

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 02, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

**Noted art director Nitin Desai found dead at his studio in Maharashtra's**



NATIONAL | 7

**India to have 120 crore Internet users by 2026: Rajeev Chandrasekhar**

INTERNATIONAL | 8

**Tunisian president names Ahmed Hachani as prime minister, replacing Bouden**



e-paper: [www.topnewsjk.in](http://www.topnewsjk.in)

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-14 Issue-210 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

### Two 'Hybrid' Terrorists arrested in Baramulla

BARAMULLA, Aug 2 (Agencies): Security forces on Wednesday arrested two "hybrid terrorists" of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) outfit from Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. Acting on a tip off, security forces established a mobile vehicle check point at Azadgunj in Baramulla town.

The two suspects tried to flee after noticing the checkpoint, a police official said.

"The suspects were apprehended tactfully. During their personal search, one pistol, one pistol magazine, four pistol rounds and one grenade were recovered from them and were taken into custody immediately," the official said.

He said the two were identified as Faisal Majeed Ganie and Nurul Kamran Ganie, both residents of Baramulla.

"Preliminary investigations have revealed that the individuals are hybrid terrorists and are affiliated with banned terrorist organisation LeT. They had collected the arms and ammunition for carrying out terrorist activities in Baramulla town ahead of Independence Day," the official said.

Hybrid terrorists are those who carry out attacks and then slip back into their routine lives.

### OGW detained under PSA in Rajouri: Police

RAJOURI, Aug 2 (Agencies): An Over Ground Worker (OGW) of a terror outfit has been booked and detained under Public Safety Act (PSA) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said today.

Mohd Altaf, son of Mohd Iqbal, a resident of Gadyog village in Khawas tehsil, has been detained to prevent his unlawful acts posing a threat to the society, said a police official.

He said that Altaf was detained under PSA after the District Magistrate Rajouri passed an order following a written dossier submitted by the police.

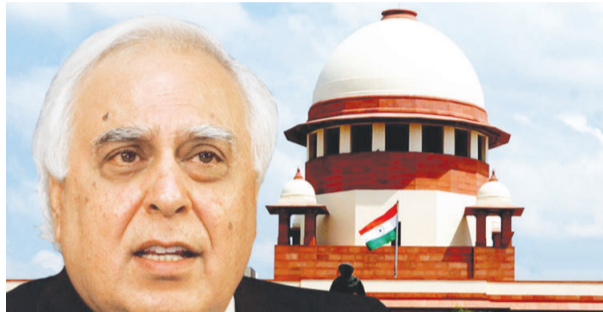
SSP Rajouri Amritpal Singh said that five notorious OGWs have

Turn to page 9

## Integration of J&K in India will always remain unquestionable, says Kapil Sibal In SC

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (Agencies): Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal on Wednesday submitted before a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court that integration of Jammu & Kashmir in India "is unquestionable, was unquestionable and will always remain unquestionable."

"Before I start, I want to make one statement, we stand clear on the premise that the integration of Jammu & Kashmir in India is unquestionable, was unquestionable and will always remain unquestionable," said Sibal, appearing on behalf of the petitioners challeng-



ing the 2019 Presidential Order taking away the special status accorded to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and its bifurcation into two Union Territories. "The state of Jammu & Kashmir continues to be a part of India. Nobody disputes it, nobody ever disputed it. Jammu & Kashmir is a unit of the

Indian Union," he said during the hearing.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal described the proceedings as "historic" and questioned the validity of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 splitting the erstwhile state into two Union Territories — Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

"This is a historical moment in many ways. This court will be analysing why history was tossed out on August 6, 2019 and whether procedure adopted by Parliament was consistent with what democracy stands for? Whether the will of J&K people could be silenced in this fashion?" he said.

He argued that people of J&K cannot be denied a representative form of government through a "diktat" of the Union government which is "inconsistent with our constitution".

"It is historic because it has taken 5 years for this court to hear this

Turn to page 9

## "Hopeful of getting justice," says Omar Abdullah as SC begins hearing pleas against Article 370 abrogation

SRINAGAR, Aug 2 (Agencies): As a five-judge Constitution bench of Supreme Court began hearing a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah said that he is "hopeful of getting justice."

"We are hopeful of getting justice. We are here on behalf of the people of J&K with the hope that we can prove that what happened on August 5, 2019 was unconstitutional and illegal," National Conference leader Omar Abdullah who is in Delhi



said today. A five-judge constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud began day-to-day hearings from today a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 that bestowed special status on the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Abdullah termed the abrogation of Article

370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories in 2019 as "unconstitutional and illegal."

The Constitution bench comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai, and Surya Kant will proceed to hear the case on a day-to-day basis except on miscellaneous days — Mondays and Fridays.

The court had asked all parties to file all documents, compilations and written submissions by July 27.

The apex court also allowed two petitioners,

Turn to page 9

## Six dead, 116 arrested in Nuh violence: Haryana CM

CHANDIGARH, Aug 2 (Agencies): Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Wednesday said six people have died and 116 arrested due to the violence in Nuh and appealed for the maintenance of peace.

He said the victims were two Home Guard men and four civilians.

The Chief Minister said 30 companies of the Haryana Police and 20 companies of Central paramilitary forces have been deployed, adding that 14 of them have been positioned in Nuh where no new incident was reported.



"The perpetrators of violence would be soon identified," he added.

State Home Minister Anil Vij told the media that the situation is under control.

"We have deployed 30 companies of Haryana Police and 20 companies of central forces. We are also monitoring

social media. Forty-one FIRs have been registered so far and 116 people have been arrested in Nuh alone."

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Khattar over the violence, officials said.

The Muslim-dominated Nuh district witnessed clashes between two groups. Police said the fight started after Vishwa Hindu Parishad's 'Brij Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra' was stopped by a group of men near Khedla Mod in Nuh, and stones were pelted

Turn to page 9

## SC only institution that can uphold supremacy of constitution: Mehbooba Mufti

SRINAGAR, Aug 2 (Agencies): PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday said the Supreme Court was the only institution left in the country that can ensure that India is governed as per its Constitution.

Her remarks came as the Supreme Court commenced hearing on the petitions challenging the Centre's decision to revoke Article 370 that provided special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing media persons at the PDP office here, she said the entire world was watching the proceedings before the Supreme Court.



"Entire world is watching Supreme Court proceedings in Article 370. Jammu and Kashmir, despite being a Muslim majority state, rejected the two-nation theory based on religion and joined hands with India. We were granted assurances under the Constitution. These guarantees were not given by China, Pakistan or any

neighbouring country," the former chief minister said.

"The Supreme Court will have to see how the institutions in the country have been subverted and the apex court remains the only institution that can save the Constitution. BJP is not only playing with the Constitution based on its brute majority in Parliament but ignoring everything including the SC rulings. They brought an ordinance after SC ruling on Delhi which is unconstitutional," she added.

Mehbooba said the

Turn to page 9

## Amarnath Yatra | Small batch of 984 Pilgrims leave from Jammu base camp

JAMMU, Aug 2 (Agencies): A small batch of 984 pilgrims, amidst the chants of 'Bam Bam Bhole, left Bhagwati Nagar Base Camp here on Wednesday for Shri Amarnath Cave Shrine in the South Kashmir Himalayas.

An official said that 984 pilgrims left the base camp in a convoy of 54 vehicles.

A group of 498 pilgrims (244 males, 69 females,

Turn to page 9

## Prior permission mandatory for JK High Court officials to apply for competitive exams or further studies

SRINAGAR, Aug 2 (Agencies): The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has issued a circular directing all officers and officials within its jurisdiction to seek prior permission from the competent authority before

applying for any competitive examination or pursuing further studies.

The circular comes as a response to a growing trend where individuals were not seeking approval before submitting their examination or admission forms, which

was found to be in violation of established official procedures.

The circular, dated July 25, 2023 issued to this effect emphasises the importance of seeking permission prior to submitting examination or admission forms.

Turn to page 9

## Chargesheet produced against 2 bank officials 'for embezzlement of amount of public money'

SRINAGAR, Aug 2 (Agencies): Crime Branch of Kashmir Wednesday produced a chargesheet against two bank officials for their alleged involvement in embezzlement of large amount of public money in different branches of a bank in north Kashmir's Baramulla.

"Economic Offences Wing, Srinagar [Crime Branch Kashmir] produced the charge-report in Case FIR No. 24/2016 of P/S Crime Branch Kashmir against Ghulam Ahmad Shah, S/o Gh. Mohammad Shah, R/o

Hajin, Bandipora (then Cashier-cum-Clerk in the Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank Ltd., Palhallan Branch) and Mohammad Sabir Dar, S/o Mohammad Subhan Dar, R/o Noor Din Colony, Baramulla (then Branch Manager of the Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank Ltd., Palhallan Branch) before the Hon'ble Court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Pattan for their alleged involvement in commission of offences punishable under Sections 409, 420, 201 &

Turn to page 9

## Army finds, hands over injured deaf and dumb person to police in Poonch

POONCH, Aug 2 (Agencies): Army last night found and subsequently handed over to police a deaf and dumb person near Bathar Bridge here last night, officials said on Wednesday.

They said that the unidentified person was found in injured condition and was later handed over to police by the army.

Turn to page 9

## Villagers lock out govt school in Udhampur as building deemed unsafe for students

JAMMU, Aug 2 (Agencies): Residents of Ras-sain in Ghordi block of Udhampur district locked out a government school in the village to protest against the School Education Department over the pitiable state of the school building, officials

informed on Wednesday.

Speaking to ANI, the chairman of Block Development Council, Ghordi, Arti Sharma, said, "The parents have locked the school gate as the building is unsafe and not in a condition

to house students anymore. I raised the issue at the Council meeting as well. The demand that the locals have put forward is genuine and should be met."

Also speaking to ANI, the zonal Education and planning officer, Ghordi

Krishan Dutt, said the prevailing infrastructure at the government school, or the lack of it, was unsafe to house students.

He added that the while the authorities concerned run

Turn to page 9

*Deodorants!*

*Body Washes!*

*Body Mists!*





SPRAY.  
REFRESH.  
REPEAT.

Your Ultimate Fragrance Destination!

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

<https://pahachaanmedics.org>

SCAN ME!

### 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)

### 10TH DAY AND RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Kiran Gupta W/o** Sh. Raman Kumar Gupta M/o Akash Deep Gupta (Advocate) R/o Ward No. 10 Near Calvary Mission School Samba, who left for heavenly abode on 25/07/2023.

**10th Day** shall be performed on 03-08-2023 Thursday From 10 AM to 11 AM at Dina Nath Memorial Hall (Mahajan Hall) Samba Near New Bus Stand Samba.

**Rasam Pagri** will be performed on (Monday) on 07-08-2023 from 4 PM onwards at our residence Ward No. 10 Near Calvary Mission School Samba.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

**Pakhtra Family 9419149874. 9796243572**



Smt. Kiran Gupta

### 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Shanta Wali W/o** Late Brij Lal Wali R/o Chinnora Mohalla Habba Kadai, Srinagar at present 51-Subash Nagar, Ext-1, 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  
Sarojini Wali & Satish Kumar Wali  
Grand Daughters & Grand Son-in-laws  
Asha & Abhishek  
Ananta & Rohit  
Anant - Great Grand Son  
& SAMANT SAS, PARTAZI, WAGNEU, FOTEDAR, RAINA, KAUL & KAK PARWARS  
941913313, 9825079393



Smt. Shanta Wali

### OBITUARY AND 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mrs. Sarla Kachroo W/o** Lt. DySP. Sh. Abhinav Kachroo originally resident of Raj Ghat, Baramulla, presently at Block: A, Qtr no: 3, Police Line, Channi Himmat, Jammu left for heavenly abode on 28th July 2023 at Jammu.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 5th August 2023 (Saturday) at 9:00 am at Muthi Ghat, near Directorate of School Education, Jammu.

**Grief Stricken:**  
Vasishth Kachroo and Vasundra Kachroo (Son and Daughter-in-law)  
Vasishth Kachroo and Meenakshi Kachroo (Son and Daughter-in-law)  
Mrs. Gayatri Kachroo (Sister-in-law)  
Mr. Kiran Bhat (Brother)  
Mrs. Santosh Labroo (Sister)  
Grand children: Rishi, Taini, Nitya & Rudra  
Contact no: 706953994, 788471038, 9825912941



Mrs. Sarla Kachroo

### 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 earthly rites of the departed soul

**Arantim 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 Panj Patahs Dabhar on 03/08/2023 from 11AM to 1 PM.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Master S. Kulwant Singh (Kiprid) - Brother  
Sons and Daughters-in-law  
Yash Paul Singh and Bhajal Kour  
Kulbir Singh and Prithpal Kour  
Balbir Singh and Kamal Kour  
Daughters and Sons-in-law  
Satvir Kour and Jeet Singh  
Joginder Kour and Mohinder Singh  
Bhas Kour and Manoj 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. Beli 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, Vanishika, Rishita, Anurudh, Krishi, Anandita  
**Contact No. 7807813588, 9419821789, 9697239869, 6005610586**



Sh. Tara Chand Gupta

### TENTH DAY

With heavy heart and profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Vinod Kumar Koul S/o** Late Mohan Lal Koul R/o Drabiyar present-ly Durga Nagar Sec-1, Near Park Jammu on 31-07-2023 (Monday).

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 9-8-2023 at Muthi Ghat at 9 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Kaki Koul - Wife**  
**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Vishal Koul & Shweta Koul  
**Bipin Koul - Brother**  
**Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law**  
Ashok Tickoo & Sarla Tickoo  
K.K. Khushu & Gudi Khushu  
R.S. Tickoo & Nimi Tickoo  
Kuldeep Koul & Sunita Koul  
**Dhar's, P.N. Raina, Bamzai & Raina's**  
Mob.No: 9810908984, 9419241541



SH. VINOD KUMAR KOU

### SHADMOS / MASVAR

You were planted on Earth to bloom in Heaven. It's been six months since you have left us, but your memories as a husband, father, brother and a person which taught us the virtues of life are still present with us. It is impossible to fill the void that you left behind.

We remember you in the deepest corners of our heart. Hoping you have found peace.  
**Shadmoo and Masvar** of our beloved **Late Sri Dilip Kumar Malla S/o** Late Sri Makhan Lal Malla will be held on 3rd and 4th August, at House no. 204/A Colonel colony Talab Tillo, Bohri, Jammu.  
**DEEPLY MISSED AND REVERED BY:**  
Family and Friends



Late Sri Dilip Kumar Malla

### SHADMOS

Dear Papa,  
It's been six months since you left us, and not a day goes by without me missing you dearly. I can't believe how much time has passed since then.

**Shadmoo** of my beloved **Papa, Late Sh. Roshan Lal Bhat, S/O** Late. Sh. Niranjan Nath Bhat of Mahnoor (Budgam) Kashmir, will be held on 3rd & 4th of August 2023 at Shri Sanatan Dharm Mandir, Main Market, Subhash Nagar (Near Shani Bazar Gol Chakkar), Subhash Nagar, New Delhi 110027.  
**You are deeply missed and remembered by all of us.**  
**With love and heartfelt regards,**

Anu - Daughter  
Anshul Kachroo - Son-in-law  
Ridhi - Granddaughter  
+91- 9999111175



Late Sh Roshan Lal Bhat

### OBITUARY

Dearest **Mohan Lal Pandita (Bhoba Sahab)**, your death on 31st July 2023 has created a void in our hearts - we cherish your blessings and sayings. We have lost an institution in you who was there to guide, help and correct us. Our hand folded namam for all the things you have done for us. We all pray for the eternal peace of your soul.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 9th of August.

**Deeply remembered by**  
Smt. Shrikha Pandita (Hangalgund) - **Wife**  
**Brothers and Sister-in-Law**  
Lt. Sh. Roshan Lal Pandita H/o Smt. Jyoti Pandita  
Sh. Shubhan Lal Pandita H/o Smt. Sudesh Pandita  
**Sister's and Brother's-in-Law**  
Lt. Smt. Shrikha Raina  
W/o Lt. Sh. Dandekar Lal Raina (Banpora Akingham)  
Smt. Sarika Koul W/o Sh. Bharat Bhushan Koul (D.H. Para)  
Smt. Sudeshna Pandita W/o Bal Krishan Pandita (Ramhalli)  
Smt. Sushma Mirza W/o Oppender Mirza (Karanagar)  
**Sons and Daughters-in-law**  
Pankaj Pandita & Shally Pandita  
Neeraj Pandita & Priyanka Pandita  
Deeraj Pandita & Malvika Pandita  
Avinash Pandita  
**Daughters & Son's-in-Law**  
Meenakshi Raina W/o Sanjeev Raina  
Rachna Koul W/o Atul Koul  
Sujata Pandita  
**Grandchildren's:** Krishna, Bhoomi, Diya, Vidhi, Sai, Shubhi, Dhriti  
M.No. 9419700400, 7066298988, 9822296648



Mohan Lal Pandita (Bhoba Sahab)

### 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

### TENTH DAY

With heavy heart and, profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Basanti Wangoo W/o** Shri Chand Ji Wangoo originally from Traperpora, Shopian, Kashmir and presently at Flat No 23, Block No 176, Lane No 27, Jagti migrant colony, Jammu on 30-07-2023.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 08-08-2023 at Muthi Ghat near sabzi mandi, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Chand Ji Wangoo - **Husband**  
Smt Diksha & Sh Deepak Koul - **Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Martyr Deepu & Smt Sweety - **Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Smt Vijay & Sh Shuban Lal Wangoo - **Bhabhi & Brother-in-law**  
Smt Bimla & Late Sh Bhushan Lal Dhar - **Sister-in-law & Jija ji**  
Smt Babil & Sh Mahraj krishan Bhat - **Sister-in-law & Jija ji**  
Smt Daisy & Sh Roshan Lal Bhat - **Sister-in-law & Jija ji**  
**Deeply Remembered By:**  
Wangoo's, Kouls, Bhats, Dhars  
Ph: 9622287069, 9419209170, 9622163560



Smt Basanti Wangoo

### FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved brother-in-law **Sh. Davinder Singh Chib (Kuki) S/o** Late Sh. Chaggar Singh Chib (Advocate) on 30-07-2023.

**Fifth Day** will be performed on 3rd August 2023 (Thursday) at H.No.157, Ward No. 38 Near Cambridge Public High School, (Main Road), Paloura Jammu at 10 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Th.Rattan Singh Manhas (Father-in-law)  
Smt. Suman Chib (Wife)  
(Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law)  
Late Sh. Yuvraj Singh Chib and Smt. Abhilasha  
**Brother-in-laws:**  
Bhupinder Singh Manhas  
Baljeet Singh Manhas  
Kuldip Singh Manhas  
Bhagat Singh Manhas  
Ranjeet Singh Manhas.  
Ph.9419124580, 9419174688, 7006631461



Sh. Davinder Singh Chib (Kuki)

### DASH KRIYA & TERVI VIDHI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Parkash Ram Verma** who left for his heavenly abode on 26-7-23.

**10th Day:-** Tervi Vidhi:-  
4/8/2023 Friday 7/8/2023 Monday  
Bhog: 1 pm to 4 pm  
Rasam Pagri: 5 pm to 6 pm

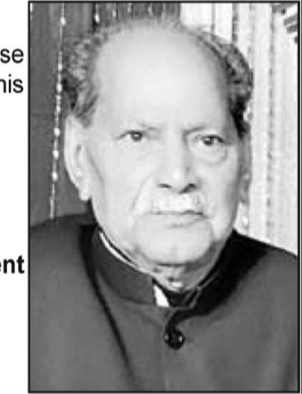
**Venue:-** Amba Niwas, Border Road (Near convent school), Samba

**Grief Stricken:-** Verma Family

Ms. Lakshmi Devi - **Wife**  
**Daughter-in-laws & Sons:**  
Mrs. Sushma Kumari & Shri. Randhir Verma  
Mrs. Sunita Verma & Shri. Rajinder Kumar Verma  
Mrs. Rita Verma & Shri. Ajit Verma  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Mrs. Sushma Bhola & Shri Satish Bhola

**R.S.V.P**

Amba Medical Hall, Samba  
Amba Medicos, Samba  
Amba Traders, Samba  
9419202490, 9530954512, 9419147057, 9906306996



Sh. Parkash Ram Verma  
(23/04/1936 to 26-7-23)

### IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE

on Your Birth Day  
**Rajat Singh (Vicky Sumbriya)**

As each day passes we miss you more and more, but today, on your birthday, we miss you the most. On this day that honors you, we pray that the heavens above are rejoicing in your name and also reminding you of how very special you are to us. We will never forget your birthday. Missing you so much.

Happy Birthday

**DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY:-**  
Sumbriya Parivar  
9419167430



RAJAT SINGH (VICKY SUMBRIYA)  
2.08.1997 - 15.8.2014

### REMEMBRANCE

The moment that you died my heart torn in two, one side filled with heartache, other died with you. I often like awake at night, when the world is fast asleep, and take a walk down memory lane, with tears upon my cheeks. Remembering you is easy, I do it every day, but missing you is heartache that never goes away. I hold you tightly within my heart and there you will remain. Until the joyous day arrive, that we will meet again.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY**

Kirti Gupta - **Wife**  
Manas Baigra - **Son**  
Santosh Baigra - **Mother**  
Neeraj Baigra & Shivali - **Brother & Bhabhi**  
Ankush Baigra & Deepanti - **Brother & Bhabhi**



Late Mr. Dheeraj Baigra

### 10TH DAY/KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT SARLA KAUL** ON 28TH JULY 2023 AT FLAT NO 33, SECTOR 19, POCKET 2, GREEN VIEW APPTT DWARKA, NEW-DELHI.

**10TH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED AT GARH-GANGA, MURAD NAGAR (UP) ON AUGUST 6, 2023 (SUNDAY) AT 7 A.M.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

TAPAN KUMAR KAUL - **HUSBAND**  
YOGESH KAUL - **SON**  
SEEMA KAUL PANDITA - **DAUGHTER**  
SOMESH PANDITA - **SON-IN-LAW**  
KIRTI KUMAR KAUL - **BROTHER-IN-LAW**  
PERMELA KAUL - **SISTER-IN-LAW**  
GIRIJA KAUL - **SISTER-IN-LAW**  
SHIBAN KRISHAN KAUL - **BROTHER-IN-LAW**  
**GRAND CHILDEN:** SANCHITA & SHIV



SMT SARLA KAUL

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 Bowl, Uhapur.

**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 Rasool & Mankeola family members  
Contact No. 9419296872, 9419671846, 9419359539



Smt Permal Kumari

### 10TH DAY/KRIYA

With Profound grief and Sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Rakesh Chander Baru S/o** Lt. Sh. Charanjeet Lal Baru, R/o H. No. 120, Kucha Wazir Sabha Ram, Panjthirti, Jammu - who left for heavenly abode on 25th July 2023.

**10TH DAY** will be performed on 3rd August 2023 (Thursday) at Rani Park Tuttiya. Time: 11:00 A.M.  
**KRIYA** will be performed on 4th August 2023 (Friday) at our residence Time: 12 noon.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Kailash Baru (Wife)  
Abhishek Baru (Son)  
**Chacha Ji**  
Shanti Sroop Baru  
Brij Bhushan Baru  
**Sister and Brother-in-laws**  
Anju Sharma & Prem Sharma  
**Brother & Sister-in Law**  
Rajesh Baru & Manisha Baru  
Raman Baru & Rachna Baru  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Vasudha & Ajay Sharma  
Varsha & Alok Sharma  
**BARU & GAUR FAMILY.**  
Mob: 9796690161



SH. RAKESH CHANDER BARU

### OBITUARY AND 10TH DAY KRIYA

With deep grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Anil Kumar Koul S/o** Late Mohan Lal Koul of Veeri Nowbugh, Anantnag Kashmir, presently residing at Flat No. 03, Block No. 101, Lane No. 19, Jagti Colony, Nagrota, Jammu (J&K) on 30/07/2023 at about 7 PM.

The **MOURNING** will be held at his parental house, H. No 2, Lane No, 2, Kailash Vihar, Udhewwala, Jammu, opposite K C Sports Club.  
The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Muthi Ghat, Jammu on 08/08/2023 at 8.30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Rashmi Koul - **Wife**  
Prisha Koul - **Daughter**  
Chatresh Koul - **Son**  
Bimla Koul W/o Late Mohan Lal Koul - **Mother**  
Parmeshori Koul W/o Late Badri Nath Koul - **Aunty**  
Paray Lal Koul - **Uncle**  
Archana Koul and Rakesh Kumar Koul - **Bhabi and Brother**  
Dazy Koul and Sanjay Kumar Koul - **Bhabhi and Brother**  
Usha Pandita and Ashoni Pandita - **Sister and Jija Ji**  
**AND SAMAST KOUL PARIVAR OF VEER NOWBUGH, ANANTNAG.**  
**CONTACT NO. 9419148433, 9796826927, 9419122083**



ANIL KUMAR KOUL

### DISCLAIMER

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

# Jammu Kashmir under immense pressure of BJP's malicious policies: Bhalla, Sawhney

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 2: District Congress Committee Jammu Urban and Rural conducted a preparatory meeting at the Congress office in Jammu on Wednesday for the party's upcoming protest scheduled for 4th August. The protest aims to address critical issues such as price rise, installation of smart meters, and the withdrawal of widow and old age pensions. The meeting was presided over by Former Minister J&K Yogesh Sawhney, In-Charge District President Jammu Urban, along with Th. Hari Singh Chib, District President Jammu Rural, Manmohan Singh, and Rajneesh Sharma.

During the meeting, Working President PCC, Former Minister J&K Raman Bhalla, emphasized the significance of the protest and how it will shed light on the challenging realities faced by the people of J&K. He expressed concern over the deployment



ment of smart meters in Jammu, power outages, price-rise, and the imposition of property tax, all of which have adversely affected the daily lives of the people in the region. He further mentioned that without any elected government, the people of J&K have been vulnerable to the exploitative tactics of the BJP, leading to increased taxes and soaring prices. He urged all district presidents, ward presidents, and members to actively engage in the preparations for the protest.

Former Minister Yogesh Sawhney, In-Charge District Presi-

dent Jammu (U), stated that the party intends to stage a massive protest to expose the BJP government's policies and advocate for the genuine concerns of the public. He criticized the government's decisions, particularly the installation of smart meters without considering the impact on power tariffs, resulting in significant financial burdens for consumers. Sawhney also highlighted the government's insensitivity towards the rising fuel prices and the cost of essential commodities, which adds to the financial woes of the public.

District President Jammu Rural, Th. Hari Singh, highlighted several other issues that would be addressed during the protest, including the withdrawal of old age and widow pensions and the proliferation of wine shops in residential areas. He expressed concern over the government's focus solely on increasing revenue, while neglecting social welfare and the overall quality of life for the people.

Senior Congress leaders, Manmohan Singh and Rajneesh Sharma, urged all members to actively participate in the upcoming protest,

emphasizing the severity of the current situation. They emphasized the party's determination to fight against injustices imposed by the administration and called for strong support from all sections of society, including the youth, students, daily wagers, women, and the elderly, who are all experiencing significant hardships.

The meeting was attended by numerous prominent members, including Amrit Bali, Satish Sharma, Corporator Dewarka Choudhary, Corporator Rittu Choudhary, Corporator Rashpal Bhadarwaj, and many others.

# Revamp developmental activities in Dhayansar: Manjit Singh



TOP NEWS REPORT

SAMBA, AUG 2: Apni Party Provincial President Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has revamp of developmental activities in Dhayansar area in Samba district.

The Former Minister was addressing a meeting cum joining programme that was organized by OBC President Bhagat Ram.

On this occasion, prominent youth leader Balbir Kumar along with hundreds of supporters from various political parties joined Apni Party. While welcoming them to the party fold, the former minister hoped that their joining would strengthen the party.

Addressing the meeting, he said that the Dhayansar area is neglected by the authorities regarding the

developmental activities as it lacks proper sanitation, and drainage systems that often flood the area and rainwater gushes into the nearby houses and fields.

"The authorities have not taken any step for the improving drainage system, development of lanes, cleanliness, and no nallah cleaning efforts taken by the concerned department," he said. He also expressed anguish over the unprecedented electricity cuts in Jammu region including Dhayansar that has adversely affected the normal life of the people.

"The electricity cuts have affected the agricultural activities, and the water supply system with long hours of electricity together is unjustified," he added. He said that Dhayansar needs overall development.

He blamed the tradi-

tional political parties for the negligence and backwardness of Dhayansar and accused them that they got votes from the people but did nothing on ground for them.

He, however, assured the people that if the Apni Party forms the next Govt in J&K, equitable development will be ensured in all the areas, and regions without discrimination.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include SP President, Saleem Choudhry, SC President Both Raj Bhagat, OBC State President, Bhagat Ram, Provincial President Jammu Youth Wing, Vipul Bali, District President Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Kulvinder Singh, former Chairman, Municipal Corporation, Pushap Raj, former Corporator Raj Shekha, Shivani and others.

# Mahamandleshwar inaugurates 12th J&K Union Territory Shooting Championship at SMVD Sports Complex

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, Aug 2: 12th J&K Union Territory Shooting Championship got off to a glittering start today at SMVD Sports Complex in Katra scheduled from 2nd to 5th August, 2023. Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giri Maharaj, Member of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board inaugurated the tournament in the presence of Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB and S. S. Sodhi, President Jammu and Kashmir Rifle Association (JKRA).

The Championship is being organized by Jammu and Kashmir Rifle Association in collaboration with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board under the aegis of National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).

In all, 150 participants from different parts of JK-UT are participating in four days long various categories of shooting events. The main objective of the tournament aims to foster the spirit of healthy competition and promote shooting sports



in the region.

The Chief Guest, Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giri Maharaj who was invited to JK-UT to receive Kailash Sanskrit Ratna Puraskar for his immense contributions towards promotion of Sanskrit and spiritual institutions while speaking on the occasion said that it is a matter of pride that players nurtured at SMVD Sports Complex is putting Jammu & Kashmir UT on the world map. He added that sports not only relieve stress but also create a better society and contribute to enriching nation building. He exhorted that the Shrine Board under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, JK-UT has been encouraging the youth and provid-

ing them a platform to showcase their talents by establishing such complexes.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB in his address dwelt on the aims and objectives of setting up of the Sports Complex, while adding that SMVDSB Sports Complex established in the year 2016 with an aim to identify the talent in the region so that they can be trained and groomed in the identified key sports to excel and bring laurels in sports events held at various levels.

While appreciating the decision of Jammu and Kashmir Rifle Association for conducting shooting championship in collaboration with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sports Complex at Katra, CEO urged them to provide

an experienced coach in shooting at SMVD Sports Complex so that the performance level of the sports persons in shooting being nurtured at SMVDSB Sports Complex be enhanced.

CEO on the occasion underscored the Para Archers of Sports Complex who created new world records at Pilsen Para World Archery Championship - 2023 and won five medals in the recently concluded Para Archery World Ranking Tournament held at Czech Republic. He exuded confidence that given the excellent facilities, expert coaching, hard work and dedication, the sports persons being trained at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex in the key sports will also win medals in the forthcoming events at the national as well as international levels.

CEO also exhorted about upgradation in Khelo India Talent Development in the Archery (Boys & Girls) Discipline at the Sports Complex from the Non-Residential category

and grant of scholarship to the sports persons with an aim to create an ecosystem and promotion of excellence in SMVDSB Sports Complex.

S. S. Sodhi, President Jammu and Kashmir Rifle Association appreciated the support extended by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for the conduct of tournament at their premises for promotion of shooting sports in the region.

On the occasion, the three Para Archers Rakesh Kumar, Sarita and Sheetal Devi who created new world records and booked their slots for the Paris 2024 Paralympics were honoured along with their coaches from SMVD Sports Complex.

Among those present on the occasion were Chairman, CEO and other officials of Jammu and Kashmir Rifle Association, senior officers and officials from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, besides, prominent citizens, media persons, teachers and school children to grace the occasion.

# When will Manipur be converted into two or more UTs? Questions Harsh Dev

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 2: Expressing concern over the raging fires in Manipur seized by repeated cycles of violence, bloodshed, arson, and mayhem for the last over a month and a half, Harsh Dev Singh, Former Minister and State President of JKNPP has accused the centre and state government of complete failure in handling the situation resulting in unprecedented death, destruction and devastation in the troubled state.

A combustible mix of faith, identity and politics has kept the pot of conflict boiling in the state

with the present regime having miserably floundered in tiding over the crisis, said Singh.

As per certain reports in the media over 150 have been killed, 50,000 displaced, around 80,000 relocated due to raging violence and several thousand injured, divulged Singh. He said that it was shocking to note the statement of the Archbishop of Manipur who had revealed that 249 churches had been burnt merely in 36 hours. The humiliation of womenfolk in Manipur merits not only condemnation but nationwide mourning. It will be remembered as the

darkest chapter in the history of Manipur. And still the centre seems to have abdicated its responsibility under the constitution for reasons best known.

Should the present government be allowed to continue in the state merely for the reason that it is the BJP which rules it? And should the state of Manipur not

be divested of its state status, as was done in case of J&K and it also be divided into Union Territories? Questioned Singh.

Harsh Dev Singh pointed out that J&K state was demoted and bifurcated into two Union Territories with the BJP government justifying the action on the pretext of violence and insurgency. Applying the same yardstick, Manipur has definitely qualified to be bifurcated into Union Territories in conformity with the policies of the BJP led NDA government.

Singh added that the BJP government has

most vociferously taken the stand that there can't be two sets of laws in the same country. It is further insisting on uniform civil code (UCC) in the country even if it has to downplay the aspirations of a particular community or inspirational group. Having said so, it needs to prove that action taken against J&K was not out of hostility, malice or ill will but genuine decision based on a well conceptualised policy that would be applicable to any other state of the country facing insurgency and bloodshed including BJP ruled states like Manipur.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, REW POONCH**  
**TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
e-NIT No. 144 of REW POONCH 2023-24 Dated:- 27-07-2023 1<sup>st</sup> Call

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

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contract or	Position of Funds
1	02 Nos P/Work at Moh. Pathama Nr. Razak Khan and Aziz Khan Pyl. Salwah Lower Block Mendhar Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24		2.00	200	4000	30 days			
2	Drain Pacca at M/S Chak Banola Pyl. Chak Banola Block Mendhar Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24		1.08	200	2160	30 days			
3	Construction of P/R/Wall/Fencing of Graveyard W. No. 1 Nr. Banga Bawali Pyl. Dara Dullian Upper Block Poonch Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24		2.00	200	4000	30 days			
4	Construction of T/Road/Allied Work from Bajji Mushaq to H/o Ashok Kumar and others Pyl. Dara Dullian Upper Block Poonch Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24		1.75	200	3500	30 days			
5	Development of Spring Cover at Danga Wala Pani Pyl. Kalaban Faizabad Block Mendhar Under APDP Year 2023-24	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	1.00	200	2000	30 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 09-08-2023 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available / Demand
6	Crate Work at Mohalla Chawni Gursai Hammutta Pyl. Gursai Hammutta Block Mendhar Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24		1.80	200	3600	30 days			
7	P/Work Near Nazir Ahmad Kotan Pyl. Kotan Kandi Block Mendhar Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24		1.50	200	3000	30 days			
8	Community Toilet/ Bathroom Roof GI Sheet Masjid and other Centre Gagrian Pyl. Gagrian Block Mandi Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24		2.00	200	4000	30 days			
9	Community Toilet Roof GI Sheet at Chapria W.No. 06 Near Masjid and other Sawjian B Pyl. Sawjian B Block Mandi Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24		2.00	200	4000	30 days			
10	Community Toilet Near Masjid Hilla Maqumi and other W.No. 03 Chamber Pyl. Chamber Kinari Block Mandi Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24		2.00	200	4000	30 days			

**NOTE: The Contractors registered with DDC, Poonch in reference to GOVT. Order No: 238-F of 2021, Dated 07-09-2021 can participate upto an amount of Rs 3.00 Lacs, in local Panchayat works.**  
**NOTE: No PRI member shall be allowed to take part in Tendering process**

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27-07-2023.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 27-07-2023 to 08-08-2023, 1855 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	27-07-2023 from 1500 Hrs onwards
4	Bid Submission End Date	08-08-2023 up to 1855 Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) (in case of holiday, the bid shall be opened on next day)	09-08-2023 on or after 1000 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer REW, Poonch
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (of only successful technical bidders)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. **Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**  
2. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website <https://www.jktenders.gov.in/> to acquaint bid submission process. **No.- XEN/REW/P/2052-60**  
**Dated:- 27-07-2023**

**DIP/J-6074/23**

Executive Engineer  
Rural Engineering Wing  
Poonch

## EDITORIAL

## ILLEGAL TRADE

The increasing trend of drug abuse in the society is a matter of great concern. On getting used to them, man becomes inactive and useless in every way. He wants to get these substances at any cost.

Today the unethical and illegal trade of drugs is in full swing. Many organized gangs are engaged in this business. Today these things are more valuable than gold and business-friendly.

The rate at which drug abuse is increasing among the youth is not only for them, but also for the country and the society. Today, to destroy a country, it is not war, but drugs that are needed. Terrorism and crime are also flourishing in the shadow of drug trade.

People who earn money from drugs are heinous criminals. These young men and women make them addicted by persuading them or by making them consume one or two doses for free and then that person becomes their slave.

This trend is increasing. Some youths are adopting it secretly and some are adopting it as pride. This is a trend destroying the lives of the youth.

The problem of the spread of drugs is not of any particular person or country. This is an international problem. The network of drug dealers is spread all over the world. To not control it is to push the world towards a terrible destruction.

Many countries have declared the sale or possession of narcotics a punishable offence. In many countries, there is also a system of death penalty for its illegal trade. Every civilized and far-sighted country considers it a business of death.

But it does not seem possible to overcome this crisis on the strength of laws. There can be a possibility of avoiding it by making the public aware of its danger and by behaving sympathetically with the young men and women suffering from its habit. The government will also have to control this by enacting the strictest laws and being constantly vigilant.

Liquor – Liquor or alcohol is as if born on earth along with humans. It is also included in the gems obtained from the churning of the ocean. Increasing prevalence of alcohol consumption among the youth is an ominous sign for the society. It is also a major source of income for the governments.

Morphine is made from opium. It is more intoxicating than opium. People accustomed to it use it as an injection.

Drug abuse is an invitation to death. Death is also very painful, death gradually afflicts the consciousness and makes it helpless! Drugs are now also being used as weapons. This is a disgusting way to hollow out the youth power of the opposing country and destroy it without war.

## Looking back at Mandela's role as world changed, Cold War ended

By: Saeed Naqvi

The end of apartheid in South Africa in February 1990 was the theme of my talk on Mandela Day. As I was the first journalist to meet him after his release from 27 years in prison, I wanted to share my experiences.

The Berlin Wall's fall in 1989 signalled the Soviet Union's end. This, in its wake, unfroze conflicts across the globe that were sustained by the West in the Cold War.

I remember how Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and other Commonwealth leaders failed to persuade Britain's Margaret Thatcher at a 1986 summit in London to stiffen sanctions against the apartheid regime. "More sanctions would hurt black workers", she argued.

Likewise, Italy's Christian Democrats stayed in power with unspeakable corruption, which Italian judges subsequently investigated and exposed, but only after the Soviet threat ended. The Communists, under leaders like Enrico Berlinguer, were a formidable threat.

The sectarian conflict in Northern Ireland ended with the 1998 Good Friday agreement. The former Yugoslavia became seven independent republics. Many Central Asian republics emerged.

An unforgettable drive through these republics left two indelible images on the mind. Impeccably clad saleswomen and men supervised large, well-stocked stores of United Colors of Benetton, lined with fashionable clothes and multiple, expensive decorative items. Remarkably, there was not a single buyer in

sight. This was capitalism advertising itself.

The other image was of empty mosques but packed Orthodox Churches celebrating the post-Soviet "freedoms".

In Northern Ireland, the sectarian animus ran deep, going back to the 1690 Battle of Boyne when Protestant William of Orange defeated the Roman Catholic James II. "Had William lost to James, the throne of England would have been Roman Catholic", Jack Sawyer, editor of the Belfast Telegraph, explained.

This passionate desire for union with Britain in perpetuity stoked Catholic or Republican anger. Ultra right-wing Unionists like Rev. Ian Paisley shunned any accommodation with the IRA, its political wing Sinn Fein, or with Dublin. Their language was aggressive: "We shall never be under the jackboot of Dublin." Then the USSR collapsed and the Good Friday agreement was forged.

It is in this sequence that the West decided to free itself of the odium of sustaining apartheid. It was as part of the choreography of this process that Mandela's release after 27 years in the white man's prison became its crowning glory.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a friend of Mandela's and a distinguished leader of the anti-apartheid struggle, encapsulated the consequences of apartheid in one of his sermons. "When the white man first came to South he had the Bible in his hands, we blacks had all the lands. But as time passed our roles were reversed: we had the Bible and the white man had all the lands."

To cover Mandela's release from Victor Verster prison,

outside Cape Town, my crew and I had to enter South Africa before apartheid had formally ended. How does one enter a country with which India has no diplomatic relations? Informal arrangements were made with the help of joint secretary (Africa) Arundhati Ghosh, a most helpful officer and friend.

Clearing immigration was easy enough, but almost insurmountable were the customs formalities. A closed society had exceptionally strict rules for TV cameras and other equipment. I had to find someone in Johannesburg who would stand surety for us. In other words, someone had to deposit half a million rands with the customs authorities. The sum would be returned on our way out "if the regime had found our behaviour satisfactory". In other words, the guarantee was not so much for the equipment as for our journalistic behaviour. It was an unstated promise extracted from us that our TV shows would not embarrass the departing regime.

Among the phone numbers I had with me was one of Yusuf Cachalia, whose father Mohammad Cachalia figures in Mahatma Gandhi's South Africa years. As soon as Cachalia learnt of our predicament, he sent help to what is now Johannesburg's Oliver Tambo airport: a cheque by way of surety included. It was an extraordinary act of generosity because Yusuf bhai (as I began to call him) did not know me at all.

"I wanted an Indian journalist to cover the end of this cruel system." Yusuf bhai and his wife, Amina, were friends of Mandela's since his earliest days in the African National Congress

(ANC), of which the two were also members, before Yusuf bhai branched out into "stocks and shares" in the "interest of family and party comrades".

It took me a while to understand the presence of nine ministers of Indian origin in Mandela's first Cabinet. Some Indian diplomats took a dim view of the fact that only Mac Maharaj and Jay Naidu were Hindus. The remainder were all of Muslim origin. Quite remarkably, Frene Ginwala, a Parsi, was the first Speaker of South Africa's new National Assembly.

Mandela's principal adviser in his office was Ahmad Kathrada. Mandela's successor, Thabo Mbeki, maintained the pattern: his principal adviser was Essop (Yusuf) Pahad. There is a sociological explanation.

When the ships carrying the first batches of indentured labour docked in Natal in 1860 onwards, to work on the sugar plantations, a majority of their progeny joined the tricameral legislatures established in 1984-94 to accommodate Indians and coloureds. There was no representation for blacks.

Later, when Gujarati Muslim merchants arrived to cater to an expanding Indian community, their children had the means to acquire the best education outside South Africa. And these graduates of Western enlightenment later returned to join the South African Communist Party and the ANC, its affiliate. In the struggle of common purpose, these progressive ideologically motivated youth had miraculously outgrown their religious identity.

## Inter-faith unions still a 'threat' in Digital India?

By: Sunanda K Datta Ray

Neither family was pleased when a young Indian Muslim man I knew married a college friend, who was Hindu. Both of them were brilliant students. The boy's side was especially outraged by his cheeky retort when they asked how soon the bride would convert to Islam.

"When I convert to Hinduism!" he answered nonchalantly, leaving them aghast.

My friend's courageous defiance came to mind last week when the newspapers reported the strident voice of religious orthodoxy emerging from Assam whose chief minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma, warned Assamese youths not to "cross the lakhsman rekha" by marrying girls from another faith. As if the ethnic conflagration in nearby Manipur were not bad enough, his call against what the Bharatiya Janata Party denounces as "love jihad" came within days of reports of a Hindu woman in Assam's Golaghat district being killed, allegedly by her Muslim husband. The murder report may or may not be true.

But Mr Sarma's announcement took me aback. Assam is one of the most demographically diverse states in our richly pluralist nation. It includes descendants of ancient Thais, people from China's Guanxi region, and Myanmarese. Yet, instead of rejecting the tragic bigotry of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, whose macabre end was at least redeemed by the grieving Montague and Capulet clans at last agreeing to end their ancient vendetta, here was Assam's chief executive unashamedly urging the Assamese to retreat into the darkness of a mono-

cultural ghetto. When the Congress chief, Bhupen Bora, had the temerity to advise him "not to make inter-community marriages an issue in the modern age", Mr Sarma roundly warned him that he could be arrested for "hurting religious sentiments".

Perhaps the best way of responding to such archaic ignorance is to just ignore it. But India is not enlightened Britain, where racial discrimination automatically withered when the government not only passed liberal new laws but also effectively enforced them. Ours is a society that lives by traditions that are often at conflict with current laws and certainly with our brave boasts of being a modern "digital" society that will soon be the world's third-largest economy. It did not need the Pew Research Centre to tell us that most Indians want their wards (and even neighbours) to marry within their own religion. But a Pew survey did confirm that roughly two-thirds of Hindus want to prevent their women from marrying outside their faith. Apparently, even more Indian

Muslims feel the same way about their daughters and sisters.

Most marriages are still arranged in India. The deadly grip of caste may have been loosened but has not been thrown off. Society is static in many ways.

Newspaper pictures of our leaders performing havans and pujas in fancy attire reveal the extent to which their thinking is a prisoner of the superstitious past.

Our astronauts may reach for the Moon but it has repeatedly been demonstrated that passenger trains can be involved in fatal collisions. India makes vaccines for the world but many Indians don't have access to potable drinking water.

Indians constitute the world's biggest diaspora because India cannot provide them with gainful employment at home.

No attempt is made any longer to practise birth control. Just as illiterate voters identify political parties by their symbols, the unlettered masses follow the example set by their betters. Rajas and maharajas fulfilled that role in the past; now that function has been taken over by elected legislators. They have power and money and lead the rest.

So, when those in authority warn that the cow is sacred but in danger of being abused by the ungodly, the many who want to be counted as loyal at once claim to detect episodes involving the meat of the sacred animal. When the powerful whisper that the sinister threat of "love jihad" lurks in the shadows, the multitude rush to lynch youths who are blamed for runaway couples. Fears of "love jihad" might partly explain the reported call by Sadhvi Deva Thakur, vice-president of the All-India Hindu Mahasabha, that "the Centre will have to impose emergency, and Muslims and Christians will have to be forced to undergo sterilisation so

that they can't increase their numbers". Pankaj Tiwari of the Mahasabha's Lucknow branch endorsed her solution. "We need to keep the Muslim population in check. Otherwise, they reproduce and it puts a strain on India's health and education systems. That's why we're working to stop inter-faith marriages and conversions."

Much of this may appear farcical but we know that the sense of victimhood nursed by majorities with a minority's persecution complex is a dangerous social phenomenon. Encouraged by the Gyanvapi Masjid controversy in

Varanasi, another Mahasabha worthy suggested that the Taj Mahal, India's best-known tourist destination and a Unesco World Heritage site, should be demolished, presumably because it is a Muslim monument.

It can be no one's case that the State should actively promote inter-faith matrimony as a means of integration. Such interference in the private lives of citizens would be strongly resented and might lead to violent resistance. Some might even argue that legislation to protect a bride or groom from being coerced to convert to the new spouse's religion -- chief minister Yogi Adityanath's Uttar Pradesh set the ball rolling in this respect -- may serve a purpose if it is honestly and impartially enforced. Section 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act already provided grounds for divorce if one spouse converts to a different religion. But it has to be a genuine conversion and not a device for bigamous unions.

That can come about only when the overall climate is not vitiated by fear and suspicion. There are no easy steps to that idyll. But it would mark a beginning if Manipur's chief minister, Nongthombam Biren Singh, were firmly told that Kuki-Zos and Meteis are equal members of the great Indian nation and must be treated at par. The ultimate test of nationhood will lie in how New Delhi tackles the bigger and crucial question of Hindu-Muslim relations.

Lingering memories of the TV image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi rejecting a Muslim's goodwill gift of a cap and scarf may not suggest that the outcome of that test can be taken for granted. It may be revealing in this context that the now no longer young Muslim-Hindu couple I mentioned at the outset decided that their future was best ensured by emigration. Their chosen abode is now the beneficiary of their brilliance.

## Admission begins at Shaheed Bhagat Singh State University, Ferozepur

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 2: Shaheed Singh State University Ferozepur (formerly Shaheed Bhagat Singh State Technical Campus), established by the Punjab Government, is an AICTE recognized Campus offering various technical non-technical courses.

The Registrar of the University, Dr. Gazal Preet Arneja, mentioned that the University has introduced some new courses.

Today, Information Brochure of the University for 2023-24 was released.

Speaking about the new courses, the Registrar said that due to the positive response received for



the various courses introduced last year, some additional new courses are being launched this year. Dean Academic, Prof. Dr. Tejeet Singh, shared that these courses include B.Sc. Computer Science (Specialization in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning), B.Sc. Computer Application and Electronics, Bachelor of Business Administration, Master of

Business Administration, Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management, B.Sc. Hotel Management and Catering Technology, M. Tech Transportation Engg (Part Time), Certificate Course in Testing of Building Materials, Certificate Course in Welding, etc.

He further stated that in the previous session, many students from the University secured jobs in

multinational companies, and many other top companies are being invited for placements this year.

He also mentioned that the Placement package for students has increased by almost 25% compared to last year. Smart hackathon programs are being conducted for students to think and implement new ideas.

Registrar Dr. Gazal Preet Arneja also added that the University presented two research projects selected in the G20 summit. Additionally, the students of the university won a cash prize of 50,000 rupees by participating in an event organized by the Punjab government.

Giving further information, he stated that the University provides scholarships for meritorious students, 100% tuition fee waiver for economically weaker sections, and SC/ST students with an annual income of less than Rs 2.5 Lacs per annum.

The university also offers 100% fee waiver as per Punjab Government rules. Equipped with Wi-Fi, this University is recognized by All India Council of Technical Education and Council of Architecture. On this occasion, University Dean Academic Dr. Tejeet Singh and PRO Mr. Yashpal were also present.

## Army holds Drug Free Kupwara campaign



### TOP NEWS REPORT

KUPWARA, Aug 2: Due to the lack of quality education and employment opportunities in the far-flung area of Manigah Bowl, the youths are becoming vulnerable to drug trafficking and addiction.

Therefore, in an endeavor to make never-ending efforts to eradicate the drug menace from society, Indian Army in Manigah, with a theme "Drug Free Kupwara" organised an awareness campaign.

The campaign com-

menced with an anti-drug march, which was flagged off by the Glasdaji Company Commander and the Principal of Govt High School, Tanda, which covered a distance of almost five kilometers.

The people who witnessed the anti-drug march expressed their appreciation and respect. After the march, a series of lectures were conducted by the COB Commander, Principal, and Sarpanches.

The lectures covered major highlights of drug crimes, past incidents, and medical issues due

to drug consumption. Additionally, the students were also advised to stay away from drugs and not fall prey to addiction.

The Drug Free Kupwara rally was accompanied by 200 students & 18 teachers from different schools, Sarpanches, Ward Members, Ex-Servicemen and PHC staff.

The foot march against drugs was the first of its kind in the region, drew everyone's attention. The locals appreciated the Army for their efforts in sensitizing the youth about the drug menace.

## Braham Jyot sends ration to "Baba Balak Nath Sanstha" for Budha Amarnath Yatris

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 2: Braham Jyot Satti (Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir) sent Bhandara Ration to "Baba Balak Nath Sanstha" for the convenience of Budha Amarnath Yatris.

The programme was organized at Jammu by the mutual contribution of Manoj Saini, Pawan Kumar, Kewal Sharma (Social Activists).

Baba Aasnath, Baba Chiman Nath, Baba Naresh Nath and Baba Sonu were present on the occasion and took this Bhandara Ration for Poonch.

Braham Jyot said Buddha Amarnath Temple, dedicated to Hindu deity Shiva, is one



of the oldest shrines of the Jammu region. It is located in the village of Rajpura in tehsil Mandi of Poonch district.

The River Pulsata flows by the temple, is considered to be sacred where pilgrims take bath before entering the temple. A

mythological legend is associated with the river and it has been named after Rishi Pulsata, grandfather of Ravana.

## Shivani Arora: The Epitome of Luxury Makeup and Beauty Expertise

### TOP NEWS REPORT

NEW DELHI, Aug 2: Shivani Arora, the multi-talented makeup, nails, eyelash extension, and eyebrows expert has taken the beauty industry by storm.

With her artistic magic hands and an impeccable eye for the latest trends, Shivani has built a reputation for delivering high-quality makeovers and has become a go-to beauty professional for celebrities, businesswomen, politicians, and bureaucrats.

From the glitz and glamour of luxury makeup to the precision of nail art and the allure of eyelash extensions, Shivani Arora is a true master of her craft. Her passion for beauty and dedication to staying up-to-date with the latest trends have made her an influencer in the industry, setting new benchmarks for excellence.

Shivani's journey to success is both inspiring and heartwarming.

Starting from humble beginnings, she has worked her way up with sheer determination and hard work. Her journey began on a slow scale, but her unyielding spirit and down-to-earth persona have endeared her to countless clients and colleagues.

Besides her expertise in makeup, nails, and eyelash extensions, Shivani is a pioneer in the world of salon services. She runs not one, but two successful businesses: "Hairmaster," a unisex salon that offers a wide range of services, and "Nail Galaxy," a haven for nail enthusiasts seeking top-notch nail art and care.

Shivani's clientele includes some of the most influential women in the business, political, and bureaucratic spheres. She takes pride in providing bespoke beauty services that cater to the unique needs and tastes of her clients, empowering them to feel confident and radiant.

But Shivani's commitment to

women's empowerment doesn't end there. She is committed to providing employment opportunities to women, ensuring they have a platform to showcase their talents and skills. Her belief in uplifting fellow women has been an integral part of her success story. Her expertise goes beyond borders, as she is a certified artist in PMU (Permanent Makeup) eyebrows, trained in the glamorous city of Dubai. Shivani has also pioneered the trend of nail bars in her home state, Jammu and Kashmir, setting a new standard for beauty services in the region.

In conclusion, Shivani Arora is more than just a makeup, nails, eyelash extension, and eyebrows expert; she is a symbol of determination, creativity, and empowerment. With her artistic magic hands, unyielding dedication, and heartwarming journey, she continues to redefine the standards of luxury beauty services in the industry.

## Thousands participated on 13th Muharram Procession at Sankoo

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KARGIL, Aug 2: As a parts of Kargil 13th Muharram processions was observed with due solemnity and sanctity to pay homage to the sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (A.S.) – the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) – and his companions in Karbala.

Thousands of mourners were in shape of procession carrying the

Alam-e-Hussain, Tabut coffin and banner while reciting Nouha and beating their chest, and beating from chain recalling Harzat-e-Imam Hussain (A.S.).

The largest congregations procession were witnessed at Sankoo this was organised by two influential religious organizations, Anjuman-e-Sahib Zaman, Kargil (ASZ) Sankoo and Markaz-e-Tabligat Imam

Raza (MTIR).

Religious Head elaborated on the life and teaching of Harzat Imam Ali and emphasized on the need to follow his philosophy which he termed as the need of the hour.

They also further elaborated on the life and teaching and philosophy of Harzat-e-Imam Hussain (A.S.) and he urges to the people to follow the path of Harzat-e-Imam Hussain (A.S.).

## Suresh Yamla keeps Lal Chand Yamla's legacy of playing 'Tumbi' alive: Kaith

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 2: Members of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha at their special meet held in Surya Vihar today under the chairmanship of Des Raj Kaith, attentively listened and appreciated the Punjabi Folk Musician Suresh Yamla's series of songs: Char Jawani, Kabaddi Cup, Ah Leah kunjiyan and others.

JKBS General Secretary R.L.Kaith said Suresh Yamla, who hails from Ludhiana's Jawahar Nagar and belongs to Chanjotra clan of Batwal community, is credited with not only keeping the legacy of his grandfather Lal Chand Yamla and his uncle Jasdev Yamla of playing 'tumbi', a traditional folk music instrument of Punjab, alive but also making

it popular in modern Punjabi music industry by exploring this folk instrument in new ways. Adding further Kaith said that Jasdev Yamla who was also guru of Suresh Yamla, taught him how to play tumbi and keep tradition of the family alive.

JKBS members wished Suresh Yamla all the best and hoped he would enjoy this unique experience in his life.

## JKESTW Society Executive body condoles demise of B.L Bhagat

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 2: Jammu and Kashmir Excise State Taxes Employees Welfare Society (JKESTW) executive body condoles the demise of Late B.L Bhagat (Rtd.IAS) who expired yesterday he was 89 yrs.

In a condolence message President of society said he was a noble laureate who served his tenure of posting with honesty and sense of

dedication. Members prayed to Almighty God to give eternal peace to the departed noble soul and solace to bereaved family members.

Those who participated include V.S Billowria, Mohan Lal Sharma, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Naseem Malik, Aslam Qureshi, Abrol, Riaz Ahmed, B.S Mastana, S.R Shan, Devinder Sharma, Sat Khajuria, K.S Arora, Avinash, Dewakar and Allyas Khan.

## 4th Late Aman Memorial T-20 Cricket Tournament 2023



### TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Aug 2: District Health Society Doda team on Wednesday registered an emphatic win against Mir Lions Kishtwar team by 06 wickets, in the ongoing 4th Aman Memorial Cricket Tournament organized by District Police at Chowgan Ground Kishtwar.

Earlier after winning the toss, DHS Doda team opted to bowl first. While batting, Mir Lions team set a low target of 55 runs for the loss of 07 wickets in 10 overs game. Zakir Mir, Safer and Bunty scored 14, 8 and 8 runs respectively. From DHS Doda, Jahangir Mehta, Altaf Hussain and Irshad

Ahmed claimed two wickets each, followed by Waseem Raja who took 01 wicket.

In reply, the DHS Doda managed to chase the stipulated target in just 7.1 overs for the loss of 04 wickets. Waseem Raja was the top scorer who scored 11 runs, whereas Zahid Wani added 10 runs to the

total. For Mir Lions Kishtwar, Musafir, Safir, Ubaid and Jugnu shared 01 wicket.

Later on, Altaf Hussain of DHS Kishtwar was declared as Man of the Match for his best bowling performance.

The match was officiated by Masoom Rashid, Jatinder Singh, Pawan Kumar and Jailil Ahmed.

## GAVL reports consolidated revenues from operations of Rs. 2,510.2 crore in Q1 FY24

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 2: Godrej Agrovet Limited ("GAVL") has announced its financial results for the first quarter ended June 30, 2023. The Company reported consolidated revenues from operations of Rs. 2,510.2 crore in Q1 FY24, unchanged from the same period last year.

Q1 FY24 consolidated EBITDA increased to Rs. 206.8 crore from Rs. 169.3 crore in Q1 FY23, a growth of 22% year-on-year. Q1 FY24 Profit before tax increased to Rs. 124.5 crore from Rs. 102.8 crore in Q1 FY23, a growth of 21% year-on-year. EBITDA and Profit before Tax in Q1 FY24 excludes non-recurring item of Rs. 2.3 Crore towards dues in respect of industrial plots; Profit before tax excludes share of profit from associates.

Commenting on the

performance, Mr. B. S. Yadav, Managing Director, Godrej Agrovet Limited, said: Godrej Agrovet started FY24 with a strong growth in profitability and margin expansion in the first quarter ended June 30, 2023. While our topline growth was flat, we achieved 21% year-on-year growth to clock Profit before tax of Rs. 124.5 Crore in Q1 FY24.

The growth in profitability was driven by the strong performance of domestic Crop Protection, Animal Feed and Poultry businesses. With robust volume growth and improved realizations in HITWEED (in-house herbicide), domestic Crop Protection business achieved a record quarterly topline and profitability in Q1 FY24. Segment results of Crop Protection business improved significantly

by 224% in Q1 FY24 as compared to the same period last year.

In Feed business, sustained volume growth in cattle-feed and aqua feed was accompanied by notable recovery in margin profile across categories. Our food businesses maintained volume growth momentum in branded products and delivered margin expansion.

In Poultry, revenues from branded products increased by 15% year-on-year led by higher volumes. Lower live bird costs on account of better operational efficiencies boosted profitability as segment EBITDA grew by 50% year-on-year. Dairy business turned EBITDA positive in Q1 FY24.

The higher salience of value-added products coupled with reduction in procurement costs contributed to recov-

ery in margin profile. Astec LifeSciences and Vegetable Oil businesses were adversely impacted by challenging market conditions. The continued demand-supply imbalance and the resultant decline in volumes as well as realizations of key enterprise products led to a sharp drop in Astec's profitability. Astec's contract manufacturing business, however, remained on track and its performance was in line with our expectations.

The Vegetable Oil business suffered from correction in end-product prices more than offsetting higher volumes. During the quarter, GAVL commissioned its first downstream project in Vegetable oil business of an edible oil refinery in Andhra Pradesh. The refinery has a capacity of 400 MT per day.

## Noted art director Nitin Desai found dead at his studio in Maharashtra's Raigad

*Prima facie, it seems to be a case of suicide, the official says, adding Desai was found hanging at his ND Studios in Karjat area of Raigad, located about 50 km from Mumbai*

Renowned film art director Nitin Desai was found dead on Wednesday at his studio in Maharashtra's Raigad district, a senior police official said.

Prima facie, it seems to be a case of suicide, the official said, adding Desai was found hanging at his ND Studios in Karjat area of Raigad, located about 50 km from Mumbai.

After being alerted, police rushed to the spot, the official said.

A probe was under way into Desai's death from all angles, he said.

Desai served as art director and production designer for a number of



Bollywood and Marathi movies.

He was known for his art work in films like

'Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam', 'Jodhaa Akbar' and 'Prem Ratan Dhan Payo'.

## Riteish Deshmukh, Siddhartha Basu and Neil Nitin Mukesh condole art director Nitin Desai's demise

Film personalities such as Riteish Deshmukh, Siddhartha Basu and Neil Nitin Mukesh on Wednesday paid tributes to renowned art director Nitin Desai, calling him a "genius" and a "positive soul".

Desai, a four-time National Award winner, was found hanging on Wednesday at his studio in Maharashtra's Raigad district neighbouring Mumbai, a senior police official said.

Prima facie, it seems to be a case of suicide, the official said, adding they are investigating the case from all angles.

Basu, who worked with Desai on popular reality shows such as 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' and 'Dus Ka Dum', said he was shocked to hear about the passing of his "friend and artistic collaborator".

"He made sets for so many of our shows - KBC, Kamzor Kadi, Heartbeat, Bluffmaster, Dus ka Dum, Sach ka Saamna..Conjuring world class installations on



an industrial scale. Om shanti," Basu wrote on Twitter.

Desai was known for his art work in films such as 'Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam', 'Lagaan', 'Jodhaa Akbar' and 'Prem Ratan Dhan Payo'. In his career spanning over 30 years, Desai closely worked with directors like Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Rajkumar Hirani and Ashutosh Gowariker.

Neil said it is difficult to accept the heart-breaking news of Desai's death. The late art director worked on 'Jail', the 2009

film starring the actor.

"Our beloved #nitindesai has left for his heavenly abode. He was simply a genius. A visionary artist with grace, style who understood not just his craft but people. He was a positive soul who spread only love to all. May God give his family strength. Om Shanti," he wrote on the microblogging site.

Actor Riteish Deshmukh remembered Desai as a soft-spoken visionary.

"Deeply shocked to know that #NitinDesai, a legendary

Production Designer who has contributed immensely to the growth of Indian cinema is no more.

"My heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. I had known him for years..soft spoken, humble, ambitious & a visionary...you will be missed my friend. Om Shanti (sic)," Deshmukh tweeted.

The news of Desai's demise is "devastating", said filmmaker Sanjay Gupta.

"I can't believe this news. Nitin Desai was the best at what he did. We worked on a few films together. Always smiling, always making life easier on set. This news is devastating. Rest in Peace my friend. You will always be missed," Gupta tweeted.

Actor Parineeti Chopra said she was "heartbroken" to hear about Desai's passing.

"His groundbreaking work, wisdom and artistry will be remembered forever. Rest in peace sir," she wrote.

## Taylor Swift gifts her tour truck drivers Rs 82 lakh to thank them for carrying her equipment around US



Singer Taylor Swift has reportedly gifted Rs 82 lakh to each tour truck driver who carried her equipment on her US tour.

The 33-year-old superstar is said to have given the whopping sum to all the truckers who've been carting her tour equipment around the US.

Taylor is believed to have 50 truck drivers on the tour, meaning she shelled out almost four million pounds in bonuses, reports metro.co.uk.

Grammy-winner Taylor is also reported to have given a "very generous amount" to other staff members on the tour.

It included band members, dancers, lighting and sound technicians and caterers.

A source told TMZ that the money was an "end of the tour" bonus as the pop star ended her US leg of tour, before starting on to Mexico.

## Lokit Phulwani says that he always wanted to become an actor



Lokit Phulwani says that he always wanted to become an actor. He adds that his family also supported him. "I always had a dream of becoming an actor. My family is in business, yet they have supported me wholeheartedly," he says.

He adds, "I don't get into competition. There is enough work for everyone, provided you are good at it. I am my greatest critic, as after every shoot I always think that I could have done it better," he says.

However, he says that mental health and well-being must be of prime importance. "I don't think we are magnifying the importance given to mental health and well-being. It's an extremely important issue to talk about. Depression and mental health are serious issues that need timely treatment. If ignored, it can have great damage," he says.

## Actress Disha Patani shines on the ramp at the India Couture Week

When it comes to fashion choices, actress Disha Patani never shies from experimenting with different silhouettes and trends.

She hopped onto the thigh-high slit trend at the India Couture Week and rocked it like a queen. She walked the ramp for designer Dolly J in a shimmering silver outfit.

The ensemble featured a thigh-high slit skirt. She opted for minimal makeup and silver earrings.

About her look, Disha said, "In the morning, I was in basketball shorts and now I'm in this beautiful ensemble. I like being feminine and right now, I feel like a goddess because of Dolly J."

Meanwhile, on the acting front, Disha will be seen sharing screen space with Amitabh Bachchan, Deepika Padukone, Prabhas and Kamal Haasan in Kalki 2898 AD, which has



been directed by Nag Ashwin.

Disha also has Yodha with Sidharth Malhotra

in her kitty.

The film is scheduled to release on December 15 this year.

## Sigourney Weaver on her role in The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart

The upcoming Amazon Original, The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart, is a series that follows the life of Alice, aged nine, who tragically loses her parents in a mysterious fire incident. She is taken to live with her grandmother June at Thornfield Flower Farm, where she learns secrets about her family's past. Based on the bestselling debut novel by author Holly Ringland, the series stars

Sigourney Weaver and Asher Keddie, among others.

Sigourney says, "I've never played a character like June. She has so many layers, like a box with secret drawers. But she's very loyal and fierce. She wants to protect her community from the outside world. She takes these problems personally and guards the place quite literally."

The author Holly Ringland adds, "When Jodi



(Jodi Matterson, executive producer) rang me to say, 'Sigourney Weaver has signed on',

I was down in the paddock in the caravan that I use as a writing office, and my family heard me

screaming because it was a happy moment for me. The first time we met on set, I was wondering whether or not I would be star-struck and make a fool of myself, but she's so lovely and kind. It is a treasured experience in my life." Set against Australia's natural landscape, this drama will premiere with the first three episodes on August 4. One episode will be rolled out weekly.

## Nargis Fakhri is having fun pushing boundaries, take a look



Actor Nargis Fakhri shared a string of pictures from the sets of her upcoming series 'Tatlubaaz'. Taking to Instagram, Nargis on Monday shared the post, which she captioned, "Who knew pushing boundaries could be so much fun! #shooting #webseries-debut #benaras #bollywood #ott #epicon."

In the first picture, she could be seen getting her makeup done on the sets of series and donning a pink saree.

In another pic, she can be seen standing inside her vanity van in a beautiful red saree.

The last two pictures were clicked from a monitor on the sets of the series which features Nargis in the frame.

'Tatlubaaz' marks the OTT debut of Nargis and TV actor Dheeraj Dhoopar.

Helmed by Vibhu Kashyap, the series also stars Divya Aggarwal and Zeishan Quadri in pivotal roles.

Soon after the 'Rockstar' actor shared the pictures, fans flooded the comment section with red hearts and fire emoticons.

Dheeraj Dhoopar commented, "Hey beautiful," followed by a red heart emoticon.

Divya Aggarwal commented, "Hello there."

Meanwhile, Nargis, was last featured in a music video titled 'Fayaah Fayaah' alongside singer Guru Randhawa.

Dheeraj Dhoopar gathered a lot of popularity for his role in the Indian television show 'Kundali Bhagya'.

The actor and his wife Vinny Arora recently welcomed a welcome baby boy.

The official streaming date of the series is still awaited.

Divya, on the other hand, is known for a number of reality series. She was the runner-up of MTV 'Splitsvilla 10' and was the winner of 'Ace of Space 1' and 'Big Boss OTT'. 'Ragini MMS: Returns 2', a horror web series, served as her acting debut.

## Suzzane Somers reveals her breast cancer has returned

Hollywood actor Suzanne Somers, revealed being diagnosed with breast cancer for the second time.

Taking to Instagram, Somers shared a post in which she could be seen along with her husband Alan Hamel by her side.

She wrote in the caption, "Since I have been taking time off from work, many of you have asked for more details about my health. As you know, I had breast cancer two decades ago, and every now and then it pops up again, and I continue to



bat it down. I have used the best alternative and conventional treatments to combat it."

According to People, a US-based media outlet, Somers has been vocal about her health journey

over the years. In addition to her 2000 breast cancer diagnosis, the 'Step by Step' actress also battled skin cancer. This is not new territory for me. I know how to put on my battle gear

and I'm a fighter. Alan has been by my side every step of the way. I can't even explain how much he has done for me. If it's even possible, we are even closer than ever," Somers said.

She concluded, "My incredible family has been so supportive, and has helped so much by keeping the business running so you can still have access to all the wonderful products. Thank you for the continued love and support. It's only about who you love and who loves you - and I love you!"

Hamel, recently gave an update on Somers' latest cancer fight, opening up to PageSix about the ups and downs of his wife's health, as per People.

"Suzanne has lived with cancer all her life. In her 20s, she'd also dealt with two hyperplasia, which is the waiting room for cancer," he told the outlet. "She has now dealt with her cancer once again. On June 6, she got an all-clear, but cancer is tricky and we will now closely monitor everything going forward," reported People.

## Can't direct PM to be present in House: Dhankhar on Opposition demand for Modi's statement on Manipur

*Opposition leaders have been demanding discussion on Manipur violence under Rule 267 of Rajya Sabha*

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (Agencies): Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday categorically said he cannot issue a directive to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to come to the House as Opposition leaders pressed for a statement by Narendra Modi on the Manipur issue.

Opposition leaders, who have been demanding a discussion on the ethnic violence in Manipur under Rule 267 of the Rajya Sabha, later staged a walkout in protest.

Rule 267 allows for suspension of the listed business for the day to discuss an issue suggested by a member.

Earlier, soon after the listed papers were tabled, Dhankhar said he had received 58 notices under Rule 267 demanding a discussion on the unrest in Manipur.

He, however, did not accept the notices saying they were not in order.

Amid sloganeering by opposition members, Dhankhar gave the floor to Leader of Opposition and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to speak.

Kharge said he has given eight



points in his notice underlining why the discussion on the Manipur issue should be held under Rule 267 and the prime minister should make a statement in the House. He also cited the number of people killed and injured in the violence.

To this, Dhankhar remarked that the floor was given to the leader of opposition but he did not utilise the opportunity "wholesomely".

This led to another round of protest by the opposition demanding the prime minister's presence in the House.

However, the Chair did not agree.

"I had in categorical terms indicated very firmly on a proper constitutional premise and precedent that from this Chair I will be violating my oath if I impart a directive for the presence of the Prime Minister. That has never been done," Dhankhar said.

"If the Prime Minister wants to come, like everyone else, it is his prerogative. From this Chair a directive of this nature, which has never been issued, will not be issued.

"You are not being well advised. You have legal luminaries on your side. Find out from them. They will help you out that under the Constitution and

the prescription there under, I cannot give that direction. I shall not," Dhankhar said.

Amid the din, the Chair went ahead with the scheduled Zero Hour.

With the Chair not accepting their demand, the opposition leaders staged a walkout.

Dhankhar remarked the members were not walking out of the House but from "constitutional obligation" and "performance of duty for the people".

Earlier, Dhankhar also sought to clarify that contrary to the impression in a certain section of the media, the time allocated for a short-duration discussion on Manipur under Rule 176 was not limited to two-and-half hours.

He said there was no time limit for discussion under Rule 176.

The government had agreed to a discussion on the Manipur issue under Rule 176.

The short-duration discussion on the law and order situation and other related issues in Manipur and steps taken by the government to restore normalcy in the state was listed for July 31 but could not take place amid opposition protests.

## VHP, Bajrang Dal activists hold protest in Delhi against Haryana clashes; traffic affected

*Elaborate security arrangements made, police use drones to keep watch on the situation*



NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (Agencies): Activists of the Vishva Hindu Parishad and the Bajrang Dal held protests at multiple places in the National Capital on Wednesday against the communal violence in Haryana's Nuh and Gurugram, causing traffic jams in several parts of the city.

Police have also beefed up security at sensitive places in Delhi in the wake of clashes neighbouring Haryana.

In a tweet, the Delhi Traffic police said, "Due to protest at red light, Nirman Vihar Metro Station, today from 8 am, Vikas Marg to be completely blocked. Commuters coming from Ghaziabad or by Delhi-Meerut E-way and going towards ITO to take NH-24. Those coming from Vivek Vihar to take Nala Road for ITO."

Later, police said that traffic was normal at Nirman Vihar Red Light. "Keeping in view the violence in some districts of Haryana, adjoining Delhi, elaborate security arrangements have been made at all sensitive places in Delhi and additional police forces have also been deployed where necessary. "Any attempt to harm Delhi's security and communal harmony will be dealt with strictly," the Delhi Police said.

Protests by Bajrang Dal and VHP activists caused traffic jams on the Vikas Marg which connects east Delhi to the central parts of the city. Videos on social media showed Bajrang Dal supporters reciting Hanuman Chalisa near the Nirman Vihar Metro Station. Later, they tried to block Vikas Marg but were removed by police.

Police used drones to keep a watch on the situation.

## Bihar woman, two children found dead with throats slit

*Man's second wife, who was sleeping in the next room, claimed she was clueless about the incident*

KATIHAR (BIHAR), Aug 2 (Agencies): A 35-year-old woman and her two children, aged 6 and 10, were found dead with their throats slit in Bihar's Katihar district, police said.

The incident took place in their residence in Belaun gram panchayat under the jurisdiction of Baliya Belon police station on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, a police officer said.

The deceased have been identified as Sadab Zarin Khatoon (35), wife of Feroz Alam, and their two children Faizan Feroz (6) and Paya Feroz (10).

Baliya Belon Station House Officer (SHO) Ravindra Kumar told



reporters, "Feroz Alam claimed that he had gone to a Muharram fair near his village and upon his return, he found his wife and two children lying dead in a pool of blood and raised an alarm.

His second wife, who was sleeping in the next room, claimed she was clueless about the inci-

dent. "It is suspected that they were killed with a sharp object. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination and further investigation is underway. Forensic experts have reached the spot and are collecting evidence for further examination," he added.

## Javed Akhtar moves sessions court against summons by magistrate on Kangana's complaint

MUMBAI, Aug 2 (Agencies): Veteran lyricist Javed Akhtar has approached a sessions court here against summons issued against him by a magistrate in a case filed by actor Kangana Ranaut, and claimed the order was passed in a hasty and inappropriate manner resulting in "grave miscarriage of justice".

Akhtar has moved a revision petition before the sessions court in suburban Dindoshi and the matter will be heard on August 8.

Metropolitan magistrate (Andheri court) R M Shaikh on July 24 issued the summons against Akhtar, asking him to appear before the court on August 5.

The magistrate dropped the extortion charges against Akhtar, but said there is sufficient ground to proceed



against him for criminal intimidation.

Akhtar's plea claimed the order (for issuance of summons) has been passed "erroneously" as the same is in contravention to the settled law as well as facts.

The magistrate has failed to deliberate over the case at hand and jumped to conclusions in a "hasty and inappropriate manner" which has resulted in "grave miscarriage of justice,"

it said.

The plea, filed through advocate Jay Bhargava, further claimed that prima facie there is nothing on judicial record which shows that there was sufficient material available with the magistrate for passing the impugned order.

"The magistrate simply proceeded on the bald and unsubstantiated averments made in the complaint without ascertaining the overall factu-

al matrix and the judicial record," it said.

The plea also said the magistrate failed to record any reasons whatsoever for issuing summons against the petitioner.

The magistrate court only relied on the verification statement of the complainant (Ranaut) and witnesses, the petition said, claiming "this is clearly indicative of lack of application of judicial mind."

"The magistrate failed to appreciate that serious prejudice shall be caused to the rights of the petitioner if he is made to face the trial in a time-barred matter, that too where the ingredients of all the sections alleged in the complaint are not applicable," the application said.

Akhtar (76) filed the complaint in 2020,

claiming Ranaut made defamatory statements against him in a television interview, which allegedly damaged his reputation.

In his complaint, Akhtar claimed Ranaut dragged his name during an interview while referring to a 'coterie' existing in Bollywood, following the alleged suicide by actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

Later, Ranaut filed a counter-complaint in the same court against Akhtar for alleged "extortion and criminal intimidation".

The actor in her complaint against Akhtar said following her public dispute with her co-star, the lyricist had called her and her sister Rangoli Chandel to his house with "malafide intentions and ulterior motives and then criminally intimidated and threatened" her.

## Bus overturns in Madhya Pradesh; man killed

DEWAS, Aug 2 (Agencies): A man was killed and his son injured after they got trapped under a bus as it overturned in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas district on Wednesday, police said.

The incident took place when the man and his son were standing on a roadside near Pushpgiri, located about 25 km from the district headquarters, under Sonkatch police

station limits, an official said.

Some of the bus passengers also received minor injuries, Sonkatch police station in-charge, Neeta Derwal said.

The bus, going to Indore from Jabalpur, overturned after its driver lost control over the wheels, she said.

The man and his son standing on the roadside were injured seri-

ously after getting trapped under the bus, the official said.

They were rushed to hospital in Dewas where Radheshyam Sharma (47) died during treatment. His son Arpan Sharma (19) was undergoing treatment, the official said.

The bus driver and conductor fled from the spot and efforts were on to trace them, Derwal said.

## India to have 120 crore Internet users by 2026: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (Agencies): Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Wednesday said India would have 120 crore internet users by 2026, powered by a robust and clean telecom sector that is growing and aiding India's rise towards becoming a USD 5 trillion dollar economy by 2026.

Speaking to the media as part of the ruling BJP's election campaign on 'UPA's lost decade versus India's Techade', the minister said the UPA is in a tearing hurry to erase its past by rebranding itself.

"UPA wants everyone to forget its past and how it ran riot for 10 years...Well, the nation will not forget. You can rebrand but reality won't change. Democratic debate is about facts, not fiction. Also, in a democracy the opposition has the fundamental right to be delusional as much as they have



the fundamental right to free speech," Chandrasekhar said articulating the government's strategy to continue to refer to the new INDIA opposition alliance as the UPA.

The minister said in UPA's lost decade between 2004 and 2014, "when you talked about telecom you essentially talked only about scams like 2G and crony capitalism."

"New terms were invented such as first-come-first-served instead of tenders. Today India is the fastest growing telecom connected nation in the world. We have

2023), the minister cited the following points.

"Apart from the fact that at the UPA time telecom was all about scams unlike today when it is all about clean and healthy growth. The second sharp difference is the flight of foreign investors under UPA. Today due to ease of business, a stable investor with positive sentiment is adding to growing market capitalisation," he said.

Chandrasekhar said that under UPA 85 per cent mobile devices and 100 per cent equipment was imported, whereas "today we are exporting mobiles".

The minister also flashed three personal mobiles he carries, all made in India.

He said that today consumers do not have to worry about drop calls unlike in the "last decade".

Starting today, as part of a government and ruling BJP election campaign, Union ministers will be rolling out statistics to contrast UPA and NDA.

## Gujarat Man Gets Death Sentence For Raping, Murdering 2-Year-Old Girl

SURAT, Aug 2 (Agencies): A court in Gujarat's Surat city on Wednesday awarded death sentence to a 23-year-old man for the rape and murder of a two-year-old girl in February.

Additional sessions judge Shakuntala Solanki handed down the capital punishment to accused Yusuf Ismail and also asked the state government to pay a compensation of 10 lakh to the kin of the victim.

Ismail was found guilty under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 302 (murder) and 376 (rape), and relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The prosecution had sought death penalty for the accused,



claiming that it was a 'rarest of rare' case.

The incident took place at Kapletha village near Sachin industrial area of Surat. Ismail was a friend of the victim's father.

On February 27, Ismail took the

girl to a nearby shop, saying he would buy her some snacks. He raped the child and killed her using a knife.

He then fled from the spot dumping the body in an open field, but was nabbed by police the next day.

## Donald Trump indicted over efforts to overturn his 2020 election defeat

*The four-count indictment charges the 77-year-old Republican with conspiring to defraud the US, conspiring to disenfranchise voters, and conspiring and attempting to obstruct an official proceeding*

WASHINGTON, Aug 2 (Agencies): Donald Trump has been indicted by a federal grand jury for his wide-ranging efforts to overturn his 2020 election defeat, the third time the former US president has been criminally charged as he seeks to reclaim the White House in 2024.

The 45-page indictment was filed in Washington, DC, by Special Counsel Jack Smith, who has led investigations into the former president on behalf of the US Department of Justice.

The four-count indictment charges the 77-year-old Republican with conspiring to defraud the US, conspiring to disenfranchise voters, and conspiring and attempting to obstruct an official proceeding.

"Despite having lost, the defendant was determined to remain in power. So for more than two months following election day on November 3, 2020, the defendant spread lies that there had been outcome-determinative fraud in the election and that he had actually won. These claims were false, and the defendant knew that they were false," the indictment reads.

The indictment was issued by a grand jury of citizens in the District of Columbia and sets forth the crimes charged in detail. It caps an inquiry into events surrounding the January 6, 2021 riot at the US Capitol.

"The attack on our nation's capital on January 6, 2021, was an unprecedented assault on the seat of American democracy. As described in the indictment, it was fueled by lies," said Special Counsel Smith.

"Lies by the defendant targeted at obstructing a bedrock function of the U.S. government, the nation's process of collecting, counting, and certifying the results of the presidential election," he said.

While the indictment affirms Trump's right to free speech,



it claims the former president "pursued unlawful means of discounting legitimate votes and subverting the election results".

According to the indictment released by the Department of Justice, the former president is charged with a conspiracy to defraud the US "by using dishonesty, fraud and deceit to obstruct the nation's process of collecting, counting, and certifying the results of the presidential election."

The second count charges him of "a conspiracy to impede" the January 6, 2021, congressional proceeding where the election results were certified.

Federal prosecutors charge him with "a conspiracy against the right to vote and to have that vote counted."

The indictment identifies six co-conspirators, four attorneys, a political consultant, and "a Justice Department official who worked on civil matters," ABC news reported.

Trump, currently the leading candidate for the Republican Party's 2024 nomination, has been summoned to appear before a federal district court on August 3. Six unnamed co-conspirators were also included in the indictment, one of whom is believed to be Rudy Giuliani, who served on Trump's legal team.

Trump in a statement to his

supporters said that he did nothing wrong and the charges against him were politically motivated.

Trump, who is again running for president, denies wrongdoing. On social media, he called the case "ridiculous".

"As you know, I did nothing wrong. It's well-documented that I told Americans to act 'peacefully' and discouraged the use of any violence. This is nothing but an egregious act of Election Interference and a final act of desperation from crooked Joe as he crashes in the polls," Trump said in a statement after he was charged on four counts.

Trump's campaign put out a statement decrying the investigation and called the counts "fake charges." This is Trump's third indictment but marks the first time that he has been formally held accountable for his efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election in the run-up to the violent riot by his supporters at the US Capitol.

The former president has repeatedly criticised special counsel for the Department of Justice Smith, who is investigating Trump for several cases.

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said that the charges alleged in this indictment are very serious and must play out through the legal process, peacefully and without any out-

side interference.

"Like every criminal defendant, the former President is innocent until proven guilty. Our founders made clear that, in the United States of America, no one is above the law – not even the former President of the United States," she said.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries said that the insurrection on January 6, 2021 was one of the saddest and most infamous days in American history, personally orchestrated by Trump and fueled by his insidious big lie in an attempt to undermine the 2020 election.

"In a deadly effort to overturn the will of the American people and block the peaceful transition of power, our nation's Capitol—the very symbol and home of American patriotism and democracy—fell under attack to thousands of vicious and violent rioters," the two top Democratic leaders said.

Schumer and Jeffries said that the third indictment of Trump illustrates in shocking detail that the violence of that day was the culmination of a months-long criminal plot led by the former president to defy democracy and overturn the will of the American people.

"This indictment is the most serious and most consequential thus far and will stand as a stark reminder to generations of Americans that no one, including a president of the United States, is above the law. The legal process must continue to move forward without any outside interference," they said.

In April, Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg indicted Trump on charges related to payments in 2016 to porn star Stormy Daniels. In June, Trump was indicted in Miami for allegedly retaining White House documents, including classified documents.

## Japanese man who spent Rs 12 lakh to live his dream of 'becoming a dog,' takes first walk in public, plays with other dogs



TOKYO, Aug 2 (Agencies): A Japanese man who went all the way to transform himself into a "collie", a breed of dog, which was made possible by a professional agency called Zeppet, went for his first walk in public.

The Japanese man had earlier said that it was his dream to "become and live the life of a dog".

After months of preparation and self-discovery, he stunned others

as he had his first public walk meeting other people and animals.

Toco spent Rs 12 lakh on operations that transformed him into becoming a human dog.

Toco is shown being taken for a stroll on a leash in the videos posted on Twitter. He is seen sniffing at other dogs in a park before rolling around on a road.

Speaking to Daily Mail last year over why he opted to become a human dog, he said: "I

don't want my hobbies to be known, especially by people I work with," adding, "They find it strange that I wish to be a dog. For the same reason, I can't show my true face."

"I rarely tell my friends because I'm afraid they'll think I'm weird," he told the Mirror in a separate interview.

"My friends and family seemed very surprised to learn I became an animal," he said.

## 29 inches of rain from Saturday to Wednesday was Beijing's heaviest rainfall in 140 years



BEIJING, Aug 2 (Agencies): China's capital has recorded its heaviest rainfall in 140 years over the past few days. The City recorded 744.8 millimetres (29.3 inches) of rain between Sat-

urday and Wednesday morning, the Beijing Meteorological Bureau said on Wednesday.

Chinese authorities on Tuesday said the torrential rain around Beijing had destroyed roads, knocked out power and caused at least 20 deaths, with 27 people missing.

Thousands of people were evacuated to shelters in schools and other public buildings in suburban Beijing and in nearby cities.

The severity of the flooding took the Chinese capital by surprise. Beijing usually has dry summers but had a stretch of record-breaking heat this year.

## Tunisian president names Ahmed Hachani as prime minister, replacing Bouden

TUNIS, Aug 2 (Agencies): Tunisian President Kais Saied appointed Ahmed Hachani as new prime minister, replacing Najla Bouden, who ended her duties, the Tunisian presidency said early on Wednesday.

The appointment of Hachani, who served as human resources director at Tunisia's central bank, comes amid a deepening economic and social crisis in the country.

In recent weeks, the president has repeatedly blamed officials and government, saying they must act to address problems and poor public services, including frequent water and electricity cuts.

"There are great challenges that we must raise ... to preserve our homeland, our state and civil peace," Saied told Hachani after he took the constitutional oath.

"We will work to achieve the will of our people and the desired justice ... and to achieve national dignity," Saied added.

Saied had appointed Bouden as prime minister about two years ago, after he sacked Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi and took control of almost all powers



in July 2021 and dissolved Parliament in a move the opposition described as a coup.

Bouden's government, however, failed to fix the economic and social crisis, amid fears that Tunisia would be unable to pay its foreign debts due to a severe financial crisis that caused a shortage of many commodities such as bread, farina, sugar, rice and coffee.

While Bouden's government supported an economic reform program to obtain a \$1.9 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund, Saied rejected any reforms that would include cutting subsidies on food and energy, saying doing so could cause acute social tensions.

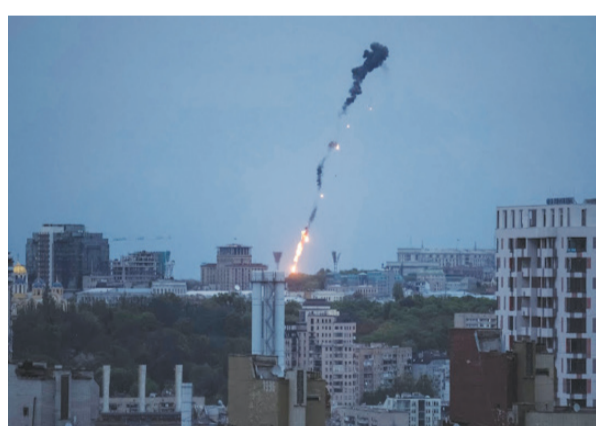
## Kyiv, Odesa Targets Of Russian Drone Attack On Ukraine

ODESA, KYIV, Aug 2 (Agencies): Russian drones damaged port infrastructure in Odesa and targeted capital Kyiv from several directions, Ukrainian authorities said Wednesday.

The army said it repelled Iranian-made Shahed-136 drones launched from the Sea of Azov through the Black Sea that were aimed at the Odesa region.

"The enemy's obvious target was the port and industrial infrastructure of the region. Air defence forces worked non-stop for almost 3 hours," the Operational Command South wrote on Telegram.

The strike damaged port infrastructure, regional governor Oleg Kiper said, adding that there were no reports of



casualties.

"As a result of the attack, fires broke out at the facilities of the port and industrial infrastructure of the region, and an elevator was damaged," he said.

Russia has been pounding Odesa, a centuries-old city on the shores of the Black Sea and one of Ukraine's main ports, since Moscow withdrew from

a grain deal last month that allowed Kyiv's exports despite the war.

The landmark deal had allowed the shipment of around 33 million tonnes of grain to leave Ukrainian ports.

Formerly obscure ports, Izmail and Reni, have become crucial to global food supplies and are struggling to process all the grain, causing a massive bottleneck.

The Danube River port of Izmail is now the main export route for Ukrainian agricultural products. But these ports have also become targets: Russia attacked Reni with drones on July 24.

Last week, Kyiv said it lacks the means to defend itself against strikes on its grain infrastructure carried out by Russia, which is blocking "virtually all" Ukrainian ports, according to an army spokeswoman. - Kyiv attacks -

In Kyiv, more than 10 Russian drones were downed during an overnight attack on the capital, the city's military administration said early on Wednesday.

"Groups of drones entered Kyiv simultaneously from several directions. However, all air targets -- more than

10 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) -- were detected and destroyed in time by the forces and means of air defence," said Sergiy Popko, head of the administration.

He said Russia had used a barrage of Iranian-made Shahed drones, with debris hitting several areas.

In Golosivsky district, "parts of a drone fell on the playground" and a fire broke out in a non-residential building, he said, adding that emergency services were on the scene.

Kyiv's mayor had said earlier that the attack on the capital had damaged multiple districts, including the busy Solomyansky, which hosts an international airport.

Mayor Vitali Klitschko said no one was killed or wounded in the attack.

## Ukrainian prisoners tortured, sexually violated by Russian forces: Experts

TUNIS, Aug 2 (Agencies): A large number of prisoners held in makeshift detention centres in Russian-occupied southern Ukraine were tortured and sexually violated, a team of international experts said on Wednesday in a summary of their latest findings.

The Mobile Justice Team, established by the international humanitarian law firm Global Rights Compliance, has worked with Ukrainian war crimes prosecutors in the Kherson region since it was reclaimed in November after more than eight months under Russian control.

Ukrainian authorities are reviewing more than 97,000 reports of war crimes and have filed charges against 220 suspects in domestic courts. High-level perpetrators could be tried at the International Crimi-

nal Court (ICC) in The Hague, which has already sought the arrest of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Kremlin has consistently denied allegations of war crimes in Ukraine by forces taking part in a "special military operation" it says was launched to "de-Nazify" its neighbour and protect Russia.

The Mobile Justice Team's latest report, funded by Britain, the European Union and the United States, analysed 320 cases and witness accounts at 35 locations in the Kherson region.

Of the victims' accounts reviewed "43% explicitly mentioned practices of torture in the detention centres, citing sexual violence as a common tactic imposed on them by Russian guards", a statement said.

In June, Ukrainian prosecutors brought



their first case over the alleged deportation of dozens of orphans from Kherson, charging a Russian politician and two suspected Ukrainian collaborators with war crimes. They provided no immediate comment to the latest findings on torture.

WATERBOARDING, BEATINGS  
Reuters reported in January on the scale

of alleged torture in Kherson. Ukrainian authorities said at the time that around 200 people had allegedly been illegally held. Survivors told Reuters about tactics, including electric shocks and suffocation.

At the time, the Kremlin and Russia's defence ministry did not respond to Reuters' questions, including about alleged torture and unlawful detentions.

"The true scale of Russia's war crimes remains unknown," Anna Mykytenko, senior legal adviser at Global Rights Compliance, said of the latest findings on torture.

"But what we can say for certain is that the psychological consequences of these cruel crimes on Ukrainian people will be engrained in their minds for years to come."

At least 36 victims interviewed by pros-

ecutors mentioned the use of electrocution during interrogations, often genital electrocution, as well as threats of genital mutilation. One victim was forced to witness the rape of another detainee, the report said.

Detainees most likely to undergo torture were military personnel, it found, but also law enforcement, volunteers, activists, community leaders, medical workers and teachers. The torture techniques most commonly used were suffocation, waterboarding, severe beatings and threats of rape, it found.

All told, the evidence from liberated detention centres "suggests that Putin's plan to extinguish Ukrainian identity includes a range of crimes evocative of genocide", said British Barrister Wayne Jordash, who headed the team.



## LG Manoj Sinha visits IIT Jammu's Jagti Campus

JAMMU, Aug 2 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the students of the joining batch of 2023 of IIT Jammu at the inaugural session of the Foundation Program at Jagti Campus, today.

In his address on the occasion, the Lt Governor congratulated and extended his best wishes to the students embarking on a new journey. The world-class faculty here at IIT Jammu will nurture your talents to transform your dreams into reality, he added.

"India's future offers immense opportunities for engineering careers. As the nation continues to invest in research and development, infrastructure and technological advancement, a plethora of opportunities await engineers," the Lt Governor said.

He said, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister, India is on the move and is emerging as a technology and services hub powered by knowledge economy.

The 'Make in India' and 'Digital India' initiatives coupled with a burgeoning startup ecosystem, presents a fertile ground for young minds to make their mark and carve a successful career in engineering, he added.

He advised the students to explore new paths and keep re-



inventing themselves to keep pace with the change happening around the world.

"We need engineers who will not be confined to the mundane, but who will think beyond textbooks and question the status quo and embrace challenges as opportunities. The expertise of the young engineers' expertise will be instrumental in driving the mission of Make in India and Start Up India," the Lt Governor said.

Citing examples of Japan and USA, the Lt Governor said the Engineering prowess of these countries has contributed to their growth and elevated their status in the world. He said, the world's greatest powers are witness to the fact that great engineers have been instrumental in propelling those nations to unparalleled heights.

"India needs engineers who can address the challenges of urbanization, infrastructure and access to quality healthcare and education for all. Young engineers' ideas and solutions can pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable society," the Lt Governor said.

"India needs engineers who can collaborate globally, foster partnership with other countries and institutions to address complex global challenges. I strongly believe young engineers have the potential to not only make India self-reliant but also position it as a global leader," he said.

The Lt Governor impressed on the educational institutions to create an environment, an education system that reflects today's reality. Universities, as the cradle of

innovation, need to become the backbone of progress. By collaborating with Industries and addressing real-world challenges, Universities can produce graduates equipped with skills to solve complex problems, he said.

"Let us harness the power of innovation and engineering to build a better tomorrow. The opportunities that lie ahead in India's journey are immense, and I have no doubt that young engineers' brilliance and determination will drive our nation to new heights," the Lt Governor added.

He asked the students to be aspiring and start their new journey with an aim to leverage technology, knowledge and wisdom to transform our great nation.

Prof Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu presented a detailed overview of the Five-day long Foundation Programme.

Padma Shri Dr Janak Palta McGilligan; Prof Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU; Prof BS Sahay, Director IIM Jammu; Dr Shakti Gupta, Director, AIIMS Jammu; S.P Mahi, CAO Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL); senior officers, prominent citizens, faculty members and students were present.

## Remove anomalies in OROP 1, 7th Pay Commission, OROP 2 : SSP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 2: Col SS Pathania ( Retd ) , President Sainik Samaj Party, J&K UT urged the Union Government to remove numerous anomalies, which are existing in OROP 1, 7th pay commission and OROP 2, recently revised by the union government.

These anomalies are affecting officers, JCOs, Other ranks and family pensioners and causing them huge financial losses. Arrears of OROP 1 equalised in June 2019 by the government, are not yet



given and more than 2 lakh pensioners including family pensioners have died, without getting arrears. Next equalization is due in June 2024, and very little is being done to ensure timely implementation and release of arrears in a given time frame.

A large number of ex-servicemen organisation staged a huge pro-

test on July 2023 and requested government to seriously address the issue of various anomalies and give them timely justice, failing which, various organisations will have to intensify their protests and hit the roads and God for jail Bharo Andolan.

Pathania urged the government to show empathy, appreciation and gratitude to the veterans community, form a committee and resolve the issue in totality on a fast track, as soldiers and veterans must be treated with respect and their dignity is maintained.

## FIR registered over 'Anti-National' slogans in Poonch

JAMMU, Aug 2 (Agencies): Police have registered an FIR against several unidentified persons for allegedly raising "anti-national" slogans during a rally in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Wednesday.

The slogans were incidentally raised at a rally by Gujjars and Bakerwals, held on Tuesday in the border district against a bill introduced in the parliament last week for the grant of Scheduled Tribe status to the Pahari community. "An FIR under section 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc, and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) of Indian Penal Code was registered at police station Poonch for raising anti-national slogans during the rally," a police officer said.

Protests by Gujjars and Bakerwals gained momentum after the introduction of the bill that proposed including the Pahari ethnic group, Gadda Brahmin, Koli and Paddari in the list of Scheduled Tribes by amending the constitution (Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Tribes order, 1989). A video of the protest rally, purportedly showing some participants raising "pro-freedom" slogans, was circulated on social media.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Poonch, Vinay Sharma in the wake of the incident on Tuesday said "We are analysing the video through forensic experts as to whether it is real or fake and legal action shall follow accordingly ... So far, we could see tricolours raised high throughout the protest demonstration." Earlier, six prominent Gujjar leaders requested the centre to

hold "participative decisions on sensitive issues" that have the potential of disturbing intercommunity relations in the Union Territory.

The joint statement on Monday was issued by former ministers Mian Altaf Ahmad Larvi (National Conference), Chowdhary Zulfikar Ali, Aijaz Ahmad Khan and former legislator Choudhary Qamar Hussain (Apni party), former deputy chairman J&K Legislative Assembly Choudhary Javed Ahmad Rana (NC), and former MLA Choudhary Mohammad Akram Lassanvi who resigned from Congress last year.

"The widespread protests by the Gujjar-Bakerwal tribe and unrest in the community across the Union Territory of J&K are grave developments. Protests by the Gujjar-Bakerwal tribe against the Union government and UT administration is an aberration and we are deeply concerned and utterly bewildered by the prevailing situation," they had said.

The J&K unit of BJP called the statement "ridiculous, untimely and misleading" and asked the protesters what they had been objecting to when the government had already made it clear that it was not reducing the 10 per cent quota of scheduled tribes in any way.

The BJP statement from Gujjar leaders affiliated with the party said the government is taking concrete steps for the improvement and welfare of all deserving backward areas and classes. "Now that the panchayat, local body and parliamentary elections are coming, the people fully understand the fact that the narrative of the incomprehensible thing you are making is only of a political nature and not of public interest," the BJP statement said.

## 1.14 Lakh posts vacant in organisations under MHA: Govt

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (Agencies): As many as 1,14,245 posts are lying vacant in various organisations under the Ministry of Home Affairs and these include the CRPF, the BSF and the Delhi Police, Union Minister Ajay Kumar Mishra said in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Mishra said in 2023, advertisements for about 31,879 posts have been published, and out of these, 1,126 posts have been filled up.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and its organisations, including the Central Armed Police Forces such as Border Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal, Central Reserve Police Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force, Assam Rifles and Central Industrial Security Force, and central police organisations, including Delhi Police, has approxi-

mately 1,14,245 vacant posts at present, he said in a written reply.

Out of the vacant posts, 3,075 are in group 'A', 15,861 are in group 'B' and 95,309 are in Group 'C'. Of these, 16,356 posts are of Scheduled Castes, 8,759 posts of Scheduled Tribes, 21,974 posts of Other Backward Class, and 7,394 posts of economically weaker section and 59,762 posts of general category.

The minister said recruitment against vacant posts is a continuous process and added that advertisements to fill up posts are published as and when vacancy arises and appointment letters issued after completion of recruitment process. The ministry reviews the recruitment progress regularly to ensure that vacant posts get filled up in a time-bound manner, Mishra said.

## 880 flats constructed in last 3 years for Kashmiri migrant employees: Govt

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (Agencies): A total of 880 flats have been constructed in the Kashmir valley in the past three years for Kashmiri migrant employees who wish to return, Union Minister Nityanand Rai told Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Rai also said 5,248 two-room tenements were constructed in Jammu region — Purkhu, Muthi, Nagrota and Jagti — to accommodate the people who had migrated due to terrorism in 1989-1990 from their ancestral places of residence in Kashmir. These tenements were constructed in two phases till 2011.

"No new tenements for above purpose have been built in the last three years. However, due to improved security scenario in the Kashmir valley, the government has taken up the project of construction of 6,000 transit accommodation for the Kashmiri migrant employees returning to Kashmir valley. 880 flats have been constructed in the last three years," he said in a written reply.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Integration of J&K in India will always remain unquestionable, says Kapil Sibal in SC

case and for 5 years there has been no representative government in the state of J&K," he added.

Sibal questioned the imposition of emergency in Jammu and Kashmir and said that the Constitution Bench will have to interpret Article 356 of the Constitution, which seeks to "restore democracy" and how through that Article "democracy (in J&K) has been decimated."

A 5-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Wednesday commenced hearing on a batch of petitions challenging abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution.

The Constitution Bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, B.R. Gavai, and Surya Kant, would hear the matter consecutively starting from August 2, except for Mondays and Fridays.

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal, Gopal Subramaniam, Rajeev Dhavan, Dushyant Dave, among others will advance arguments on behalf of the petitioners and intervenors in the case.

The proceedings before the Constitution Bench are being live streamed by the Supreme Court on its YouTube channel and transcripts of the proceedings will be released on its official website.

A large number of petitions have been filed by political parties, private individuals, lawyers, activists, etc., challenging the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which downgraded and split Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.

Earlier, another Constitution Bench ruled against the necessity of referring the matter to a seven-judge bench.

In a fresh affidavit before the top court, the Central government has defended the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir saying that its decision to dilute Article 370 has brought unprece-

dent development, progress, security, and stability in the region.

The Union Home Ministry said that the street violence, engineered and orchestrated by terrorists and secessionist networks has now become a thing of the past and the "organised stone pelting incidences connected with terrorism-separatist agenda, which were as high as 1,767 in 2018 has come down to zero in 2023 till date".

The Centre stressed that it has adopted a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and after constitutional changes, the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved significantly.

In the pending matter, intervention applications have also been filed by Kashmiri Pandits supporting Centre's move stripping special status accorded to the erstwhile state of J&K.

### "Hopeful of getting justice," says Omar Abdullah as SC begins hearing pleas against Article 370 abrogation

IAS Shah Faesal and rights activist Shehla Rashid to get their names deleted from the court's records as petitioners. It said now the title of the case will be "In Re: Article 370 of the Constitution".

The earlier lead petitioner was Shah Faesal. The bench also noted the Centre's statement that the latest affidavit filed by the government shall not be relied upon to argue on the aspect of Constitutionality.

On August 5 2019, the Central government announced its decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir granted under Article 370 and split the region into two Union territories.

A five-judge Constitution bench in March 2020 had declined to refer to a larger 7-judge bench a batch of petitions challenging the Constitutional validity of the Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 on August 5, saying there were no reasons to refer the matter to a larger bench.

A number of petitions have been filed in the top court including those of private individuals, lawyers, activists and politicians and political parties challenging the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which splits Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

### Six dead, 116 arrested in Nuh violence: Haryana CM

at the procession. Some police vehicles were also damaged.

On Tuesday, shops in Gurugram's Badshahpur area were set on fire.

### SC only institution that can uphold supremacy of constitution: Mehbooba Mufti

Supreme Court will have to take a bold stand for upholding the majesty of the Constitution.

"The Supreme Court is the only institution left that can save the Constitution and the country. The question is 'are you ready to take risks'? Is the Supreme Court ready to take risks like the Allahabad High Court did at the time of Indira Gandhi (in 1975)?" she asked.

She was referring to the June 12, 1975, verdict delivered by Justice Jagmohanlal Singh of the Allahabad High Court that had convicted the then prime minister of electoral malpractices.

On the Article 370 petitions, the PDP president said the apex court has to decide between the Constitution and BJP's agenda.

"There are only two sides — either you are with the Constitution of India and the guarantees given to people of Jammu and Kashmir or against India. I am talking about the country, not the opposition alliance.

"The SC has to decide whether this country will be run as per the Constitution of India or as per the communal agenda of

BJP," she said.

"They are trying to replicate Manipur situation in the entire country," she alleged.

### Amarnath Yatra | Small batch of 984 Pilgrims leave from Jammu base camp

and five Sadhus) left for Pahalgam in a convoy of 21 vehicles.

For Baltal, 486 pilgrims, comprising 353 males and 128 females, left in a convoy of 33 vehicles amid tight security arrangements.

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

### Prior permission mandatory for JK High Court officials to apply for competitive exams or further studies

The court has urged all officers and officials to adhere strictly to this procedure to avoid serious consequences.

"It is hereby impressed upon all the officers/officials of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh who desires to apply and appear in any competitive examination or intend to pursue further studies to seek prior permission from the competent authority before submitting their forms to the concerned quarters. Any deviation thereof shall be viewed seriously", the notification reads.

### Villagers lock out govt school in Udhampur as building deemed unsafe for students

necessary repairs at the decrepit school building, the students would be shifted to a safe location so that the classes could be held as before and their studies aren't hampered.

"A total of 128 students study in this school. However, the school building has been deemed unsafe for them. We will identify a safe place building for them for classes to be conducted as before. We will make sure that their studies are not hampered," Dutt said.

### Chargesheet produced against 2 bank officials 'for embezzlement of amount of public money'

120-B of RPC", reads a statement . The Crime Branch, the statement reads, had received a written communication from the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, J&K which, inter-alia, alleged that some officers/ officials of the Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank Ltd. have dishonestly and fraudulently embezzled large amounts of public money in different Branches of the Bank (including the Palhallan Branch) etc. Accordingly, the instant case was registered at P/S Crime Branch Kashmir in the year 2016 and investigation started.

"During the investigation, allegations leveled against the accused individuals were substantiated and conclusively proved. Accordingly, the charge-report u/S 173 CrPC against the two accused individuals has been produced before the court of competent jurisdiction for judicial determination", it read further.

### Army finds, hands over injured deaf and dumb person to police in Poonch

The person was later shifted to District Hospital Poonch for treatment, they added.

### OGW detained under PSA in Rajouri: Police

been detained under preventive sections of law in Rajouri in the past two months.

## Sensex, Nifty plunge as weak global cues make investors nervous

**The Nifty 50 index was down 0.43 per cent at 19,649.75 and the S&P BSE Sensex fell 0.42 per cent to 66,171.85 as of 9:15 am.**

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (Agencies): Benchmark stock market indices opened lower on Wednesday, following the lead of global peers as weak economic data from the United States, Eurozone, and China cast a shadow on risk sentiment.

The Nifty 50 index was down 0.43 per cent at 19,649.75 and the S&P BSE Sensex fell 0.42 per cent to 66,171.85 as of 9:15 am.

Broader market indices also witnessed a sharp fall after performing well over the past few sessions. Volatility also rose sharply in early trade.

Except Nifty Media, all the other sectoral indices were in negative territory, with Nifty Metal falling over 1 per cent.

The top five gainers on the Nifty 50 were Coal India, Maruti, Power



Grid, Adani Ports and ONGC. On the other hand, the top losers were Tata Steel, Divi's Laboratories, Tata Consumer Products, Hindalco and LTIM.

Om Mehra, research analyst at Choice, said, "Domestic indices traded with a negative tilt, well below the flat trend, led by the global market."

"Following a mixed batch of results reports, US market indices ended on the lower side.

The highest call open interest is at 19,800, and the highest put open interest is at 19,600," he added.

"Technically, the Nifty has critical support around 19,650, as the index is forming higher lows in hourly charts. Option writing data is dominated by the call writers which indicate a negative sentiment. Banking stocks could remain in focus as if it could support the benchmark indices."

Prashant Thakur, Regional Director & Head - Research,

## 20 per cent higher EMI leads to poor sales in affordable housing segment

**Home loan borrowers who were paying an EMI of approx. Rs 22,700 in July 2021 are now paying around Rs 27,300 today, Prashant Thakur, Regional Director & Head - Research, ANAROCK Group said.**

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (Agencies): Affordable home buyers have been paying almost 20% more in their EMIs over the last two years, according to a report by ANAROCK. The report says that during the last two years, the floating interest rates for home loans up to Rs 30 lakh have jumped up from 6.7% in mid-2021 to nearly 9.15% today.

This has resulted in the share of affordable housing in overall sales in H1 2023 shrunk to approx. 20%, an 11% decrease against the corresponding period in 2022. The report further says that in the top 7 cities, this segment's share in the overall housing supply in H1 2023 plunged to 18%, against 23% a year ago.

Prashant Thakur, Regional Director & Head - Research,



ANAROCK Group, says, "Home loan borrowers who were paying an EMI of approx. Rs 22,700 in July 2021 are now paying around Rs 27,300 today, an increase of Rs 4,600 per month. This 20% increase in the EMI has resulted in a jump of approx. Rs 11 lakh in the overall interest component, from around Rs

24.5 lakh interest payable in 2021 to Rs 35.5 lakh today."

The report further says that the total interest payable over a 20-year tenure is now more than the principal amount. If a buyer seeks to buy a property below Rs 40 lakh, factoring in the LTV (Loan to value) ratio, the total borrowed amount is Rs 30 lakh for a tenure

of 20 years. In this scenario, the buyer would have paid an EMI of Rs 22,700 in 2021, when the interest rates stood at approx. 6.7%.

"At this rate, the total repayment to the bank was around Rs 54.5 lakh, of which the interest component was around Rs 24.5 lakh, less than the total principal amount," says

Thakur.

He added that today, when home loan interest rates hover at around 9.15%, this buyer's EMI is approx. Rs 27,300. The total repayment to the bank at this rate is now approx. INR 65.5 lakh, of which the interest component will be approx. INR 35.5 lakh - more than the total principal amount.

According to the latest ANAROCK Research, the total sales share of affordable homes went down to approx. 20% in H1 2023, against 31% in the corresponding period in 2022.

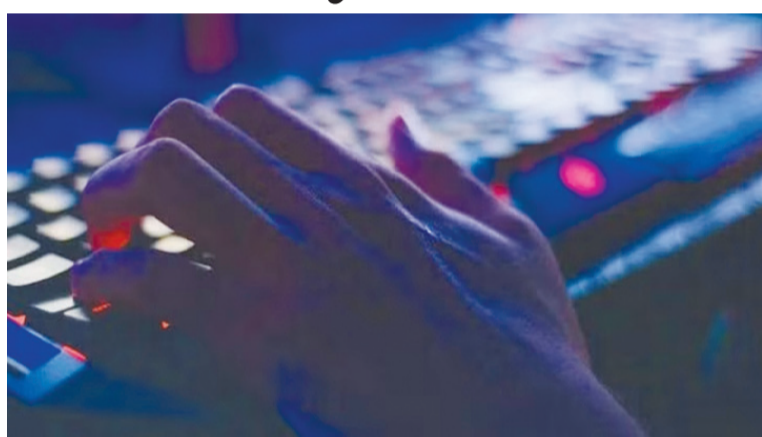
Of approx. 2.29 lakh units sold across the top 7 cities in H1 2023, just 20% or 46,650 units were affordable homes. Back in H1 2022, of 1.84 lakh units sold, over 31% or 57,060 units were in the affordable category.

## Start-ups believe enterprise tech propels hypergrowth: Study

BENGALURU, Aug 2 (Agencies): Start-ups are witnessing enhanced benefits by adopting a strong digital core on the cloud.

Over 80% of start-ups in the Enterprise Tech, Health Tech, Retail, and Logistics and Auto-Tech sectors have reported a substantial increase in revenue, underlining the significant positive impact of enterprise applications on start-up performance and success, according to an SAP India study that was done in collaboration with Zinnov Digital.

Launching the report on Wednesday in Bengaluru, Sanket Deodhar, Vice President - Digital Natives and Startups, SAP India said, "Indian start-ups today require adequate tech infrastructure to help them



diversify business, scaling up operations and acquisition and retention of the right talent."

He added that mission-critical Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems on the cloud are powerful enablers that provide valuable insights and direction to navigate any challenge and

accomplish their goals, including attracting investors, fair valuations, and retaining a competitive edge.

The study also said that 37% of start-ups plan to increase their spending on enterprise applications by more than 15% in 2023.

About 81% of start-ups cited automation and standardisation of processes across divisions with faster customisations as the primary benefit being derived by hosting enterprise applications on the cloud.

Sidhant Rastogi, Managing Partner at Zinnov Management Consulting, said, "In 2022, Indian start-ups faced significant challenges due to market headwinds and reduced valuations.

Investment in the right technology and organisational augmentation can help start-ups navigate the economic slowdown caused by the recession and other macroeconomic factors. By doing so, they can ramp up valuations and revenue and achieve sustained growth."

## Harley-Davidson X440 price increased by Rs 10,500



NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (Agencies): Hero MotoCorp on Wednesday announced an increase in prices of the newly launched Harley-Davidson X440 by Rs 10,500 across all variants.

The model was launched last month at an introductory price range of Rs 2.29 lakh to 2.69 lakh (ex-showroom).

The Harley-Davidson X440 will now start from Rs 2,39,500 onwards (ex-showroom, Delhi). This price increase of Rs 10,500 will apply to all the variants, Hero MotoCorp said in a state-

ment.

However, the company said Harley-Davidson X440 will be available at current introductory price of Rs 2,29,000 till August 3, 2023.

Customers can book online from the website of the brand with a booking amount of Rs 5,000, it added.

"Since the time of its launch, Harley-Davidson X440 has created significant excitement in the industry.

"We had launched this at an introductory price of Rs 2,29,000. We are now announcing the new price that will be applicable for the next window of online bookings," Hero MotoCorp, CEO Niranjana Gupta said.

Hero MotoCorp said ramping up of production capacity is in progress in response to the demand trends. It will start the production of the Harley-Davidson X440 in September at the company's Garden Factory at Neemrana in Rajasthan, and commence customer deliveries from October 2023.

## AI-supported breast tumour screening found more cancers, reduced radiologists' workload: Study

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (Agencies): Mammography screening supported by artificial intelligence (AI) detected one-fifth more breast cancers compared with standard screening and nearly halved the screen-reading workload for radiologists, new research published in The Lancet Oncology journal said.

The findings conveyed the safety of AI-supported mammography, a diagnostic procedure for breast tumour screening, as an alternative to the conventional double reading by radiologists, the study led by Lund University, Sweden, said.

Eighty-thousand Swedish women were recruited for the study and randomly allocated into two groups - an intervention group (40,003 women) that underwent AI-supported screening and a control group (40,030) that underwent standard screening.

In total, 244 women (28 per cent) recalled from AI-supported screening were found to have cancer compared with 203 women (25 per cent) recalled from standard screening - resulting in 41 more cancer detections with the support of AI. "We found that using AI resulted in the detection of 20 per cent (41) more cancers compared with standard screening, without affecting false positives. A false positive in screening occurs when a woman is recalled but cleared of suspicion of cancer after workup," said Kristina Lang, lead researcher and associate professor in diagnostic radiology at the university.

The false-positive rate was 1.5 per cent in both study arms, the researchers said.

Further, the screen-reading workload for radiologists was found to be reduced by 44 per cent. The screen-readings with AI-supported screening

were 46,345 compared with 83,231 in standard screening.

Five months of a radiologist's time were estimated to have been saved by using the technology to read the roughly 40,000 screening examinations in the AI group.

Explaining the basis for this estimation, Lang said that, on average, a radiologist read 50 mammograms an hour.

On the other hand, AI failed to provide a risk score in 0.8 per cent of the cases that were referred to standard care (double reading), the study said.

Called the Mammography Screening with Artificial Intelligence (MASAI) trial, the study said it was the first randomised controlled trial evaluating the effects of AI-supported screening.

"In our trial, we used AI to identify screening examinations with a high risk of breast cancer, which underwent double reading by radiologists. The remaining examinations were classified as low risk and were read only by one radiologist," said Lang.

The generalisability of the study results is limited, the researchers said, in that the analysis was conducted at a single centre and was limited to one type of mammography device and one AI system. "These promising interim safety results should be used to inform new trials and programme-based evaluations to address the pronounced radiologist shortage in many countries. Just because a screening method finds more cancers does not necessarily mean it's a better method.

"What's important is to find a method that can identify clinically significant cancers at an early stage. However, this has to be balanced with the harm of false positives and the overdiagnosis of indolent cancers," said Lang.

## Immune cell discovery may lead to improved chronic worm treatment: Research

**Some people who fail to develop effective immune responses suffer from a long-lasting chronic infection**

WASHINGTON DC, Aug 2 (Agencies): Researchers at Monash University have discovered why some intestinal worm infections become chronic in animal models, which could lead to human vaccinations and better therapies.

Parasitic worms, also called helminths, usually infect the host by living in the gut. About a quarter of the world's population is afflicted with helminth infections.

They are highly prevalent in developing countries such as sub-Saharan Africa, South America and some tropical countries in Asia. In Australia, they can be a problem in First Nations communities.

Some people can fight off the parasites due to effective immune responses. Some people who fail to develop effective immune responses suffer from a long-lasting chronic infection.

Published in Mucosal Immunology, the Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute study used animal models to reveal a protective immune feature that may be lacking in people who are chronically infected.

They discovered that a group of immune cells called T follicular helper (TFH) cells behaved very differently at cellular and molecular levels during acute, resolving and chronic helminth infection.



This meant that in some models the cells protected against chronic illness but in others they didn't.

First author Dr Aidil Zaini said blocking the TFH response impaired worm clearance and promoted chronic infection, so the key was to develop ways to facilitate the protective mechanism.

He said humans also had varying immune responses, so further investigation could develop ways of protecting those prone to chronic disease.

"Our findings provide a proof-of-concept that harnessing the

minths in humans, which were not yet available.

"Our discovery contributes to the growing body of literature on the protective immune features during helminth infection," Professor Zaph said.

"This knowledge can be further explored to facilitate the development of long-term immune interventions for helminth infections, as well as diseases such as allergy. Interestingly, our immune system evolves into developing a similar type of immune response during both helminth infection and allergic responses."

Co-senior author Professor Colby Zaph said, "In addition, the fundamental discovery that TFH cells that are responding to the same infection can differ so significantly at the molecular level highlights the functional diversity that exists in our immune system, which hopefully can be exploited to manipulate immune responses in the future." Co-senior author Professor Kim Good-Jacobson said that parasitic worm infections continued to be a large global health burden. "Now that we can identify the tipping point between effective clearance of worms and a chronic infection taking hold, we hope this work will lead to new ways to prevent or treat these diseases," Professor Good-Jacobson said.

## WI vs IND: Hardik Pandya, Mukesh Kumar help India rout West Indies in series decider by 200 runs

India defeated West Indies in the series decider at Trinidad in a complete performance. India bowled out West Indies for 151 runs after setting a target of 352.

TAROUBA (TRINIDAD), Aug 2 (Agencies): Hardik Pandya's India annihilated West Indies in the series decider by 200 runs on Tuesday, at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy. Powered by incredible performances with both bat and ball, India dominated West Indies throughout the final ODI match at Trinidad. With the series win, India extended their 17-year-old streak against the Caribbean side.

Chasing a hefty target of 352 runs - India's highest total on the West Indies soil, the hosts faltered, losing 6 wickets for just 50 runs. Mukesh Kumar dismissed the top three Windies batters, leaving them reeling inside the first 7 overs of the game. After Mukesh's brilliant 5-over opening spell, Shardul Thakur and Jaydev Unadkat took it among themselves to mix things up and helped India's cause by picking 5 wickets between them.

India introduced their best bowler from the series - Kuldeep Yadav in the 17th over of the match and picked two quick wickets. Kuldeep once again showcased his increased pace and wily deceptions. In contrast to Kuldeep's fortunes, Ravindra Jadeja was not effective in the first 5 overs of his spell, failing to pick up any wickets and leaking runs at 5.80.

Tail Enders Frustrate  
What looked like a straight-



forward win in the final ODI got dragged out due to the final 3 batters from West Indies. India had dismissed Windies' 8th batter in the 24th over but failed to close the innings down.

Alzarri Joseph and Gudakesh Motie added 55 runs between them, frustrating the Indian bowlers. Shardul Thakur broke the lull in the 34th over, removing Alzarri Joseph for 26 runs using the short ball.

Jayden Seals was the last man to come out but was not able to do much. He was the final West Indies wicket to fall (1 off 9) off the bowling of Shardul Thakur in the 36th over.

Opening Partnership  
This match was in stark contrast to the two matches earlier. Trinidad offered great batting conditions in the morning, and India capitalised on the same

after being sent to bat first on Tuesday. Openers Shubman Gill and Ishan Kishan added 143 runs between themselves in the first 20 overs, putting India in a dominant position. Their fifties set the tone for the rest of the batting line-up.

Following the openers' departure, the middle order took over the reins. Captain Hardik Pandya, known for his aggressive batting style, did not disappoint. He remained unbeaten at 70, showcasing his ability to accelerate the scoring rate when needed. Sanju Samson also contributed significantly with a quickfire 51 off just 41 deliveries, adding to the mounting total.

Despite the absence of stalwarts like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, the Indian team demonstrated their depth in

batting. The inclusion of Ruturaj Gaikwad and Jaydev Unadkat in place of Axar Patel and Umran Malik proved to be a strategic move, ensuring a balanced team composition.

The West Indies, having won the toss, opted to field first with Shai Hope citing the moisture in the deck. However, their decision seemed to backfire as the Indian batsmen dominated the game. Romario Shepherd emerged as the most successful bowler for the West Indies, claiming two wickets, however, he was guilty of giving away 73 runs.

True to The Word  
Rahul Dravid would possibly be the happiest person with the series win. India were under pressure for their experimental nature from the first two ODIs. In the first one, they dropped down Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli and then in the second one, benched them off altogether.

Dravid had spoken ahead of the game and defended his process, stating that India would not get a better chance to play their non-first XI players in the run-up to the Asia Cup and the all-important World Cup.

A win by 200-run margin surely will put a big smile on his face.

The series will now move into the T20I format, where the two teams will play a 5-match series.

## Appetiser before main course

Fulton underlines ACT's importance being held 5 weeks before Asiad

CHENNAI, Aug 2 (Agencies): The Malaysian team's hockey coach Arul Anthoni might be bemused by the Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) being held so close to the Asian Games but India head coach Craig Fulton today said it remains an important event to fine-tune the team ahead of the quadrennial continental showpiece.

The ACT will begin on Thursday and conclude on August 12, a little over five weeks before the Asian Games commences in Hangzhou, China, raising questions over the timing of the event in Chennai. The tournament will see India, Pakistan, China, Japan, South Korea and Malaysia battle it out for glory.

"... it's something that you have to do. But we need the games. So, it's important that we play it. It's even better that it's in India," Fulton told reporters. "We are looking forward to the positives and negatives. But, at the same time, we get to look at a few extra players as well, which is important for us. Injury is never nice for any team or player. So, yes, I understand the clash and the timing."

Anthoni was not too happy with the timing of the tournament, saying it "interrupted" their preparation ahead of the Asiad.

"I am a bit curious about it because we, as coaches, need 18 to 24 months to plan the team. To organise a tournament five weeks before a major event, I'm curious to know the reason behind it," Anthoni said.

"Hopefully, Asian hockey works closely with FIH (International Hockey Federation) and organises better because our programme was interrupted. We had to tour Europe. We were supposed to have matches against Belgium, Holland (Netherlands), France and Spain. Everything was in place. But, the date and time changed, and it's difficult to get another round of matches again. And,

for them to put this tournament in this crucial moment... Yeah, I think in the future, Asian hockey will have to look into it seriously, which is planning the calendar at least a year or two years ahead."

Japanese head coach Akira Takahashi, however, said it is an advantage for his side to play this event before the Asiad. "It is an advantage for us because we are not a strong side. So, we have to improve a lot, and playing this tournament will prove to be advantageous for us," he said.

Pakistan arrive  
The Pakistan hockey team arrived in India today via the Attari-Wagah border to participate in the Asian Champions Trophy. The highly-anticipated match between arch-rivals India and Pakistan will take place on August 9. Meanwhile, the Harmanpreet Singh-led Indian team too landed in the city today morning. "Against Pakistan, of course, it is an intense meeting. But, mentally and smartly how you play out is the most important part," Harmanpreet said. "Of course, the intensity of the match propels you to become somewhat aggressive. But eventually, our focus has to be on the game and identify our roles and responsibilities."

The PC bug  
The penalty corner conversion rate has been a topic of debate lately for the Indian hockey team. However, Fulton believes that the idea of a PC being considered a threat and a great goalscoring opportunity is still alive "big-time". "We have a world class penalty corner (specialists). All the players involved in it are really good. Oppositions know we have a threat there and try to diminish it by trying to run down or not conceding as many is always something that teams are trying to do, and that's what we try to do," Fulton said. "I think we can always improve."

## Coaches not happy with timing of Asian Champions Trophy but feel games are necessary

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (Agencies): Coaches of both the Malaysian and the South Korean teams questioned the wisdom of conducting the Asian Champions Trophy so close to the Asian Games, an Olympic qualifying event.

While India coach, Craig Fulton, saw the benefits of getting some game time, he 'understood' where they came from. "To organise a tournament five weeks before a major event, an Olympic qualifying event, I'm curious to know what's the reason behind it. I am sure some of us know why," was how Arul Selvaraj, Malaysia coach, put it in a pre-tournament press conference.

South Korea coach, Seok Kyo Shin, was more blunt. "I don't like this tournament because next month we have the Asian Games," he said.

If nothing, this sort of sentiment neatly captures the 12 years of the men's ACT. It began in 2011 in China, with India beating Pakistan in a shoot-out. It was held yearly in 2012 and 2013 before it was put on ice for three years. It was revived in 2016, a few months after the Olympics. In 2018, it was held a few months before the home World Cup in Bhubaneswar. In 2021, it was held a few months after the Olympics when a mix-and-match India team finished third. Why did Selvaraj express such strong views against it? "It's just 5 weeks before the Asian Games," he said. "Also it's a hectic tournament with seven matches in 10 days, which is really tough. Normally teams use this period to go on tours where they play two matches and have a break hopefully we look into this and make sure it doesn't happen in the future."

While Fulton understood that point of view, he was of the opinion that more the games, better it is. "We need the games, important we play," he said during a press conference. "Nice to

come to Chennai after a long time. There are positives and negatives. I understand the clash and timing but we need the games." However, the South Africans did confess that they will use the tournament as a 'training and preparation phase'. "The main focus is on us," he said. "We have a slightly different group, two new players joining. We have the rest of the guys that came from Spain who would be training alongside the team that plays in the tournament... all our staff and everyone is here. So, we are using this as still a training and preparation phase for the Asian Games." When Harmanpreet Singh was asked a similar question on getting ready for this tournament two days after playing a tournament in Spain, he opined that the team has never had such a short turnaround time. On Sunday, the men's team played the Netherlands in the four-nations invitational. On Thursday, they face China in their opening match. "Back-to-back tournaments, we get some time. One week, two weeks... but suddenly a gap of only four days. It will be difficult and it's also a new turf so players may take time to adjust. It will be difficult but it will be the same for all teams." The Korean coach also expressed his displeasure with the scheduling which sees them play at 4.00 PM in each of their first three group games. "Our first, second and third matches are 4 pm matches. I don't like that. Only India is playing at 8.30 pm with cooler conditions. I don't understand that. Is it because India is the host? Mixed timings for everyone would have been better," he said.

"Seven matches in 10 days are possible, not a problem, but the problem is it's so close to the Asian Games. If anyone gets injured here, they cannot play in the Asian Games. We have come here with a full team, apart from two injuries," the Korean coach added.

## From Dilip Kumar connect to last visit, Pakistan's hockey legend Shahnaz talks India

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (Agencies): Shahnaz Sheikh has fond memories of India. He still recalls the days when legendary actor Dilip Kumar gave him the nickname 'Magic Man'. He remembers that first visit of 1974 when then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi watched them play. He was waiting for this visit to India and meet his old friends. But destiny would have other plans, at least for now.

There is a cloud of uncertainty hovering over his visit but that could not deter legendary hockey forward and consultant of Pakistan hockey team Sheikh from wishing for a summit clash between hosts India and the Green Shirts at the Asian Champions Trophy starting Thursday. Since his first visit to India almost 50 years ago, Shahnaz, a multiple-medallist in the Olympics, World Cup and Asian Games, is looking forward to his trip to the country as it not only brings back pleasant memories from the past but also gives him an opportunity to meet his friends.

"I first came to India



for the All Asian Stars matches in 1974. It's always a wonderful experience playing in India. I still remember the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi watching us play in New Delhi. It was during one of those visits that the late legendary actor Dilip Kumar gave me the moniker of 'Magic Man'," the 74-year-old Shahnaz told this daily.

Pakistan team reached India via Wagah Border on Tuesday, Shahnaz was not issued a visa till late in the evening. He, however, is optimistic. Incidentally, he last visited India in 2014 as the head coach of the team for the Champions Trophy. The visit turned out to be a bitter-sweet experience for him. While his team

reached the final beating the hosts 4-3 in a thrilling semifinal, two of the Pakistan players were banned for making obscene gestures toward Indian spectators after the match.

"The players are given 40 seconds for celebrating a goal. Our boys overdid it. They apparently did it because they claimed even India celebrated their 2014 Asian Games final win in front of their changing room. However, that cannot be the excuse but the international body (FIH) and Hockey India should have shown some leniency towards the players. They could have been reprimanded and allowed to play the final. The ban affected us badly and the celebration after the semifinal

meant the spectators went against us and favoured our opponents Germany in the final," reminisced Sheikh.

Germany eventually won the final. That loss still hurts Shahnaz as he incidentally was the coach of the Pakistan team in 1998 when they lost the CT final in front of their home crowd. "After losing the final against the Netherlands, we had the opportunity to win after 16 years in India. Being a coach on both occasions, it mattered a lot to me. But we lost that opportunity," Sheikh said.

Shahnaz informed that former hockey players from across the border are still in touch with each. They have a WhatsApp group named 'Legends'. "We discuss

hockey and what can help both nations to regain past glory. We analyse the performances of the teams. Sometimes, we relive our days on the field. Someday I will ask Ashok (Dhyan-chand) to post a song in his voice. Even players from our next generation like Dilip Tirkey are also in the group."

Speaking on the Pakistan team, Sheikh said the squad comprises 80 per cent youth and the remaining are experienced players. "This (Asian Champions Trophy) is for the first time these players will play together as a team. All the teams from Asia are featuring in the tournament so it will be a good exposure for these young boys ahead of the Asian Games, which in turn can help the team secure an Olympic quota. So this will be a very good tournament for them," he said.

Not fretting over what he had experienced when he last visited the country, Sheikh's message to the fans is clear. "People in India have the sense of hockey. I just want them to enjoy the game and appreciate good hockey," he signed off.

## "We Don't Ask For Luxury But...": Hardik Pandya Slams West Indies Board

Hardik Pandya took a swipe at the West Indies cricket board over their poor management after India's 2-1 ODI series win.

TAROUBA (TRINIDAD), Aug 2 (Agencies): India's stand-in skipper Hardik Pandya wasn't a happy man despite the team winning the ODI series 2-1. Speaking at the post-match presentation ceremony, Hardik didn't flinch as he criticised the West Indies board for failing to manage even the 'basic necessities' of Indian cricketers. Hardik said that while the team doesn't want luxuries, he is hopeful of the 'basics' to be taken care of when they tour the Caribbean side the next time.

The Indian team arrived in West Indies for a long tour, consisting of 2 Tests, 3 ODIs and 5 T20Is. The

T20 assignment is yet to begin but Hardik couldn't hold his frustration at how poor things were managed by the Windies board.

"This was one of the nicest grounds we have played. Things can be better when we come to West Indies next time. Things like travel, hopefully the West Indies cricket board can take note and ensure that there are no hiccups. We don't ask for luxury but we need some basic necessities taken care of. [On Rohit's part in the series win] Rohit can have the full (trophy)," Pandya said at the presentation ceremony.

As for the match, chasing a huge



total of 352, West Indies lose their first wicket early as Mukesh Kumar dismissed Brandon King on a duck in the first over.

Gudakesh Motie and Alzarri Joseph bounced back as they added 50-run partnership in 47 balls for the 9th wicket. However, their partnership came to an end after Thakur dismissed Joseph at 26 with a bouncer. Ishan Kishan caught Joseph in a failed pull shot.

Thakur picked the last wicket by clearing up Jayden Seales with an angled ball hitting the stumps. India won by a massive 200 runs in 35.3 overs.

Earlier, the outstanding opening partnership of 143 runs between Ishan Kishan and Shubman Gill followed by quickfire knocks from Sanju Samson and Hardik Pandya powered India to 351/5.

Gill scored the highest for India with 85 off 92 while Kishan played a fine knock of 77 runs. Stand-in captain Hardik Pandya played a fiery unbeaten knock of 70 runs off 52 while Sanju Samson also smashed a vital 51 runs off 41 balls. Romario Shepherd scalped two wickets for West Indies, conceding 73 runs in his 10 overs spell.

## Lecture on Disaster Management held at PTTI Vijaypur



### TOP NEWS REPORT

VIJAYPUR, Aug 2: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur organized lecture on Disaster Management for staff and trainees of ongoing Disaster Management Course.

Janak Raj Thapa, Retd. ADG, Geological Survey of India delivered an impressive lecture and briefed the staff and trainees about various natural calamities such as earthquakes, floods, droughts, cyclones, landslides etc.

He said that disasters cannot be totally pre-

vented but early warning systems, careful planning and preparedness helps in minimizing the loss of life and property.

Shiv Kumar-SSP Principal PTTI Vijaypur expressed his gratitude to the Guest Speaker for sparing his valuable time to aware staff and trainees of the Institute.

While speaking on the occasion, Dushyant Sharma, Vice Principal PTTI Vijaypur said that the motive of organizing such lectures is to improve preparedness and response at all levels during Natural

calamities and other untoward incidents.

He further told that the experiences shared by the Guest Speaker would definitely help the Police personnel to execute their best while performing duties on ground.

Among others, Kuldeep Raj, Dy.SP (Indoor/Tech.), Insp. Bhopinder Singh, Insp. Ram Lal, Insp. Ashish Dharmat, Insp. Pawan Kumar, Insp. Anil Kumar, SI Shehbaz Ahmed, SI Over Singh, ASI Shiban Lal, Narinder Kumar were present on the occasion.

## School Education Deptt organizes distribution cum fitment camp for CWSN in Poonch

### TOP NEWS REPORT

POONCH, Aug 2: In a heartening and inclusive effort, the Department of School Education, in collaboration with the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) based in Kanpur, under the aegis of SAMAGRA Shiksha organized a Distribution cum Fitment Camp for children with special needs (CWSN) in the Auditorium of Degree College Poonch here today.

The camp was organized to empower 202 identified Children With Special Needs studying in government schools in Poonch district.

The event was graced by the presence of Mohd Ashraf Choudhary, the Joint Director of School Education for Poonch and Rajouri, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Choudhary expressed his delight and highlighted the significance



of inclusive education. He emphasized that every child, regardless of their abilities, deserves an equal opportunity to receive quality education and be an active participant in society.

In Poonch district 202 children with diverse abilities have been identified to receive assistive devices that cater to their specific needs.

In today's camp Over 35 students received assistive devices and

essential equipment such as wheelchairs, hearing Aids, Tricycles, Walkers, Braille Kits, KAFO (Knee-Ankle-Foot Orthosis), MR (Mental Retardation) kits, CP (Cerebral Palsy) chairs, and cane sticks.

These devices were intended to enhance the mobility, communication, and overall independence of the children, thus enriching their lives significantly.

Bishamber Dass, Chief Education Officer

Poonch, speaking on the occasion underscored the significance of inclusivity in the education system.

Dass reiterated the commitment of the Education Department to ensuring that every student, including those with special needs, receives adequate resources and support to achieve their academic and personal goals.

Inclusive Education is not just a concept but a

commitment for creating an environment where every child, regardless of their abilities, is embraced and empowered to learn and grow together.

N.M Suri, The District Education and Planning Officer Poonch (DEPO), emphasized the importance of early intervention and timely support for children with special needs and this Distribution cum Fitment Camp marks the beginning of a series of such camps planned for Poonch district. With a total of six camps scheduled, many more children with special needs are set to benefit from the distribution of essential assistive devices.

The camp was coordinated by Mushtaq Khan, District Co-ordinator Inclusive Education Poonch, Sauda Begum Resource Person, Darshan Kumar, (DRG) District Resource Person and Tehsin Ali, DEO.

## HSS J&K highlights shortcomings of Smart Meters installed by PDD

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 2: Hindustan Shiv Sena J&K Unit under the leadership of UT President Vikrant Kapoor highlighted the shortcomings of Smart Meters being installed by the PDD.

Kapoor said that Smart Meters are producing seemingly high bills as compared to the earlier meters and this is being complained by every common user.

Amount of the electric bills have swollen many folds to the consumers and hence it's being hard for the general public as a whole to pay such high bills.

Kapoor stated that a large number of people are complaining that the amount of their electric bills has increased to a considerable figure but the consumption is same as earlier.

UT President reminded that it was promised



by the PDD while installing Smart Meters that there will be no such increase in the amount of the bills but now the billing amounts have increased.

Vikrant Kapoor said that our party workers and leaders were on the roads against these bills on the 16th of July as well but till now, LG Government has not taken any step to roll back

these Smart Meters and hence decrease the burden of the general public. General public is not able enough to pay these swollen bills.

On behalf of the general public of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Kapoor urged the Government to take necessary steps so as to provide relief to the public from such high bills and at the same time he

threatened the LG Government that if these bills are not rolled back, Hindustan Shiv Sena will have to launch a massive protest against these Smart Meters and PDD. Present on the occasion included UT Vice President Rakesh Bhardwaj, General Sec. Sunil, City president Apurav Gupta, City Vice President Rohan Malwal and others.

## Army remembers 'Bravest of the Brave' Col Jojan Thomas

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KUPWARA, Aug 2: Indian Army is remembering one of its 'Bravest of the Brave', Col Jojan Thomas, Ashok Chakra (Posthumous) by releasing a comic on his life and gallant act of neutralising three terrorists at close range for which he was awarded the highest peace time gallantry award 'Ashok Chakra' posthumously.

The comic was released by wife of Late Col Jojan Thomas, Mrs Beena Thomas in presence of their son Philiomen and warriors of Machhal Brigade, at 'Naaz-e-Hind' at 'Zamindar Gali' in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Naaz-e-Hind is a complex made at Z Gali to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of Col Jojan Thomas and Nk Neeraj who had laid down their life fighting



the terrorists near Z Gali and were honoured with the award of Ashoka Chakra (Posthumously) by a grateful nation.

Naaz E Hind complex comprises of a 100 Ft high national flag, selfie wall, commemoration stone and view point.

The aim of publishing this comic is to present life of Col Jojan Thomas, AC (P) for future soldiers as a guiding light and motivation while discharging their duties. The comic is also aimed at making stories of our heroes accessible to

school children to motivate them towards following the footsteps of these heroes as future citizens of this country.

Col Jojan Thomas, AC (P) was Commanding Officer 45 Rashtriya Rifles battalion on 22 August 2008 in Machhal sector of Kupwara. On this day, while acting on a specific input of terrorist movement, he led from the front and neutralised two terrorists at close quarters. In the process, he sustained severe gunshot wounds.

In spite of this, he

refused to be evacuated and in a daring act, rolled down a cliff to surprise third terrorist who had taken a concealed position and was engaging our soldiers effectively. In a fierce hand to hand fight, he eliminated the third terrorist. However, he later succumbed to his injuries.

His life and actions in line of duty are eternally etched in the minds of soldiers of his unit and motivate them to serve their nation with 'Drahta and Veerta'.

## Power of Storytelling emphasized during online panel discussion by PRSI Jammu

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 2: The Public Relations Society of India (PRSI), Jammu Chapter, organised an enriching panel discussion on the theme 'Power of Storytelling in Public Relations: Crafting Narratives for Strong Relationships.'

The event, conducted in a virtual format under the guidance of Prof Anil Saumitra, Regional Director, IIMC Jammu, Chairperson PRSI, J&K Chapter and Dr Archana Kumari, Associate Professor, JNU, Secretary PRSI Jammu, garnered participation from various parts of the country to explore the pivotal role of storytelling in the field of Public Relations.

The distinguished panel comprised Prof. Simrat Gulati, Visiting Faculty and Advisor at

the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Delhi, and Ms Deepna Mehta, former Additional General Manager, Corporate Communication, National Thermal Power Corporation.

Emphasizing the evolution of storytelling in brand building over the years, Prof. Simrat underscored how a compelling narrative can forge a deep connection between a brand/product and its audience, effectively driving product sales and brand/product loyalty.

Deepna shed light on her experiences and challenges while spearheading communications efforts at NTPC, elaborating on how effective storytelling fostered a sense of pride and trust within

the NTPC community and beyond.

Chairing the event, Dr. Garima Gupta, HoD, Department of Journalism and Media Studies, University of Jammu, highlighted that by acknowledging emotions and extending empathy through storytelling, we can foster a sense of togetherness and strengthen the fabric of our communities.

During the interactive Q&A segment, the attendees expressed their delight in participating in the event, and shared insightful opinions.

Veteran journalist from Jammu, OP Sharma, underscored that storytelling is deeply ingrained in India's cultural heritage, drawing inspiration from liter-

ary luminaries such as Munshi Premchand and Mulk Raj Anand.

Dr. Ravia Gupta, Asst Prof, Department of Journalism and Media Studies, University of Jammu, Executive Member, PRSI Jammu Chapter, asserted, "The power of a good word needs to be spread," underscoring the transformative impact of impactful narratives.

Dr. Ajit Pathak, National President, PRSI, conveyed his warm wishes to the PRSI team, panelists and attendees. He encouraged them to stay connected and continue collaborating in the pursuit of excellence in the field of public relations.

Dr. Monisha Qadri from Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora,

Joint Secretary, PRSI Jammu, gave an introduction to PRSI and its Jammu Chapter.

Harry Walia, Journalist, Media Professional, Member, PRSI Jammu presented vote of thanks while Ambika Rashmi, Convener of the Nalanda Student Forum of PRSI, moderated the discussion, and Komal Shangloo, student of Central University of Jammu, introduced the guests.

The attendees included Dr Pardeep Singh Bali, Asst. Professor, Department of Journalism and Media Studies, University of Jammu, Treasurer, PRSI Jammu; Manish, Central University of Jammu, Lifetime Member, PRSI Jammu, media students from JU and IIMC.

## People's sufferings increased manifold in absence of popular Govt : Rattan Lal

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 2: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province Constituted 21 members committee of District Reasi, 14 members committee District Udhampur Urban and 21 members committee District Udhampur Rural for upcoming local bodies elections headed by District Presidents Jagjeevan Lal Reasi, Sunil Verma Udhampur Urban, Ram Parshotam Udhampur Rural.

Gupta said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are fed-up with lies, riddle policies and misrule of BJP. He said that by not allowing the upcoming elections to take place in J&K were the most blatant violation Constitution of India by the incumbent Gov-

ernment at the centre.

Gupta asserted that in J&K, the people continue to suffer badly in absence of the popular government. The bureaucratic rule has failed to address the burning issues of the people and the Govt must ensure that elections are held in the J&K at the earliest, he added.

District Reasi: Jagjeevan Lal as Chairman. Tariq Butt, Sher Singh, Raj Kumar Sharma, Ashok Mehta, Anil Kumar Sharma, Rattan Lal Bhagat, Charan Dass Dogra, Beli Ram, Asha Devi, Haji Mohd Javed, Dev Raj Khajuria, Ved Parkash Pujari, Ram Parkash Suri, Ashwani Kumar, Banarsi Dass, Kanta Devi, Pawan Kumar, Yashpal, Mohd Ayub and Deepak Atri Adv as members.

District Udhampur Urban: Sunil Verma as Chairman. Moti Ram Sharma, Gurmeet Singh Joshi, Akash Verma, Bansi Lal, Savitri Devi, Sunita Mehra, Radhey Rani, Sanjay Pandita, Shahwaz Chandel, Sajad Ahmad, Karan Singh, Rajinder Singh and Mohan Lal Sharma as members.

District Udhampur Rural: Ram Parshotam as Chairman. Naresh Anthal, Adv. Ch. Mohd Shaffi, Lal Chand Musaffir, Vijay Khajuria, Rajesh Gupta, Subash Kudyar, K.D Sharma, Jagdish Bhardwaj, Prem Nath Nammi, Ch. Saraj Din, Mohan Lal Bhardwaj, Hukam Chand, V.D Srishta, Vikrant Sharma, Rama Gupta, Trilok Chand, Gurubachan Singh, Ameer Chand, Saif Ali and Halim Khan as members.