structure has been given a progressive form by imposing higher taxes on expensive luxury items.

Making Aadhaar compulsory for births, deaths to revive NRC row

By: Aakar Patel

The Union government is planning to enact registration to make Aadhaar registration compulsory for births and deaths. If the Bill should become law, it will feed into the National Population Register. This in turn will revive the controversy over the National Register of Citizens (NRC). The last time the government had attempted this, it was pushed back by the protests over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in 2019-20.

In April 2020, the government was due to begin the entire NPR exercise manually. This would have needed the enumerators, meaning government workers, teachers and clerical staff and so on, to go door-to-door and question people in 25 crore households.

This attempt was given up after the protests did not end. They did not end because the Prime Minister gave no assurance that the NRC would not be implemented. He said merely that it had not been discussed yet. This was insufficient to satisfy people who believe that what happened in Assam would happen nationwide.

Meaning that people would be marked as doubtful citizens, lose their voting rights, and begin a process that goes through a National Register of Citizens list, a Foreigners' Tribunal and ends in a detention centre.

Other than the protests, what

stopped the previous NPR/NRC exercise was opposition from the non-BJP parties.

Some states have said that they will not implement the NPR. Kerala informed the Centre that it feared law and order problems. The state has also challenged the Citizenship Amendment Act in the Supreme Court. Madhya Pradesh, when it was under Congress rule, had said it would not implement it either.

Other states like West Bengal had encouraged their citizens to actively resist the enumerator and not show them any documents. Yet other states said they would implement the NPR only partially (Odisha and Bihar), leaving out many questions. Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot had said that he would not allow people in his state to be jailed on this issue and instead would go to jail himself first. At the federal level, then, it became clear that the incoming data would be incomplete and fragmented. That would be a third reason for the Narendra Modi government to have stalled the NPR/NRC process in 2020.

But certainly, it appears that the main reason was the issue of physically getting the data. The polarisation produced by the citizenship laws resulted in some extreme actions by the State, and these actions were well publicised. In Hyderabad in February 2020, officials overseeing Aadhaar exceeded their brief and summoned over 100 people to their office to prove

their citizenship. Presumably, all of these were Muslim individuals. After this was reported, the Aadhaar authority clarified and backtracked a little. But the damage had been done. Elsewhere, a court in Assam waved away 15 different documents, including voter ID cards and land revenue records from the 1960s, to dismiss a Muslim woman's claim to Indian citizenship. Again, this was heavily publicised. In Bidar, children were interrogated over a school play on the citizenship laws, and parents charged with sedition and women jailed, producing global outrage.

As a result of all this and much more, in large parts of India there was information on and popular mobilisation against the NPR and the CAA. Tamil Nadu alone saw mass protests in Chennai, Tirunelveli, Vellore, Coimbatore, Thoothukudi, Tiruchi, Madurai, Salem and Krishnagiri on a single day. These were protests that in many cities required the deployment of the entire police force to manage. This is unsustainable in a country of the size of India.

The National Sample Survey (NSS), which was to collect material on the Census and consumption, was also affected by the CAA protests.

For this reason, the Census and the quinquennial (five yearly) surveys have both been postponed indefinitely.

The former chief statistician of India, Pronab Sen, had said then that this was a new sort of

problem. He said the "attacks on field investigators of the NSS was not new. It had happened before, essentially when they asked questions on either household incomes or household assets... so, this has happened earlier, but not too often, because over time people got fairly comfortable knowing that NSS surveys happen". This has now changed. In fact, he added: "We may well have a situation where you are unable to do the Census properly, and if the Census is not done properly, then for the next 10 years, no household survey will be reliable because all household surveys rely on the Census as the frame. If this (Census) runs into problems, and there's a danger that it might, then for the next 11 years, you are in trouble."

The linking of Aadhaar to births and deaths will revive the debate around citizenship. This is unfortunate.

We have not considered the fact that powerful voices around the world, including the United Nations Secretary-General, elements within the European Union and the United States Congress, were concerned and vocal about what was "happening in India in 2020". It doesn't make sense for the government to push through with the NPR exercise in these circumstances, through whatever method. One hopes that all this has been taken into consideration as we once again march ourselves towards a controversy over citizenship.

Are the gloves off for the Battle of 2024? Not yet...

By: Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr

It is going to be a mean half-year and more to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, and the people by and large are generally not interested in it, nor are they invested in it. May 2024 is a little too far away, and it is difficult to anticipate the electoral outcome. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already declared what he will do in his third term in office: put India among the top three economies in the world. He is sure that he will win the election. But that has been part of the aggressive mind-game that he had been playing since 2014, though he had lost many state Assembly elections on the way. On the flip side, Mr Modi's overweening confidence is an act of self-hypnosis, which has serious psychological and social implications.

If Mr Modi and the BJP were to lose the 2024 general election, they may not easily accept the defeat and the BJP's frenzied followers might go on the rampage as did Donald Trump's followers in Washington DC on January 6, 2021. This is of course only a hypothetical scenario. On the other hand, the Opposition's claim that the "INDIA" alliance will defeat Mr Modi seems to be only a resolve, and not yet a certainty. So, what happens in the debate on the no-confidence motion that the Congress has moved in haste without informing its INDIA allies is of little interest to anybody. If the Opposition is keen to nail the Narendra Modi government, it has to conduct a focused and forceful election campaign, and speak

directly to the people. Whether the Opposition has connected with the people will be known only when the results are announced in the second week of next May.

Manipur, however, remains a major matter of concern. The disrobing of two Kuki women by the Meitei mob is much too serious to be left to the BJP and its enraged spokespersons in the party and in the government. An unflappable Union home minister Amit Shah announcing a probe into how the video was made and went viral will not help the government to take the attention away from the shameful incident itself. Mr Shah and the BJP really seem to be in a bind on the issue. If the state police and the CBI want to prove that the video which was released on the eve of the Monsoon Session of Parliament was a fake one, then it will sow deeper divisions in the two communities.

And if the government wants to nail the mischief-makers who made the video and then released it on the social platform out of sadistic motives, then the crime becomes all the more serious and the failure of the government speaks louder. Neither can the home minister explain away the months-long violence that broke out between the Kukis and the Meiteis, nor can he explain away the dubious direction by the outgoing Chief Justice of the Manipur high court in the mischievous order that the Meiteis' claim to be included in the Scheduled Tribe list, which triggered the violence.

There is no denying the fact that the BJP was clearly giving a leg up to its Hindutva agenda by silently supporting the Hindu Meiteis to get the ST status because that would

change the politics of the Northeast, where most of the people fall in the ST category and enjoy the legal protection that the Constitution of India provides them. By trying to insert the Hindu Meitei community into the ST system is a dirty trick, to put it politely, by the BJP. The Manipur violence that followed showed just how short-sighted the move was. The BJP has indeed committed a political crime by its Hinduisation of the politics of the Northeast. For the Hindutva ideologues, of course, it is an imperative rather than a crime. Assam is leading the charge of the Hindutva brigade in that part of the country, and Arunachal Pradesh is playing second fiddle. The Hinduisation of Arunachal Pradesh began in the 1970s under Indira Gandhi when the Ramakrishna Mission was allowed to set up schools in that state formerly known as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA), and the Congress in Assam was known to have played the Hindu card there as well. The Opposition attack on the Modi government over Manipur will be muted because none of the Opposition political parties would want to alienate the majority Meiteis in the state.

The general view is that the no-confidence motion has blurred the focus on Manipur, and the Opposition will be left to attack the record of the Modi government in its nine years in power. The BJP's supporters want the Opposition to bite the bait and launch a wide-ranging ineffective attack on the Modi government so that the issue of Manipur would get lost in the general din of charges and counter-charges. The government can easily duck the Manipur issue

because the discussion is on the Modi government's record and not on Manipur specifically. Even if the Opposition were to stick to Manipur, the government can choose to speak on its nine years rather than the troubles in Manipur.

The danger lurking in a situation where the BJP is a predominant force and the Opposition is unable to find its feet is that democracy and its processes get frayed and eroded. The BJP has lost the fear that it will lose a Lok Sabha election because it has pressed the basic instinct button of religious identity as national identity. BJP leaders like Mr Modi, however, are still afraid of saying that India is Hindu.

Prime Minister Modi is forced to admit in international forums, if not at home, that India believes in pluralism, including religious pluralism. What India needs is a strong critique of the dominant ideology of religious nationalism, and it has to come from people who are not opposed to nationalism and religion. Nationalism involves taking pride in the achievements of the past and the courage to accept the failures. Religion cannot be equated with fanaticism and violence. The BJP/RSS have been promoting nationalism based on venomous pride and religion based on hatred of other religions. This is not good for a vibrant democracy because it rules out respect and understanding for others. It has become clear that Opposition politicians cannot posit an alternative to BJP-dominated India. This has to be done by an intellectual class. We have to look beyond non-confidence motions and Lok Sabha elections.

People Gherao Electricity Department against installation of prepaid meters

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 1: Under the leadership of senior social worker Amit Kapoor, thousands of people today Gheraoed the power station in Janipur and demonstrated vigorously against the installation of prepaid meters.

The protesters were raising slogans against the electricity department. During this, he also took a dig at other opposition leaders including BJP leaders for maintaining silence in this matter. During this, while addressing the protesters, Amit Kapoor said that the people of Jammu had voted the BJP to victory, but it has completely failed to live

up to the expectations of the people. He attacked the BJP for maintaining silence on this issue.

Amit Kapoor further said that if the decision to install smart meters is not immediately withdrawn by the government, then Tawi bridge will be closed in the coming days and a strong protest will be held against the government. He said that electricity was privatized in Punjab 20 years ago, but prepaid meters have not yet been installed there and the Punjab government and the Delhi government are giving free electricity to the people, while in Jammu and Kashmir people are getting power to meet the deficit. A huge amount of

money is being collected from them. Amit Kapoor lashed out strongly against the Modi government at the Center for forcibly installing smart meters in Jammu and Kashmir.

Amit Kapoor said that people are being given free electricity in states like Delhi and Punjab, so why are people's blood being sucked by installing smart meters in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that what was the need for the LG government of Jammu and Kashmir to forcefully install smart meters in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that he started opposing it from Janipur and today it is being opposed everywhere. Amit Kapoor thanked

all the people for participating in the protest in thousands and urged them to be ready for a big agitation in the coming days for this anti-people decision of the government. He said that the manner in which people have participated in today's protest shows a clear glimpse of the anger of the people against the decision of the government.

Amit Kapoor announced that if the government did not immediately withdraw the decision to install smart meters, then it would close the Tawi Bridge in the next few days and the government would be solely responsible for the situation arising out of it.

DPAP Kashmiri Displaced People Wing demands open police recruitment for displaced people

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 1: A Meeting of Kashmiri Displaced People Wing DPAP was held today by its President Sanjay Dhar under Chairmanship of Piaray Lal Pandita wherein Daizya Dhar President Mahila Wing, General Secretary Raj Kumar Ticku, Youth President Naveen Gosani, Sheekha Koul Women's Youth President including other members, and a joint demand stands made to the Lt Governor, Chief Secretary that the youth of Displaced Kashmiri People either low qualified due to lack of financial resources or over aged youth may kindly be appointed

in Police Department on the basis of special open recruitment pattern adopted in past for displaced people and border people recently, with special relaxations of norms, so that a depression, frustrations and diversion of idleness towards drug addiction is avoided for betterment of the Displaced Society. Naveen Gosani, President Youth Wing KDPW discussed in detail the problems being faced by the youth being unemployed having no any sources or any employment avenues created till date by the Govt.

The meeting discussed in the detail the situation crept due to unemploy-

ment among youth of the community risen on large scale especially for low educated and high educated youth (gone overaged), which has led the society youth towards various bad evils, and is only solution to engage them in employment.

The meeting was told that this matter stands highlighted through Chain of Memorandums before the Govt. through Chief Secretary latest during second week of July at Srinagar.

Moreover the meeting requested the Govt. to complete the already PM Package announced employment to the extent of 6000 especially an approved list of

120 candidates of MTS, is pending for issuance of formal orders from Revenue Secretariat since last four months, which is requested to be issued at an earliest.

The President and Chairman made a joint appeal to the Govt. that the PM Package employees may be merged at par with UT Govt. employees, so as their dependence of salary on Central Govt. funds is cleared once for all and these employees may work with more zeal and zest. The Chairman stressed on the members of KDPW of DPAP to work hard for upliftment of the Displaced Kashmiri Community people.

Civil Society of Doda hails Director School Education Jammu for fairness in transfers

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Aug 1: The recently posted Director School Education Jammu Ashok Kumar Sharma has proved to be a blessing for the student community and public of District Doda as well from the Almighty.

It was talk of the past now in District Doda to witness transparency and fairness in transfer and posting of teachers and Masters as

per requirement of the students. The recently completed Annual Transfer Drive of teachers and Masters in Doda District is live proof of honesty, dedication and competency of newly posted Director School Ashok Kumar, who not only created history in transparency in transfer drive but also won the hearts of thousands of students who were deprived of teaching staff especially in far flung schools who ever

remained neglected in the scenario of education sector. But this time teachers and masters knocked the doors of their Schools with no chance of modification, appeasement.

The social activist requested to take lenient view in posting of female teachers in light of topography and their domestic compulsions.

Social activists Firdoos Husain Rather, Najeebur-Rehman Fani, Ifroze Hussain Sheikh of Doda

have hailed Director School Education and Chief Education Officer Doda for transparency in transfers and have assured Director School Education of every public support. The activists however request Director School Education Jammu and Chief Education Officer Doda to take review of such schools which have shortage of staff and full fill their needs in rationalization process going on presently.

Gupta exhort functionaries to intensify booth level public outreach

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 1: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Rattan Lal Gupta exhorted the functionaries to intensify booth level outreach and generate awareness among the people about the policies and programmes of the National Conference. He said that Jammu and Kashmir is confronted with many challenges and the National Conference was the only party to steer it out of the morass of misgov-

ernance. Rural and Romy Khajuria Billawar (Org).

While announcing the committees Rattan Lal Gupta exhorted the functionaries to intensify booth level outreach and generate awareness among the people about the policies and programmes of the National Conference. He said that Jammu and Kashmir is confronted with many challenges and the National Conference was the only party to steer it out of the morass of misgov-

ernance.

District Kathua Urban: Ajit Kumar Sharma as Chairman; K.K Bakshi, Shakeel Ahmed, Bawa Ditta, Subash Chander, Pardeep Kesar, Koshar Parveen Bhatti, Neelam Sharma, Piar Singh, Sat Paul Sharma, Raj Kumar, Mr Yash Paul, Balbir Singh, Prem Singh, Devender Mehta, Rakesh Sharma and Suresh Kumari as members.

District Kathua Rural: Sham Narian Mehta as Chairman; Dharam-

paul, B.D Sharma, Prem Rattan, Prem Lal, Sohan Singh, Jagjit Singh Adv, Sham Lal Mehta, Dawarka Nath, Ankush Sharma Adv, Ashwani Kumar as members.

District Billawar (Org): Romy Khajuria as Chairman; Amrish Sharma, Rafiq Ahmed Raja, Sanjeev Kumar Sethi, Bajinder Kapoor, Lal Chand Batwal, Sham Lal Choudhary, Karam Chand, Surinder Kumar, Krishan Chand and Riaz Bali as members.

Trekking expedition conducted from Rumtse to Nyoma



TOP NEWS REPORT

LEH, Aug 1: Fostering the spirit of the adventure and indomitable traditions of Indian Army, a Trekking Expedition across Zankar Range was flagged off on 01 Aug 2023 by Snow Leopard Brigade in Super High Altitude Area. The expedition team comprising of one Officer, one Junior Commissioned Officer and 12 Other Ranks

will go over challenging and treacherous terrain of Ladakh and will cover a distance of 250 kms over a period of 12 days negotiating heights range from 16000 ft to 19000 ft in unexplored and snowclad areas.

The expedition aims at fostering the spirit of adventure challenging both the mind and body and simultaneously creates a better understanding of rich nature, flora & fauna of Ladakh.

Several organizations condole demise of Wahid Sheikh, Lal Din

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Aug 1: Expressing great sorrow and grief over the demise of Rtd Teacher Ab Wahid Sheikh and Contractor Lal Din Malik, both residents of Bun Doda, who passed away a few days ago after prolonged illness, several social, political and religious organizations of Doda expressed their condolences on their demises.

In a press statement issued to the media, the members expressed their solidarity and offered deep condolences on the demise of Ab Wahid Sheikh (Rtd Teacher) and Lal Din Malik (Contractor) and

termed their death as a great loss to the society.

While offering heartfelt sympathies and condolences, they also lauded their contributions of both the deceased in their respective fields and social work towards society, for which they shall always be remembered.

The deceased Ab Wahid Sheikh was the elder brother of Sr Low Paid Employees Leader Niaz Ahmed Rahi whereas deceased Lal Din Malik was the father of Noted Social Activist Rafiq Ahmed Malik.

They also prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls and courage to the family

members to bear the irreparable loss.

Those who offered their condolences were Prof Zaheer Abass Hashmi (Chief Advisor YSCC Doda), Manzoor Ahmed Batt (Patron YSCC Doda), Ishtiaq Ahmed Dev (President Doda Development Front), Naseer Ahmed Khora (Chairman YSCC Doda), Mohd Iqbal Balwan (President Doda Welfare Society), Gh Hassan Pampori, Shakeel Ahmed Dev (Sr Low Paid Employees Leader), Faizan A Trambo (Sr NHM Leader & Former Distt President NHM Doda) Sajad Malik, Mudasir Mughal and Ashiq Jaral.

Send off accorded to lecturer, master of Govt Girls HSS Bhadarwah on superannuation

TOP NEWS REPORT

BHADARWAH, Aug 1: A farewell party was organized in Government Girls Higher Secondary School Bhadarwah to give a warm send off to Vaishno Devi and Nighat Ara Lecturer Hindi and Senior Master on their superannuation on Monday.

All the staff members including teaching, non-teaching and civil society members wished outgoing officials a very happy, cheerful and healthy retired life.

The function was presided over by Prof Akhter Hussain Govt Degree College Doda who was also the Chief Guest while Principal Govt Girls Higher Secondary School Bhadarwah Shafaqat Ali was the Guest of Honour on



this occasion.

While acknowledging the outstanding contribution of the retiring officials, the speakers wished them good health and prosperity.

Speakers further lauded the role which the duo played all along their service tenure spe-

cifically in shaping the career of the students and good academic deliverance. They further highlighted their dedicated services towards the field of education and society.

"The officials all along their service tenure acted as a kind of good

mentor, disciplinarian and a good-natured leaders who always stood for the interests of the school and its students," said Prof Akhter Hussain in his address.

Speaking on the occasion outgoing officials said that their service career as teachers in the

department of education remained unblemished and the present span of service tenure remained the best part of their career in which they learnt many things.

They however, thanked all the participants for honouring them by recognising their works.

"We have been fortunate enough to have worked with such an excellent team of teachers and staff," they said. "We express our gratitude towards the school management for supporting us in our endeavors," they further claimed.

Others who expressed their views on the occasion included Rashmi Devi, Gausia Malik, Brajesh Kumar and some prominent citizens.

Uttarakhand based absconder arrested in Rajasthan: CB Jammu

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 1: Special team of Economic Offences Wing, Crime Branch Jammu apprehended absconder accused Mukesh Aggarwal, son of Chhitramal, resident of Lane No. 07-10 Mohit Nagar, Extension Opposite Wadiya Institute Dehradun, Uttarakhand from Rajasthan in case FIR No. 10/2013 under Sections 420, 465, 467, 468, 471, 120-B/RPC r/w 5/2

PC Act SVT 2006 P/S Crime Branch Jammu.

The absconder was constantly evading his arrest by changing his locations outside the UT of J&K.

He was on a run since last 02 years and the Court had issued warrant U/S 512 Cr.PC against him for his arrest after charge sheet was produced against him by Crime Branch Jammu.

The arrest of the accused was required

by Crime Branch, Jammu to bring the culprit to justice. The Crime Branch Jammu planned, chased and arrested the absconder from Rajasthan in coordination with Rajasthan Police, brought him to Jammu and produced him before the Court of law.

Economic Offences Wing Crime Branch Jammu arrested five absconders in last eight weeks.

Inflation in essential items hits common people: Dar

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Aug 1: Provincial Vice President Kashmir Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Mohammad Altaf Dar in a statement issued to press here said surging prices of essential items like vegetables and fruits are hitting the common man badly making them shell out more money upsetting their budget.

Mohammad Altaf Dar said that the way the prices of vegetables and fruits are increasing at this time, it is causing us a lot of trouble. By the way, the prices of

all things are increasing. Whether it is gas cylinders or the price of fruits and vegetables, the budget of the house is getting deteriorating.

The prices of all vegetables/fruits has been increased from violating price lists issued by the government price control committee.

DPAP Leader Mohammad Altaf Dar said at the same time it is difficult for LG Administration/ Government to keep a check on the rise in prices of fruits and vegetables as the commodities are not held in public stocks. The Government/LG Administra-

tion however can curb the role of middlemen by monitoring the prices of these commodities in the entire UT J&K so that prices remain equal.

Lastly, Provincial Vice President Kashmir Democratic Progressive Azad Party Mohammad Altaf Dar in a statement said there is a need of increasing agricultural productivity in the UT J&K by encouraging local farmers to opt for horticultural crops so that local supply is enhanced and dependence on other states for availing crops is reduced.

Girls shine in Aryans MRS-PTU Pharma result

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 1: Pharmacy students of Aryans College of Pharmacy, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh, brought laurels to the college in B. Pharmacy Final Semester examination conducted by Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Technical University, Bathinda. In B. Pharmacy, eighth Semester examination, Anu and Sharmil bagged 1st position with 8.91 SGPA, Muskan bagged 2nd position with 8.09 SGPA and

Mohammad Faheem bagged 3rd position with 7.45 SGPA marks.

Prof. B.S Sidhu, Director, Aryans Group of Colleges congratulated the students and faculty for the hard work. He said that Aryans Students are competing well with the boys not only in academics but in sports, innovations, cultural also. Such academic results will inspire & motivate more parents to send their children for the higher studies.

It might be challenging task to adapt books into shows or series, but there are a few adaptations that have touched the hearts of the audience. Here's a quick check

When you're making a movie of a book, people are always waiting with their knives... says Australian actor and filmmaker Joel Edgerton. However, that hasn't stopped filmmakers from bringing out more and more book adaptations on to the screen. With the wide world of OTT giving makers a bigger canvas, more screen time and the chance to bring out long format shows, running into seasons, classics are obviously a go-to medium.

Here's checking out some literary gems whose OTT outings created quite a buzz.

True masterpiece
Great expectations (2023)
Based on Charles Dickens' masterpiece by the same name, written by Steven Knight, and directed by Brady Hood and Samira Raddi, the series Great Expectations paints the dreary world of poverty, prison ships and escaped convicts. The story follows little Pip, who isn't keen to take after the blacksmith trade that he assists his brother-in-law with. The clever, industrious boy would rather be a gentleman!

His little act of kindness on Christmas eve links his fate to the rich and powerful in London and his life is transformed. Reimagining a Dickens' classic is a tall order. Well, comparison of a six-episode series, summed up in six hours, to a



544-page book, invokes the major scenes. It stops short of Pip's entire journey in the novel, but brings it to its fair conclusion early on. And as Pip says, 'Magis magisque satis est' (It's more than enough), it holds true for the series streaming on Disney+Hotstar too!

Detective saga
Sherlock (2010-2017)
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes still remains the crowning jewel of detective sagas. Created by Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat, with Benedict Cumberbatch in the titular role, it enjoyed a run of four series, each consisting of three episodes. It opened to much critical claim and while the first three were praised, the fourth outing received mixed reviews. Winning BAFTA as Best Drama Series in 2011; Martin Freeman

also won the Best Supporting Actor for playing John Watson. Winner of multiple Emmys, its fans are still rooting for the fifth outing. It is streaming on Amazon Prime.

Diversity in representation
Stories by Rabindranath Tagore (2015)
Chokher Bali, Atithi, Maanbhanjan and Kabuliwala, Stories by Rabindranath Tagore on Netflix brings to the screen 20 stories in 26 episodes, narrating tales set in early 20th-century Bengal by Nobel Prize winner Rabindranath Tagore. Directed by Anurag Basu, Debatma Mandal and Tani Basu, actors Radhika Apte, Sumeet Vyas, Amrita Puri and Joy Sengupta, among others, were a part of this series. The series won acclaim on account of painting Bengali milieu beautifully and for

the diversity in representation.

Love lanes
A Suitable Boy (2020)
Based on Vikram Seth's magnum opus, Mira Nair and Shimit Amin-directed A Suitable Boy follows Rupa Mehra's (Mahira Kakkar) efforts in securing a 'suitable boy' for her younger daughter Lata Mehra (Tanya Manikata). This six-episode series, which stars Tabu, Ishaan Khatter, Tanya Manikata, Rasika Dugal and Ahmad Harhash, paints a picture of post-Partition India. The British series, which premiered on BBC One, fell in controversy over a kiss scene becoming a target for accusations of 'love jihad'. Globally distributed by Netflix, it won acclaim for powerful performances by the lead cast. However, overall it met with mixed reactions.

Classic tale
The Lizzie Bennet Diaries (2012-2013)

Created by Hank Green and Bernie Su, this 100-episode series on YouTube takes after Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen. The American series — starring Ashley Clements, Mary Kate Wiles, Laura Spencer, Julia Cho and Daniel Vincent Gordh — is in the form of vlogs. Based on Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice, touted as the 'best' Austen adaptation, the series won multiple Emmys.

Nora Fatehi records statement in case filed by her against actress Jacqueline Fernandez



Actor Nora Fatehi recorded her statement before the Metropolitan magistrate Kapil Gupta in a defamation case

filed by her against another Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez and various media organisations.

Fatehi, who appeared in Patiala House Court, stated, "This defamation case has ruined my reputation in the public eye. They have called me a gold digger and accused me of having a relationship with a con artist Sukesh Chandrasekhar. The reason why I have filed this case is because of the ongoing ED case against Sukesh, who was accused of conning a sum of Rs 200 crore that I have nothing to do with and also know anything about."

"I feel that I have been used as a scapegoat and because I am an outsider, I have been made a soft target. I want compensation for all the damages caused to my career," the actress said. Nora also stated that she was aggrieved by the defamatory remarks made by Jacqueline Fernandez.

Nora Fatehi and Jacqueline Fernandez have both been questioned by different investigation agencies in the Rs 200 crore extortion case involving alleged conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar and others.

Shabana Azmi to hoist the Indian flag at IFFM

The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) is all set to kick off the annual event from August 11 to 20. As part of celebrations, the festival authorities have announced that renowned actress Shabana Azmi will do the honour of hoisting the Indian national flag on the morning of August 12, in commemoration of the Independence Day weekend in India.

Shabana Azmi, a recipient of five National Film Awards, and her versatile roles in acclaimed films such as Sparsh, Arth, Masoom, City of Joy, Tehzeeb, and Midnight's Children, have not only won her numerous accolades but have also inspired a generation of actors and storytellers.

She says, "I am happy to be a part of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne. It is heartwarming to



be part of such a prestigious event that brings our cinema to global audiences. This platform is even more special given that R. Balki's Ghoomer is making its world premiere at the

festival. To be given the opportunity to hoist our national flag in the presence of the amazing Indian community that lives in Australia is truly an experience I am excited about."

Shah Rukh Khan showcases his dance moves in 'Zinda Banda' from 'Jawan'

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan on Monday released the first song from his much-anticipated movie "Jawan", titled "Zinda Banda", and thanked legendary Urdu poet Wasim Barelvi for allowing them to use one of his couplets in the Hindi version.

Composed by Anirudh Ravichander, the song has been released in Tamil, Telugu and Hindi. The Hindi song is penned by Irshad Kamil, while the Tamil ('Vandha Edam') and Telugu ('Dhumme Dhulipelaa') versions are written by Vivek and Chandrabose, respectively.

Shah Rukh shared the track in all the three languages on Twitter. "Presenting... #ZindaBanda!" he wrote alongside the link of the Hindi version.

"Usloen par jahan aanch aaye, takrana zaroori hai... Jo zinda ho toh phir zinda nazar



aana zaroori hai! (When principles are at stake, one must fight. This battle is what makes you alive!) "I thank Wasim Barelvi sahab with all my heart for letting us use this beautiful couplet with a minor change. The song is written by Irshad Kamil sir, and the music is by my dear friend Anirudh," Shah Rukh said in a statement.

The celebratory track from the Atlee-directed movie features the superstar dancing along with Sanya Malhotra, Priyamani, Girija Oak, Sanjeeta Bhattacharya and Lehar Khan. The song is choreographed by Shobi.

Anirudh, who is known for chartbuster tracks such as "Vaathi Coming" and "Arabic Kuthu" among others, said

"Zinda Banda" holds a special place in his heart and his aim was to do justice to Shah Rukh's stardom.

"It's also my first time composing for Shah Rukh Khan who is synonymous with featuring in iconic songs of our generation and I was determined to do justice to his stardom. Working with such a talented cast and crew

was truly amazing, witnessing their dedication and hard work in mounting this song on such a grand scale has been inspiring.

"It's been a challenging and a creatively fulfilling journey, creating the album for this film across three languages. I hope that people enjoy the music of 'Jawan' as much as I enjoyed creating it," the composer said in a statement.

According to the makers, the filming of "Zinda Banda" spanned five days where Shah Rukh performed the foot-tapping track with over 1000 female dancers.

"Jawan" is a Red Chillies Entertainment presentation directed by Atlee, produced by Gauri Khan, and co-produced by Gaurav Verma. The film will release worldwide in theatres on September 7 in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu languages.

Writer-director Manish Gupta likes to build up suspense stories out of real-life incidents

Writer-director Manish Gupta has the knack of picking real-life stories and turning them into films. Gupta, who is known for films like The Stoneman Murders, Rahasya, Section 375, and 420 IPC, is now back with a new film, One Friday Night. The film is streaming on JioCinema.

Talking about his latest film, he says, "This is my sixth film as a director. One Friday Night is essentially a relationship drama, while the plot is set like a Hitchcockesque suspense thriller."

Filmmaking is a long process that takes a lot of prep from both the actors and the director. Talking about how he prepped the actors for the film, he says, "I had instructed Milind to be himself because I had seen a video of his wife, who is 25 years younger than him. His cue to act was basically not to act and be what he is in real life."

Manish says the overall experience of directing this film was extremely smooth, except for a slight hiccup during the shoot with



Raveena. He says, "While working with Milind and Vidhi was good, there was a slight friction between Raveena and me because of her make-up, which I did not agree with. But apart from creative differences, she is good to work with."

"Over the years, I have created my own genre, wherein I take a

real case and make it into a suspense story. I make these films on a very small budget, so the returns are assured. A piece of advice I would love to give to aspiring directors is to be very firm on your vision as to what you want to make and only pick up stories that you are really passionate about," he adds.

Actress Ananya Panday walks the ramp for designer Rimzim Dadu at the India Couture Week 2023

Actress Ananya Panday's ramp walk for designer Rimzim Dadu's show at India Couture Week 2023 truly proved that she was a stunning diva on the runway. Decked up in a golden shimmering ensemble, Ananya on Sunday oozed oomph as she lit the ramp on fire!

She shared, "I am feeling amazing and great. She made me a golden bird. So I am so happy. I think people see me mostly in track pants, chappals and shorts. I feel comfortable in such outfits. They can be easily carried. So, I was nervous during the ramp walk donning the clothes that I was. Somehow I managed that well."

Ananya wore a golden slit skirt with a leaf structure on it paired with a



matching blouse with mesh and lace, radiating grace and sophisti-

cation. She chose earrings to accessorise her look, complementing her

attire with a soft, subtle makeup that accentuated her natural beauty.

Rimzim Dadu, who is renowned for their originality and creative vision, keeps breaking down barriers with her ingenuity. She gave a magnificent homage to the collection this year, which captures the infinite variety of ocean tides by morphing from rigidity to rhythmic flow and from form to motion. About her collection, Rimzim Dadu said, "My designs are organic. I love playing with materials. Breaking materials apart or putting them together, for me serve as a starting point for my thought process. I mostly love playing with metallics. They are usually a part of all my collections."

India's trust surplus visible in its people, their efforts, says PM Modi as he shares stage with Sharad Pawar

Pawar confers Lokmanya Tilak National Award on PM Modi in Pune

PUNE, Aug 1 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said India has transitioned from being a trust deficit country to a trust surplus country with the growing self-confidence visible in its people and their enterprise and endeavours.

He was speaking in Pune after receiving the Lokmanya Tilak National Award for national service.

NCP founder and opposition veteran Sharad Pawar conferred the award on Modi in a rare show of bipartisanship, which irked the rest of the ruling BJP's rival camp, including the Congress and Shiv Sena UBT.

In his acceptance speech, PM Modi saluted the life of Lokmanya Tilak and also narrated an incident involving



India's first home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Tilak.

"When Sardar Patel became the Ahmedabad municipal corporation chief he decided to erect a statue of Lokmanya Tilak in Victoria Park which the British had built in 1897. Sardar Patel challenged the entire authority of British Raj in pre independence era to erect the statue of a leading

revolutionary and said he would quit his post rather than renege on his decision. Today if we have to change the name of a local road from that of a foreigner to that of a national hero some people raise stiff resistance and lose their sleep," the PM said also hailing Hindutva ideologue VD Savarkar as someone who was among the many youth Tilak nurtured as sol-

diers for the Indian freedom movement.

Noting that no nation could progress in an atmosphere of trust deficit, the PM said India's trust surplus was visible in its people and their efforts.

Saluting Lokmanya Tilak for infusing a self-doubting nation with the confidence of freedom with the slogan of swaraj at a time when the British declared Indians as unfit

to rule themselves, PM said, "When people had lost all hope of freedom Lokmanya Tilak inspired them with confidence that freedom will come. He believed in India's history, culture and capacity and broke the British perpetrated myth that Indians were lowly," said the PM, adding that the world today was seeing a future in India and the Indian capacity was peaking.

It is because of Indian capacity and the decisions India took in the last nine years that we are now the world's fifth top economy, he said.

The PM also said that all Indians were looking at the Amrit Kaal of independence marking the years up to the centenary of freedom in 2047 all Indians as "kartavya kaal."

Lok Sabha to take up no-confidence motion on August 8; Kharge seeks appointment with President to raise Manipur issue

Congress boycotts Business Advisory Committee meeting of Lok Sabha where the schedule is fixed



NEW DELHI, Aug 1 (Agencies): The Lok Sabha will take up discussion on the no-confidence motion against the government on August 8 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will reply to the debate on August 10. Sources said the deci-

sion on the scheduling of the discussion on the no-confidence motion notice earlier moved by Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi was taken at the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee meeting of Lok Sabha chaired by Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday.

The Congress boycotted the meeting protesting against the "delay" in listing of the no-confidence vote discussion.

Gogoi had moved the notice last week against the alleged government failure of governance in Manipur.

Meanwhile, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge has sought an appointment with President Droupadi Murmu on behalf of the opposition over continued disagreement between the government and the opposition on the rules under which to take up a debate on Manipur.

Modi had survived the last no-confidence motion against him in 2018.

Chandrayaan-3 leaves earth's orbit, heads towards moon

NEW DELHI, Aug 1 (Agencies): "Next stop: the Moon", an elated Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) tweeted on Tuesday morning after successfully placing the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft into the lunar transfer trajectory.

"Chandrayaan-3 completes its orbit around the earth and heads towards the moon," the space agency said.

"A successful perigee-firing performed at ISTRAC, ISRO has



injected the spacecraft into the translunar orbit", ISRO said.

The Lunar-Orbit Insertion (LOI) is planned for August 5.

Chandrayaan-3, India's third lunar mission, was lifted off from the spacecraft at Sriharikota on July 14 by a GSLV rocket.

Irked over delay in check-in period, woman makes hoax bomb claim at Kochi airport; detained

KOCHI, Aug 1 (Agencies): A hoax bomb claim on Tuesday by a woman airline passenger, who was irritated by the time taken for check-in process at Cochin International Airport here, led to her being detained by the police and also delaying a Mumbai-bound flight in which she was to travel by around an hour, airport sources



said. The woman was handed over to police which said it was in

the process of lodging a complaint against the woman who was travelling with a family

member. The incident occurred during the check-in process for a Kochi-Mumbai flight that was scheduled to take off around 6 am, the airport sources said. The woman, irritated by the prolonged time being taken, said there was a bomb in her baggage that led to the luggage screening process being intensified and as a result delayed the

scheduled departure of the flight in which she was to travel by around an hour, sources said. An officer of Nedumbassery police station, in whose custody the woman is at present, said they were in the process of recording her statement and lodging an FIR against her and thereafter, her arrest would be recorded.

Kolkatans may witness supermoon on Tuesday if monsoon sky permits

KOLKATA, Aug 1 (Agencies): People of Kolkata will be able to witness a 'supermoon' on Tuesday if the monsoon sky permits, former director of MP Birla Planetarium Debiprosad Duari said.

A supermoon will again be visible by the end of the month on August 30. The full moon, when it is closest to the earth, is described as a 'supermoon'.

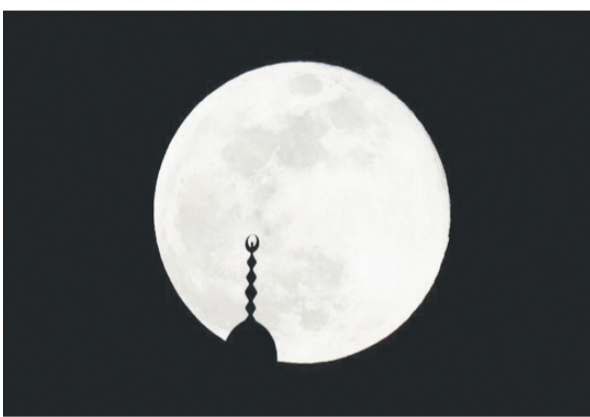
The last time two supermoons were seen in the same month was in 2018, and the next such phenomenon would be witnessed in 2037, he said. "It is exciting as this

coincides with the time Chandrayaan-3 module will be injected into the lunar transfer trajectory," Duari said.

Chandrayaan-3 is scheduled to make a soft landing on the moon on August 23.

"The moon goes around the earth once in 27.3 days in an elliptic orbit. As a result, at some point in its orbit, the moon will be farthest from the earth, with the distant point being called an apogee, while at some other time it will be closest to the earth, with this point being called a perigee," he said.

"When we have a full



moon near the perigee, or closest to the earth, we get what is called a supermoon," the scientist said.

From the earth, a supermoon seems 7 per cent bigger and 16 per cent brighter than normal full moon, he

said. The average distance between the earth and the moon is 3,84,000 km. The distance can vary because of the elliptical shape of the moon's orbit around the earth and can range from 3,56,000 km at the

perigee to 4,04,000 km at the apogee.

On Tuesday night, the moon will be at a distance of 3,57,530 km from the earth and will be 100 per cent illuminated by sunlight around 12.01 am, he said.

"In Kolkata, the moon will rise at 6.17 pm. People will get an exciting opportunity to see the big, bright supermoon if the monsoon sky permits," he said.

On August 30, the moon will be even closer, only 3,57,344 km from the earth. "As it will be the second full moon in the same month, it will be called a 'blue moon,'" he added.

2 injured in exchange of fire during police action against cow slaughter in UP



MEERUT, Aug 1 (Agencies): Two people were injured in an exchange of fire during police action against alleged cow slaughter in

Mawana area here on Tuesday, officials said. On receiving information about cow slaughter in Sathla village, a police team surrounded

the area around 5 am. In an exchange of fire, Sakib and Nadeem were injured, Senior Superintendent of Police Rohit Singh Sajwan said.

The duo sustained bullet injuries in their leg and were admitted to the hospital. They have been put under arrest, he said.

Police have recovered two country-made pistols, cartridges, equipment used in slaughtering, and 120 kg of bovine meat.

An accomplice of the two arrested accused managed to flee, the officials said.

Kolkata mother sells 21-day old daughter for Rs 4 lakh, arrested; infant rescued

KOLKATA, Aug 1 (Agencies): A woman has been arrested in Kolkata for allegedly selling her infant daughter to another woman. It is said that the accused mother, Rupali Mondal, sold off her baby in exchange for Rs 4 lakh. The matter came to light after officials at Anandapur police station received information about the illegal transaction that Rupali, a resident of the Rail colony in Kolkata's Nonadanga, had struck in lieu of her not-even-a-month-old daughter.

Subsequently, the police questioned the mother but sources said that she failed to give any satisfactory answers to officials. Following this, the woman was arrested and she later even confessed to the crime. The confession to the crime led to the arrest of two others, namely Rupa Das and Swapna Sardar. A case was registered on the basis of a complaint from Rupali's next-door neighbour, Pratima Bhuiyana. The accused have been slapped with charges under sections 317 (abandoning child), 370 (buying, disposing of person), 372 (selling minor) and 120 B (criminal conspiracy) along with relevant sections of the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act. After an intense interrogation of both the accused, they pointed to one Kalyani Guha from Midnapur. Guha was arrested by officials of Parnasree police station and they rescued the baby from her room. It was learnt that Kalyani Guha is a childless woman and married for 15 years. The minor girl was safely rescued and she will be handed over to the childcare unit.

"More Dangerous Than Ordinance...": Raghav Chadha On Delhi Services Bill

NEW DELHI, Aug 1 (Agencies): AAP MP Raghav Chadha on Tuesday said the Bill seeking to replace the Centre's Ordinance on the control of services in the national capital is 'more dangerous' than the Ordinance itself.

The Bill is set to be introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday.

Speaking to ANI on Tuesday, ahead of the resumption of the Monsoon Session, Mr Chadha said, "This Bill will turn democracy into babocracy. The Lieutenant Governor, along with some civil servants, will run Delhi

if this Bill becomes law. All powers will be taken away from the Delhi government and vested in the L-G, who is a BJP appointee.

This bill is more dangerous than the Ordinance, which was notified earlier by the central government."

The AAP MP claimed further that officials in the Delhi government will become more powerful than ministers if this Bill clears both Houses of Parliament.

"Now officials can decide not to implement decisions of cabinet ministers. There will be an audit of the decision of the Council of Ministers. All appointments to



the boards will be made by the L-G. They cannot digest our success and have, hence, resorted to this move," he said.

The Union Home Minister will move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Government of National Capital Ter-

ritory of Delhi Act, 1991, while also tabling the draft of the Bill for the consideration of the House.

Union Minister of State (Home) Nityanand Rai will also table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the promulgation of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023.

The Centre on May 19 promulgated the Ordinance to create an authority for the transfer and posting of Group-A officers in Delhi, which the AAP government has said goes against the Supreme Court verdict on control of services.

Transfer and postings of all officers of the Delhi government were under the executive control of the Lieutenant Governor before the May 11 ruling of the apex court.

Earlier, on Tuesday, Raghav Chadha and fellow AAP MP Sandeep Pathak gave a suspension of business notice in Parliament, seeking discussion on the situation in Manipur.

Since the start of the Monsoon Session on July 20, both Houses of Parliament have seen repeated disruptions and adjournments over the Manipur issue, with the combined Opposition adamant on a debate and statement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Opposition brought a no-confidence motion last week in a bid to compel PM Modi to speak on the Manipur issue in the Parliament.

At least 11 killed, 27 missing in Beijing rainstorms

BEIJING, Aug 1 (Agencies): At least 11 people are dead and 27 missing after heavy rains lashed Beijing, state media said Tuesday, in downpours that have submerged roads and deluged neighbourhoods with mud.

Storm Dokhuri, a former super typhoon, had swept northwards through China since hitting southern Fujian province on Friday after first scything through the Philippines.

Heavy rains began pummeling Beijing and its surrounding areas on Saturday, with nearly the average rainfall for the entire month of July dumped on the capital in just 40 hours.

Swathes of suburban Beijing remain badly hit by the rains -- some of the city's heaviest in years.

On Tuesday, state broadcaster CCTV reported the rains had killed at least 11 people and that 27 were missing.

Among the dead were two workers "killed on duty during rescue and relief" efforts, it said. More than 100,000 people across the city deemed at risk had been evacuated, state-owned tabloid the Global Times reported.

On the banks of the Mentougou river, one of the areas most affected by the flooding, agency reporters saw muddy debris strewn across the road.



One local elderly man told agency he had not seen flooding this bad since July 2012, when 79 people were killed and tens of thousands evacuated.

"This time it's much bigger than that," he said, declining to give his name.

"It's a natural disaster, there's nothing you can do," a man in his 20s surnamed Qi told agency as he waited for a taxi outside a hospital with his grandmother.

"(We) still have to work hard and rebuild," he added.

About a dozen emergency vehicles, including trucks with water tanks and bulldozers, were spotted on the road between Shijingshan and Mentougou districts.

Parts of the road were still closed off and workers in bright orange raincoats used shovels to clear the road.

Chaotic scenes President Xi Jinping on Tues-

day called for "every effort" to rescue those "lost or trapped" by the rains.

Local authorities "must do a good job in treating the injured and comforting the families of victims, and minimize casualties", CCTV quoted Xi as saying.

"They must properly relocate affected people, work quickly to repair damaged transportation, communication and electricity infrastructure, and restore the order of normal production and life as soon as possible," he added.

"Xi Jinping emphasised that it is currently the critical period for flood control in late July and early August," state media said.

Live images from broadcaster CCTV on Tuesday morning showed a row of buses half submerged in floodwater in Beijing's southwest Fangshan neighbourhood.

Around 150,000 households

in Mentougou were without running water, the local Communist Party newspaper Beijing Daily said, with 45 water tankers dispatched to offer emergency supplies.

Local media on Monday published footage of chaotic scenes aboard high-speed rail trains stranded on tracks for as long as 30 hours, with passengers complaining they had run out of food and water.

Parts of neighbouring Hebei province remain under red alert for rainstorms, with authorities warning of potential flash floods and landslides.

The city activated a flood control reservoir on Monday for the first time since it was built in 1998, the Beijing Daily said.

And in Handan, Hebei province, rescuers lifted by crane reached a man trapped atop his car by floodwaters, lifting him to safety before the vehicle was flipped over and washed away by the current.

China has been experiencing extreme weather and posting record temperatures this summer, events that scientists say are being exacerbated by climate change.

The country is already preparing for the arrival of another typhoon -- Khanun, the sixth such storm of the year -- as it nears China's east coast.

Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi pardoned in 5 cases: State media



YANGON, Aug 1 (Agencies): Jailed Myanmar civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been pardoned in five criminal cases, though she still faces 14 others, state media said Tuesday.

The announcement was part of an amnesty of more than 7,000 prisoners to mark Buddhist Lent.

"Chairman of State Administration Council pardons Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who was sen-

tenced by the relevant courts," the broadcast said.

Suu Kyi, who has been in detention since she was ousted in a 2021 military coup, has been sentenced to 33 years in jail for a clutch of charges, including corruption, possession of illegal walkie talkies and flouting coronavirus restrictions.

The broadcast said she had been pardoned in five cases but faces 14 others.

"She couldn't be freed completely although some sentences against her were pardoned. She still has to face 14 cases. Only five cases out of 19 were pardoned," a legal source said.

Suu Kyi has only been seen once since she was held after the February 1, 2021 putsch -- in grainy state media photos from a bare courtroom in the military-built capital Naypyidaw.

The coup plunged the Southeast Asian nation into a conflict that has displaced more than one million people, according to the United Nations.

Last week, Suu Kyi was moved from prison to a government building, according to an official from her political party.

Myanmar frequently grants amnesty to thousands of prisoners to commemorate holidays or special Buddhist dates.

China To Encourage Citizens To Join Counter-Espionage Work

BEIJING, Aug 1 (Agencies): China should encourage its citizens to join counter-espionage work, including creating channels for individuals to report suspicious activity as well as commending and rewarding them, the state security ministry said on Tuesday.

A system that makes it "normal" for the masses to participate in counter-espionage work must be established, wrote the Ministry of State Security, the main agency overlooking foreign intelligence and anti-spying, in its first post on its WeChat account, which went live on Monday.

The call to popularise anti-spying work among the masses follows an expansion of China's counter-espionage law that took effect in July.

The law, which bans the transfer of information related to national security and interests which it does not specify, has alarmed the United States, saying foreign companies in China could be punished for regular business activities.

The revised law allows



authorities carrying out an anti-espionage probe to gain access to data, electronic equipment, and information on personal property.

Political security is the top priority of national security, and the "core" of political security is the security of China's political system, Minister of State Security Chen Yixin wrote in an article in a Chinese legal magazine in July.

"The most fundamental is to safeguard the leadership and ruling position of the Communist Party of China and the socialist system with Chinese characteristics," Chen said.

In recent years, China has arrested and detained dozens of Chinese and foreign nationals on suspicion of espionage, including

an executive at Japanese drugmaker Astellas Pharma in March.

Australian journalist Cheng Lei, accused by China for providing state secrets to another country, has been detained since September 2020.

China's declaration that it is under threat from spies comes as Western nations, most prominently the United States, accuse China of espionage and cyberattacks, a charge that Beijing has rejected.

The United States itself is the "empire of hacking," a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson has said.

In protecting itself from espionage, China would need the participation of its people in building a defence line, the state security ministry wrote in its WeChat post.

Australian childcare worker charged with sex abuse of 91 kids; 4,000 pics & videos of abuse found

Police said the abuse happened at 10 different childcare centres between 2007 and 2022 and exclusively targeted "prepubescent girls" -- some as young as one year old.

SYDNEY, Aug 1 (Agencies): An Australian former childcare worker sexually abused 91 young girls in a "chilling" spate of crimes across 15 years, police said Tuesday after charging him with 1,623 separate offences, including rape.

Seasoned detectives have described it as one of Australia's "most horrific" child sex abuse cases, with a scale of offences "beyond the realms of anyone's imagination".

"I know this news will seem unfathomable, and I know there will be many questions," said Assistant Federal Police Commissioner Justine Gough.

"There is not much solace I can give to the parents and children who have been identified," she added.

Included within the 1,623 charges are 136 counts of rape, 110 counts of sexual intercourse with a child younger than 10 -- a



charge used instead of rape in some Australian jurisdictions -- and 613 counts of making child pornography.

Investigators have been hunting for the 45-year-old man since discovering a cache of child pornography photos and videos being shared on the dark web in 2014.

But their efforts had been mostly fruitless until they made an unexpected breakthrough in August last year -- matching visual clues in the background of the material to a childcare centre in the city of Brisbane.

While the man was initially charged with just three offences, Gough

said the gravity of his "heinous" alleged crimes emerged as police sifted further through his computer and phone.

Police believe the man filmed or took pictures of "all" his alleged crimes -- and eventually catalogued more than 4,000 photos and videos of abuse.

New South Wales Assistant Police Commissioner Michael Fitzgerald said it was one of the most horrific cases he had ever seen.

"It's beyond the realms of anyone's imagination what this person did to these children," he said.

"I can only say, you try not to be shocked after a long period of time in the police, but this is a

horrific case."

Young girls targeted Police said the abuse happened at 10 different childcare centres between 2007 and 2022 and exclusively targeted "prepubescent girls" -- some as young as one year old.

While 87 of the 91 victims were from the Australian states of Queensland and New South Wales, police believed four other unidentified children were abused while the man worked overseas for a brief spell between 2013 and 2014.

Police said they were now working with international crime agencies to find those children, without revealing which country they were targeting.

"We have been working tirelessly since August last year to identify the children in the alleged child abuse material," Gough said.

Police said the man had passed the stringent series of back-

ground checks needed to work at childcare centres in the states of Queensland and New South Wales.

Queensland's Acting Assistant Police Commissioner Col Briggs said detectives had first been tipped off in 2021, but had been hamstrung by a lack of evidence.

"There was insufficient evidence to take action against any person based on evidence available at the time," he said.

Given the sheer volume of child abuse material that needed to be documented, a dedicated task force of about 35 staff was called in to work on the investigation.

The man, who has not been named by police, is scheduled to face court in Queensland on August 21.

Once those proceedings are finished, he will be extradited to New South Wales to face further charges.

Mossad Spy Veterans Take On Israel Government Over Judicial Reform

HERZLIYA, Aug 1 (Agencies): Every morning Amir sets up a protest stand to warn passersby that Israeli democracy is in danger from hotly contested legislation to curb the courts. But he's a very unusual protester - a former Mossad spy who never before questioned the state for which he once risked his life on foreign missions.

Amir, who declined to be fully named due to his sensitive previous secret roles, is among former veterans of Mossad, Israel's foreign intelligence service, who are taking to the streets in protest at their government's judiciary overhaul. Last week, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's nationalist-religious coalition passed the first phase of the legislation, limiting Supreme Court powers to void government decisions deemed "unreasonable", despite months of protests by hundreds of thousands of Israelis. They have drawn the support of reservists in elite special forces units and fighter pilots who have threatened not to show up for duty, and the dissension has spread among former members of the Mossad. Some serving Mossad officers have also joined the protests, which they are permitted to do, two ex-officers told agency. In Amir's case, he said he had suspended for now the advisory assistance he had provided to the Mossad after retiring.

"I served different administrations faithfully for 20 years, even ones that did not reflect

my political views. I accepted the outcome of the election last year but when they (the current government) changed the rules of the game, that was it. "They have crossed a red line and have broken their contract. People like myself are no longer bound by our duty," Amir said in the Mediterranean coastal city of Herzliya, close to where he has his stand.

Morale concerns are emerging within the Mossad with some inside the highly secretive agency considering early retirement, according to chat messages seen by agency.

A spokesperson for the Prime Minister's Office declined to comment. The government denies the judicial reforms jeopardise democracy, saying the top court has been "over-interventionist". A former head of Mossad, Efraim Halevy, told agency there are no signs such disaffection is affecting its vital abilities. Agency spoke with two other former Mossad officials who are also involved in the protests and more fearful of the impact the legislation will have on Israel's security system.

The decision by former spies to take part in protests raises the stakes, touching a legendary institution that has helped Israel defeat Arab states in many conflicts and wage a shadow war against arch-foe Iran. "Many friends and colleagues of mine who served together feel that what is happening is damaging the security power of Israel," said Haim Tomer, former head of Mossad's intelligence

gathering division and of its international liaison wing.

Tomer said Mossad was viewed with "a deep sense of respect" abroad. "Whether this deep sense of respect will survive, I don't know." Mossad has long been viewed as one of the world's most capable spy services. It has carried out spectacular missions such as hunting down Arab enemies through Europe, capturing Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann and, with agents disguised as scuba diving instructors, spiriting Ethiopian Jews out to Israel. "When you are on an operation, you need to have belief in the system and you block out everything else," said Gil, another Mossad veteran who withheld his full name. "Who's to say now that you risk your life and you won't have doubts whether it's worth it, with everything going on and with this government." Concerns over Israel's deterrence capabilities are being noticed by the country's enemies across the Middle East who have convened top-level meetings to weigh the turmoil and how they might capitalise on it, informed sources have told agency.

Yossi Cohen, another former Mossad chief, spoke of his concerns for "Israel's immediate national security". "At a time when the Iranian threat looms over us from multiple fronts, we must ensure Israel's security remains unharmed," Cohen wrote in a July 23 commentary in the Yedioth Ahronoth daily.

France To Evacuate Citizens From Niger "Very Soon": Embassy

Niger became the third Sahel country in less than three years, following neighbours Mali and Burkina Faso, to be shaken by a military coup.



NIAMEY, Aug 1 (Agencies): France will "very soon" start to evacuate its nationals from Niger, where a coup last week has unleashed anti-French protests, Paris's embassy in Niamey said Tuesday.

"In the face of a deteriorating security situation in Niamey, and

taking advantage of the relative calm in Niamey, an operation of evacuation by air from Niamey is being prepared," said a message sent out by the embassy to French citizens, adding that the evacuations "will take place very soon in a very limited span of time".

Niger became the

third Sahel country in less than three years, following neighbours Mali and Burkina Faso, to be shaken by a military coup, when President Mohamed Bazoum was toppled last week by elite troops from his own Presidential Guard.

In all three nations, jihadist insurgencies have strained fragile governments, stoked anger in the military and rained economic blows on some of the world's poorest countries.

The overthrow of elected presidents in the former French colonies has been accompanied by anti-French, pro-Russian demonstrations.

MP cyclist travelling solo across Country meets Northern Army Commander In Udhampur

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1: Aasha Malviya, a 24-year-old athlete and mountaineer from Madhya Pradesh who is on pan-India cycle tour to prove that women are safe in India, on Tuesday met General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Northern Command Upendra Dwivedi in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district.

Before departing for Srinagar to continue her nine-month-old mission, Malviya paid tribute to the bravehearts at Dhruva War Memorial in the Northern Command headquarters, the Army said.



Malviya started her solo journey from Bhopal on the foundation day of her home state last year on November 1, and plans to end her tour this Independence Day in New

Delhi after covering a total of 25,000 km. The Northern Command's official Twitter handle shared a few pictures of Malviya's visit to its headquarters and her interaction with Lt Gen

Dwivedi. In a tweet, the Army said Lt Gen Dwivedi and all the ranks complimented Malviya for her awareness campaign on women safety and women empowerment.

Prompt action of army saves lives



Top News Report

KUPWARA, Aug 1: A raucous was heard outside the security gate of Shakti Bde. A truck hit a sumo and dragged it along and rammed into the boundary wall of brigade.

The sentry at the gate promptly informed about the incident and QRT of the Indian army rushed to the site. The civ were badly injured and were stuck inside the vehicle. All the civilians were moved to safety one by

one and in the meantime cordon was also established to manage crowd and traffic. The police and ambulance also arrived at the loc and worked in harmony with the army. A total of 08 civilians and one defence personnel were rescued timely. None of them faced fatal injury. The cause of the incident is likely brake fail of the vehicle and further investigations are being carried out with help of the feeds of security camera installed at boundary wall of the army establishment.

Commissioner STD inaugurates fortnight celebrations on 'Meri Mati Mera Desh'

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 1: Commissioner State Taxes Department (STD), Dr. Rashmi Singh today inaugurated fortnight celebrations under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on the theme 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' as part of 76th Independence Day celebrations at Excise and Taxation Complex, Solina here.

Additional Commissioner State Taxes Kashmir, Shakeel Maqbool Yatoo; DC Enforcement (Central), Parvaiz Ahmad Raina, DC Appeals, DC Recovery, Assistant Commissioners, State Taxes Officers and other staff members of the department were also present on the occasion.

Speaking during the inaugural ceremony, Rashmi Singh highlighted the significance of Independence Day, and encouraged officials to actively participate in the various cultural, social, and educational activities planned for the celebrations on day to day basis.

The fortnight programme of STD aims to commemorate the 76th Independence day and foster a spirit of unity and patriotism among the citizens during which the department will hold various activities. These activities include Swachhta Abhiyan, Restoration



Drive at Doodhganga, cleanliness drive at Nilnag, GST awareness drive, skit on the theme 'Impact of haphazard mining and Brick Kilns on people's lives and loss of tax revenue as a result', selfie with Tiranga, plantation drive (Vriksharopan Abhiyan), seminar on the issue of sustainable development and, photo exhibition on the theme 'Growing Sustainably, Taxing Responsibly- Kartavya, and other related events.

The 15-day long celebrations are set to culminate on Independence Day, August 15th, with the hoisting of the National Flag at E&T Complex, Solina followed by screening of documentary highlighting the initiatives of the department throughout the year. Later, the Commissioner also released a compendium of initiatives undertaken by the department as part of GST week celebrations.

J&K Police conducts security review of Kishtwar District ahead of I-Day

JAMMU, Aug 1 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Police has conducted a security review of Kishtwar district in view of Independence Day, officials said on Tuesday.

Potential security challenges and the formulation of a robust security plan for the safety of citizens, dignitaries, and visitors were

discussed during a meeting, they said.

The meeting was chaired by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Khaliil Poswal on Monday evening.

The officials reviewed security measures, including strategic deployment of personnel, crowd management, traffic control, and

emergency response protocols to maintain law and order during the celebrations.

"We are committed to working in collaboration with multiple agencies to effectively mitigate any security risks," the SSP said.

During the meeting, officials also stressed on maintaining close coordination with intelligence agencies.

Landmine found near border fence in Poonch

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 1 A landmine was detected during the cutting of wild grass near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kash-

mir's Poonch district on Tuesday, officials said. The landmine was noticed by a group of porters engaged by the Army to clear the border fence area of wild grass in Balakote sector around this after-

noon, the officials said. They said the whole area was immediately cordoned off by the troops and the Army's bomb disposal squad was summoned to neutralise the landmine.

Army organizes volleyball match at Muqampiran

Top News Report

BARAMULLA, Aug 1: Indian army organised Volleyball match at Muqampiran High school for the school students. The event was aligned with the Khelo India project aimed at mass participation and excellence at Sports in India. The student of the school keenly and actively participated in the



match and showcased their skill and exuberance on the ground. The event was witnessed by approximate 150 civilians. The event culminated with prize distribution and motivational speech by the Headmaster on the importance of participation and sportsmanship. The event was highly appreciated by local population.

FROM PAGE 1

Maharashtra | 17 workers killed as crane falls on bridge slab during samruddhi expressway construction

construction and to install precast box girders in highway construction projects.

The accident took place shortly after midnight on Tuesday near Sarlambe village in Shahapur tehsil, around 80 km from Mumbai, the official said.

The Samruddhi Mahamarg, named Hindu Hrudaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg, is a 701-km-long expressway connecting Mumbai and Nagpur.

It traverses 10 districts including Nagpur, Washim, Wardha, Ahmednagar, Buldhana, Aurangabad, Amravati, Jalna, Nashik and Thane.

The construction of the Samruddhi Mahamarg is being carried out by the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation.

The first phase, connecting Nagpur to the temple town of Shirdi, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2022. It covers a distance of 520 km. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Fadnavis inaugurated the 80 km long second phase of the Samruddhi Mahamarg stretch from Bharvir village in Igatpuri taluka to Shirdi on May 26.

Shinde said in May that the third and last phase would be completed by the end of December this year.

As many as 88 people have lost their lives in road accidents in the last six months on Samruddhi Expressway in Maharashtra, including 25 last month as a private bus caught fire after hitting a divider, an official said.

Road hypnosis is cited as one of the causes of the accidents on the six lane wide access-controlled expressway, the state highway police official said.

Highway hypnosis or driving hypnosis is a condition when a driver zones out while driving a vehicle without remembering what occurred in that specific period.

Indian Army implements common uniform for Brigadier and above ranks

flag-rank officers will now not wear any lanyard.

The step has been taken to promote and strengthen common identity and approach in service matters amongst senior leadership beyond the boundaries of regiments, officials said.

Brigadier and above officers are those who have already commanded units and battalions and are mostly posted at headquarters or establishments where officers from all arms and services work and function together.

A standard uniform will ensure a common identity for all senior-rank officers and reflect the true ethos of the Indian Army, officials said.

There is no change in the uniform worn by Colonels and officers below that rank, Army officials said.

J&K registers 1.27 crore tourist arrivals this year so far: LG Manoj Sinha

would suffer a lot due to uncertainty. We have come out of that phase," the LG said, adding that "this year so far 1.27 Crore tourists have visited J&K and the figure is much higher than the last year. We hope to see record breaking tourist arrivals by the year end."

He said when large number of tourists have started frequenting Kashmir, it was the prime duty of the administration to ensure quality infrastructure. "We are setting up tourist infrastructure everywhere in the UT to give best facilities to our guests," he said. "When large number of guests would date with Kashmir, our local shopkeeper, taxi driver, hotel and shikara owner will earn and at the end, our economy will improve."

He said that Kashmir University's full-fledged Centre will come up at Budgam

Terrorism down in Kashmir but not out yet: DGP Singh

areas and praising its beauty," he said, adding that life is going on smoothly. "There is an unprecedented flow of tourists in Kashmir, plus the mega event of Amarnath Yatra is going on successfully and peacefully. Also, after a gap of 34 years, Muharram procession was taken out in Srinagar which reflects that people are enjoying the peaceful environment." About possibility of foreign terrorists in the missing case of soldier in Kulgam district, the DGP said nothing is clear as of now but "yes there are inputs about presence of foreign terrorists in South Kashmir and they are being tracked down."

After eight years in Jail, Kashmir man cleared of murder charges

to have found semen stains belonging to the accused on the victim's clothes. In the defense's argument, it was revealed that the watchman had been illegally detained for ten days between February 11 and February 21, 2016, by the police. Khan contended that samples were unlawfully obtained from his client through the building's treasurer, raising suspicion

NIA, CIK raid multiple locations in Kashmir in terror recruitment case

advocate Parvaiz Ahmad Shah in Kralpora area of Budgam district. Similar raids by NIA are reported to be going on at some other locations in the Valley.

CBK produces chargesheet against two for using fake documents to obtain loan

complainant (Tehsildar (South) Srinagar) for authentication, which, on verification, were found to be fake and forged. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 60/2016 of P/S Crime Branch Kashmir was registered against two individuals for their alleged involvement in the commission of offences punishable under Sections 419, 468, 471, 120-B, and 201 of the RPC, r/w Sections 5(1) and 5(2) of the P.C. Act, and investigations started.

During the investigation, the allegations levelled were substantiated and proven. Similarly, the charge sheet has been presented against the accused persons before the Anti-Corruption Court, Srinagar, for judicial determination, a statement from the CBK said.

SIU attaches property of Pakistan based terrorist in Kupwara

alias Farooq Qureshi of Kachama Kupwara who is operating from Pakistan was attached by the SIU Kupwara. "Following extensive intelligence gathering and meticulous investigations in case FIR No.276/2022 of Police Station Kupwara registered under sections 120-B, 121, 121-A, 122, 123 IPC & 17, 18, 18-A, 18-B, 20, 38, 39, 40 of UA(PA), the SIU led to the identification and subsequent attachment of the terrorist's land measuring 6 Kanals and 3 Marlas located at multiple locations within the district at village Kachama," read the statement.

SIU attaches property of Pakistan based terrorist in Kupwara

that they might have been planted while he was in illegal custody. The defense also pointed out several discrepancies in the evidence presented by the police. Additionally, the lawyer clarified that the accused had not fled after the incident as the police had claimed. Instead, he had returned to his village after being asked to leave following a 10-day custody. The arrest, as stated by the defense, occurred in Mumbai and not from his village.

While the court's decision has acquitted the watchman, a detailed order explaining the court's reasoning is yet to be released.

SIU attaches property of Pakistan based terrorist in Kupwara

It said that this measure taken by the Police aims to disrupt his illicit network and restrict his ability to carry out further acts of terror. "Farooq Qureshi has been a persistent threat to peace and security of Jammu and Kashmir since he exfiltrated to Pakistan in early 1990s. He is a member of Al-Barq terror outfit and presently operating from PoJK as launching commander. His strategic involvement in numerous acts of terror has caused immense suffering and loss of innocent lives in the valley in the past."

It added that Jammu and Kashmir Police has been actively pursuing his acts to bring an end to his destructive activities. "The attachment of the property serves as a strong message to terrorists and their supporters that their actions will not go unnoticed or unpunished. It underscores the unwavering commitment of Police to combating terrorism at its roots and dismantling its infrastructure," it read.

Market benchmark indices climb in early trade

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai were quoting with gains while Hong Kong traded lower

MUMBAI, Aug 1 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices maintained their winning momentum in early trade on Tuesday amid firm global market trends and buying in IT stocks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 118.13 points to 66,645.80 in early trade. The NSE Nifty gained 41.8 points to 19,795.60.

From the Sensex pack, NTPC, Tata Motors, Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, JSW Steel, ITC, Infosys and Bharti Airtel were the biggest gainers.

Power Grid, Maruti, Bajaj Finserv and Reliance Industries were the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and



Shanghai were quoting with gains while Hong Kong traded lower. The US markets ended in the green on Monday.

"The resilience of the mother market US, where the rally is spreading to the broader market, is supporting global markets," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

Global oil benchmark

Brent crude quoted 0.67 per cent higher at USD 85.56 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 701.17 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

The Sensex jumped 367.47 points or 0.56 per cent to settle at 66,527.67 on Monday. The Nifty climbed 107.75 points or 0.55 per cent to end at 19,753.80.

Online gamers urge finance minister to reduce 28 per cent GST on online gaming

The association also pitched for making a distinction between games of chance like gambling and games of skill like gaming

NEW DELHI, Aug 1 (Agencies): Online gamers' association on Tuesday requested finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman for a reduction of 28 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST), saying high taxation would lead to mushrooming of illegal gaming firms.

Gamers from Tier II and Tier III cities under the aegis of 'Indian Gamers United' in an open letter to finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that high taxation will push the gamers towards illegal and offshore platforms where no tax is payable but will put the gamers into a very high risk.

The association also pitched for making a distinction between games of chance like gambling and games of skill like



gaming.

Gaming is a skill-based activity and cannot be clubbed together with games of luck like gambling and horse racing so taxation requires a relook and making it tax friendly, 'Indian Gamers United' said in a statement.

Since several of these games come with the option to earn monetary rewards, this is giving rise to a segment where young people are using their gaming skills to

earn money in their free time and becoming part of the gig economy, it said.

An unviable rate of GST at the rate of 28 per cent on online games will have adverse impact on this growing industry, it said.

Meanwhile, the GST Council in its meeting on Wednesday will decide on modalities for implementing a 28 per cent Goods and Services Tax on online gaming, casino and horse racing.

In its 50th meeting earlier this month, the Council headed by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman decided to levy the maximum 28 per cent tax on the full face value of bets in online gaming, casinos and horse racing.

The decision of the Council evoked criticism from the online gaming industry. Following this, minister of state for electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that the GST Council should reconsider its decision.

"We are still in the early stages of developing a sustainable and permissible online gaming framework. Once this framework is established, we will approach the GST Council and request their reconsideration based on the new regulatory guide-

lines," Chandrasekhar had said.

However, revenue secretary Sanjay Malhotra had said that the GST Council has taken a unanimous decision to impose a 28 per cent tax on online gaming, casino and horse racing based on the recommendation of the Group of Ministers (GoM).

The GoM had extensive consultations with all stakeholders from online gaming, casino, horse racing, etc. and arrived at this taxation.

"I really doubt (it) because this decision has been unanimous and the decision has been taken as I mentioned after due consultation and deliberation. So, I don't think there is any chance of a review as early as this," Malhotra had said.

India's manufacturing sector activity eases for 2nd straight month in July: PMI

NEW DELHI, Aug 1 (Agencies): Manufacturing sector activities in India moderated for the second straight month in July as rates of expansion in output and new orders eased slightly, a monthly survey said on Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) eased to 57.7 in July from 57.8 in June.

Despite the fall, the Indian manufacturing sector maintained strong growth momentum at the start of the third quarter amid ongoing buoyant demand, the survey said.

The July PMI data pointed to an improvement in overall operating conditions for the 25th straight month. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 indicates contraction.

"The Indian manufacturing sector showed

little sign of losing growth momentum in July as production lines continued to motor on the back of strong new order growth," said Andrew Harker, Economics Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Rates of expansion in output and new orders were only marginally softer than in June, with firms expanding their employment and purchasing activity accordingly, the survey said.

"Pressure continued to come on capacity, prompting firms to expand employment solidly again, a trend that is likely to continue in the months ahead should demand remain strong," Harker said.

Harker added that "all in all, the Indian manufacturing sector has maintained its position as one of the star performers globally, bucking the trend of demand weakness seen in other



parts of the world."

According to the survey, reports of demand improvements were widespread and resulted in another marked expansion of new orders in the sector. Growth in new export business picked up to the fastest since last November.

Respondents noted increase in new orders from customers in the US and neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh and Nepal, it said.

Firms responded to greater workloads by

taking on extra staff. The solid pace of job creation was broadly in line with those seen in May and June.

On the inflation front, cost inflationary pressures remained relatively muted.

The rate of input cost inflation accelerated to a nine-month high in July. Panellists reported higher costs for raw materials, in particular cotton.

These higher prices for raw materials, plus rising labour costs, led firms to increase their selling prices, the survey

said, adding that the rate of inflation was solid, but eased to a three-month low.

Firms generally expect demand to remain elevated over the coming year, supporting projections for growth of production.

"Confidence was slightly lower than that seen in June, but remained above the series average. Around 32 per cent of respondents predicted a rise in output, with just 2 per cent pessimistic," the survey said.

The S&P Global India Manufacturing PMI is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 400 manufacturers.

The panel is stratified by detailed sector and company workforce size, based on contributions to GDP. Data collection began in March 2005.

ATF price hiked by steep 8.5%; commercial LPG rate cut by Rs 100



NEW DELHI, Aug 1 (Agencies): Jet fuel or ATF price on Tuesday was hiked by a steep 8.5 per cent, the second increase in a month, while commercial cooking gas rate was cut by Rs 100 per cylinder in line with divergent trends in international benchmarks.

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was increased by 7,728.38 per kilolitre, or 8.5 per cent, in the national capital to Rs 98,508.26 per kl, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

Rates, which vary from

state to state depending on the incidence of local sales tax or VAT, have been increased on firming up of global rates that followed four months of decline.

The hike comes on the back of a 1.65 per cent or Rs 1,476.79 per kl increase in ATF prices effected from July 1.

Prior to that, rates had been cut on four occasions.

Price of commercial LPG, used in establishments such as hotels and restaurants, on the other hand, was reduced by Rs 100 per cylinder.

A 19-kg commercial

LPG cylinder now costs Rs 1,680 in the national capital.

Saudi contract price, the benchmark used for pricing of LPG, has reduced since peaking in March and the same is reflected in domestic prices, industry officials said.

Globally, jet fuel prices have increased in line with the firming up of global crude oil prices, necessitating the hike in ATF rates.

Commercial LPG rates were cut on three previous monthly revisions beginning April. In three cuts, prices had gone down by Rs 346.5 per 19-kg cylinder.

The price of domestic LPG -- used in the kitchen for cooking purposes -- remained unchanged at Rs 1,103 per 14.2-kg cylinder in the national capital.

Domestic LPG rate was last changed on March 1, when it was hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder.

Here is how to treat disease caused by food allergy in children

LOUISIANA, Aug 1 (Agencies): A new treatment for chronic immune system disease that can prevent children from eating has been identified by a new study done by Tulane University.

Eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE) is triggered by food allergies or airborne allergens which cause a type of white blood cell, eosinophils, to build up in the lining of the esophagus. This causes the esophagus to shorten and the esophageal wall to thicken, making swallowing difficult and causing food to get stuck in the throat.

The disease occurs in an estimated 1 in 2,000 adults but more frequently affects children (1 in 1,500) where symptoms can be harder to diagnose and pose greater risks as difficulty feeding can lead to malnutrition, weight loss and poor growth.

The new study, published in Nature's Communications Biology journal, found that the disease is caused by Interleukin-18 (IL-18), a protein involved in the innate immune response that can cause

inflammation if produced in excess. When a food allergen enters the body, it activates a pathway responsible for regulating the innate immune system, resulting in the release of pro-inflammatory proteins like IL-18. This produces the eosinophils which damage the esophagus.

The study found that successfully inhibiting this pathway, called the NLRP3 pathway, and the release of IL-18 prevented the development of EoE from both food and airborne allergens.

Parents and doctors may not be aware of this, but this is a very prominent and serious disease in the paediatric population, and it is increasing in number because it is directly related to food allergens, which are also on the rise, said lead author Dr Anil Mishra, director of the Eosinophilic Disorder Center at the Tulane University School of Medicine. "In this study, we show that after treating the disease in animals, the disease is gone and completely in remission."

The findings are crucial for a disease that was not identified until

the 1990s. For many years, EoE was misdiagnosed as gastrointestinal reflux disease (GERD), despite GERD medication being ineffective for treating EoE. Additionally, this study's findings replace decades of thinking that Th2 cells play a major role in triggering EoE.

"Given the paucity of mechanistic information and treatment strategies for EoE, we feel the proposed studies are highly relevant and are poised to have a major impact on establishing the significance of NLRP3-IL-18 pathway in the initiation of EoE pathogenesis," Mishra said.

The study identified one existing drug, VX-765, as an inhibitor that may work as a treatment for humans. Importantly, this inhibitor would only deplete pathogenic eosinophils generated and transformed by IL-18 and not affect white blood cells created by IL-5, a protein important for maintaining innate immunity.

Mishra said a clinical trial would be the next step to determining the treatment's effectiveness.

What your nails say about your health

NEW DELHI, Aug 1 (Agencies): Your nails are not just an aesthetic feature of your body but are also like a map of what's going on inside your body.

They can indicate health issues, including vitamin deficiencies and other chronic conditions.

Not only that, but they also serve practical purposes like aiding in touch sensation and protecting the fingers and toes from injuries. So, it is safe to say that the health of your nails is as important as any other part of your body.

Our fingernails and toenails are made from skin cells, made of a hard substance called keratin that gives it its rigid structure.

"Healthy nails are typically pink with a slight curve at the tip. Changes in colour, texture and shape may indicate nutrient deficiencies, infections, or underlying health issues," nutritionist Anjali Mukherjee wrote in her Instagram post about how nails can reflect your health.

Without proper nourishment, nails can become brittle, dull and dry. The rate of nail growth varies among individuals, with an average of an inch and a half per year, added the expert.

Age, pregnancy, seasons, and hand vs. foot nail can affect their growth rate.

Abnormal nail shapes: Abnormal nail shapes can provide valuable health insights. Nails

curving in the opposite direction at the tip may indicate chronic iron deficiency anaemia. Curling under at the tips can be a sign of respiratory or heart issues, while raised nails at the base may signal respiratory trouble.

Square and broad nails can result from hormonal disorders, and flat, thin nails may indicate insufficient vitamin B12. Including vitamin B12-rich foods like meat, dairy, and eggs, along with iron-rich sources like green leafy vegetables and nuts, while pairing them with vitamin C sources such as citrus fruits, or lemon juice, can enhance iron absorption.

Peeling: Peeling nails occurs when the protective layers of keratin become damaged. Exposure to hot air, water, or cold air without protection can lead to nail peeling.

This condition often indicates a deficiency in omega-3 fatty acids. Incorporating foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids like walnuts, flax seeds, almonds, nuts, sunflower seeds, and evening primrose oil into your diet can improve the moisture levels of dull nails.

Additionally, moisturising your hands with a body lotion helps keep the nail layers supple.

Looking yellow: Yellowing nails are early signals of various internal disorders, such as diabetes, respiratory or liver problems. Yellow spots on the nails can

be an indicator of fungus or psoriasis.

Brittleness: Brittle nails are a common complaint among many women, and there are several underlying causes for this condition.

Brittle nails lack moisture, dry easily, and are prone to cracking. An under-active thyroid is often associated with brittle nails. Inadequate intake of calcium and protein in the diet can also contribute to weak and brittle nails.

To address this issue, consume iron-rich foods like methi, nachini, fish, and leafy vegetables. Taking biotin supplements and including eggs in your diet can also help improve nail strength.

It is important to avoid prolonged exposure of hands to water as it exacerbates brittleness. Increasing calcium intake through green leafy vegetables, dairy products, sesame seeds or a calcium supplement can also be beneficial.

White spots: White lines on or across the nail can be a sign of fever, liver or heart disease, kidney disorders or, more likely, a lack of iron or zinc in your diet.

It can also signify more complex issues such as eczema or psoriasis. To raise your zinc levels, eat dried beans, cashews, yoghurt, raisins, chickpeas, dairy products, almonds, milk, chicken breast, kidney

beans, peas and oatmeal.

Turning colours: Fungal infections are one of the leading causes of fingernails to take on an unhealthy tinge. A yeast infection causes the nail to separate from the base. Whereas, a bacterial infection can cause the affected nail to turn slightly green.

Bluish nail beds can be a sign of lung trouble, which causes poor circulation in the fingertips. Whereas reddish-brown spots can indicate a deficiency of folic acid, protein or vitamin C. Undergoing treatment with antibiotics and diet rich in antioxidants will help ease the problem to a certain degree.

Consuming broccoli, fish, onion, apples, cucumbers, grapes, and garlic, asparagus (rich in sulphur) ensures proper circulation and good nail growth.

Nail textures: Vertical ridges that appear on the nail can indicate disorders such as iron deficiency, poor absorption of vitamins and nutrients, overall poor health or kidney trouble.

These vertical ridges, as well as bumpy nails, can also suggest that one is prone to developing arthritis. Ridges running horizontally across the nail can indicate physical or mental stress.

A diet rich in vitamin C and B-complex vitamins helps reduce the appearance of these ridges.

Team India look to avoid rare Caribbean beating

TAROUBA, Aug 1 (Agencies): India will be hoping the experiment of trying out Sanju Samson and Suryakumar Yadav in the middle-order works when they take on West Indies in the final match of their three-match ODI series here today.

India, who have not lost an ODI series to West Indies since 2006, face a rare series defeat after their move to rest skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli backfired in the second game in Barbados.

As head coach Rahul Dravid pointed after their six-wicket loss on Saturday, India are looking at the bigger picture ahead of the next month's Asia Cup and the upcoming World Cup. They will have another game



to see the kind of impact the younger players can make in a must-win match.

"We will always look at the bigger picture. At this stage in

the cycle, the Asia Cup and World Cup coming up we have to look at the bigger picture because of some of the injuries we have. We can't get worried

about every single game or series, if we do that it will be a mistake," Dravid asserted on Saturday.

Suryakumar, who is struggling to make his all-round game work in the 50-over format, will be looking to bat long and make a match-winning contribution.

For someone like Samson, who has made umpteen comebacks but has not been able to make it count, the series decider presents a golden opportunity. He is likely to bat at No. 3 like he did in the second ODI.

For West Indies, a series win over India will be a much-needed shot in the arm after their failure to qualify for the ODI World Cup.

Jasprit Bumrah show: Now streaming



NEW DELHI, Aug 1 (Agencies): Giving a fillip to India's pace bowling unit ahead of the World Cup, Jasprit Bumrah marked his return to the team as the captain for the T20I series against Ireland. India will play three T20Is against Ireland on August 18, 20 and 23 at Malahide.

Bumrah, who had undergone surgery for a lower-back stress fracture earlier this year, was going through a rehabilitation process at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru.

Bumrah's last appear-

ance for India came in September during a home T20I series against Australia.

There were deliberations about Bumrah's readiness to handle the twin responsibility of leading the pace attack and the team.

But agency has learned that the 29-year-old was eager to take the added responsibility. Bumrah has the experience of leading the side as he had led India against England in the Birmingham Test last year.

In a further boost to India's pace inventory, Karnataka right-arm

quick Prasidh Krishna too was included in the squad. Prasidh, who had undergone surgery for lumbar stress fracture earlier this year, last played for India in an ODI against Zimbabwe in Harare in August last year.

The Ireland series is viewed as an opportunity for both Bumrah and Prasidh to tune their body to the rigours of international cricket after a lengthy gap.

Hence, the duo could be expected to be part of India's squad for the upcoming Asia Cup in August-September.

Ruturaj Gaikwad will be the vice-captain of the squad from which many regular members such as Hardik Pandya and Shubman Gill are absent.

The tour of Ireland will also be a good chance for several players in the squad as they are also a part of the Indian team for the Asian Games.

Verstappen's dominance makes a third straight F1 title look like a formality

PARIS, Aug 1 (Agencies): Max Verstappen's dominance is so total that it already feels like he's won his third straight Formula One title, even with 10 races remaining following the mid-season break.

With a lead of 125 points over his nearest rival, the Red Bull driver is already in a position to watch a highlights reel of his season and list his favourite wins. There have been 10 out of 12 races so far, plus a further two victories when including sprint races.

After winning the Belgian Grand Prix with another emphatic drive, Verstappen was asked which of the victories he likes the most. "It's difficult to choose. There have been a lot of nice ones," he said. "I think the one actually which I really enjoyed was like back in time in Miami."

Back in time?

May 7, to be precise, although it may seem long ago in Verstappen's world considering he has won every race since. At that point in the season, however, his Red Bull teammate

Sergio Perez was a self-declared title contender and still actually looking like one.

The Mexican driver had just done the main race-sprint race double at Azerbaijan, and his confidence was boosted further when he took pole position for Miami with Verstappen qualifying in a lowly ninth.

"Tough qualifying," Verstappen said. "So probably for me, that was a very enjoyable one." Not for Perez, who finished second behind Verstappen and has not won since. He's acknowledged that his confidence was badly shaken, and it showed in the results after Miami: Perez was 16th in Monaco, fourth in Spain and sixth in Canada.

He also went five straight races without qualifying in the top 10 despite Red Bull having

easily the best car in F1. "It's been a bit of a rough patch," Perez said after finishing second in Belgium. "I really look forward to not leaving the podium anymore from now until the end of the

year."

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who was third on Sunday, is also contending himself with podiums. "This was the best we could achieve today, no doubt," said Leclerc, who has not won a race since July 10 last year.

Playful Verstappen toying with rivals

The 25-year-old Dutchman is so dominant that he can still win from sixth on the grid after taking a five-place penalty. He is on a different plane to his rivals to such an extent that seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton resorted to humour to highlight it.

Referring to the 2002 Austin Powers film Goldmember, Hamilton accepted it all seemed too easy for Verstappen when he said that "he is having a smoke and a pancake. You know the film?"

During the race, Verstappen playfully bickered with his race engineer about tyre degradation and making a pit stop to give the team extra practice.

Hamilton's Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff



said: "He has all reason to be a bit cheeky.... Just driving around. On merit. Nothing else to say -- as much as it's annoying."

Red Bull team boss Christian Horner said he was in awe of his star. "What we are witnessing with Max is something you see once in a generation," said Horner.

Verstappen is the youngest driver to win an F1 race, doing so when he was 18 years old on his Red Bull debut in 2016. Now he's racing in his own world, alone in front as he chases more milestones and records.

Red Bull and Verstappen go next to his home Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort. Another win

on August 27 will draw him level with four-time champion Sebastian Vettel's record of nine straight wins for Red Bull in 2013 and extend the team's record to 13 consecutive season-opening wins and 14 overall.

Verstappen's own F1 record of 15 wins from last year also looks set to be crushed. Despite being only 25, he's already on 45 F1 wins overall. Next on the list is four-time F1 champion Alain Prost, who is fourth all-time with 51 wins. Such is Verstappen's intensity and thirst for victory that even Vettel's tally of 53 might even be within his reach this year. It's increasingly hard to bet against Verstappen.

Ashes Fifth Test: Stuart Broad smiles all around

Scripts perfect farewell as England square series at Oval

LONDON, Aug 1 (Agencies): England's Stuart Broad claimed the last two Australia wickets to secure a dramatic 49-run victory for his team in the final Ashes Test at The Oval today and leave the series locked at 2-2 after five gripping matches.

Broad, playing his final Test, removed Todd Murphy and Alex Carey, both caught by wicket-keeper Jonny Bairstow, to dismiss Australia for 334 and deny them their first Ashes win in England since 2001.

Australia, who won the first two Tests and had already retained the urn, moved to 238/3 chasing 384 to win before a two-hour rain delay halted their progress and England took the last seven wickets in just over two hours for a famous victory.

Chris Woakes was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 4/50



and Moeen Ali took three wickets before the 37-year-old Broad completed the job in a perfect swansong two days after announcing his retirement.

"It was absolutely wonderful," Broad said. "I thought Chris Woakes and Moeen Ali set the tone absolutely unbelievably. Once we got a couple we really started to believe."

The crowd were unbelievable. It was so loud and we just jumped on the back of that. To contribute to the team with

two wickets is very special," he added.

Australia had started the day with high hopes of victory after Usman Khawaja and David Warner's unbroken opening partnership of 135 on Sunday. The pair looked to bat with positive intent but under grey skies the ball moved around for the England bowlers from the start.

Brief scores: England: 283 and 395; Australia: 295 and 334 in 94.4 overs (Khawaja 72, Warner 60, Smith 54; Woakes 4/50, Ali 3/76).

DC Open tennis tournament offers equal status for women and men but unequal prize money

The men's champion receives a check for USD 353,445; the women's champion earns USD 120,150. That is not an anomaly.

WASHINGTON, Aug 1 (Agencies): A poster hanging at the DC Open site shows Frances Tiafoe — a competitor in the field from nearby Maryland — flanked by other men such as Andy Murray and Taylor Fritz and women such as Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula.

It is a simple visualization of a complicated change to a tournament that began Monday and has been around for men since 1969, added women via a simultaneous but lower-tier and less-promoted event in 2009 and now is taking a further step by touting itself as the first combined ATP-WTA 500 event. That is two levels below Grand Slams and one level below Masters 1000s and was accomplished by elevating the women's portion through the lease of what had been a hard-court tourney in San Jose, California, played during the same week.

While ostensibly that puts the men and women on equal footing in Washington — where players both will be trying to win a trophy



and to prepare for the US Open, the year's last Grand Slam tournament — it still is not equal all the way around.

Most notably: The men's champion receives a check for USD 353,445; the women's champion earns USD 120,150. That is not an anomaly. There are other stops on the professional tennis tours that include female and male players but do not pay them evenly.

"Our main goal is to work toward equal prize money. That is what we want on the WTA side and what we think is fair. Especially at the combined events, we don't want to see a discrepancy there. We want to

see that we're earning the same at the same event," said Pegula, an American who is No. 3 in the rankings and seeded No. 1 in Washington and a member of the women's tour's player council. "The fans are coming to watch both of us, and we should be making the same."

All four Grand Slam tournaments offer equal prize money across the board, something the U.S. Open started doing 50 years ago and others as recently as 2007. That won't happen at the DC Open until 2027 as part of a wider plan the WTA recently announced to get equal paychecks at certain

events by that year and at others by 2033.

"That will give everyone a chance to hopefully get revenues to grow to be able to afford it," said Mark Ein, who has been the tournament chairman since 2019 and is part of the group that recently bought the NFL's Washington Commanders from Dan Snyder.

"When we took over the tournament, one of my top goals was to secure a women's event at an equal level as our men's," Ein said. "One of the things I love about tennis is it's really the only sport where athletes of both genders compete on the same

playing surface at the same time."

There are other discrepancies between the men's and women's brackets in Washington.

The men's field is 48 players; the women's is 28. The rankings points available are nearly the same, but the men's champion gets 500, the women's 470.

Like Pegula, three-time major champion Murray, who is seeded 15th in Washington, said that all players "at the same event, on the same courts," should be vying for the same payouts.

"But I think for it ever to become truly equal, the WTA and the ATP are actually going to have to come together and work as one before that's the case because I don't think it's that straightforward just now that both tours have different sponsors, different TV deals and all of that stuff, too," Murray said.

"There is a few things that still need to change, but I feel like things are going in the right direction, like with the move to this event becoming a 500 for both. Can obviously still get better."

On Kapil Dev's "Arrogance" Remark, Ravindra Jadeja's Sharp Response



TAROUBA, Aug 1 (Agencies): Indian cricket great Kapil Dev didn't filter his words as he criticised the Indian team for his underperformance, especially in ICC events. After the 2nd ODI against West Indies concluded with a defeat for the Indian team, Kapil's comments criticising the team went viral. The 1983 World Cup-winning India captain suggested that the money that came with the Indian Premier League has brought a sense of arrogance in the players. However, Ravindra Jadeja quashed such allegations, saying there's no arrogance in the Indian team.

"I don't know when he has said this. I don't search these things on social media. See everyone has their own opinion. Ex-player have full right to share their opinion, but I don't think there is any arrogance in this team," Jadeja told reporters ahead of the third and final ODI against West Indies.

In an interview with The Week, Kapil had said: "Sometimes, when too much money comes, arrogance comes. These cricketers, they feel they know everything."

The Indian team faced severe criticism for the loss against West Indies in the second ODI that saw both Virat Kohli

and Rohit Sharma being rested while some new combinations were tried. With the ODI World Cup only two months away, many felt that there was no room for such experiments now.

Kapil's comments in the interview turned the heat further on the Indian players. But, Jadeja said that the players only want to do well for the team, and there's no personal agenda.

"Everyone is enjoying their cricket and everyone are hardworking. No one has taken anything for granted. They are giving their 100 per cent."

"Such comments generally come when the Indian team lost a match. This is a good bunch of boys, this is a good group. We are representing India and that is our main aim, there is no personal agenda," he explained.

India would look to make amends as the team takes on West Indies in the 3rd and final ODI on Tuesday.

Shiv Sena protests against pre-paid smart meter, free electricity is our right

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 1: Despite being listed as one of the major electricity-producing regions in the country, Jammu and Kashmir have been witnessing a consistent surge in electricity rates, frequent replacement of meters and installation of prepaid meters have made Jammu and Kashmir a testing laboratory, whereas 24x7 free electricity is our right, this was stated by Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena (UBT), J&K while leading a protest in Jammu today.

Dozens of party workers headed by Manish Sahni staged a protest in Lower Roop Nagar area, symbolically handing over power equipment to the



flames, voicing their vehement opposition to exorbitant electricity bills, power cuts, and the installation of prepaid meters.

Sahni remarked that in these times of severe inflation and unemployment, when the public needs relief, the government continues to burden their pockets. While several other

state governments are providing free electricity up to 100-300 units to their citizens, which BJP leaders hail as "Revaadi for free," the central-administered Jammu and Kashmir, being one of the top five states in terms of inflation and unemployment, is subjecting its people to exorbitant electricity bills, he said.

Sahni said "The people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve access to free electricity and water."

Sahni emphasized that the public is distressed by the additional burden of electricity bills due to the dilapidated power infrastructure, including tangled networks of transformers, electricity wires, and poorly

Tiranga Shikara rally organised at Dal Lake

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Aug 1: A 'Tiranga shikara' rally was organised at the Dal Lake here on Tuesday as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations in the run-up to Independence Day.

The event was organised by Salute Tiranga — a New Delhi-based NGO.

The rally, in which about 150 people participated, took place from Nehru Park to SKICC, from where it went on to Char Chinari, before culminating at the SKICC.

"This is the first time that a tiranga shikara rally has been conducted in Jammu and Kashmir. On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolution of 'Har Ghar

Tiranga', the youth of the Union Territory has decided that the campaign will continue from August 1 to 15," president of J-K Salute Tiranga, Muzaffar Hussain Kalal, said here.

He expressed gratitude to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir for participating in the rally. "There is enthusiasm among the youth. The rally has been organised to uphold that enthusiasm," he said.

Rajesh Jha, the national president of the organisation, said such programmes were on across the country.

"We are celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. With PM Modi's campaign of Har Ghar Tiranga, our slogan is 'Har Haath Tiranga'. For

the development and prosperity of the country, there is a need for peace. We have come here with a message of peace and want the people of J-K to move forward with the Tiranga," Jha said.

The Tiranga shikara rally kicked off the 15-day programme which will culminate on Independence Day, youth president, Salute Tiranga, J-K, Mohammad Yusuf, said.

A programme will also be held in Jammu, which will be followed in Chenab Valley and then Pir Panchal. We decided to start at Dal Lake as it is a prominent landmark, he said.

Yusuf said about 100-150 people participated in the event.

Ritu Choudhary felicitates Sumit Thakyal for winning 2 Gold Medals in Dubai

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 1: In an exemplary gesture, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Corporator Ritu Choudhary extended warm felicitations to Sumit Thakyal for his remarkable achievement of winning 2 Gold Medals in the International Powerlifting Championship held in Dubai. Sumit Thakyal, son of Sh. Rajinderpal and a native of Ward No. 7 Kanji House, has brought great pride to India by showcasing exceptional talent and dedication at the championship that took place from July 21 to July 22.

Sumit Thakyal's extraordinary performance in the 52kg category, where he lifted an impressive 170kg (Deadlift), also earned him the distinction of breaking a world record. Speaking about his achievement, Sumit expressed deep commitment to his sport and



expressed his desire to continue pursuing it in the future. He humbly shared that he hails from an average family and faced numerous challenges on his journey to attain this prestigious position. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to Ritu Choudhary for recognizing his achievements. Sumit attributed his success to the unwavering support of his family and his faith in Goddess. During the felicita-

tion ceremony, Sumit encouraged fellow youths to follow their passions and relentlessly pursue their dreams. He highlighted the importance of dedication and hard work in overcoming adversities.

Corporator Ritu Choudhary heartily congratulated Sumit Thakyal and his family for their outstanding success and expressed immense pride in Sumit's accomplishments

that have brought laurels to the nation. She acknowledged that young achievers like Sumit serve as inspiring examples for the youth, diverting their attention away from harmful activities, such as drug abuse, and directing it towards constructive pursuits like sports. Ritu Choudhary passionately urged the youth to embrace sports and other positive activities for a brighter and more fulfilling future.

Manjit demands reservation of 2 LA seats for Sikhs; 2 seats for Jatts, one Christian community in J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

SAMBA, Aug 1: Apni Party Provincial President Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today said that the electricity supply system has totally collapsed in Jammu plains and the smart meters have become a source of harassment for the electricity consumers.

Addressing a monthly meeting of Apni Party at Vijaypur, the Former Minister said that the people of Jammu plains have been left with no option by the PDD but to face harassment with the overcharged electricity bills, and constant unscheduled power cuts.

"The electricity charges are beyond the pocket of the general masses, and the electricity bills are excessively charged from the electricity users/consumers leading to outrage across Samba, Jammu, Kathua, and Udhampur," he said.

He said that the people are getting electricity bills in thousands and some even in lakhs and it has become a new normal to collect charges of the electricity which the consumers never used. "The cheating which is being done with the electricity consumers should be checked and investigated thoroughly so that the accused persons could be brought to book, and general masses could be provided relief," he



added. He said that as the temperature and humidity has increased in the plain areas, the PDD has increased unscheduled power cuts that are causing unbearable problems for the people especially the elderly ailing and children.

He said that the PDD has totally collapsed to handle the issue and project the demand of electricity before the Govt so that required electricity can be purchased for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, he referred to the great inconvenience caused to the commuters on Jammu-Pathankot Highway due to the damages to two bridges in Kathua, and huge potholes on the highway from Lakhampur in Kathua up to Bari Brahmana in Samba district.

"The highway road is not comfortable for the commuters, yet the toll-tax is being collected from the commuters at

Sarore Toll Plaza that is illegal and unfair with the people. Therefore, the authorities should revoke the tax collection from the commuters at Toll Plaza till the highway is completed," he said.

Besides, he also referred to the political rights for the Sikh Community, Jatt Community and Christian Community in Jammu and Kashmir and demanded political reservation for their political representatives.

The Sikhs should get two Legislative Assembly seats in Jammu region, and Kashmir regions. Similarly, two Legislative Assembly seats for Jatts, and one for Christian Community should be given in Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

He further stated that "Although the Jatts had representation in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir's Legislative Assembly, but after the reservation of their areas, the huge population remained unrepresented. Hence, the Govt

should reserve two LA seats for them so that they get their representation in the assembly."

He also demanded holding of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, and restoration of statehood to the downgraded erstwhile state.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include District President, Samba, Raman Thapa, State President ST Wing, Saleem Alam, State General Secretary SC Wing, Joginder Pal, Provincial President SC Wing, Lovely Mangol, Provincial President Jammu Youth, Vipul Bali, District President Legal Cell, Adv Sahil Bharti, District Vice President Ram Lal, District Vice President Molvi Noor, Block President Vijaypur, Mohan Lal Sharma, Block President Bari Brahmana, Babu Ram Bhagat, Block President Parmandal, Manzoor Hussain, Block President Samba, Harjeet Singh, Ram and others.

Dimple leads protest against four controversial bills introduced in Parliament

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 1: Sunil Dimple, President Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir led a strong protest against the four controversial bills introduced in the parliament today to change the demography, history of the J&K.

Dimple appealed to the CJJ of India of Supreme Court SC to direct the BJP to stop introducing four controversial bills, "till the verdict on article 370 is announced in SC".

Dimple demands reservation to Sikhs of whom majority have migrated from POJK suffering huge loss of life.

Dimple further alleged these four bills are dangerous for the demog-



raphy, history, identity, culture of J&K.

Dimple said Article 370, 35-A, instrument of accession was signed by Dogra Maharaj Harisingh

of J&K State with India and not by BJP and the Modi govt destroyed the J&K state.

Senior leader Vijay Virdi, Daleep Kumar,

Vikas, Arun Verma, Lohri Shaha, Biloo Pahlwan, Babu Singh, Balu, Lohri Shaha Kala Singh, Vijay Khjuria and Kala Singh were also present.

Poor air quality behind rise in lung cancer cases among non-smokers: DAK

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Aug 1: On world lung cancer day, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Tuesday said lung cancer cases are on rise among people who have never smoked because of increasing exposure to toxic air.

"Poor air quality is behind spike in lung cancer cases among non-smokers," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said evidence has shown that polluted air is associat-

ed with increased risk of lung cancer which is the most prominent cancer in Kashmir.

A new ground breaking study conducted at Francis Crick Institute and University College London has revealed that poor air quality can increase the odds of lung cancer in individuals who do not smoke.

"Researchers have found that increased exposure to fine particles - typically seen in vehicle exhaust and smoke from fossil fuels trigger inflammation which causes cancer-

ous state in lung cells," he said.

The DAK President said the air quality in Kashmir has been constantly deteriorating for the past few years due to the increasing number of vehicles, constructions, brick kilns, cement and other factories which emit pollutants and significantly pollute the air.

"And this is contributing to enormous burden of lung cancer in the valley," he said.

Dr Nisar said while smoking continues to be an important risk for lung

cancer, in Kashmir many people who have never smoked are diagnosed with lung cancer and air pollution is a big factor.

"It is a wakeup call about the damaging impact of air pollution on human health. We cannot ignore climate health. If we want to address human health, we have to address climate health," he said.

"There is an urgent need to control air pollution to reduce the burden of lung cancer in the community and save precious human lives," he added.